2024 Network Membership Renewal
Community foundations are the waves that move their communities toward a future where everyone belongs. Individually, community foundations understand what their communities need. They flow resources through granting, investing, community engagement, research, and in the countless other ways they support their communities. Collectively, each community foundation is a drop, slowly creating ripples of change. Together, we are an ocean—an expansive, thriving ecosystem making waves to move forward as a network.

Members of this network are each different. They have a broad spectrum of regional and community-based priorities, assets, staffing, grantmaking programs, strategies, governance, and leadership models. Some have been building for over a hundred years; some started this year. Some have teams of people looking at new ways to rethink philanthropy; some are a one-person show juggling all the competing priorities of communities. Each foundation has its own voice and is forging its own path. And when the work becomes a bit too heavy, community foundations have each other. They can lean on their colleagues from coast to coast to coast to listen, learn and relate.

The collective, collaborative impact of community foundations is expanding. We are deepening relationships, asking the hard questions, adapting to an ever-changing world and advocating for a future that is equitable and just.

Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) provides the support and resources that meet you where you are and bring community foundations together. We support your work, no matter your size, location, or the needs of your community. We are a dedicated team whose work is grounded in our purpose and the needs of the community foundation network. Our team comes from all walks of life and lived experiences, linguistic and cultural backgrounds, from downtown Toronto to rural Saskatchewan and everywhere in between. Both our volunteer Board of Directors and our executive team have deep roots in the community foundation ecosystem, and the CFC team benefits from their guidance and perspectives.

We are a growing network of more than 200 local community foundations, serving 90 percent of people in Canada and evolving with our communities as their needs and priorities change.
What a year it has been.

It started with the most significant granting program in the history of community foundations—the Community Services Recovery Fund. As we close out the year, that funding is in communities, making the non-profit sector more resilient and benefiting almost 5,500 organizations. This funding is supporting organizations and communities alongside the continued granting of programs like Communities for Gender Equality, the Investment Readiness Program, Kia Communities in Motion and many others.

Throughout this year, we welcomed two new foundations to our network. Bienvenue! It is clear that the impact of community philanthropy continues to be valued by community, funders and partners. One of our favourite highlights of the year was when we came together with 700 of our closest friends at the Reconnect conference in Tkaronto.

Community foundations also continued to adapt, change, and grow to serve their communities better. With CFC learning, guidance and resource support, 18 community foundations made internal shifts grounded in gender equity, and 35 community foundation members joined our first Governance Cohort to grow as leaders for their organizations and communities.

Communities continue to rely on community foundations—their leadership and support. The National Vital Signs Report Reconnecting Communities showed that people’s sense of belonging is decreasing. People need more community. This was echoed in the local vital signs reports that showed concerning data, especially related to housing and food security.

Together, we have more opportunity with our advocacy, as we tell the important story of community philanthropy to community, partners and government. We’ve experienced how joint advocacy efforts can make change. This fall, we saw the impact of our advocacy when our concerns about Bill C-32 were heard and resulted in change. As our sector navigates this period of change, our collective voices can continue to advocate for community needs.

We can’t wait for what’s next and for you to be part of it! In May, members of community foundations will come together for a series of peer gatherings to learn, strategize and grow together. We’ll see you there!

Warmly,

Andrew Chunilall
CEO

Andrea Dicks
President

A note from Andrea & Andrew

We continue to be grateful for this network of dedicated and ever-evolving colleagues and collaborators. Community foundations are there for communities, supporting them as they recover from the pandemic, rebuild after natural disasters like wildfires and face the economic strains of rising costs of living. From coast to coast, community foundations respond to what their communities need and support solutions that ensure no one is left behind.
Member Benefits

Membership in the network provides many benefits. We’ve heard from you about the value of exclusive funding opportunities, a robust learning program as part of The Learning Institute, the RECONNECT 2023 conference, and networking with other community foundations as some of the top network benefits. Here is a full list of benefits of being part of the CFC network:

**In-person and Virtual Peer Gatherings**
The network of community foundations provides invaluable peer-to-peer support for members. There are virtual meetings to gather and exchange ideas, in-person gatherings for those who have similar roles (i.e. Executive Director and CEO, donor services, finance, grantmaking, Vital Signs, etc.), and active email Listservs for staff and board members to communicate directly with peers on various subjects, including grants, finance, communication and more. There are also in-person gatherings, such as the 2024 Peer Gathering in Winnipeg in May, which is exclusively for community foundation staff.

**Exclusive Funding Opportunities**
CFC provides funding opportunities to community foundations through partnerships that flow funds to local communities. To support these opportunities, CFC provides turn-key resources, local decision-making guidance and CFC team support throughout the entirety of the program and beyond. 2023 saw the most significant opportunity yet, with community foundations helping deliver the Community Services Recovery Fund, a $400 million investment from the Government of Canada which supported almost 5,500 organizations.

