



2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

creating  
connecting  
supporting  
community

Working to make the Elk Valley and South  
Country places where 2SLGBTQ+ people  
feel seen, supported, safe, and connected.

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# Message From the Board

What a year it has been for the Fernie Pride Society!

Like so many pride organizations, we have faced our share of headwinds — navigating limited resources, watching national and international discourse impact our community, and showing up even when the work felt hard. And yet, here we are. We organized events that brought our community together, grew our organization, raised our flag a little higher, and proved once again that pride in Fernie is not just alive — it is thriving.

We are especially thrilled to be laying the groundwork for legacy projects that will leave a lasting mark on the valley. The installation of Rainbow Benches will bring colour, inclusivity, and visibility to our public spaces, while the creation of the Kootenay Pride Guide and a Queer History of the Kootenays will ensure that our stories are documented, celebrated, and shared for generations to come. These are the kinds of projects that go beyond a single event — they plant a flag in the ground and say: we were here, we belong here, and we are not going anywhere.

And of course, the sunshine didn't hurt. The Elk Valley Pride Festival was blessed with beautiful weather this year, which made the celebrations feel all the more joyful. We'd love to put in a standing order for that every year!

Looking ahead, I am energized by what we are building. There is more work to do, more bridges to build, and more moments to create where every person in this valley feels seen, celebrated, and at home. The path forward is bright and we are walking it together.

With pride and gratitude, Anne Keery, President, Fernie Pride Society



# With Our Thanks

Fernie Pride acknowledges that we reside on land located within Qukin ʔamakʔis, the unceded traditional territory of Yaqit ʔa-knuqʔit. We recognize that we live and work within their vast lands. ʔakanuxuník are from Yaqit ʔa-knuqʔit and are members of the Ktunaxa speaking peoples of British Columbia, Idaho, and Montana.

Fernie Pride Society is grateful for the ongoing and dedicated support of our primary funders, partners, and collaborators. In 2025, we wholeheartedly say thank you to:

- Vancouver Foundation
- West Kootenay Regional Arts Council
- Elk Valley Resources
- Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE)
- Fierte Canada Pride
- City of Fernie
- Resort Municipality Initiative
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Regional District of East Kootenay
- IGS Group of Companies
- Community Futures East Kootenay
- TD Canada Trust
- Fernie Brewing Co
- Peacock Hospitality

And the fantastic community organizations and partners that we are fortunate to work beside:

- Fernie & District Arts Council
- Fernie Heritage Library
- Fernie Chamber of Commerce

And thanks especially to all of you! The inspiring folks that keep us striving for inclusion and equity in the Elk Valley and South Country!



# 2025 Highlights

**Expanded Community Support Programs:** The Society continued a range of ongoing programs aimed at supporting and connecting 2SLGBTQ+ people and allies in the Elk Valley and South Country, including social gatherings, youth engagement, and resource referrals.

**Youth Programming:** The Society engaged Petra Eikelenboom as the new Youth Coordinator, supported youth-specific events as part of Elk Valley Youth Pride, and awarded three graduation scholarships to graduating students from Elkford, Sparwood, and Fernie — strengthening support for queer and trans youth in the region.

**Elk Valley Pride Festival:** Successfully delivered the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Festival in September 2025.

**Columbia Basin Pride Project:** Entered Year 2 of this Basin wide project focused on the creation of the online and print Kootenay Pride Guide as well as the Kootenay Queer History Project.

**Subsidies & Health Support:** The Society introduced a Rainbow Registered Subsidy Program for local businesses, and offered community care funds and subsidized or free-of-charge services through its Queer Health Initiative.

**Reconciliation and Accessibility:** Fernie Pride adopted an official Reconciliation Statement and an Accessibility Statement affirming its commitment to inclusivity and respect for Indigenous peoples and people with disabilities.

**Community Outreach:** Provided Rainbow Benches to Fernie and Elkford and have committed one to Elko. Participated in Griz Days and Coal Miner Days Parades, attended Kimberley Pride Festival, Columbia Valley Pride Festival, Nelson Pride Festival, Fernie Mountain Market. Fun Field Festival. Participated in three national Queer Days of Action.



## Goals

- Currently in the early stages of renewing our Strategic Plan for 2026-2031.
- Welcomed Olivia Latta as the Elk Valley Pride Festival Planner.
- Updating or creating policies and procedures for the Society to ensure solid operational, governance, and succession foundations.
- Provide two youth events per month.
- Complete print version of the Kootenay Pride Guide.
- Work to better assist Columbia Basin 2SLGBTQ+ Network members to organize and grow in their communities and increase visibility in the Columbia Basin.
- Reevaluate and update Membership rates and develop tiered levels.
- Develop corporate sponsorships and nurture these relationships.
- Develop 6-month reserve fund.
- Increase attendance at monthly and one-off events.

