

# 2025-2026 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*



# Letter from the President

## A Diamond Jubilee of Impact

Dear partners, donors, and colleagues,

As I look back on this year, I am so proud of what we have achieved together. 2025–2026 was a major milestone for the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada (AWFC) as we celebrated our [60th Anniversary](#). Looking through [our history](#) reminded me that our strength has always come from three things: science, collaboration, and a deep respect for animals.

This year, we focused on projects that create real, lasting change. We awarded \$64,000 in grants to [nine animal welfare organizations](#). These groups are on the ground doing the hard work—researching better care, educating the public, and finding new ways to protect animals across Canada.

We also continue to support the next generation, building a future where evidence-based care and compassion are the norm, not the exception. This year, we supported [one public lecture](#) and [four student clubs](#), providing critical resources for students and professionals dedicated to animal welfare and ethics.

This work is only possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our volunteer Board of Directors. I'm especially grateful to my fellow directors, who give their time and expertise, alongside their many commitments, to help guide AWFC

To our donors: thank you for your trust. It allows us to support those on the front lines and to advance a more compassionate Canada through science and education.

As we look to the next chapter, our focus is clear: to grow our grantmaking so we can meet rising demand and continue to serve as a strong, trusted national voice for animal welfare. The challenges ahead are real, but the momentum we are seeing and the collaboration across sectors give me genuine hope.

Thank you for being part of this 60-year legacy and for your continued commitment to a more compassionate future for animals.

With gratitude,

Dr. Giuliana Miguel-Pacheco  
Volunteer President



# 2025-2026 Impact Highlights

## 2025 Grants

Animal Welfare professionals across Canada partnered with us to work together towards a Canada where all animals are respected as sentient beings and treated with dignity and compassion.



## Animal Sentience Campaign

We made a series of social media posts to support Petition e-6955 for the recognition of animals as sentience beings under the Canadian law. The petition received over 20K signatures!

**over**  
**\$73K**  
**granted**  
**in 2025**



Photo by the National Wildlife Centre, 2025 grantee



## About us

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This year, at the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada (AWFC), we deepened our commitment to advancing a more compassionate and responsible relationship between people and animals across Canada. At the heart of our work is a simple but powerful belief: that in every decision affecting animals - whether through action or inaction, and across agriculture, education, companionship, and science- we must recognize and respect their needs as sentient individuals so they can truly thrive.

In practice, this means being thoughtful and intentional about how we give. We continue to embrace an evidence-based approach to philanthropy, seeking out the best available research and insights to guide our decisions. Through strategic grantmaking, we focused our resources on initiatives with the greatest potential for meaningful, lasting impact, supporting work that is not only compassionate, but also effective.

This year also reinforced for us that progress is never made in isolation. We are continually inspired by the advocates, researchers, and organizations we work alongside. By collaborating with partners across the country, we are able to strengthen shared efforts, learn from one another, and help scale solutions that can drive broader, systemic change.

We are proud of the role we play in supporting this growing community, and grateful to be part of a collective effort to build a future where animal care and policy are guided by evidence, grounded in ethics, and driven by respect.





## Vision

To see a Canada where all animals are respected as sentient beings with their inherent needs prioritized and treated with dignity and compassion.



## Mission

To strategically invest in and support initiatives and programs that advance the well-being of animals across Canada and to promote their humane treatment in all settings.



## Purpose

To drive measurable, lasting improvements in the lives of animals in Canada through the ethical and effective stewardship of donor funds.

We support innovative education, research, and outreach initiatives that challenge the status quo and raise the standard of care for animals in all human-managed environments while fostering respectful attitudes and actions toward wildlife.

We also use our platform as a national organization to promote consideration for all animals, in all settings.



# Guiding Values

## **Animal-Centered Thinking**

Prioritize the physical, psychological, and behavioural needs of animals - recognizing their capacity for emotion, agency, and social complexity.

## **National Impact with Local Roots**

Fund initiatives that spark national awareness and transformation, while respecting the diverse geographic and cultural landscapes of Canada.

## **System Change and Scalability**

Invest in ideas and models that can be replicated or adapted across sectors and regions, driving collective change for animals beyond a single community or issue.

