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23  
24

**A N N U A L  
R E P O R T**  
ELIMINATING FAMILY VIOLENCE



## Contact Information:

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The Fergusson Foundation will celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2025 and our work is just as needed today as it was 40 years ago. Risk factors associated with the pandemic resulted in increased rates of many forms of family violence. Today in Canada a woman or girl is killed every 48 hours by an intimate partner or family member. That is up significantly and alarmingly from pre pandemic when that number was every 6 days.

”

Rebecca Francis  
Executive Director  
Fergusson Foundation

## OUR MISSION

The Mission Statement of the Fergusson Foundation is:

Fergusson Foundation is committed to being a catalyst for the prevention and elimination of family violence. We do this by increasing the awareness and understanding of its complexity, through: encouraging open dialogue, funding research into the causes and forms of family violence, promoting educational programs and supporting organizations providing services to those impacted by violence and abuse.

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## OUR VISION

A society that is based on healthy relationships and is free from family violence in all its forms.

## OUR VALUES

Our values capture the key beliefs that are shared by all stakeholders in our organization.

They are:

- Integrity
- Compassion
- Inclusion
- Respect
- Trust

MURIEL  
MCQUEEN  
FERGUSSON  
FOUNDATION

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

## PATRON

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The Late Honourable Muriel  
McQueen Fergusson,  
P.C., O.C., Q.C.

## BOARD

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Jennifer Bennett  
**Director**

Noreen Bonnell  
**Board Secretary**

Danika Carleton  
**Officer**

C. Anne Crocker, CM  
**Founding & Lifetime Member**

Carol Deschenes  
**Director**

Norma Dubé  
**Director**

Angela Francoeur  
**Director**

Dr. Greg Kealey, CM, FRSC  
**Director**

Autumn Locke  
**Director**

Jay Michaud  
**Vice-President**

Hon. Margaret McCain, CC, ONB  
**Founding & Lifetime Member**

Jessica Melanson  
**Director**

David Parkinson  
**Director**

Sonja Perley  
**President**

Clair Ripley  
**Director**

Elaine Stairs  
**Treasurer**

Shannon Wilson  
**Director**

## STAFF

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Rebecca Francis  
**Executive Director**

Danielle LaPointe  
**Administrative Coordinator**

Morgan Richard  
**Special Project Coordinator**

THE  
TEAM

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Fergusson Foundation Nominating Committee membership consists of: Jay Michaud, Chair and Vice-President, Sonja Perley, President and Executive Director, Rebecca Francis.

The Nominating Committee is a sub-committee of the Fergusson Foundation's Governance Committee, and it plays a crucial role in ensuring the strength and effectiveness of our Board of Directors. Meanwhile, the Board of Directors is a group of engaged, caring, and committed individuals passionate about eliminating family violence. This Nominating Committee is responsible for the composition, competencies and skills requirements needed to ensure a highly functioning Board of Directors.

The Committee has continued its work this year with a strong focus on aligning board membership with the strategic priorities identified through our recent nominating process review.

As part of this review, the Committee has assessed the current composition of the Board in terms of experience, competencies, and representation. The review highlighted opportunities to better balance the range of skills and perspectives needed to fulfill the Foundation's mission. In response, we have initiated efforts to:

- **Broaden and define board competencies:** We are working on a new competency matrix to guide recruitment and ensure that we maintain a well-rounded board with expertise in governance, finance, philanthropy, community engagement, law, local business and subject matter expertise.
- **Promote diversity and inclusion:** We continue to work on a framework for inclusive recruitment and have begun identifying opportunities to engage individuals from underrepresented communities. These steps are essential to ensuring the Foundation reflects the diversity of the people and communities we serve.

These ongoing improvements aim to strengthen the governance of the Fergusson Foundation and position us for continued impact in the years ahead.

We are pleased to present the proposed slate of officers for the upcoming term:

- President, Jay Michaud
- Past-President, Sonja Perley
- Secretary, Noreen Bonnell
- Financial Officer/Treasurer, Elaine Stairs
- Chair of the Funding Committee, Danika Carleton

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Michaud  
Chair & Vice-President



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

It is an honour, as the President of the Fergusson Foundation Board of Directors to submit my 2023-2024 annual report.

As, I transition from my role as the President of the Board of Directors, to the role of Past President, I reflect on the dedication of the team at the Fergusson Foundation, and I continue to be truly inspired by their hard work and many achievements and successes. The Foundation's vision of being a catalyst for the prevention and elimination of family violence is undoubtedly in safe hands through the leadership of the Executive Director and the new President of the Board of Directors. I am also truly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the dedicated members of the Board of Directors, Executives and staff of the Fergusson Foundation. Through their shared wisdom, knowledge and guidance, they have helped me navigate many challenges, resulting in a continuation of a positive and promising future for the Fergusson Foundation's work to prevent and eliminate family violence.