## Challenges

- Major grants from WAGE and the Vancouver Foundation are ending in 2026. This will be an almost \$100,000 loss of program specific revenue.
- Vancouver Foundation funding supports the Queer Health Initiative, Elk Valley Youth Pride, and operational costs – all funding that will have to be sourced and replaced to ensure project continuation.
- Currently need to fundraise \$2,754.11/month for operational costs. More info in financial section.
- Board recruitment and succession.
- Low volunteerism rate outside of the Festival.



# By the Numbers Online



## Facebook

A solid year on this platform with 134,093 views and 65.2% of interactions taking place on photos. 94% of our audience is in Canada, of which 64.8% are located in Fernie.

## Instagram

Remains our primary online tool for interactions. In 2025, we reached 44,021 accounts and had 3844 interactions, of which 89% are post interactions

**7%**



increase in followers from 2024 (1440 total)

**12%**



increase in followers over 2024 (2073 total)

**21.4%**



increase in interactions from 2024 (3195 total)

**33.4%**



increase in views from 2024 (153,621 total)

# 2025 Financials

2025 remained financially busy again with large grants received from the Vancouver Foundation (year 3 of 3 funding) and Year 2 funding of the WAGE (Women and Gender Equality Canada) grant.

Notable funding increases in 2025 can be found in fundraising (Free to Be Auction and Griz Pin Sales), and Youth Programming (Stellar Vista Grant).

Grants and support for the Elk Valley Pride Festival generally remained stable.

Expense increases can be seen in Storage (included the entirety of the year this year), Youth Programming, Scholarships (3 provided in 2025), Supplies, and Dues and Subscriptions.

Consistent monthly operational expenses in 2025 totaled \$1797.58/month with the breakdown being:

- Monthly board meetings - \$20/month
- Contract services ED - \$1149.95/month
- Contract services Youth - \$127.08/month
- Insurance - \$109.17/month
- Bank fees - \$17.88/month
- Storage - \$240.36/month
- Dues / Subscriptions - \$121.78/month
- Website - \$8.03/month
- Annual Filing - \$3.33/month

Looking ahead for 2026, we anticipate operational monthly expenses to increase to a total of \$2196.61/month or \$26,359.32/year, with the forecast being:

- Monthly board meetings - \$20/month
- Contract services ED - \$1250/month
- Contract services Youth - \$375/month
- Insurance - \$112.50/month
- Bank fees - \$20/month
- Storage - \$240.45/month
- Dues / Subscriptions - \$167/month
- Website - \$8.33/month
- Annual Filing - \$3.33/month



# Cash Flow

## Fernie Pride Society

DateRange:Jan01,2025toDec 31, 2025



**Jan 01, 2025  
to Dec 31, 2025**

### CASH INFLOW AND OUTFLOW

<b>Operating Activities</b>	
Sales	\$328,161.36
Purchases	-\$280,496.36
Sales Taxes	-\$771.66
<b>Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>	<b>\$46,893.34</b>
<b>Investing Activities</b>	
<b>Net Cash from Investing Activities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Financing Activities</b>	
<b>Net Cash from Financing Activities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

### OVERVIEW

<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>\$158,668.50</b> As of 2025-01-01
Gross Cash Inflow	\$328,161.36
Gross Cash Outflow	\$281,268.02
<b>Net Cash Change</b>	<b>\$46,893.34</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$205,561.84</b> As of 2025-12-31

# Balance Sheet

## Fernie Pride Society

As of Dec 31, 2025

Report Type: Accrual (Paid & Unpaid)



<b>ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2025</b>
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Cash and Bank</b>	
Gaming Account	\$1,706.98
Reserve Account	\$5,414.90
TD Chequing	\$198,439.96
<b>Total Cash and Bank</b>	<b>\$205,561.84</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Long-term Assets</b>	
<b>Total Long-term Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$205,561.84</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Deferred Admin Fees Revenue	\$3,889.00
Deferred Grant Revenue	\$102,000.00
Deferred Health Grant Revenue	\$5,136.00
Deferred WAGE Grant Revenue - History	\$46,425.00
Deferred WAGE Grant Revenue - Pride Guide	\$36,773.00
Deferred Youth Grant Revenue	\$2,022.00
Good and Services Tax	-\$8,153.55
TD Visa	\$32.92

<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$188,124.37</b>
<b>Long-term Liabilities</b>	
<b>Total Long-term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$188,124.37</b>

<b>Equity</b>	
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	
Profit for all prior years	\$7,469.46
Profit between Jan 1, 2025 and Dec 31, 2025	\$782.52
Retained Earnings	\$9,185.49
<b>Total Retained Earnings</b>	<b>\$17,437.47</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$17,437.47</b>