## **Strategic, Ethical Grantmaking**

Fill critical funding gaps, supporting projects that have strong animal welfare potential but may be overlooked by traditional funders due to novelty, complexity, or advocacy focus.

## **Visibility, Voice & Viability**

Support initiatives that not only help animals directly but also elevate public understanding, increase the visibility of animal welfare as a societal priority, and strengthen the long-term sustainability of AWFC work.

# 2025 Grantee Partners

## Animal Welfare Organizations

We funded 9 projects in 2025, led by Canadian animal welfare organizations working on research, education and outreach efforts to advance the welfare of companion animals, wildlife, and multiple other species across Canada.

All the images shown below and in the next two pages are from AWFC-funded projects and were provided by our grantees.



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

**Aim:** To develop non-invasive environmental DNA tools to gather essential data on blue, fin, and sei whale populations



“The funds received have helped Ocean Wise to build a collaboration with another non-profit to work towards a common goal of enhancing whale conservation. We are grateful for the opportunity provided by donors of the AWFC grant to enable us to develop eDNA methodology for blue, fin, and sei whales - three of the most threatened whale species on the planet.”

-Ocean Wise Director of Whales, Dr. Chloe Robinson.

**Project:** Veterinary Access and Community Outreach Program - Youth Education & Engagement

**Aim:** To improve animal health education and services in underserved communities across Canada's North.





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

**Aim:** To address the need for more trained veterinarians capable of treating wildlife through mentorship programs, hands-on training, and a mobile hospital.



**Wildlife**



**\$10,000**



**Project:** Three Minutes To Change The World

**Aim:** To raise awareness among Canadian children about animal welfare, focusing on farm and wild animals, by creating two three-minute animated videos.



MONTRÉAL



**Multiple species**



**\$10,000**



Click here to watch the video

Credits to the artist Cyril Bertal.



“AWFC’s support is allowing us at the Montreal SPCA to create powerful educational tools that will be distributed in primary school classrooms across Canada – tools that help raise awareness among children about farm animal welfare and the complex issues surrounding the captivity of exotic animals. By believing in the power of education and in the potential of young minds, the Foundation is helping shape a more compassionate future for animals.”

–Montréal SPCA Senior Campaign Manager, Émilie-L. Sauvé



**Project:** Marine Mammal SOS: Community Education on Responding to Distressed Marine Wildlife

**Aim:** To educate the public on how to effectively and compassionately respond to distressed marine mammals along British Columbia’s coastline.



**Marine Wildlife**



**\$7,000**

VANCOUVER AQUARIUM  
**MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE SOCIETY™**



**Project:** Animal Welfare Education

**Aim:** To educate youth about proper animal care, including grooming, feeding, and safety to address animal overpopulation and welfare issues in Nunavut.



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Nunavut Animal Rescue  
fuge pour animaux du Nunavut

 **Companion  
Animals**

 **\$5,600**



**LOOK BEHIND  
THE LABELS**

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

**Aim:** To address deceptive advertising in the animal agriculture industry, including false claims about ethical animal treatment and environmentally-friendly practices.

 **Farm  
Animals**

 **\$5,000**

**AEL**  
**ADVOCACY**  
Animal Environmental Legal Advocacy

“ At Toronto Humane Society, we’re so grateful for support from the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada. It’s allowing us to gather and analyze innovative data: What barriers do Canadian pet guardians face in accessing veterinary care, and how have they changed over time? Identifying these barriers is the first step before changes are made in the industry so that veterinary care can be accessed by all pets, no matter their family’s circumstances.”

- Toronto Humane Society Development Officer, Sam Gwynn

**Project:** Barriers to Access to Veterinary Care in Post-Pandemic Canada

**Aim:** To provide a national data on barriers to veterinary care in Canada, comparing post-pandemic challenges with 2022 data.

**TORONTO  
HUMANE  
SOCIETY**  
like no  
other.

 **Companion  
Animals**

 **\$5,600**



# Public Lectures



Click here to watch the webinar series

In 2025, we provided a \$2,000 grant to support the 10th annual Animal Welfare Symposium hosted by the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDAWC) at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI). The webinar series focused on the welfare of small mammals kept as pets, such as rabbits, hamsters, and other rodents. The series was designed to promote evidence-based approaches to improving the lives of these often-overlooked companion animals. The webinars were recorded and are now publicly available on YouTube.

