

2025 2026 ANNUAL REPORT



Kootenay Boundary
COMMUNITY SERVICES CO-OPERATIVE

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

This past year has been one of significant transition and continued growth for the KOOP, and I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed to keeping this important regional work moving forward.

A major focus this year has been governance, including important discussions about the role of Council and changes intended to strengthen the KOOP's governance structure for the future. We also completed the KOOP's first-ever audit, an important milestone in the organization's continued development and accountability.

Operationally, this was also a year of considerable transition, including onboarding an almost entirely new team and navigating Hannah's second maternity leave. I want to particularly recognize Heather, who has held the interim leadership role with exceptional skill, thoughtfulness, and commitment. Her leadership during this period has been invaluable, and the KOOP is incredibly fortunate to have her. I also want to extend a sincere thank you to Myriam, whose consistency, knowledge, and ongoing work continue to keep so much moving behind the scenes.

There is also much to celebrate in the KOOP's regional work. Nobody's Perfect programming has returned to operating at capacity after several years in which some partner organizations were unable to fulfill their subcontracts. SKY has undertaken its East Kootenay Feasibility Study, and Foundry has begun the early stages of engagement in the Kootenay Boundary region, both exciting developments in strengthening supports for children, youth, and families across our communities.

I am so grateful to Reidun for her support as Vice Chair this year. With my own capacity more limited by the part-time nature of my role, Reidun consistently stepped forward when Board leadership and support was needed. Her willingness to take on that responsibility, and the thoughtfulness and expertise she brought to it, have been deeply appreciated.

Finally, this will be my last report as Chair of the KOOP. With my time at Kootenay Kids Society coming to an end as I move into a new role, I will also be stepping away from the KOOP. It has been a privilege to be part of this work and to see the organization continue to evolve. I leave with enormous appreciation for Heather, Myriam, Reidun, the Koop team, our Council and Board members, our community partners, and everyone who continues to contribute to the KOOP's work across the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to have been part of it!
Alisha Stubbs



VISION AND MISSION

Vision

Our vision is to foster a community of thriving social service agencies improving the lives of people in the Kootenay Boundary region.

Mission

The Koop's mission is to work together to strengthen the capacity of each member agency through cooperation and collaboration nurtured in a spirit of mutual support and respect.

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The Koop had an almost entire **NEW TEAM** come online for SKY, Foundry and the Executive.
- Received funding to support members in a variety of in-person **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**
- **GOVERNANCE REFORM** and Association work to tease out how the KOOP moves forward whilst offering direct programming.
- KOOP Board members and ED **ATTENDED** a number of **CONFERENCES** offered through the BC Federation of Community Services
- Hosted the **PROVINCIAL CYAC CONFERENCE** in Nelson
- Foundry **ENGAGEMENT WORK** exploded over the course of the year
- Finished SKY **EAST KOOTENAY FEASIBILITY STUDY**

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the 2025–2026 fiscal year, overall revenue totaled \$767,663, representing an increase of \$52,663 compared to the previous fiscal year’s revenue of \$715,000.

