

# ALBERTA ELKS FOUNDATION

## NEWSLETTER

November

2025



## Foundation Update – October Wrap-Up

It's been a busy and productive few months for the Alberta Elks Foundation!

On October 4, the Provincial Foundation Executive held a Face-to-Face Meeting in Didsbury, and we extend a heartfelt thank-you to the Didsbury Elks Lodge for hosting us and allowing the use of their hall.

### **Key Highlights from the Meeting:**

#### **Programs & Grants**

The Foundation reviewed ongoing programs and grant applications, reaffirming our commitment to supporting Alberta families and communities through initiatives like Tabs for Tots, Mighty Lil' Elks Kits, and Personal / Disaster Assistance Grants.

A new Tabs for Tots box sticker is also being developed to help unify and promote the program across the province! Alongside the launch of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Foundation Raffle, we are hoping for a sell-out!

#### **Bylaws & Compliance**

The Executive had an in-person orientation. At the meeting they reviewed and updated the Foundation's Bylaws and Regulations to ensure continued compliance with AGLC standards and the Alberta Elks Association framework.

#### **Marketing & Publicity**

In partnership with the Association Executive, we're exploring new ways to strategically promote the Foundation to enhance its visibility at the community level. With a special focus on rural-based advertising, we're looking into local options — like Coffee News — to help increase awareness and reach.

#### **Looking Ahead**

We welcome all members to share ideas, feedback, or suggestions with the Executive.

It's never too early to get involved — if you're interested in serving on a committee or the executive team for the 2026–2027 year, we'd love to hear from you!

Together, we're building momentum and ensuring a strong, sustainable future for the Alberta Elks Foundation and the Alberta Elks Association.



THANK YOU!



### ♥ ATB Branches Across Alberta Collect Over 820 lbs of Tabs for Tots! 🌱🌟

Across Alberta, ATB Financial branches have shown what community spirit truly looks like — joining together in support of the Alberta Elks Foundation's Tabs for Tots program, which funds pre-natal and pediatric medical equipment in rural hospitals.

This spring, Anna Staughton from the Bow Island ATB branch launched a friendly "Tabs for Tots Challenge" between ten southern Alberta branches. Together, they collected an incredible **757.2 pounds** of aluminum tabs, with the Taber Branch leading the way at **378.6 lbs!** A special thank-you goes out to Robert Cressman and the Taber Curling Club, who contributed tabs in memory of Robert's brother — a touching reminder of the heart behind this effort.

Not to be outdone, ATB branches in Breton, Drayton Valley, and Thorsby added another **64.4 pounds** of tabs over the past two months, bringing the total to more than **820 pounds** collected province-wide!

The Alberta Elks Foundation extends heartfelt thanks to Anna Staughton and all participating ATB teams for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and generosity. Your efforts will directly support children and families across Alberta — proving once again that **Together We Can** make a difference!



[albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com)



A big thank-you to Bryan Martyshuk of Spruce Grove, who donated **286 lbs** of aluminum tabs to the Tabs for Tots program!

Bryan started collecting tabs years ago at Big Valley concerts, and soon friends joined in — bringing him bags to add to his growing pile. One friend discovered the Alberta Elks Foundation's Tabs for Tots through a Google search, connecting Bryan's efforts to a cause that helps children across Alberta.

Thank you, Bryan, for showing how small acts can create a big impact!

### **Mighty Lil' Elks Kits — Small Packages, Big Comfort!**

Imagine this: your child has been rushed by ambulance to a larger hospital far from home. You arrive with nothing but your phone — and its battery is nearly dead as friends and family message for updates.

That's where the Mighty Lil' Elks Kits come in!

These thoughtful care packages are designed to bring comfort and essentials to families facing medical emergencies away from home.

Each kit includes:

- 📱 A phone charger
- 🧴 A self-care travel package
- 🪥 A brush and toothbrush
- 🧸 A cuddly stuffed toy for the child

Every January, our Elks volunteers assemble these special kits, which are then distributed to hospitals in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Red Deer, and Grande Prairie — with more locations added each year!

If you'd like to see the kits available in your local hospital, please check with the hospital first to confirm interest.

Each kit costs just \$33 and can be ordered directly through the Alberta Elks Foundation.