### The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research

The MMFC was established within the Faculty of Arts at the University of New Brunswick in 1993. The creation of the Centre was a collaboration of efforts between the University of New Brunswick and the Fergusson Foundation.

The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research undertakes activities that contribute broadly to the elimination of family violence from society. They provide an Atlantic Canadian perspective on research in the field of family violence and actively seek the participation of researchers and community partners from across the country and around the world. To learn more visit [www.unb.ca/mmfc/](http://www.unb.ca/mmfc/)

This past year we have been working diligently to reaffirm our commitment to this collaboration with an updated Memorandum of Understanding with the University of New Brunswick and the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Prevention. This continued partnership is vital to our ongoing commitment and vision to support the important community-based family violence research and work towards the prevention and elimination of family violence. We're excited to be nearing the final stages of this process, with the MOU expected to be signed shortly.

Once again, I would like to welcome Jay Michaud as the new President of the Fergusson Foundation's Board of Directors and look forward to our continued work together, in my role as the Past President.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonja Perley".

Sonja Perley,

President

Fergusson Foundation Board of Directors



## A WORD FROM OUR **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

In 2023–24, the Fergusson Foundation’s vision remains unwavering: a society grounded in healthy relationships and free from violence in all its forms. We stand with those who experience fear and harm in their homes and communities, and we believe that by working together, we can break the cycle of violence and abuse.

This year, I have once again been inspired by the passion and commitment of our volunteers, board members, staff, and community partners. Their efforts continue to drive real and meaningful impact in the lives of individuals and families across the province and beyond.



As you read through this report, I invite you to reflect on the progress we’ve made together—and the work that still lies ahead. With continued collaboration, compassion, and courage, we move closer to the violence-free future we all envision.

## Some of our collective projects and achievements are highlighted below.

### KPMG Charitable Organization Award Recipients

The Foundation was honoured to receive the KPMG Charitable Organization Award at the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce's Business Excellence Awards. It was an incredible opportunity for us to shine a light on Family Violence. We were deeply honoured to receive this recognition and proud to be part of a community that values the importance of giving back. This award inspires us to continue our mission and make an even greater impact.



### Family Violence Prevention Month

Each year, the provincial government, in partnership with the Fergusson Foundation proclaim November as Family Violence Prevention Month, promoting awareness of the impact family violence has on individuals, families, workplaces and communities.

### Shine a "Purple" Light on Family Violence

Each November, during Family Violence Prevention Month the Fergusson Foundation encourages our incredible community partners to "Shine A Purple Light on Family Violence" by illuminating community landmarks in purple. Thank you to Fredericton City Hall, the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, University of New Brunswick, St. Thomas University and Government House for participating this year.

### Love Shouldn't Hurt Campaign

As part of New Brunswick's Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy, the Love Shouldn't Hurt campaign is educating and informing New Brunswickers about intimate partner violence (IPV) and how we can all play a part in putting an end to this serious issue. Interested individuals can follow the campaign on Facebook or Instagram or visit [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/public-safety/community\\_safety/content/intimate\\_partner\\_violence.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/public-safety/community_safety/content/intimate_partner_violence.html)

### It's Your Business: A Domestic & Intimate Partner Violence Workplace Toolkit

The It's Your Business Workplace Toolkit is a set of online resource materials designed to provide employers, unions and employees with information and resources to recognize and respond to situations in which DIPV enters the workplace. The toolkit is produced by an inter-sectoral committee made up of partners representing government, post-secondary, business, unions and community. To learn more visit <https://www.toolkitnb.ca/home/>

### The New Brunswick Silent Witness Project

The New Brunswick Silent Witness Project is an exhibit of life-sized red silhouettes representing New Brunswick Women who have died tragically at the hands of an intimate partner. Each life-sized red silhouette represents a woman who once lived, worked and played amongst us. They were daughters, sisters, mothers, aunts, friends, neighbours, and employees. Because these women no longer have a voice, the silhouettes are called the Silent Witnesses. By listening to their stories and honouring their lives, they have a strong, clear collective voice that helps all of us to explore ways to create awareness and prevent future domestic deaths. To learn more visit [www.silentwitness.ca](http://www.silentwitness.ca)

### Indigenous & Ally Women Leaders Empowerment Circle

The [Indigenous & Ally Women Leaders Empowerment Circle](#) was created to support Indigenous Women leaders by recognizing existing Indigenous women leaders, connecting and empowering Indigenous women, creating opportunities for networking and mentorship and being a bridge between Indigenous Women leaders and allies. Plans for the Empowerment Circle next gathering are underway.