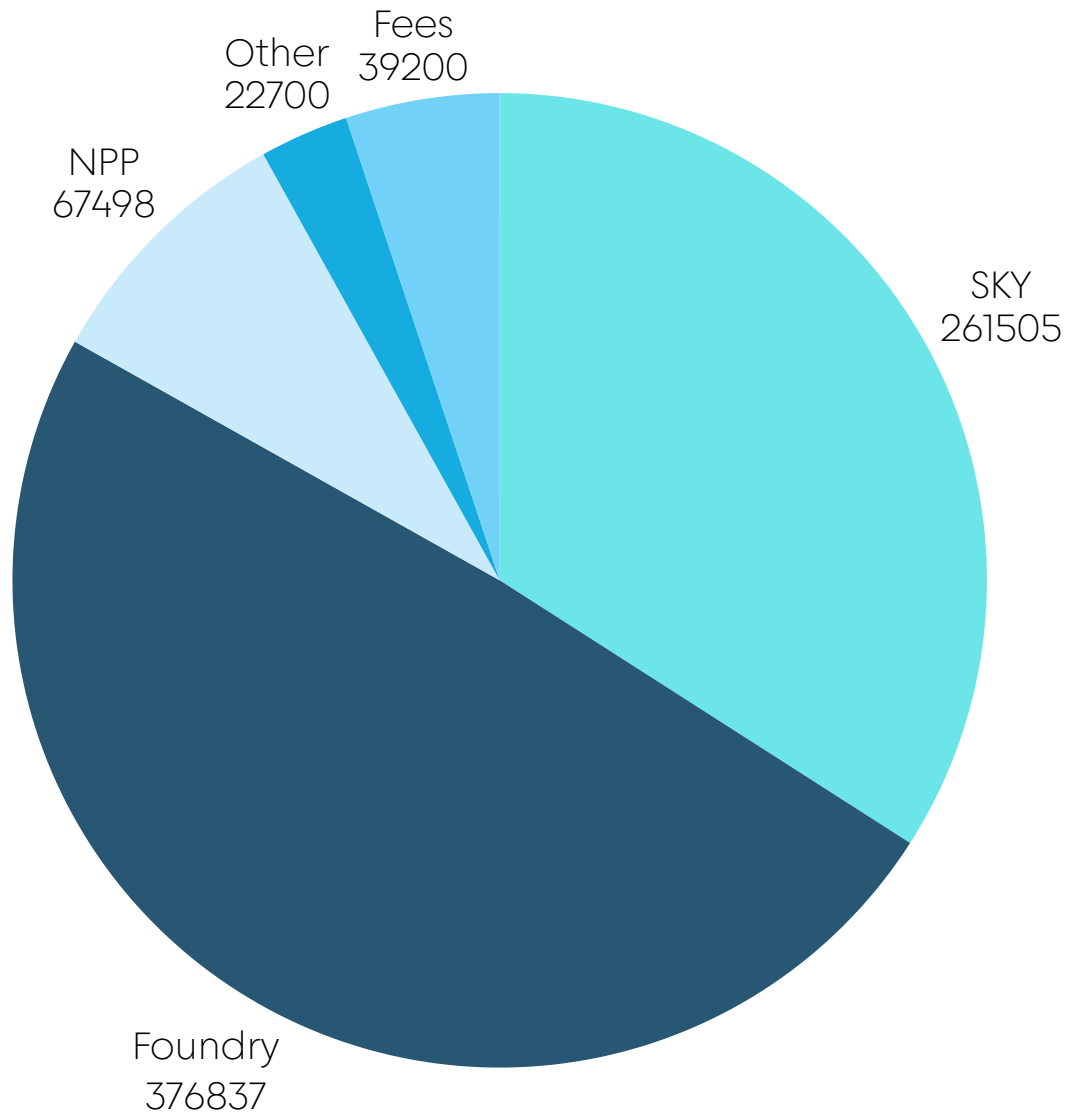
Overall expenses increased to \$744,128, compared to \$676,472 in 2024–2025, an increase of \$67,656.

Despite the increase in expenditures, the Cooperative ended the fiscal year in a positive financial position, with an excess of revenue over expenditures of \$23,535.

Overall, the year reflects continued growth in revenue while also highlighting the importance of monitoring rising expenses to maintain financial stability and sustainability.