Together, we're proving that even the smallest gestures can make the biggest difference.





### ♥ Be a Host Lodge for the 2025 National Walk for Children! ♥

*Together, We Walk So Children Can Hear and Be Heard! 🗣️👂*

The Elks of Canada's Walk for Children is more than just a walk — it's a nationwide movement of Elks and Royal Purple members joining together to support the Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children, which provides financial aid for kids with hearing and speech disorders.

This year, at the 2025 National Conference, members were challenged to take part — whether it's a Walk, BBQ, Cornhole Tournament, or Community Event — every effort helps!

#### 🌟 We're Looking for Hosts!

We're seeking one Lodge in each quadrant of the province to lead the way:

- North
- North-Central
- South-Central
- South

Host Lodges can choose their own date and event style — big or small, indoors or outdoors — every dollar raised helps children across Canada receive the care they need.

#### 🦌 How It Works

🦌 Fundraise: Gather pledges or collect donations through your event.

🍔 Host Your Event: It can be a walk, a BBQ, a community gathering — anything that brings people together!

💰 Donate: All proceeds go to the Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children to help kids with hearing aids, cochlear implants, and speech therapy support.

#### 💬 Ready to Host?

Contact [elks.secretary@abelks.com](mailto:elks.secretary@abelks.com) to register your Lodge as a 2025 Walk for Children Host.

Together, we'll make every step — and every event — count!



## 57th Annual Alberta Elks Foundation Raffle

We are excited to see such a great start for the 57th Annual Alberta Elks Foundation Raffle, supporting community programs and charitable initiatives across Alberta.

This long-standing tradition helps support the Foundation's charitable programs, including **Tabs for Tots, Mighty Lil' Elks Kits, ISTAR Scholarships** — programs that directly impact children and families across Alberta.

Your participation helps the Alberta Elks Foundation continue its vital work of giving back to our communities.

If your members are out selling tickets, please share that on your Facebook page and tag the @AlbertaElks Association so we can spread the word!

Every ticket helps us make a difference together!

ALBERTA ELKS FOUNDATION

ALBERTA ELKS FOUNDATION  
REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RAFFLE

First Prize  
**\$30,000 CASH**

Second Prize  
**\$10,000 CASH**

Third Prize  
**\$5,000 CASH**

TICKETS  
**\$2.00 each** or  
**3 for \$5.00**

30% of all ticket sales go directly back to the selling Lodges to invest in their communities

PROCEEDS FROM THIS RAFFLE ENABLE US TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO:

ISTAR - Institute for Stuttering Treatment & Research  
Training, Research & Treatment of Stuttering in Children and Adults

Local Community Projects  
Support Local Minor Sports, Youth Groups, Playgrounds, etc.

Assistance to Underprivileged Children  
With Equipment to Live and Learn in Special Schools

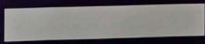
Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children  
Supply Hearing Aids and Test for Canadian Children

Early Bird Draws  
**March 12, 2026**  
**3 prizes of \$750.00 Each**

**FINAL DRAW DATE JUNE 25, 2026**

All draws to take place at the Didsbury Elks Hall, 1914 - 20<sup>th</sup> St. Didsbury, AB

**TICKETS AVAILABLE**

Local Contact  [www.elksfalconberta.ca](http://www.elksfalconberta.ca)

78,150 TICKETS PRINTED Tickets may only be purchased or sold within the Province of Alberta. Tickets are not to be sold to anyone under the age of 18 years. LICENSE 742431

### Exciting News from ISTAR — Celebrating 40 Years of Changing Lives!

The Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research (ISTAR) will be celebrating an incredible milestone — their 40th Anniversary in 2026!

Stay tuned for details about a family celebration event planned for spring/summer 2026, followed by a special anniversary banquet in October 2026. It's going to be a wonderful opportunity to recognize four decades of life-changing work helping individuals find their voices.

This year, the Alberta Elks Foundation is proud to continue supporting ISTAR's mission through scholarships that empower the next generation of researchers and clinicians:

- 🎓 Deborah Kully ISTAR Scholarship – \$2,000 awarded to Tracie Pospisil
- 🎓 Deborah Kully ISTAR Scholarship – \$2,000 awarded to Shanella David
- 🎓 Einer Boberg Memorial Graduate Award (PhD Level) – University of Alberta – \$3,000 awarded to Lujia Yang

Congratulations to all recipients for their dedication to advancing speech and communication research!

