



SDCF Chair Deborah Vitt, left, with newly named Executive Director Meredith Boechers.

Meredith Boechers named SDCF's new Executive Director

Announcements from the Selkirk & District Community Foundation are typically characterized by being of the feel-good variety, and the latest news follows suit, according to Chair Deborah Vitt.

"We're announcing that next month Meredith Boechers will become the Foundation's new Executive Director," Vitt said.

“Meredith has been employed as the Foundation’s Community Development Officer for the past two years and on behalf of the board I’d like to congratulate her on this new and exciting time in her life.”

Boerchers has been the Foundation’s Community Development Officer for the past two years and will replace Bev Clegg in the executive position. Clegg has been the Foundation’s executive director for 20 years.

“Bev’s really incredible and it’s hard to even capture what she means to not just the Foundation, but the community,” Boerchers said.

“She really embodies what the Foundation is, and her ability to connect with people. I feel very supported by the mentorship from Bev and also by the great leadership team on the board. It’s a very healthy board and I feel welcomed into the role of Executive Director.”

Boerchers came to the Foundation in 2023, after spending three years with the St. Andrews Heritage Centre, a role she says gave her a great introduction to the Foundation. Once she joined the Foundation, she was responsible for the Community Grant Program and the Vital Signs Report, which will be released Oct. 2.

For the past year-and-a-half, she has lived and breathed Vital Signs. Vitt says it was an incredible learning experience for Boerchers’ new position.

“The eighteen months spent managing Vital Signs and keeping everyone on track, was the perfect training ground for this transition to a new role,” Vitt said.

Boerchers agreed.

“Through Vital Signs you get to know the needs of the community pretty intimately and just how layered they are. There are no single-source solutions, solutions come from partnering and I think that’s what the Foundation does really well, is connect with donors, connect with non-profits and create bridges so that challenges can be tackled by a couple of different players.”

The experience connected her with community leaders and exposed her to the good work that’s already being done in the region.

“I worked with leaders from Inclusion Selkirk, the Community Renewal Corporation and Manitoba Harm Reduction Network, to name a few, and saw the good work they are doing, and how hard they’re working,” Boerchers said.

“It gave me an understanding of what’s already happening, what the issues are. There’s really good work going on.”

Boerchers grew up in the small town of Laurier, Manitoba, located about 30 minutes from Dauphin. Vitt says that coming from a rural background gives her a shared experience with the people she'll be working with.

"She has the knowledge and awareness of what it's like to live in a small town, a smaller community and being located outside the larger urban centre," Vitt said.

"She has relatable experience."

Vitt also thinks that Boerchers is very capable of filling Clegg's shoes, which, she acknowledges, have left a substantial footprint in the communities of Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements.

"I'm going into my fourth year on the board and Bev has often said in meetings, 'I'm here, the Foundation is here for good, but I'm not here forever,'" Vitt said.

"I have seen that Meredith has many of the same characteristics as Bev has that are complimentary to this role, an attention to detail, ability to listen and to find creative ways to bring partnerships to fruition. They each have their strengths, and they love to laugh, and there's nothing wrong with that. It's a seamless transition and it feels natural."