

Are you up for the Challenge?

Selkirk and District Community Foundation looking to be No. 1 again on
Nov. 18 Giving Challenge

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It's called Endow Manitoba's 24 Hour Giving Challenge and this year the challenge is definitely on as the Tri-S region is gunning to take back its Number 1 spot.

"That's the challenge this year for sure," said Selkirk and District Community Foundation chairman Gord Henrikson.



Ryan Nesar gets ready for the
24-Hour Giving Challenge

"When you hold the title, then lose it, you want it back real bad and we're putting our faith in the people of Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements to regain that title on Nov. 18."

Donors to the Selkirk and District Community Foundation have given generously during the first three giving challenges, and in years one and two, SDCF was the top donation-getter in all of Manitoba. Last year, despite raising almost \$40,000, they were relegated to the Number 2 spot when the Pinawa foundation brought in an incredible \$100,000-plus.

There are good people who donate to the SDCF all year long, but Nov. 18 is a special day because of the extra dollars that come to the foundation from The Winnipeg Foundation and the Province of Manitoba, who will each donate \$1 for every \$5 donated to the SDCF's Community Fund, up to a maximum of \$2,000 each.

"So your \$5 donation becomes \$7. That's what's really special about the 24 Hour Giving Challenge, for that one day, your gift gets a top up, which benefits the community in so many ways," Henrikson said.

"People in this area are always extremely generous, but it's nice to know that on the day of the challenge there's that extra incentive, an extra gift from The Winnipeg Foundation and the Province, and that means a lot."

It's also a day to promote the SDCF and make everyone aware of all the good work it does locally. The foundation is a charitable organization built through gifts from community members. The gifts are pooled and permanently invested and the

interest earned is granted to local charities each year. The initial investment is never spent, so your gift will help your community flourish forever.

Ryan Nesar, who donated during last year's 24 Hour Giving Challenge, was impressed with the fact donations stay local, and help local people and causes.

He lives here and raised his kids here and now that they're both grown – his daughter is a nurse at Selkirk Hospital and his son attends classes at University of Winnipeg – he wanted to help the community that's been so good to all of them.

"I was at the point in my life where it was time to start giving back," Nesar said.

"I like to say we've all lived decent lives...and the town has helped that, so why not give back to the place that has helped that."

Nesar said he's been familiar with the foundation for a long time, and besides the money staying local, he has confidence in the foundation and the board members.

"The foundation is local. It's where I'm from and my friends and family and coworkers are from. Everyone needs something eventually, why not give back," he said.

"I believe that every one of (the board members) has the town's best interests at heart. They're a good group of people and they look for the proper avenues to send the money...you feel more connected. You can see where the money is going."

In 2014, SDCF received \$27,688 in on-line donations during the 24 Hour Challenge and in 2015 the community bested that by giving \$63,495, which included \$25,000 from the RM of St. Andrews. Both those totals were enough to make SDCF the top donation getter in the province. Last year, SDCF brought in \$39,855 to make it the second highest in the province.

On-line donations to the Community Fund received during the 24 hours of Nov. 18 will count as part of the challenge, so you can make your donation from home computer, on your phone, laptop or tablet. You just go to endowmanitoba.ca and look for the Selkirk and District Community Foundation on the map or in the list of foundations. Simply click 'Make an On-Line Gift Now' and use your credit card.

If you prefer a face-to-face transaction, you can come to the Gaynor Family Regional Library on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the fine folks from SDCF will be on hand with a support team to make the donation with you, while you enjoy some coffee and dainties.

For donations to be counted in the 24 Hour Challenge, they must be made to the Community Fund, not a designated fund. However, if you prefer to donate to a designated fund, your donation is still welcomed and encouraged.

“Donations made to specific funds won’t count towards the challenge, but they will still grow our community, which is the foundation’s ultimate goal,” Henrikson said.

“The foundation is here for good, and every dollar that people are kind and caring enough to donate is appreciated.”

For more information on the SDCF go to sdcf.ca. For more information on Endow Manitoba’s 24 Hour Giving Challenge, go to endowmanitoba.ca

The Selkirk and District Community Foundation is a charitable organization that provides financial support to charitable causes and agencies in their region, which includes Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements. Gifts from donors enable the Foundation to support countless groups and individuals in our community. The Foundation has given in excess of \$2 million to more than 125 local charities and community organizations.