

Rural Community
Fund of Forty Mile



GROW. GIVE. INSPIRE.

Issue: Summer 2025

CommunityNews

A Message from the **Chair**

As Chair of the Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile, I am proud to witness the incredible generosity and spirit of our community. Through the support of local donors and volunteers, we've been able to fund vital community projects that enhance the quality of life across our region. Whether it's supporting Youth in Philanthropy programs, improving local infrastructure, or preserving our cultural heritage, our shared commitment to the Rural Fund of Forty Mile's future continues to drive meaningful change. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.



Curtis Gouw

▶ *Since 2019*

7

YEARS OF SERVICE

8

LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

50

GRANTS AWARDED



\$206,572 DISTRUBUTED

▶ *Important Dates*



Summer Office Hours:

**July 2 to August 29,
9 am to 4 pm**

August 6: Grant Writing Workshop
at 12 pm

August 6: Fall 2025 Community
Grants Application Opens

September 1: Letter of Intent (LOI)
Deadline

September 15: Fall 2025 Community
Grants Application Deadline

October 6: Heritage Club Reception

Community Grant Recipients — Spring 2025

North 40 Mile Recreation Society



In photo L - R: Curtis Gouw, Michelle McLean, Patty Rooks, Ryan Thurston, Kaylee Hurt

North 40 Mile Recreation Society

Water Bottle Filling Stations-
Arena
\$3,150

Manyberries Community Association



In photo L - R: Emily Conley, Wayne Bodin, Heather Ehnes

Manyberries Community Association

Community Association
Gather and Grow- Equipment
\$2,500

Foremost & District Minor Hockey Association



In photo L - R: Emily Conley, Amanda Hougen, Heather Ehnes

Foremost & District Minor Hockey Association

Kitchen Rink Renovations
\$7,500

Foremost Family & Community Centre



In photo L - R: Emily Conley, Corina Roth Beacome, Terri Lynn Arnal, Heather Ehnes

Foremost Family & Community Centre

Family Centre Furnace Upgrade
\$8,000

Youth in Philanthropy

Students from the region take part in the Youth in Philanthropy (YiP) program annually. This program engages young individuals in philanthropy by educating them on local community challenges and the charitable organizations addressing them. In 2025, 13 groups from the region participated by contributing to the distribution of \$21,300 to local charities. Three groups from Forty Mile region distributed **\$5,400**.

Congratulations to The Medicine Hat Women's Shelter on receiving \$1,800 from St. Micheal's School YiP group!



Congratulations to both recipients selected from the Senator Gershaw School YiP group!
HALO received \$900
Inside Education received \$900



Congratulations to both recipients selected from the 4H Shortgrass Beef Club YiP group!
Etzikom Museum Historic Windmill Society received \$900
Foremost Municipal Library received \$900



Rural Community Fund Of Forty Mile

ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are currently seeking representatives from within the County of Forty Mile to commit to approx. 2 hours per month to assist with coverage and support of all quadrants of the region in which we serve. Volunteering with us has a number of benefits:

A great way to share your knowledge or insights.



Excellent opportunity to acquire practical experience in effective Board functioning and the decision-making process.



An advisory board is an excellent vehicle for networking and establishing valuable professional connections.



Adds value and depth to your experience.



For more information:

E: helene@cfsea.ca

P: 403-866-8901

W: cfsea.ca



CURRENT MEMBERS

Chair - Curtis Gouw

Heather Ehnes

John VanTryp

Joseph Eisenlohr

Michelle MacLean

Patty Rooks

Steve Ell

Tyson Ormann

Supported By CFSEA Staff

Helene Nicholson – Regional Development Coordinator

Niki Gray – Executive Director

A Message from the **Executive Director**

As we begin a new fiscal year, I'm proud to reflect on the impact we've made together in The County of Forty Mile supporting initiatives in education, agriculture, the environment, community and cultural enrichment.

We also completed an 18-month exploration into the unique challenges facing rural communities in our region. The Rural Futures Report, featured in this newsletter, shares key findings that will help shape our future work. It offers valuable insights into the realities our communities face and outlines practical, community-driven opportunities for action. We are committed to turning these findings into meaningful steps that strengthen and support a vibrant, healthy, and caring region for all.

Beyond grantmaking, we've hosted several engagement events that brought community members together to identify opportunities and build shared solutions. These conversations continue to inspire collaboration and innovation.

As we look ahead, we invite you to stay engaged, whether by volunteering, attending events, or sharing our work with others.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to making our community a better place for all.



Niki Gray

Rural Futures Report Now Available

We're proud to share **Rural Futures: Regional Development and Conversations in Southeastern Alberta**, our latest report exploring the priorities, challenges, and opportunities identified by rural communities across the region.

Building on CFSEA's **Vital Signs** research and the **Vital Conversations** held over the past year, the report reflects what we heard directly from residents, community organizations, and local leaders. It highlights critical issues such as health care access, affordable housing shortages, workforce retention, and community well-being, and offers actionable recommendations to guide collaboration and investment.



Explore the findings and download the report at cfsea.ca/news/cfseas-rural-futures-report-calls-for-action-in-southeastern-alberta

The advertisement features a background image of a woman standing and presenting to a group of people seated at a table in a meeting room. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top left, there is a logo for 'BOARD LEADERSHIP SOUTHEAST ALBERTA' with a stylized chair icon. Below the logo, the title 'Board Development Seminar' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. A white box contains the date and time: 'SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM'. Below this, the location is listed: 'Medicine Hat College, 299 College Drive SE'. At the bottom, there are three orange buttons with white text: 'TRAINING', 'LEARNING', and 'NETWORKING'.

Board Leadership Training

Board Leadership Southeastern Alberta is facilitated by the local Development Officer with AB Culture and Tourism, with support from a wide range of community partners. Its goal is to build the capacity of the volunteer sector!

The Community Foundation is proud to be a sponsor of Board Leadership Southeast Alberta Training. This training event provides participants the opportunity to network and engage with other volunteers, as well as gain knowledge and skills on various board governance topics.

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Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta
104, 430 - 6th Avenue SE, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 2S8
403.866.8901 | 40MileFund@cfsea.ca | www.cfsea.ca