



# **2024-2025**

## **Annual President's Report**

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# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



AWFC acknowledges that we operate on the ancestral and traditional territories of many diverse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities across Canada. We recognize that as a non-Indigenous-led organization addressing inequities rooted in colonialism, our ability to work on these lands are a result of policies that have, historically and currently, harmed Indigenous Peoples.

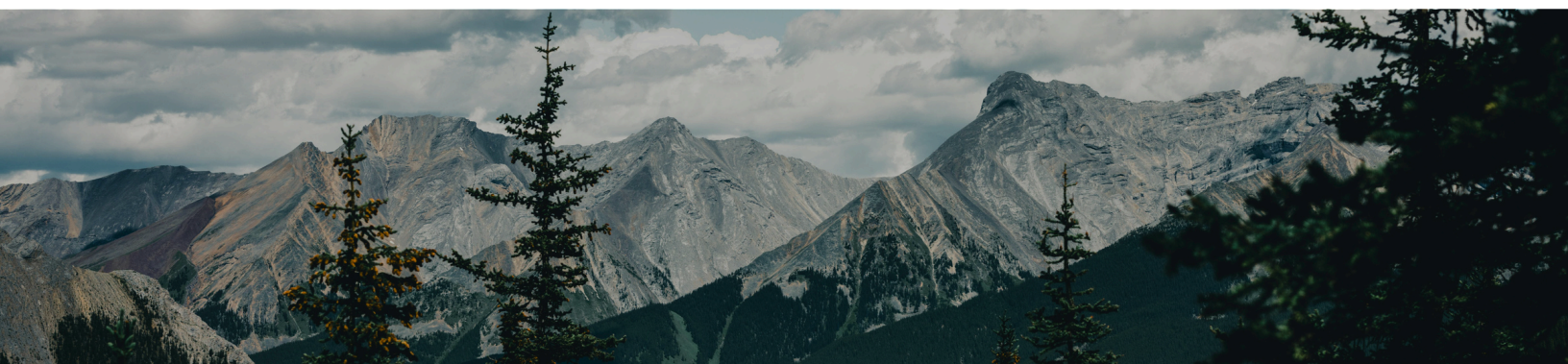
In our work, we attempt to honour the intrinsic connections that First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and people have to their land and all living beings therein, especially the profound respect for animals, which is a shared value with AWFC. While Indigenous Peoples are not a monolith, the commonality of a worldview rooted in connection, reciprocity,

and respect for all non-human animals, align with our vision that all animals be well cared for and treated with respect.

We acknowledge the historical and ongoing impacts of colonialism on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, including the disruption to their traditional ways of life as it relates to ecological balance. We are committed to ongoing learning and relationship building with Indigenous organizations, communities, and people to better inform our work supporting animal welfare organizations and professionals.

We recognize that reconciliation is a process rather than an act, and our work in this area continues.

*The AWFC Team*





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Giuliana Miguel-Pacheco, DVM MSc PhD*  
*President, Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada*

In 2025, the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada (AWFC) proudly celebrates 60 years of advancing animal welfare across the country. Since 2008, we've supported over 100 individuals and organizations with more than \$500,000 in funding.

This year alone, thanks to your generous support, we funded nine impactful projects—from marine mammal conservation to farmed animal education—and provided awards to dedicated professionals and students working to improve animal lives in Canada.

As interest in our grants grows—rising from 17 applications in 2020 to 75 in 2024—we've taken important steps to build our capacity. We welcomed two new staff members to help strengthen our operations and fundraising, and launched a new mailing



*Dr. Giuliana & Marieta*

system and newsletter to keep our community better informed and engaged. We were also thrilled to welcome 81 new donors to the AWFC family.

This report honours the lasting legacies of Dr. Carol Morgan and Diane Minshall through our memorial awards, and it celebrates the commitment of our all-volunteer Board of Directors, whose leadership ensures the Foundation continues to thrive.

**Thank you** for your support and for being part of this journey. I invite you to explore the stories, milestones, and impact shared in the pages ahead.

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

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**Giuliana Miguel-Pacheco**  
DVM, MSc, PhD  
President



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PhD  
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**Melissa Munro**  
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Acquisition and  
Development



**Bianca Vandresen**  
DVM, MSc  
Board Administrative  
Coordinator

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# YOUR IMPACT

Thanks to your generous donations, in 2024 the AWFC was able to fund:

**9** Animal Welfare Organizations

**6** Student Clubs

**2** Public Lectures

**2** Memorial Awards

A total of **CAD \$74,100** was distributed to make a positive impact on animal welfare across Canada.