Revenues

Year Ended March 31, 2026



Sources

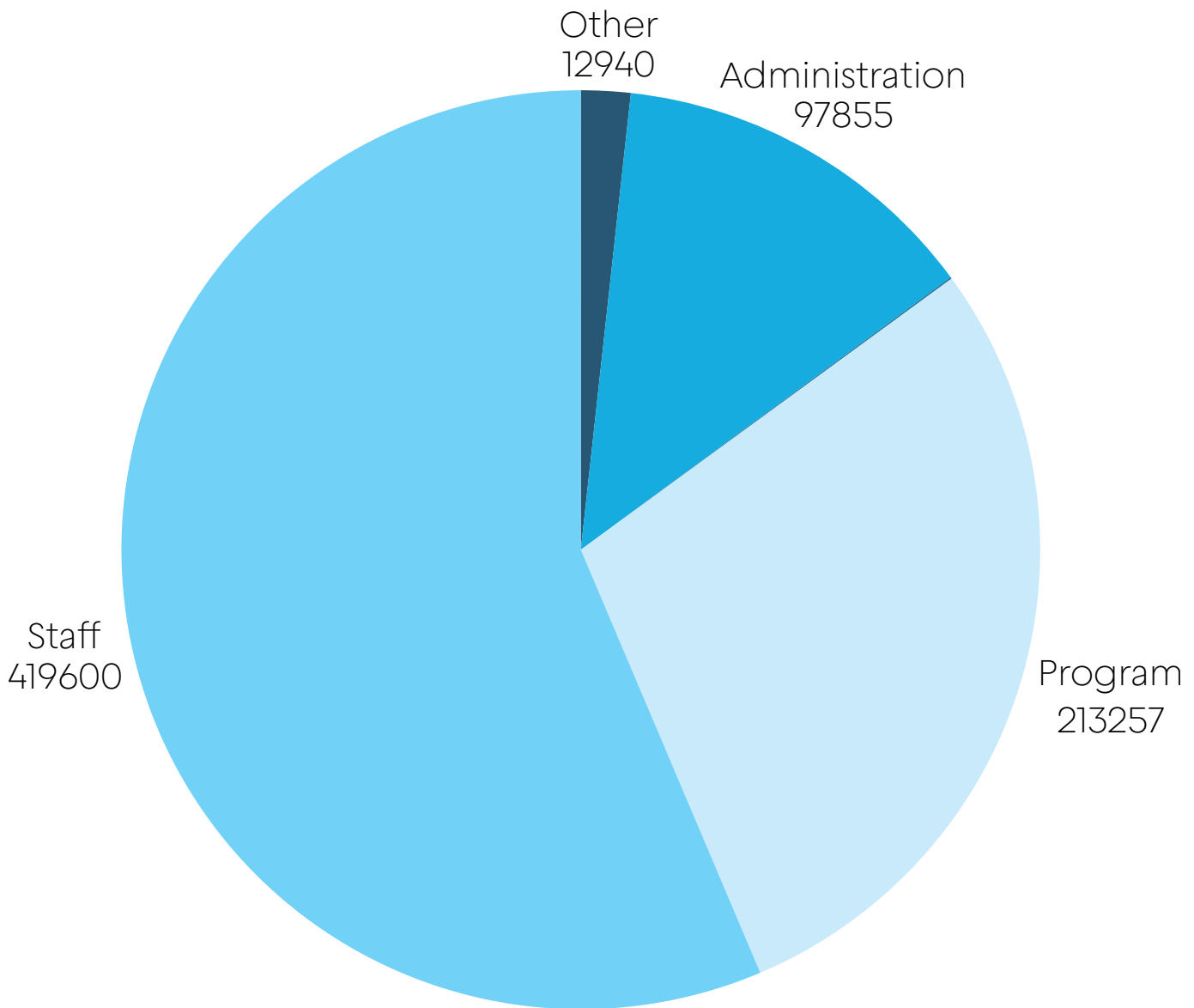
SKY: MPSSG & DOJ

Misc. Fees: Membership fees, registration and fees for services

Other: Interest and miscellaneous, other agencies, amortization of deferred contributions

Expenses

Year Ended March 31, 2026



Sources

Staff: Staff training, travel, wages and benefits

Program: Direct program expenses, development costs, promotion and subcontracts

Administration: Insurance, licenses, memberships, office, rent, utilities and professional fees

Banking: Amortization, bank charges and interest (\$480)

Other: Conference and meeting expenses

PROGRAMS



Safe Kids & Youth Coordinated Response was created through collaboration between police, child protection, crown counsel, victim services, schools, healthcare, and community services to provide a more seamless response to child and youth abuse, helping reduce system-induced trauma.