# Student Clubs

Four animal welfare student clubs, from two different universities, received financial support to promote educational activities in 2025.



## Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare

The AWFC awarded a \$1,300 grant to support educational panels and seminars at the University of Guelph that promoted student awareness and engagement in animal welfare science careers.

## UoG Animal Welfare Club

The AWFC awarded a \$2,000 grant to support an animal welfare forum, educational trips, and talks that enhanced veterinary students' learning and commitment to animal welfare beyond the classroom.



## Pre-Veterinary and Animal Welfare Society

The AWFC provided \$1,500 to support hands-on training, educational events, and outreach activities that promoted animal welfare and inspire future veterinary professionals at UPEI.

## UPEI Animal Welfare Club

The AWFC awarded \$1,500 to support a student hackathon at the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) that fostered innovation and collaboration in developing real-world animal welfare solutions.

# Memorial Awards

## UBC Diane Minshall



### Kathen Li

Since 2020, Kathen Li has worked to improve laboratory mouse welfare through behavioral research and enriched housing techniques, alongside refined low-stress handling methods. With support from the Diane Minshall UBC Memorial Award, he will attend the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science symposium and aims to present at the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science national meeting. These opportunities will allow him to share knowledge, collaborate with the animal welfare community, and further develop evidence-based practices that benefit both laboratory animals and their caregivers.

## Carol Morgan

### Dr. Jill Kirk

Rising veterinary costs have fueled an increase in owner surrenders, leaving shelters burdened with treatable but unadoptable animals. This trend forces organizations to make difficult decisions regarding limited resources and animal welfare. As a board member of the Canadian Animal Sheltering and Community Medicine Association (CASCMA), Dr. Kirk will be chairing a dedicated shelter medicine lecture track at the 2026 Summit For Animals. A lifelong shelter veterinarian, she played a key role in selecting the program's speakers and remains committed to advancing education within the field.





# 2025 Key Milestones

## 60th Anniversary

We celebrated our 60th anniversary by reflecting on six decades of national leadership in animal welfare – highlighting major reforms, sustained investment in research and advocacy, and the collective impact made possible by supporters across Canada.

## Survey

We conducted two national surveys of the public, donors, and animal welfare experts, generating insights that clarified our shared mission and defined key strategic priorities for the future.



read the  
feature  
here

We were featured in the 2025 "Philanthropy in Canada" report.

## Carol Morgan Memorial Award Anniversary

We marked the anniversary of the Dr. Carol Morgan Memorial Award by celebrating her pioneering legacy and advancing her vision through continued support for veterinarians leading ethical, welfare-focused change across the profession.

## Grant Process Streamline

We updated our grants review process to streamline decision-making, improving efficiency and ensuring timely, strategic investment in high-impact animal welfare initiatives.

## Newsletters & Social Media

We published 10 newsletters and boosted engagement to expand our reach. Help us spread the word!

**Funds  
Raised**

**over  
\$31K**



**A special thank you to our major donors & their lasting legacies**

Anne McElroy

Frank Lowery Decency to Animals Fund

Anne and James Charitable Fund

While we cannot list everyone by name, we are deeply grateful to every donor who contributed this year.

# Our Team of Directors & Staff



**Dr. Giuliana Miguel-Pacheco**

Dr. Miguel-Pacheco joined the AWFC Board in 2022 and was appointed President in 2024, bringing over 15 years of international expertise in animal welfare science. A veterinarian with an MSc and PhD in animal behaviour and welfare, she has a career spanning academic research and strategic consultancy for global NGOs and food businesses. Currently, she is focused on advancing farmed animal welfare through policy and research across Canada, the US, and Latin America.



**Dr. Valli Fraser-Celin**

Dr. Fraser-Celin joined the AWFC Board in 2022, bringing a specialized background in geography and community health. She earned her PhD from the University of Guelph, focusing on wildlife conservation and welfare in Botswana, before completing postdoctoral studies at the University of Calgary. Her research and current professional work center on equitable access to veterinary care for Indigenous, remote, and Northern communities in Canada. A dedicated advocate for humane dog training and behaviour, Valli also manages a pet food pantry at her local resource center.