# Profit and Loss

## Fernie Pride Society

Date Range 1: Jan 01, 2025 to Dec 31, 2025

Date Range 2: Jan 01, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024



ACCOUNTS	Jan 01, 2025 to Dec 31, 2025	Jan 01, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024	Change	
<b>Income</b>				
Admin Fees	\$13,800.00	\$3,794.00	\$10,006.00	263.73%
Community Projects - Health	\$19,864.00	\$10,000.00	\$9,864.00	98.64%
Community Projects - Pride Guide	\$64,949.00	\$0.00	\$64,949.00	0.00%
Community Projects - Queer History	\$64,015.00	\$35,750.00	\$28,265.00	79.06%
Community Projects Safety & Security	\$6,840.76	\$16,159.24	-\$9,318.48	-57.67%
EVFP Merchandise Sales	\$5,616.01	\$4,403.02	\$1,212.99	27.55%
EVFP Event Revenue	\$4,883.96	\$5,911.00	-\$1,027.04	-17.38%
EVFP Fundraising	\$1,634.50	\$1,799.25	-\$164.75	-9.16%
EVFP Grant Revenue	\$38,100.21	\$40,623.89	-\$2,523.68	-6.21%
EVFP Sponsor Revenue	\$14,079.91	\$14,500.00	-\$420.09	-2.90%
Education	\$0.00	\$650.00	-\$650.00	-100.00%
Event Revenue	\$3,253.19	\$6,547.65	-\$3,294.46	-50.32%
Fundraising	\$5,015.00	\$1,975.06	\$3,039.94	153.92%
Grant Revenue	\$35,000.00	\$21,924.41	\$13,075.59	59.64%
Interest Earned	\$117.05	\$133.51	-\$16.46	-12.33%
Membership Dues	\$280.00	\$190.00	\$90.00	47.37%
Sales (Swag)	\$442.50	\$614.00	-\$171.50	-27.93%
Sponsorship & Donations	\$240.00	\$2,691.00	-\$2,451.00	-91.08%

<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
EVPF Food & Beverage	\$1,945.69	\$1,234.05	\$711.64	57.67%
EVPF Merch and Promo	\$12,006.77	\$8,440.28	\$3,566.49	42.26%
EVPF Misc.	\$3,232.81	\$174.00	\$3,058.81	1,757.94%
EVPF Performers	\$22,673.57	\$23,197.74	-\$524.17	-2.26%
EVPF Programs & Supplies	\$295.64	\$1,658.25	-\$1,362.61	-82.17%
EVPF Venues / Equip Rentals	\$22,540.92	\$16,504.08	\$6,036.84	36.58%
Fundraising	\$25.76	\$52.35	-\$26.59	-50.79%
Gifts and Bonuses	\$598.83	\$505.77	\$93.06	18.40%
Insurance	\$1,310.00	\$1,310.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Interest & Bank Charge	\$214.53	\$141.81	\$72.72	51.28%
Merchandise	\$26.10	\$66.00	-\$39.90	-60.45%
Misc. Expense	\$283.50	\$642.60	-\$359.10	-55.88%
Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$132.91	-\$132.91	-100.00%
PayPal/Square/EventBrite Fees	\$170.25	\$127.35	\$42.90	33.69%
Postage & Delivery	\$91.27	\$8.35	\$82.92	993.05%
Rainbow Connections	\$340.34	\$0.00	\$340.34	0.00%
Scholarship	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	50.00%
Society Filing	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Special Programming	\$5,721.84	\$6,648.60	-\$926.76	-13.94%
Storage	\$2,884.35	\$663.60	\$2,220.75	334.65%
Supplies	\$1,098.91	\$486.08	\$612.83	126.08%
Website & Email	\$96.32	\$219.70	-\$123.38	-56.16%
Youth Programming	\$3,900.44	\$896.98	\$3,003.46	334.84%
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>				
	<b>\$281,249.46</b>	<b>\$164,759.36</b>	<b>\$116,490.10</b>	<b>70.70%</b>