Respectfully submitted,

PHRL Lady Sharen McLean  
Alberta Elks Foundation



**albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com**

The conference is approaching, along with the grant deadline of May 1 for applications exceeding \$2,000! In recent years, applications of all amounts have been on the decline. Make sure to promote your Lodge within the community by undertaking a project, and let the Alberta Elks Foundation assist with some of your funding!

## Tabs for Tots

- Used to purchase pediatric items for hospitals that are not provided by Alberta Health Care



## General Grant

- Applications up to \$2,000 can be applied for all year
- **Any application up to \$5,000 must be approved by the general membership at Conference**
- The Lodge must at least match the funds being requested
- AGLC have changed their rules and Lodges can apply for funding for their building if it is used by the community as well

## Personal Assistance Grant

- The Lodge Charities Chair must conduct a complete investigation
- A letter from a medical professional must be included with the application
- Payment will be made directly to the suppliers or professional people
- Travel and accommodation requests cannot be supported as per AGLC rules
- Forward your completed application form to the Foundation Office prior to committing Lodge dollars



## Disaster Assistance Grant

- In the event a family's principal residence had a fire in your community, contact the Foundation Office via telephone
- A cheque in the amount of \$500, made out to the family, will immediately be sent to your Lodge for presentation
- Your Lodge does not have to match this amount, but it is suggested, if possible, that you contribute



## Charlie and His Float

Parade season is coming up so get your applications in early as it is first come, first served. Summer rental is \$200.00. A great way to promote your Lodge in your local communities



## Meet Charlie the Elk — He's Ready to Hit the Road!



Did you know the Alberta Elks Association has its very own mascot and parade float?

Charlie the Elk is always a crowd favorite — perfect for community events, parades, and lodge celebrations!

Over the summer, Charlie only made five appearances, and we'd love to see that number grow in 2026!

Bringing Charlie to your event is a great way to:

- Boost community awareness for your lodge
- Engage families and kids with fun photo opportunities
- Showcase the Elks' presence at local events
- ✓ The Charlie Float is available for lodges to book!

For details or to reserve Charlie for your next event, contact the Alberta Elks Association office.

Let's get Charlie out and about — spreading smiles, spirit, and Elkdom pride across Alberta!

## Join the Alberta Elks Foundation Reaching Out to Others

Since 1963, the Alberta Elks Foundation has been the charitable arm of our Association — working to strengthen communities and support children with medical needs across the province. Through our 91 Lodges and over 2,400 members, the Foundation funds vital initiatives like Tabs for Tots, Mighty Lil' Elk Kits, the Annual Toy Drive, and support for ISTAR – the Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research.

Our mission is simple: to make a lasting difference in the lives of Alberta families. Whether through grants, hospital programs, or disaster relief, the Foundation ensures Elks compassion reaches those who need it most.

### Want to get involved?

You can support the Foundation by:

- Joining as a Foundation member
- Volunteering with your Lodge to promote Foundation programs
- Booking Charlie the Elk or the Foundation Float for community events
- Donating directly or helping sell tickets for the annual Foundation Raffle

Every act of support — big or small — helps us keep "Elks Caring and Sharing" alive in Alberta.

📧 To learn more or join the Foundation, contact the Foundation Office at [albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com) or visit the Alberta Elks website.

## 💬 A Message from the Communications Committee

We love sharing your Lodge news, events, and community highlights in the Alberta Elks newsletter — but we need your help to make it happen smoothly!

When sending in items for the newsletter:

- 📷 Send your photos and write-up together in the same email — this ensures nothing gets missed.
- ✍️ Please do not pre-format or design your post. Our newsletter uses a set layout, and pre-formatted text, PDF's or graphics can cause issues when adding your content.
- 📅 Share "Save the Dates" early! As soon as your Lodge confirms a date for an upcoming event, please email it to us so we can promote it across the Association.

Your stories are what make our newsletter engaging and inspiring — thank you for helping us showcase the great work happening across Alberta!

✉️ Send all submissions and event details to: [abelkscommunication@gmail.com](mailto:abelkscommunication@gmail.com)



[albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com)