**Randy Tonnellier**

Randy joined the AWFC Board in 2023 and was appointed Treasurer in 2024, bringing over 20 years of experience in animal welfare leadership. A retired Manager of Operations for Winnipeg Transit, he previously served as Treasurer for the Winnipeg Humane Society, where he currently chairs the Animal Compassion and Animal Protection committees. Randy's commitment to the sector includes his long-standing role on the Winnipeg Vegfest planning committee and his annual volunteer work with the Isla Animals clinic in Mexico.



**Tunmise Faith Ehigbor**

Faith joined the AWFC Board in 2023 as Secretary and a member of the Visioning Committee, bringing a strong background in animal physiology and biosciences. A first-class graduate in Animal Physiology from the Federal University of Agriculture in Nigeria and an alumnus of the Arrell Food Institute at the University of Guelph, he focuses his research on farmed animal behaviour and sustainable productivity. Faith is currently a PhD student at the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

## Dr. Jamie Ahloy Dallaire

Dr. Ahloy Dallaire joined the AWFC Board in 2021, bringing extensive expertise in the behavior and welfare of farm and laboratory animals. An Associate Professor at Université Laval since 2018, he leads a research program focused on animal resilience and ethics. Jamie actively contributes to national welfare standards through his work with the Canadian Council on Animal Care and the National Farm Animal Care Council.



## Hannah Brown

Hannah joined the AWFC Board in 2024, bringing over 15 years of international legal expertise to the Foundation. A UK-qualified lawyer since 2009, she previously served as the Legal and Project Manager for the UK Centre for Animal Law (ALAW) and as the Criminal Justice System Reform Manager at Humane Canada. Hannah has lectured globally on animal welfare legislation, specializing in agricultural, sporting, and companion animal law. Dedicated to advancing Canada's legislative landscape through comparative legal analysis.



## Jennifer Frayne

Jennifer joined the AWFC Board in 2024, bringing over 20 years of experience in veterinary clinics, animal shelters, and research administration. She holds an MSc in Animal Behaviour and Welfare from the University of Guelph and is a Registered Laboratory Animal Technician. Jennifer currently works in Research Administration, overseeing ethical guidelines and enrichment standards for a diverse range of laboratory and domestic species.



## Sue O'Neill

Sue joined the AWFC Board in 2024, bringing a unique focus on the intersection of human and animal welfare. A PhD student in Sociology and a SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholar, her research examines the systemic links between gender-based violence and animal welfare. Sue's professional background includes managing national projects at Humane Canada that address barriers for survivors of violence and their companion animals.





## Nayah Mang

Nayah joined the AWFC Board, bringing a strong background in marketing, public relations, and non-profit leadership. A business graduate from the University of British Columbia, she has held several executive positions with Girl Guides of Canada and The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, where she specialized in fundraising, finance, and strategic communications. A lifelong advocate for animal welfare, Nayah has extensive experience fostering dogs and cats for organizations in Vancouver and Toronto.



## Dr. Martyna Lagoda

Dr. Lagoda joined the AWFC Board in 2025, bringing an extensive international background in zoology and animal welfare science. A graduate of Trinity College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast, she earned her PhD specializing in the physiological and prenatal effects of chronic stress in pigs. Currently a researcher at the University of Saskatchewan, Martyna focuses on advancing evidence-based strategies for sustainable welfare improvements in farmed animals.



## Bianca Vandresen

Bianca joined the AWFC in 2023 and transitioned to the role of Board Coordinator in 2025, bringing a background in veterinary medicine and animal welfare. A veterinarian with an MSc in Animal Welfare, she is currently pursuing her PhD with the Animal Welfare Program at the University of British Columbia. Bianca plays a vital role in the foundation by supporting executive operations, grant management, and strategic board engagement.

## Some of our paw-some coworkers



Marietta



Mew



Pampa



# ANIMAL WELFARE FOUNDATION OF CANADA

**Where your gift becomes greater,**  
transforming care, strengthening  
communities, and shaping a better  
future for animals across Canada.

## Let's stay in touch



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