As we reflect on the progress we've made, we're reminded that lasting change takes all of us. Your support—whether through advocacy, education, or financial contribution—makes this work possible. If you're able, please consider donating today. Together, we can continue to support survivors, empower communities, and build a future free from family violence.

#### Ways to Give:



One Time  
Donation



Monthly  
Donation



Donate  
Securities



In Honour /  
In Memory



Create a  
Fundraiser



*Rebecca Francis*

Rebecca Francis,  
Executive Director of the Fergusson Foundation



# GRANTS & AWARDS 2024

The Fergusson Foundation Grants and Award Selection Committee consists of:

Jay Michaud/Danika Carleton (Chairs) Noreen Bonnell, Rebecca Francis,  
Danielle LaPointe, Autumn Locke, Morgan Richard, Shannon Wilson

Respectfully submitted by: Jay Michaud, Chair & Danika Carleton, Past Chair

## HON. DR. LYNE CHANTAL BOUDREAU



The 31st annual MMFF Award was presented to **Dr. Lyne Chantal Boudreau**, Minister Responsible for Women's Equality and Seniors, during a ceremony at Government House on November 29, 2024.

Minister Boudreau is a teacher, researcher, entrepreneur, author, speaker and volunteer who is highly involved in her community. A professor of educational administration at the Université de Moncton since 2017, the goal of her actions, through education, is to promote the advancement of social causes, most notably eliminating violence against women and children, as well as gender equality and social justice issues.



2024

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MURIEL MCQUEEN  
FERGUSSON FOUNDATION  
AWARD

RING

As an entrepreneur, Minister Boudreau owns a social enterprise specializing in fashion and is co-owner of the non-profit organization EL2ES Inc., which uses education to offer training on consent and healthy relationships in all settings and develops related resources. EL2ES seeks to address a critical lack of training and support in New Brunswick in the face of alarming statistics regarding gender-based violence. Changing these statistics relies on preventive resources and effective interventions targeting those affected by this form of violence.

As an educator, Minister Boudreau advocates for education based on awareness and the creation of resources and tools following an intersectional and inclusive approach. For Minister Boudreau, education symbolizes the key to a society that is free, respectful and committed to its development. She shares this love of education whenever she speaks publicly, highlighting the importance of education, listening and consent for holistic, respectful social development. The words she lives by, "Talk about us not without us, but with us," guide her every action. The principles set out in her book on shared leadership are based on the values she strives to promote in all settings.

Minister Boudreau is a volunteer member of several committees, community organizations and research teams. She is the chair of the committee for women and gender equality at the Université de Moncton, Moncton campus, a front-line volunteer with the emergency shelter program for pets of women who have been victims of violence, and heavily involved with in-school initiatives to promote a positive, inclusive approach to sex education.

Minister Boudreau has worked tirelessly on behalf of women and children in her pursuit of working towards the elimination of family violence. From her extensive community engagement to leading her own entrepreneurial, and social, endeavours in support of survivors, the Fergusson Foundation was honoured to recognize Minister Boudreau as she continues to make a significant difference at the forefront of this very worthy cause.

In honour of Minister Boudreau's contributions, the Fergusson Foundation has provided a donation to Centre Courage de Shédiac and Centre Boréal.

# FERGUSSON FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GRANTS

GRANTS & AWARDS

The Fergusson Foundation's annual grants program, including the Alèx Thomas Carleton Grant, operates on a biennial schedule, with the next application period launching in July 2025. The grants program is open to Canadian organizations based in and serving Atlantic Canada and selected recipients can receive up to \$10,000.

## NBSTA RESEARCH GRANT

The NBSTA Research Fund was established in 1996 with a generous donation from the New Brunswick School Trustees Association.

Each year, Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre Research Teams are invited to apply for a grant from the fund if they have projects that: align with the Foundation's mission, conform to the MMFC's action-oriented research model, focus on the impacts of violence in the public school system/settings and includes training for public school personnel in recognizing and dealing with violence issues.

Join us in congratulating **Dr. Matt Rogers**, the 2024 recipient of a Fergusson Foundation NBSTA Research Fund Award in support of a project to create detailed case studies that reflect common scenarios faced in school settings utilizing the **Documentary Inquiry Hub at the University of New Brunswick**. This project aims to amplify youth voices and enhance their agency, providing pre-service teachers with novel, immersive educational experiences centered on issues that directly impact young people's lives.