# 2026 Budget

2026 Fernie Pride Society		
<b>Direct Revenue</b>		
Donations / Fundraising	5000	
Membership	350	
Admin Fees	8889	
Special Events	3500	
Education	500	
Merchandise Sales	500	
<b>Total Direct Revenue</b>		18739
<b>Society Grants</b>		
WAGE Phase 4	83198	
Deferred Grant Revenue	104158	
Misc. Grants	10000	
<b>Total Society Grants</b>		197356
<b>EVPF Cash Revenue</b>		
TD	3000	
CBT Event	1500	
RMI	6000	
RDEK DGIA	1500	
Fierte Canada Pride	3500	
WKRAC	10000	
Misc Grants TBD	20000	
Cash Sponsorship	17000	
Fundraising / Donations	2000	
Event Revenue	5000	
Merchandise Sales	4000	
<b>Total EVPF Revenue</b>		73500
<b>Other Revenue</b>		
Investment Interest	150	
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>		150
<b>Total Revenue (Cash)</b>		289745
<b>General Expenses</b>		
Postage	100	
Gifts	600	
Fundraising	500	
Merchandise (Totes)	600	
Membership	50	
Advertising / Printing	500	
<b>Total General Expenses</b>		2350
<b>Grants</b>		
Grants Projects TBD	49100	
<b>Total Grants</b>		49100
<b>Program Cash Expenses</b>		
Rainbow Connections	2400	
Elk Valley Youth Programs	10800	
EV Pride Festival	72500	
WAGE Phase 4	85000	
Queer Health Initiative	25000	
Benches	5000	
EV Scholarships	1500	
Special Events	3500	
Community Event Support	4000	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		209700

Operational Expenses		
Contract Fees	14000	
Bank Fees	255	
Square / Event Processing Fees	200	
Meeting / AGM Expenses	2000	
Training and Development	1000	
Dues / Subscriptions / Website	2200	
Insurance	1400	
Storage Unit	3000	
Office Supplies	100	
Accounting Audit	4400	
Annual Society Filing	40	
<b>Total Operational Expenses</b>		28595
<b>Total Expenses (Cash)</b>		289745
Contingency Amount		0
<b>Profit / Loss</b>		0

The 2026 Budget is again built with a conservative outlook that essentially maintains status quo. The funding outlook feels tenous so we are hesitant to include many potential grant opportunities. This just reinforces our continued need to diversify fiscally, direct attention to foundation or corporate sponsorships, and focus on fundraising efforts.



# Spotlight on the Queer Health Initiative

## Queer Health Initiative Goals

### Whole health for every body.

Improve outcomes for people AND communities and to advance health equity.

Extend whole health systems beyond hospitals and offices into community settings that include where people live, work, and play.

Work to remove barriers for rural 2SLGBTQ+ people to access affirming, inclusive care.

Improve knowledge of services and resources in the region.

### Queer Health Initiative Details

Annual budget currently is \$25,000

Initiative start date of May, 2024

Open to 2SLGBTQ+ people in Elk Valley and South Country communities

Whole health centers around **what matters to you**, not what is the matter with you.

## Initiative Numbers to Date

### 16 months in...

132 hours of counselling sessions

32 supportive health, self-care treatments

5 requests for Community Care Funds

2 financial health classes provided

2 affirming haircut evenings

27 affirming health providers partnered

1 Inclusive Washroom Guide produced

1 Kootenay Pride Guide developed

## Upcoming Initiative Plans

### Looking forward...

Rainbow Rec Group

HIV and some STI Self-Testing

Safer Sex Kits and Education Series

Spiritual and Movement Sessions

Gender Affirming Clinics

Employment Services

Nutritional Guidance and Support

Health equity starts with access, compassion, and community care.

## Ensuring Health Care For All Get involved today.

Donate to support the Queer Health Initiative and help make inclusive care available and barrier free

Become a Queer Health Initiative partner

Provide your skills to support a whole health program

Help spread the word about this Initiative

[ferniepride.ca/health](https://ferniepride.ca/health)

vancouver foundation



The Queer Health Initiative remains well utilized and with has a growing number of users. We remain concerned about funding for this program past 2026 as it is currently funded entirely through the Vancouver Foundation Recovery & Resiliency Fund, which has now ended. We are in the early stages of speaking with TD Canada Trust regarding multi-year funding for this program as it is a great fit for all three of their funding pillars. Health Canada, Interior Health, and other grant options do exist but it is a matter of timing and capacity on completing applications. The Queer Health Initiative has quickly become a core program of Fernie Pride and it is imperative that we keep it operating.

# It was a slice, 2025!

Fernie Pride Society was once again blown away by the the 2SLGBTQ+ community and allies in the Elk Valley and South Country in 2025. Our hearts are full to the brim with the kindness, generosity, and enthusiasm that people gave to diversity, equity, and inclusion over the last year. From volunteers to sponsors and funders to attendees of all ages, we could not be made more humble by the love that you have shown. THANK YOU!



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# Contact Us

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## Fernie Pride Society

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## Fernie Pride Coordinators

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Elk Valley Pride Festival - Olivia  
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Basin Pride Project / Kootenay Pride Guide - Kelsey  
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Kootenay Queer History Project - Kevin  
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