

## **Burns Memorial Fund Announces Retirement of Michelle Clarke and Appointment of Kendall Quantz**

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Burns Memorial Fund (BMF) Board of Trustees would like to announce the retirement of BMF Executive Director, Michelle Clarke. Michelle will be retiring this June, after over 14 years with the organization.

During her time at BMF, Michelle ushered in a new era for the organization. Thanks to her vision and collaborative spirit, BMF expanded our focus on improving outcomes for children and youth to include work at the policy and systems level. Recognizing that as a small foundation, BMF could leverage our impact by working together with other funders, Michelle fostered strong relationships in the community.

Under Michelle's leadership, BMF became the granting partner for several significant Calgary initiatives, including the Calgary Fetal Alcohol Network, the RADAR project to reconnect high-risk youth to the essential supports of school, family and community, and Enough For All, Calgary's poverty reduction initiative. Michelle recognized that BMF had an expertise in grant administration that was unique in the community and critical to the success of community partnerships and emerging organizations. Through this work, BMF also helped establish best practices for charity and non-charity partnerships and contributed to the growing body of knowledge in this field.

In 2014, Michelle worked with several Calgary-based funders to establish the Collaborative Funders' Table (CFT), a collective granting initiative. In its first iteration, the CFT focused on supporting out-of-school time programming for vulnerable youth. Again, leveraging BMF's unique position in the community and grant-making expertise, BMF became the administrator of the pooled funds. The success of this partnership led to CFT 2.0, an initiative focused on addressing youth employment and whose membership has expanded to include seven grant-making organizations.

Over the last ten years, Michelle has also been instrumental in bolstering natural supports work in Calgary. Michelle's leadership led to co-funding the work of two senior Policy Fellows, Dr. Suzanne Tough and Nancy Reynolds, with the Max Bell Foundation; partnering with the Council of Champions to promote the Social Snacking concept; and collaborating with the Change Collective to create a practice framework to support vulnerable youth through their natural supports. This important work will help youth and adults alike in achieving long-term success with the assistance of their natural support networks.

Michelle will be missed greatly by staff and Trustees. She has been an outstanding leader and friend, and her impact on families and youth in Calgary will be felt for years.

We are pleased to announce that Kendall Quantz, current Grants Manager at BMF, has been appointed incoming Executive Director. Kendall has been a dynamic and integral part of the BMF team since 2018, managing our High School Bursaries program through a period marked by both rapid growth and the challenges of a global pandemic. Kendall is a leader at BMF, taking on new projects, maintaining collaborative partnerships, and spearheading internal initiatives. Kendall came to BMF with extensive experience in the non-profit sector and a Master of Public Affairs, Nonprofit Management from Indiana University. Her passion for serving her community, empathy for those around her, and enthusiasm for change make her the ideal leader to guide BMF into the future.