Interview Rooms

The 2025-2026 fiscal year was one of transition and re-grounding, with the onboarding of an entirely new team marking a new chapter for the program. Alex Hawes joined in July of 2025 as the Regional Manager of the program; she also oversaw the South coordinator position for the remainder of the fiscal year. Katie McEwen joined as the SKY North coordinator in September of 2026. Through intentional relationship-building, the team not only maintained the strong partnerships established by previous staff but also expanded collaboration with new stakeholders. As a result, the program emerged more connected, resilient, and better positioned to respond to the needs of children, youth, and their families throughout the West Kootenay region.

Files

The program delivered coordinated support to 33 child and youth files (14 from North communities, 18 from South communities and 1 file in Revelstoke), working alongside multidisciplinary partners to ensure children, youth, and their families received a trauma-informed and collaborative response. In addition to these full coordinated responses, the program also supported brief service delivery requests



that did not proceed to a coordinated forensic interview. These requests included consultation, resource navigation, partner support, and guidance to assist professionals and caregivers in responding appropriately to concerns involving children and youth.

Trusty

SKY's Accredited Facility Support Dog (AFSD), Trusty, continued to play an integral role in supporting children, youth, and families throughout the West Kootenay region. Through his calming presence, Trusty provided over 40 hours of direct one-to-one emotional support to children and youth. Beyond direct client interactions, Trusty travelled extensively throughout the region alongside SKY staff, strengthening community connections and supporting the program's multidisciplinary partners.

Projects

Over the course of the year SKY participated in several projects with funding support from the Department of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General. This included collaborating with the Kootenay Boundary Division of Family Practice to create a Suspected Child Abuse or Maltreatment Guide for Practitioners across the region.

To further enhance our trauma-informed approach, SKY introduced sensory support baskets for children and youth participating in forensic interviews. These baskets contain carefully selected calming and tactile items that help reduce anxiety, support emotional regulation, and create a more welcoming interview environment.

Five police officers from across the region were supported in receiving child forensic interview training, ensuring there were trained officers in each of the six communities the program operates in.

Lastly, the program engaged in a Transformative Reconciliation Project with other CYACs from across the province to further advanced culturally responsive and relationship-based practices, strengthening services for Indigenous children, youth, and families. Lastly, riding off the successful East Kootenay Feasibility Study, which demonstrated strong interest and support for implementing the SKY Coordinated Response model in the East Kootenays. SKY is moving into Phase Two of the expansion process, which will focus on bringing together regional stakeholders to begin collaborative planning for implementation and service development.

• F O U N D R Y •

KOOTENAY BOUNDARY

Foundry offers free and confidential supports for young people ages 12 to 24, and their caregivers including mental health care, substance use services, physical & sexual healthcare, youth and family peer supports, and social services. The services can be accessed both online and in-person in communities across BC. Foundry service centres aim to provide safe, welcoming, and judgment-free spaces where youth can access the supports they need to navigate various challenges.

During Fiscal Year of 2025-2026, the KOOP and our members continued our work in the development of Foundry Kootenay Boundary (Foundry KB). In a first for the provincial network, service delivery for Foundry KB will use an outreach-forward approach while also developing multiple locations throughout the Kootenay Boundary region. KOOP personnel have continuously worked with Foundry Central Office (FCO) leadership to redefine the traditional urban-centre model into something that will work for our rural and remote communities in Kootenay Boundary. This new approach to service delivery has taken time to create and develop, as it requires communication, trust, and support from multiple divisions within FCO. As we move forward building the Foundry KB service model, we have full support from FCO team and executive leadership. Together we are excited to create the first-ever rural and remote and regional model in Foundry BC history!



During FY 25-26, the KOOP expanded the Foundry KB staff to include a Youth and Family Engagement Coordinator and a Fund Development Officer. These roles have been instrumental in moving the project forward as we continue to engage with youth and families, as well as potential partners and funders throughout the region. Working with these partners, the KOOP team has built trust and relationships which are fundamental for development and implementation of Foundry KB. Through this work, we have also identified potential sites for future locations (either stand alone building and/or co-located/shared buildings).

