

WEST KOOTENAY BOUNDARY COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CO-OP

Vol. 3

Quarterly Update

Autumn
2025



PUT YOUR MONEY
WHERE YOUR LIFE IS



West Kootenay Boundary
COMMUNITY
INVESTMENT CO-OP

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! WKBCIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It's that time of year again! The West Kootenay–Boundary Community Investment Co-op (WKBCIC) warmly invites all members to **join us for our Annual General Meeting (AGM)**. This is your chance to celebrate our successes, hear the stories behind our investments, and have a direct say in the future of our co-op.

Over the past year, our members have helped local businesses grow, supported community initiatives, and strengthened our region's economy. At the AGM, we'll share updates on the projects you've helped make possible, provide a snapshot of our financials, and offer an open floor for questions and ideas from members.

- Date: Thursday, November 13
- Time: 6pm
- Location: Nakusp (Exact venue TBD)
- Virtual Option: Will be included in the AGM package

Your participation matters—every voice helps shape the future of WKBCIC and ensures our continued support for the businesses and communities we love.

Come be part of the conversation, celebrate what we've accomplished together, and help plan the next chapter of our co-op's story!

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BOARD HEROS WANTED

Do you have a passion for supporting local businesses and building a stronger community?

The West Kootenay–Boundary Community Investment Co-op (WKBCIC) is on the lookout for heroic members to join our Board of Directors. As a board hero, you'll help guide our strategy, shape investment decisions, and champion the growth of businesses and initiatives that make our region thrive.

What Makes a Board Hero:

- Commitment to WKBCIC's mission and values
- Interest in local economic development and cooperative success
- Team player ready to contribute ideas and governance insight
- 3–5 hours per month to put your skills towards community-transforming to work

Why You'll Love It:

- Make a real impact in your community
- Join a team of other board heros – Champions of Community! (We're pretty awesome!)
- Gain experience in cooperative governance

READY TO ANSWER THE CALL?

Learn More on our website:

<https://investkootenayboundary.com/volunteers/>

Or contact us today:

info@investkootenayboundary.com



**STEP UP, JOIN THE TEAM, AND BE A HERO FOR THE WEST
KOOTENAY-BOUNDARY COMMUNITY!**



Spotlight on

KOOTENAY WEST DISTILLING

In 2022, our co-op invested in Kootenay West Distilling (KWD) to help them complete a critical part of their vision—a fully functional lounge for visitors. Fast forward to today, and the results speak for themselves.

When KWD first opened, their tasting room faced strict capacity limits due to restroom constraints. The small lounge meant they could only host 10 people at a time, including staff, which significantly restricted private bookings and their ability to provide the full KWD experience. Recognizing the impact on their business, the team prioritized expanding the space to accommodate up to 50 guests.

WKBCIC's investment in this vision has transformed KWD's operations. In the first holiday season after expansion, they hosted 8 large private bookings, compared to just one offsite Christmas party in the prior year. Today, the distillery hosts nearly 30 Christmas parties annually, along with wedding receptions, work meetings, trivia nights, karaoke, bingo, pride events, and birthday parties. Their goal for the future is to host at least one large private booking per week.

Beyond business growth, KWD remains committed to community engagement. Proprietor Thomas Hodgson shares that their goals are to “bring out as many new and exciting products that make Trail and the west Kootenay region proud,” all while supporting their charitable initiative, the GoodStuff Foundation, to give back locally.



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Spotlight on

KOOTENAY WEST DISTILLING CONT'D

“Support from WKBCIC, particularly director Paul Butler, has been instrumental” notes Thomas. “Paul has gone above and beyond, offering personal guidance and helping to showcase KWD at community events like Taste of Trail, amplifying our local presence.”

The story of KWD reflects not only the value of local investment but also the resilience and creativity of small business owners in our community. We're proud to be part of their journey and look forward to seeing Kootenay West Distilling continue to grow, entertain, and enrich our region.

WHEN THE WKBCIC MAKES SMART, COMMUNITY-FOCUSED INVESTMENTS, THE BENEFITS MULTIPLY

KOOTENAY WEST DISTILLING AND THE GOODSTUFF FOUNDATION

The Goodstuff Foundation, created and supported by Kootenay West Distilling, has grown from helping a handful of families during the holiday season in 2020 to supporting 90 families last year. The foundation provides gifts, wrapping, boxes, Christmas decorations, and grocery gift cards — all carefully organized and delivered with the help of dedicated volunteers.

The foundation is now expanding beyond the holiday season to support birthdays, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and other special occasions, focusing on health and wellness, supporting local businesses, and helping families during times when support is less expected.

The **Goodstuff Foundation** relies on the generosity of local businesses and residents. By sponsoring a family, donors help provide everything requested, while the foundation coordinates all logistics and supplements donations as needed to ensure families have enough for food and essentials. Volunteers play a key role in organizing, packing, and delivering packages in time for Christmas, ensuring the foundation's efforts reach those who need them most.

For those interested in helping, please email MD@kootenaywestdistilling.com.