[WWW.FERGUSSONFOUNDATION.CA/GRANTS/](http://WWW.FERGUSSONFOUNDATION.CA/GRANTS/)

# FUNDING COMMITTEE

The Fergusson Foundation Funding Committee membership consists of:

President Danika Carleton, Rebecca Francis, Danielle LaPointe, Sonja Perley, Elaine Stairs

The Fergusson Foundation Funding Committee advises the board on sustainable funding issues, reviews portfolio management, monitors existing fundraising sub-committees and provides creative solutions to the long-term needs of the Foundation.

The Funding Committee worked hard throughout the year on several initiatives including the Fergusson Foundation Food and Wine Gourmet Adventure as well as assisting our Investment Committee.

Over the past year, the Investment Subcommittee under the governance of the funding committee has remained focused on ensuring the long-term financial health and sustainability of the Fergusson Foundation. In response to continued volatility and shifts in the global financial markets, the committee undertook a comprehensive strategic review of the Foundation's spending and investment policies.

Together, we evaluated our investment portfolio's performance, risk profile, and alignment with the Foundation's long-term goals. The resulting updates to our policies reflect a more adaptive and resilient approach—one that is better positioned to respond to future economic conditions while safeguarding our ability to fund vital programming.

We are grateful to the Investment Committee for their valuable collaboration and insight throughout this process. Their input was instrumental in helping us assess our current funding strategies and identify opportunities to strengthen our financial position while continuing to responsibly support the Foundation's mission.

The Investment Subcommittee remains committed to prudent stewardship of the Foundation's assets, ensuring that donor contributions are managed with care and foresight.



# FOOD AND WINE GOURMET ADVENTURE

The Fergusson Foundation Gourmet Food & Wine Sub Committee membership consists of: Chair, Clair Ripley, Elaine Stairs, Noreen Bonnell, Rebecca Francis, Carol Deschenes, Doug Williams, Charlotte Burhoe, Rose Arsenault, Danika Carleton, Danielle LaPointe, Sonja Perley, Jay Michaud and Devin Dunham.

The Fergusson Foundation Food and Wine Gourmet Adventure Subcommittee has worked tirelessly throughout 2023-2024 to plan and deliver what turned out to be our most successful Food and Wine event to date. Thanks to their dedication and the tremendous support from our partners, this year's Gourmet Adventure raised an incredible \$108,591.45 in support of the Fergusson Foundation's important work.



This outstanding achievement is a testament to the commitment, creativity, and collaboration of everyone involved. We extend our deepest gratitude to the volunteer subcommittee members, whose efforts made every detail of the event shine. Special thanks go to Chef Mindy Trail and her outstanding culinary team at the Delta Fredericton, whose exquisite creations delighted our guests. We also thank Lead Sommelier Doug Williams and his incredible team of sommeliers, who expertly paired wines and elevated the tasting experience to new heights.

We were thrilled to have Ryan “Crash” Barton as our engaging and energetic host, and our heartfelt thanks go to Auctioneer Hugh Cameron, K.C., for his invaluable role in driving the excitement—and the bidding—during our live auction.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generous support of our event sponsors, the enthusiasm of our guests, and the collaborative spirit of everyone involved. Your contributions and presence made this a truly memorable and impactful evening.

Thank you all for helping us turn great food, fine wine, and community spirit into meaningful action.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Danika Carleton**  
 Chair



# Thank You! Merci!



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Amethyst Sponsor   Commanditaires améthyste	Platinum Sponsors   Commanditaires platine
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 C. Anne Crocker, CM <i>Lifetime Supporter</i>  	  
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# MURIEL MCQUEEN FERGUSSON CENTRE REPORT

Committee/Subcommittee Report

The MMFC would like to thank the Fergusson Foundation for their financial support for its work during 2023-2024.

## Accomplishments & Status of the MMFC

Research, education, and knowledge transfer are the central activities of the MMFC. The following is a list of the associated accomplishments in these areas from May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024. For details on the activities of the MMFC listed below, access a copy of our [2023-2024 Annual Report](#).