Engagement has been our key priority outside of working with FCO for service model development. The Foundry KB team has worked to be present in all of the secondary schools in Kootenay Boundary through engagement lunches, class presentations, drop-in hours, art/queer/activity clubs, and more. We have engaged and held information booths at community fairs, markets, concerts, and held free events at pop-up locations like bowling alleys and ice cream stores. In addition, our engagement coordinator also worked with youth action networks (YANs) to hold youth drop-ins and was present on a consistent basis in a handful of schools weekly! Through this engagement we are building trust with youth and caregivers, educating them on Foundry’s services and directing them to use Foundry’s virtual services while we are building service in Kootenay Boundary.

All this engagement work really paid off, as we can see in data gathered in our region compared to the previous year, when engagement had not started. Below are numbers gathered by FCO data office and shared with the KOOP staff for postal codes located in our service area.

Fiscal Year	# unique youth	# of visits	# registrations Foundry Virtual
FY 2024-2025	24	42	24
FY 2025-2026	75	162	118

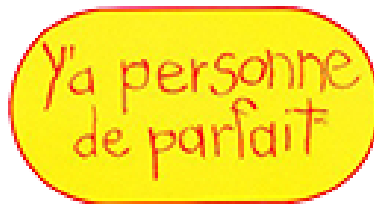


Service Types	# unique youth	# of visits
Drop-in Counselling- Substance Use	<5	<5
Groups	<5	<5
Sexual Health	<5	<5
Social Services	<5	<5
Susbstance Use Health	<5	<5
Drop-in Counselling - Mental Health	61	97
Mental Health	40	56
Peer Support	22	52
Navigation	15	17
Engagement	13	14
Physical Health	10	24
Gender Care	6	10
Foundry Work and Education	5	5

We also saw a significant increase in caregivers accessing Foundry Virtual services during FY 25-26. There were 24 unique caregivers noted with a total of 53 visits, up from less than 5 caregivers and 8 total visit in FY 24-25.

As we move forward through FY 25-26 we have started our leadership and youth/family advisory groups, and are working towards implementing the proposed Foundry KB service model that includes two regional hub-like locations: one in Castlegar and one in Grand Forks, up to 8 smaller satellite locations, and a transit systems that connect the regional network. During Fall/Winter 2026, and into 2027, we will be working with service providers and partners to remove system barriers for youth accessing care and work towards integration of services in proposed locations. The KOOP team will continue our engagement work by expanding our engagement team – so Foundry KB can be represented in more places and with greater frequency while communities and partners work towards opening locations for service delivery.





Nobody's Perfect is a facilitated parenting program for parents of children from birth to age five and is designed to meet the needs of parents who are young, single, socially or geographically isolated, or have low income or limited formal education.

The program teaches positive parenting techniques and provides community connection.

The KOOP trained one staff member to support member agencies that require two trained facilitators. Having two facilitators is often a barrier to offering the program, so our trained staff member can step in to support program delivery. We were able to support one agency with this new approach.

- Across the Kootenay-Boundary region, 11 Nobody's Perfect Parenting series were held.
- We hosted two NPP facilitator gatherings, with support from Trail FAIR

The managing partners delivering the Nobody's Perfect Parenting series are:

- Boundary Family Services
- Kootenay Family Place
- Kaslo Community Services
- Kootenay Kids Society
- Salmo Community Resource Society
- Trail Fair Society

What makes the Koop unique?

The Koop stands out from other associations through its cooperative model, which prioritizes collective decision-making, member ownership, and shared resources, setting it apart from traditional organizations. Its specialized focus may align closely with a specific industry, ethical framework, or niche area that resonates with your agency's mission. Additionally, membership in the Koop offers unique benefits such as shared funding opportunities, specialized training, advocacy, and a strong networking foundation that other associations may not provide. More than just a network, the Koop fosters a deeper sense of community and collaboration, encouraging meaningful partnerships and cooperative growth among its members.

It is important for us to work collaboratively in our region. We learn from each other and that strengthens our collective impact. We support one another and don't compete for funding. We each bring our varied knowledge and experience to help inform the direction of the KOOP. That's unique.

