

SDCF Executive looking forward to year of connection, looking back on six years of success



Left to right, Wynnobel, Vitt, Martyniw and Chorney.

Chair Deborah Vitt leads a new SDCF executive for the next year and it's an executive ripe with experience and commitment to community and endowment.

Bonny Wynnobel moves from her role as secretary to Vice Chair, Brian Chorney takes over in the Secretary position and Aaron Martyniw is the new Treasurer.

For Vitt, it's another exciting time for the Foundation, it's donors and grant recipients.

"Welcome to fall 2026 here at SDCF," Vitt said.

"September seems to be our kick-off season to celebrate the many events that happen all throughout the year in our three communities – Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements. From welcoming new board members to supporting innovative community projects through the fall granting cycle, we are full on celebrating what it means to be Here for Good for so many."

Wynnobel is entering her sixth and final year on the board, and says she's met incredible people through her role with the Foundation.

"It's kind of exciting because you've gone through the six years and you've had this great opportunity, it's exciting to have been part of it because you know what the Foundation does and it's totally amazing," Wynnobel said.

"You also get to see through the years the different people that come on the board, so you get an eye on some of the people in the community that you may not have known – you were aware of them but hadn't met them and now you get to meet them. It's like expanding your vision of our community. Everyone is connected to something, people and groups, and you get that greater vision."

Wynnobel has seen the Foundation from both sides – first as a member of the Selkirk Canoe Kayak Centre, a group that has applied for and received grants from the Foundation, and now as a board member involved in selecting grant recipients. She says she's been fortunate to be on the board during the community process of creating Vital Signs 2.0 and some of the things that have come out of that, like the Food Summits.

"You learn lots about the people and the programs, the organizations, you get to see some of the ideas that make our community vibrant. If you look at the Food Summit, that was an amazing event that all came through Vital Signs," Wynnobel said.

"It's a really important document in so many different ways because you bring your community in together to work on it," she said.

“Vital Signs ties us all together. That’s one thing that I heard lots through the years, that the Foundation actually builds connections, lots of opportunity and it results with a stronger future for people in our communities.”

Chorney is also finishing up his term with the Foundation. He says it’s bittersweet to be in his last year, but it’s an experience that has been more than fulfilling.

“It’s great to see what contributions that people have given to the Foundation, the many good things that the Foundation is able to help support in the community that wouldn’t otherwise be done,” Chorney said.

“It’s a win to see people contributing and a win to see the money going back out to the community to help fund some very good causes.”

Donations to the Foundation stay local, and that’s important Chorney said.

“It’s a great organization that is able to give people the opportunity to give back to the community,” he said.

“The Foundation gives people that opportunity and it recognizes that it’s there to serve the community.”

Martyniw was originally a Foundation board member from 2017 – 2021 and then stepped down for work commitments. He returned this summer, and now steps into the Treasurer role.

He says joining the Foundation again is like “reuniting with a long-lost friend”, and he’s excited to meet and work with the new members on the board and be part of a group that has community success at its heart.

“The spirit, energy and enthusiasm (of the board) are present as ever. It’s amazing how the Foundation finds people dedicated to our communities and eager to serve,” Martyniw said.

“I guess that’s what I like about the Foundation the most. Like minded board members all with the goal of making our communities better places for all.”

Vitt says the upcoming 12 months will no doubt be exciting and she, along with the rest of the board, are ready for it.

“We look forward to seeing everyone throughout the coming months and on behalf of the Foundation - thank you so much for your continued support!”