**Advocacy**
The philanthropic sector is currently navigating a period of regulatory change, and CFC continues to advocate for community philanthropy and give community foundations the tools to carry out their own advocacy efforts. CFC brings together diverse perspectives in community philanthropy and creates avenues to advocate for community. Advocacy will continue to be a central component of our work as a national membership organization.

**The Learning Institute**
The Learning Institute provides a full suite of learning opportunities for community foundations. This online curriculum is a cost-effective way to access learning experiences tailored to community foundations. These include webinars, workshops, resources, and peer-to-peer sharing opportunities with specific learning pathways. Examples of areas of learning include gender equality, climate change and governance. CFC provides learning from industry experts in legal regulations, fund development, grantmaking, impact investing, operations, governance, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and much more. Through the Learning Institute, CFC also supports onboarding new Executive Directors, board members and team members.

**Resource Library**
The Resource Library is a robust collection of factsheets, webinar recordings, guidebooks, templates, resource manuals, checklists and more to support the work of community foundations. In 2023, CFC published over 100 resources, and we continue to add and tailor content based on feedback from the network. Content is available in both French and English, and topics covered include the day-to-day operations of community foundations, diversity, equity and inclusion, finance and fund development, governance, cyber security, grantmaking and more.
Member Benefits

**Access to community and network data**
Through CFC, community foundations can participate in Vital Signs, Canada’s largest community-driven data program, with access to information on their community’s well-being, housing, demographics, equity, belonging, and more. We will be reimagining the Datahub in 2024 to facilitate community foundations’ access to data collected through CFC’s annual surveys, including financial reporting information and compensation and governance data. This data provides community foundations with evidence for data-driven decision-making, comparison, and benchmarking.

**National Conferences**
Every two years, CFC hosts the largest national conference for philanthropy in Canada, inviting sector leaders from across Canada and around the world. This network-wide conference is an opportunity to exchange ideas with other foundations, hear from thought leaders and make connections. This year’s conference, **RECONNECT 2023**, saw over 70 learning sessions and multiple moments for connecting. We are planning to welcome you to the next conference in spring of 2025!

**Connections to Philanthropic Sector**
CFC connects members to organizations and professionals within the Canadian and international philanthropic sectors to support partnerships, learning and funding opportunities. This can include creating connections through network events such as conferences or learning opportunities, joint advocacy efforts and jointly-led funding opportunities.

**CFC communications and tailored updates**
CFC provides members exclusive tailored communications, including a weekly newsletter that shares relevant updates across funding programs, events, resources, and network news ensuring that community foundations are up to date and connected to their peers.

**Strategic planning and coaching**
The CFC team has deep experience in various areas, including community foundation operations, communications, governance, grantmaking, sustainability, fund development, systems change, change management, strategic planning and much more. The CFC team provides strategic sessions and coaching to community foundation boards and teams. The team can determine the community foundation’s unique needs through a personalized consultation to design a thoughtful coaching or strategy session. This strategy could include individual coaching calls and meetings and direct support and facilitation from CFC staff and leadership.

**Group benefits program**
Members have access to the group health benefits program for their community foundation team. This program is being redeveloped for community foundations to ensure affordable benefits for smaller and larger teams. This is part of a growing area of focus within CFC, which includes support to community foundations as they provide decent and best-in-class work environments for team members.
Membership Checklist and Agreement

CFC is a network organization supporting community foundation members. We work in partnership with community foundations in every province and territory. One piece of this partnership is the Membership Checklist and Agreement. This checklist is an opportunity to connect on the fundamentals of a community foundation and ensure you have the support you need to do your good work. It outlines the criteria for membership, the benefits of membership, brand guidelines for members and membership fee calculations.

Renewing Your Membership

The following steps outline the process of renewing your membership. All memberships must be renewed by March 31, 2024, to continue receiving the benefits listed above.

1. **Review this Membership Renewal Package**, ensuring you have all the information you need about the services provided by CFC. Have questions? Please feel free to reach out to our team.

2. **Complete the 2024 Membership Checklist and Agreement**, ensuring you meet the eligibility requirements and understand the responsibilities for being a member of the community foundation network.

3. **Review your invoice and submit payment for your membership fees** either by an Electronic Fund Transfer or by cheque. The details of how to pay CFC are outlined in this [guide](#).

Your individual invoice and 2024 Membership Checklist and Agreement will be sent to your designated community foundation member by Tracey Vavrek.
Here to Help

Whether you have big questions or small ones, our team is here to support you. Feel free to book a chat to talk through any questions about membership.

Tracey Vavrek, Director of Learning and Network Engagement
tvavrek@communityfoundations.ca
Book a meeting