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# 2025 ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS



## **Poke-me-Not: Generating Population Data on Large Whale Species Using Non-Invasive Environmental DNA (eDNA) Techniques**

Amount Funded: \$10,000

The project aims to

- Develop non-invasive eDNA tools to monitor blue, fin, and sei whale populations.
- Improve animal welfare by replacing invasive biopsy methods with stress-free sampling.
- Contribute to global conservation through data sharing and promotion of humane research practices.

## **Three Minutes To Change The World**

Amount Funded: \$10,000

The project aims to

- Create animated educational videos on farmed and wild animal welfare for children aged 9–12.
- Develop age-appropriate learning tools to teach empathy and ethical thinking around animal use.
- Partner with Quebec Ministry of Education to reach students through curriculum-based distribution.



M O N T R É A L



## **Wildlife Medicine: Building Capacity to Advance Animal Welfare Practices**

Amount Funded: \$10,000

The project aims to

- Provide urgent medical care to sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife across Canada.
- Expand veterinary training through internships, webinars, and a mobile wildlife hospital.
- Treat 200 wild animals and educate 175+ veterinarians to support biodiversity and reduce human-wildlife conflict.



## Veterinary Access and Community Outreach Program – Youth Education & Engagement

Amount Funded: \$7,500

The project aims to:

- Deliver culturally relevant animal health education to grade 5–6 students in remote Northern communities.
- Promote responsible pet ownership and rabies awareness through hands-on learning and veterinary engagement.
- Reach 11 underserved communities, inspiring youth interest in animal health and building local welfare advocates.



## Marine Mammal SOS: Community Education on Responding to Distressed Marine Wildlife

Amount Funded: \$7,000

The project aims to:

- Educate the public on safe, compassionate responses to distressed marine mammals in coastal B.C.
- Share digital resources, outreach events, and an educational video to promote awareness and proper reporting.
- Build a network of informed community members to support rescue efforts and improve marine mammal welfare.

## Animal Welfare Education

Amount Funded: \$5,600

The project aims to:

- Educate youth in Nunavut on responsible pet ownership and animal care.
- Host a week-long vet clinic in Iqaluit with hands-on learning led by veterinary professionals.
- Provide schools with educational materials to support long-term awareness and community well-being.



## **Behind the Labels: Consumer Strategies for Identifying and Responding to Greenwashing and Humane-Washing in Canada**



Amount Funded: \$5,000

The project aims to:

- Expose misleading claims in animal agriculture through a False Advertising Report and Action Toolkit.
- Empower consumers with webinars and resources to recognize and challenge greenwashing and humane-washing.
- Promote transparency and accountability to support higher animal welfare and environmental standards.

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## **Barriers to Access to Veterinary Care in Post-Pandemic Canada**

Amount Funded: \$5,000

This project aims to:

- Provide national data on barriers to veterinary care in Canada, comparing post-pandemic challenges with 2022 data.
- Identify key barriers like financial constraints, location, and clinic availability to inform policy decisions.
- Influence decision-makers in government, regulatory bodies, and the veterinary industry to shape future strategies for improving care access.



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## **Furry Friends Responsible Dog Ownership Program**

Amount Funded: \$3,900

This project aims to:

- Educate children (ages 10-13) on responsible dog ownership, fostering empathy and accountability for animal well-being.
- Teach important topics like dog body language, obedience training, and spay/neuter awareness.
- Promote empathy and accountability to reduce neglect, abandonment and encourage responsible pet ownership in the community.





# STUDENT CLUBS

The AWFC offers small grants to animal welfare clubs at Canadian post-secondary institutions to support educational activities that promote animal welfare and engage students and the broader public for maximum impact.



**Pre-Veterinary and Animal Welfare (PAW) Club**  
University of British Columbia  
\$700



The Campbell Centre  
for the Study of Animal Welfare

**Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare - Student Chapter**  
University of Guelph  
\$600



**Animal Welfare Club**  
**Ontario Veterinary College**  
University of Guelph  
\$800



UNIVERSITY  
of Prince Edward  
ISLAND

**Animal Welfare Club**  
University of Prince Edward  
Island  
\$500



**Pre-Veterinary and Animal Welfare Society**  
University of Prince Edward Island  
\$900



**Student Animal Law Association of Dalhousie**  
Dalhousie University  
\$1500

# PUBLIC LECTURES

Every year, the AWFC invites Canadian universities to submit proposals for animal welfare lectures open to the public and students. This opportunity is available to all faculties, including Law, Medicine, Environmental Science, and more.