What Koop Members value:

- Integration and ED support
- The direct and personal connection the Koop provides. If we have a need or question, it's one person we're communicating with and maintaining that communication. Helps build a personal rapport and saves time down the road as we don't have to re-establish that every time.
- We belong to a few, related to different service areas. The benefit for me from the Koop is higher level administrative supports and resources for local nonprofits.
- Local and specific for community services agencies.
- Provides links to the Federation of Community Services, engaged with other organizations at the appropriate level and facilitates access to trends and best practices throughout the region in a systemic way.
- Local solutions for local issues.

AVAILABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS AND GROUP DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS:

- Elevate Learning Hub
- HR Covered
- PathWise Solutions Shared Web Services

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS:

- Upper Columbia Cooperative Council
- The Federation of Community Social Services BC
- BC Coop Association
- Board Voice
- Vantage Point





OUR MEMBERS

- Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services Society
- Boundary Family Services Society
- Castlegar & District Community Services Society
- Circle of Indigenous Nations
- Columbia Basin Family Resource Society
- Family Action Network
- Freedom Quest Youth Services Society
- Kaslo Community Services
- Kootenay Career Development Society

STRENGTH
THROUGH
CONNECTION

- Kootenay Family Place
- Kootenay Kids Society
- Nelson CARES Society
- Nelson Community Services
- West Kootenay Women's Association
- Salmo Community Resource Society
- Trail FAIR Society
- W.E. Graham Community Service Society

BOARD & COUNCIL UPDATES

The Board met 6 times throughout the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
The Council met 6 times throughout the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Members: Jane Ballantyne (Chair and Board Treasurer, KCS) Jibin Joseph (FQ)
Met 4 times in 2024-2025; the committee oversaw KBCSC's financial review.

POLICY COMMITTEE:

Members: Phyllis Nash (Chair, NCARES), Emma Dresen (KCDS), and Jana Gmür (KCS).

Met 7 times in 2024-2025, as it was our scheduled review of existing policies. There was also a lot of work done to create policies that are required for program delivery, especially the Foundry KB work.

HR COMMITTEE:

Members: Members: Gent Harrison (Chair, KFP), Lena Horswill (member-at-large) and Reidun Rosi (CCS).

Met 5 times in 2024-2025. The committee supported the team and leadership transition and Foundry KB Service Agreements.

ED NETWORK MEETINGS:

Were held twice a month online for accessibility and on a casual drop-in basis. Topics covered over the year included agency updates, shared administrative service opportunities, performance management, policy reviews and more.

KOOP BOARD

Thank you to our dedicated Board Members for your leadership, commitment, and invaluable support.

- Alisha Stubbs, Chair (Kootenay Kids Society)
- Reidun Rosi, Vice-Chair (Castlegar Community Services)
- Cindy Strukoff, Former Treasurer (Boundary Family Services Society)
- Jane Ballantyne, Treasurer (Kaslo Community Services)
- Phyllis Nash, Secretary (NelsonCARES)
- Lena Horswill (Member-at-Large)
- Tim Payne (Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services)
- Gent Harrison (Kootenay Family Place)

KOOP TEAM

With sincere appreciation, the Koop recognizes the dedicated team whose commitment, collaboration, and unwavering efforts continue to make a meaningful difference.

- Hannah Smith, Executive Director
- Heather Glenn-Dergousoff, Interim Executive Director
- Myriam Zbinden, Executive Assistant
- Vivian Smith, Finance Administrator

SAFE KIDS AND YOUTH:

- Alex Hawes, SKY Manager and SKY South Coordinator
- Katie McEwen, SKY North Coordinator
- Trusty, SKY's Accredited Facility Support dog
- Nathanael Hewitt, Former SKY Manager
- Tory Johnston, Former SKY Coordinator and Interim Management support

FOUNDRY KOOTENAY BOUNDARY:

- Michelle Oakley, FKB Project Lead
- Kaihen Harwood, FKB Engagement Coordinator
- Nicole Charlwood, Fund Development Officer