### 1.0 Research

#### 1.1 Law

- Centre for Criminal Justice Studies & Policing Research
- From Awareness to Action: Moving from screening and assessment to developing appropriate parenting plans after family violence in the family justice system
- NB Department of Justice and Public Safety– Restorative Justice & Courtroom Experience Video Projects
- Supporting the Health of Survivors of Family Violence in Family Law Proceedings

#### 1.2 Health

- Affecting Girls, Women, and Gender-Diverse People: National Health Hub for Knowledge Mobilization and Exchange
- Health and Social Services Research Training: Platform for System and Population Transformations in Girls' and Women's Health
- Variation in Men's Health by Cumulative Lifetime Violence Severity and Social Determinants of Health: A Longitudinal Exploratory Study

#### 1.3 Newcomers' Experience

- Violence against Women Migrants and Refugees: Analyzing Causes and Effective Policy Response

#### 1.4 Religion

- Muslim Family Safety Project

#### 1.5 Sexual Violence

- Identifying Scripts and Norms Guiding Young Men's Use of Sexual Aggression Against Women

#### 1.6 Violence Across the Lifespan

- The AIM Study - The implementation of an advocacy intervention for diverse women in midlife and older experiencing intimate partner violence: Effectiveness and experiences of participants and community-based researchers
- Creating Peaceful Learning Environments
- Kid's Club: A Health Promotion Program for Children Exposed to Family Violence in New Brunswick

## 2.0 Research Fellows

- Dr. Mary Aspinall, STU
- Dr. Casey Burkholder, UNB
- Dr. Mary Ann Campbell, UNBSJ
- Dr. Diane Crocker, Saint Mary's University
- Dr. David Hofmann, UNB
- Dr. Mayme LeFurgey, UNB
- Dr. Linda Nielson, Professor Emeritus, UNB
- Dr. Karla O'Regan, STU
- Dr. Lucia O' Sullivan, UNB
- Dr. Evie Tastsoglou, SMU
- Dr. Petrea Taylor, UNB
- Dr. Laura Winters, MUN
- Dr. Alexa Yakubovich, Dalhousie University

## 3.0 Education and Training

- Arts Internship
- Certificate in Family Violence Issues (C-FVI)
- Essential Skills for Interviewing Children
- Family Violence Prevention Month
- Graduate students
- Work-Study Student

## 4.0 Community Collaborations

- Alliance of Canadian Research Centres on GBV
- Creation committee for the Fredericton Child and Youth Advocacy Centre
- DIPV in the Workplace Committee
- GNB Working Group on Disclosure to Protect against IPV (Clare's Law)
- National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- NB Child Sexual Harm Task Force
- NB Council on DIPV
- NB Roundtable on Crime and Public Safety
- NB Roundtable on Crime Prevention
- NB Silent Witness Committee
- Sexual Violence Research Conference Planning
- UNB Institute and Research Centre Roundtable
- University Research Committee
- University Women's Centre

## 5.0 Celebrations

- The MMFC celebrated its 30th anniversary in May 2023 with the publication of a new video highlighting the impact of its research.
- Peter Titus joined the MMFC Team as Communications Officer in February 2024.
- Joni Leger left her position as Associate Director at the end of February 2024, leading to Danie Gagnon's appointment as Acting Associate Director for a 6-month term effective March 18, 2024.

## 6.0 Special Events

- MMFC AGM in September 2023.
- Hosted an October 2023 event for graduate students in family violence research to showcase their work and network with peers.
- Hosted a December 2023 event announcing a bilateral agreement confirming funding from the National Action Plan on GBV.
- Organized virtual gatherings to engage MMFC Researchers in December 2023 & April 2024.

## Proposed activities and/or future goals & objectives

- Completion of the MPHEC Approval Process for the C-FVI
- Hiring of a new Director for the MMFC on a 5-year term
- Hiring of the SSHRC Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Intimate Partner Violence Responses
- Implementation of the 2023-2028 Strategic Priorities
- Launching of a new MMFC Podcast Series
- Conclusion of MOU Negotiations

**Board Position:** Ex-officio member

**Committee Title:** Muriel McQueen Fergusson  
Centre for Family Violence Research (MMFC)

**Submitted by:** Dr Matt Rogers

**Date Submitted:** January 21, 2025



A photograph of a desk with a pen, a small potted plant, and a calculator. The pen is black and lies diagonally across the page. The plant is a small succulent in a white pot. The calculator is black and is positioned in the bottom right corner. The text 'TREASURER'S REPORT' is written in a stylized font, with 'TREASURER'S' in purple and 'REPORT' in black.

TREASURER'S  
**REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report is currently being finalized and will not be available prior to the Annual General Meeting. A full financial summary will be circulated to stakeholders as soon as it becomes available, following the AGM. We appreciate your understanding and patience.

**Priorities:**

**Financial Statements:**

**Challenges:**

**Financial Management:**

Respectfully submitted by,

Elaine A Stairs, FCPA, FCGA  
Fergusson Foundation Treasurer

# TREASURER'S REPORT

# TREASURER'S REPORT



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