UNIVERSITY  
of Prince Edward  
ISLAND

## Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre's (SJDAWC) Animal Welfare in Practice Symposium



**Topic:** The human dimension of animal welfare: the intersection between animal care and the community.

**Speaker:** Various

**Awarded:** \$2,000

## Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare (CCSAW)

UNIVERSITY  
of GUELPH

**Topic:** Animal law around the world: a global perspective on diverse regulatory perspectives

**Speaker:** Dr Carolina Maciel, fellow with the Animal Law & Policy Program, Harvard University.

**Awarded:** \$1,500



The Campbell Centre  
for the Study of Animal Welfare





# THE DIANNE MINSHALL UBC MEMORIAL AWARD

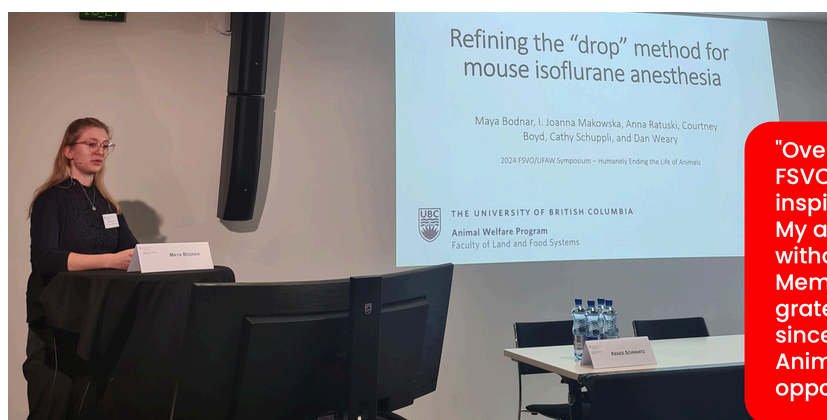
The Diane Minshall UBC Memorial Award honours Diane Minshall's legacy in ethical laboratory animal care. It provides funding for UBC and affiliated individuals to attend conferences on research animal welfare, reflecting Diane's lasting impact as a compassionate leader and mentor in the field.



**Maya Bodnar**  
2024 DMMA Awardee

As a PhD student in UBC's Animal Welfare Program, Maya Bodnar is dedicated to improving the welfare of laboratory rodents, with a focus on refining routine procedures such as handling and euthanasia. Her recent work involved enhancing the "drop" method for isoflurane induction in mice, contributing to more humane anesthesia and euthanasia practices. With support from this award, Maya traveled to Bern, Switzerland, to present her research at the 2024 *FSVO/UFAW Humanely Ending the Life of Animals Symposium*. This opportunity not only allowed her to share her findings but also to connect with global experts committed to advancing humane euthanasia methods.

You can watch Maya's talk at the symposium [here](#).



"Overall, attending and presenting at the 4th FSVO/UFAW symposium was an insightful, inspiring, and thought-provoking experience. My attendance would not have been possible without the support of the Diane Minshall Memorial Award, for which I am extremely grateful for. I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to those at the AWFC and UBC Animal Care Committee that afforded me this opportunity." – Maya Bodnar



# THE DR CAROL MORGAN MEMORIAL AWARD

The Dr. Carol Morgan Memorial Award honours the legacy of a passionate advocate for animal welfare and ethical veterinary practice. Established by the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada (AWFC), the award supports continuing education and training in ethics and animal welfare for Canadian veterinarians committed to advancing these values within the profession. Open to practicing veterinarians in good standing, the award may be granted to multiple recipients each year and must not be used for mandated ethics courses. Dr. Morgan's legacy lives on through this award, reflecting her unwavering dedication to justice, compassion, and the ethical treatment of animals.



**Carol Morgan,  
DVM, PhD  
(1964–2015)**



**Dr. Maral Rahmani** of PoultryMed Veterinary Services, is an independent veterinarian specializing in poultry in BC, with a strong passion for improving poultry welfare. After earning a master's and PhD degrees in poultry medicine, she then became a diplomate with American College of Poultry Veterinarians (ACPV). She is committed to promoting animal welfare through evidence-based practices and compassionate care. She will use this award to attend the 2025 ACPV workshop in April on Current Perspectives on Poultry Welfare, and then leverage this information to educate and support farmers in advancing humane practice in the industry.



# DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

81

new donors

\$30,650

in individual donations

## **To our new donors — welcome to the pack!**

Thank you for joining us in making a meaningful difference in the lives of animals across Canada.

## **To our recurring donors — we're so grateful for you.**

Your continued support powers everything we do. Our work wouldn't be possible without you.



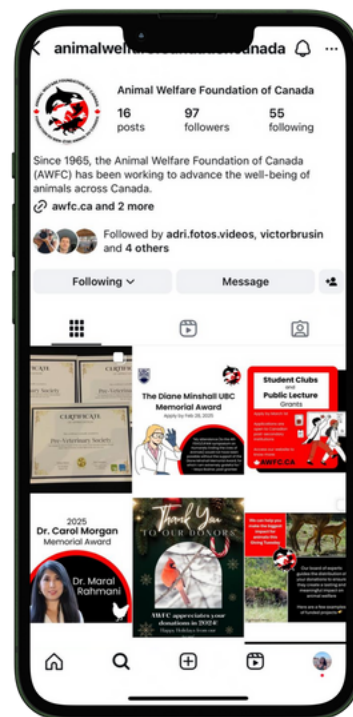
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# CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF IMPACT FOR ANIMALS IN CANADA

In 2025, the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada proudly marks six decades of advancing animal welfare.

Since 2008, the AWFC has supported over **100 organizations** and individuals with more than **\$500,000 in funding**.

Follow us on social media or join our mailing list to know more about our 60-year anniversary.



## *A bit of history*

In 1965, Mr. T. I. Hughes, then General Manager of the Ontario Humane Society, proposed the creation of an independent foundation dedicated to supporting animal welfare across Canada. With encouragement from respected benefactor Mr. P. R. U. Stratton, Hughes gathered key figures in the movement to form an Organizing Committee.

The Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada (AWFC) was officially incorporated on November 3, 1965, and the first meeting of its Trustees took place on April 23, 1966, in Toronto.

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# CAPACITY BUILDING

Over the past five years, the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada (AWFC) has experienced a significant increase in grant applications, rising from 25 in 2019 to 77 in 2024.



**Bianca Vandresen**  
DVM, MSc  
Board Administrative  
Coordinator

To ensure timely communication with applicants and effective support for grant recipients, the Board hired Bianca Vandresen as Board of Directors Coordinator. Bianca had been supporting the Foundation in grants management as a contractor since 2022 and transitioned to a part-time employee role in February 2025.



**Melissa Munro**  
Manager, Donor  
Acquisition and  
Development

Recognizing the need for additional professional support to grow the Foundation's revenue and better serve those advancing animal welfare in Canada, the Board of Directors formed a committee in 2024 to recruit a Donor Acquisition and Development Manager. This process concluded in February 2025 with the hiring of Melissa Munro to lead AWFC's fundraising efforts.

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# FEATURE IN THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Thanks to one of our Directors, Nayah Mang, the Globe and Mail featured us in their National Philanthropy Day report. If you missed it, you can find it [here](#).

CONTENT FROM: NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY REPORT  
PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 15, 2024



The Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada supports projects that address the welfare of all animals, including non-lethal strategies for predator management.

WILLY MOBILO VIA GETTY IMAGES

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# MAILING LIST AND NEWSLETTER

AWFC has launched a new mailing list system to better serve our donors and supporters and to ensure the timely delivery of our newly launched newsletter. We're excited to share updates, stories, and opportunities to get involved—directly to your inbox. The AWFC Newsletter was developed and led by our volunteer Directors, Nayah and Chae, with the support of Bianca. You can read the first edition [here](#).

You can join our mailing list [here](#) if you have not done so yet.



# FINALLY, THANK YOU!



We are deeply grateful to our all-volunteer Board of Directors, whose dedication and leadership keep the Foundation thriving. Their commitment to guiding our committees and advancing our mission is truly inspiring.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to our donors and supporters, whether individuals or organizations such as the Calgary Foundation, the Foundation of Greater Montréal, United Way Centraide, and the BC Provincial Employees Community Services Fund. Your generosity makes it possible for us to continue funding innovative education, research, and public outreach initiatives that create measurable, positive change for animals across Canada.

We couldn't do this without you.

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**DONATE** 

Read more about us at

 **AWFC.CA**

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