



**Festival of Trees 2025
Raises \$870,000 and
Strengthens 40-Year Legacy
of Healthcare Support
in Wood Buffalo**

40 NORTHERN LIGHTS
Health
Foundation

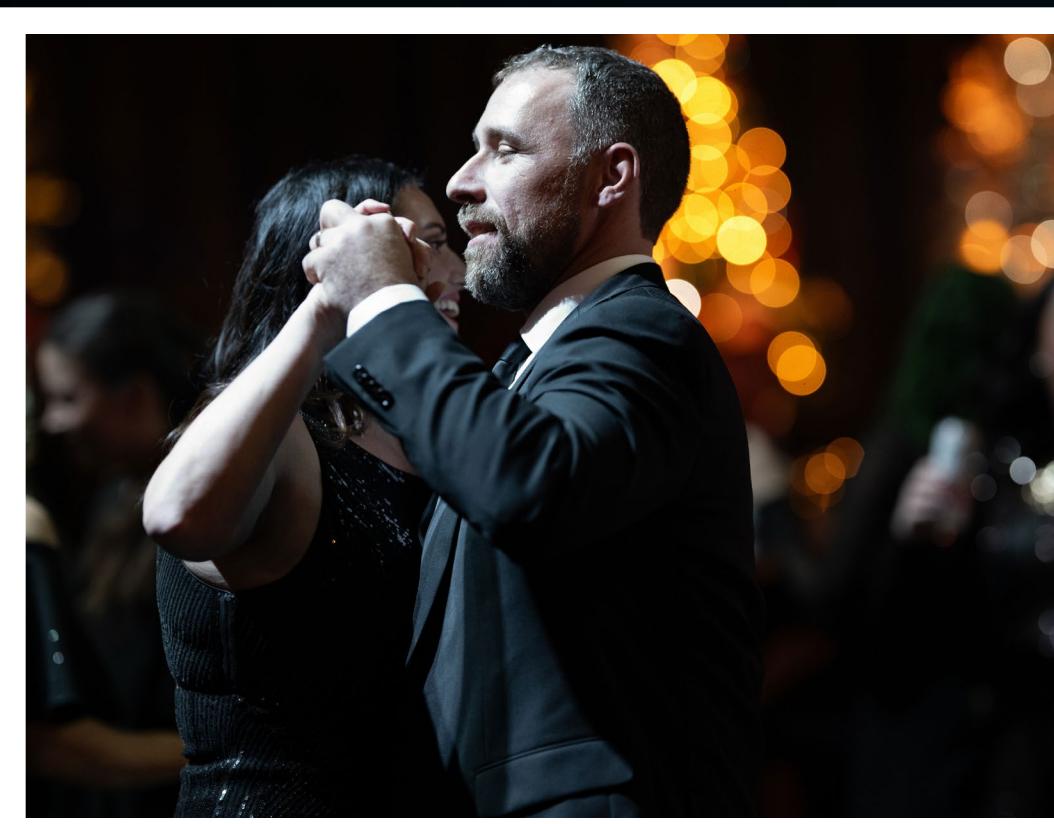


Photo Gallery



FESTIVAL OF TREES 2025 RAISES \$870,000 AND STRENGTHENS 40-YEAR LEGACY OF HEALTHCARE SUPPORT IN WOOD BUFFALO

Fort McMurray, Alberta, November 28, 2025 – The Northern Lights Health Foundation is pleased to announce that the 36th Annual Festival of Trees, presented by Suncor, raised \$870,000 (net) to support healthcare priorities across the Wood Buffalo region. More than 10,000 attendees participated in four signature events and numerous festival activities, supported by 300 volunteers across 350 shifts, with youth representing 30% of the volunteer team. This year's Festival coincided with the Foundation's 40th anniversary, marking a significant milestone in its ongoing mission to strengthen quality healthcare close to home.



A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION'S LEADERSHIP

Board Chair, Stephane Gagnon, reflected on the milestone year, noting that the Festival once again demonstrated the generosity and resilience of the Wood Buffalo community, and that the support shown throughout the weekend underscores the region's commitment to ensuring strong, accessible healthcare for residents.

Chief Executive Officer, Vanessa MacNevin, added that this year's Festival was filled with connection, joy, and extraordinary giving, and expressed sincere gratitude to the sponsors, donors, volunteers, and families who helped make this milestone year such a tremendous success.



GALA AUCTION TREE HIGHLIGHTS

The evening's first major announcement came with the unveiling of the Health Foundation's tree, titled "Something Legendary", which introduced a new 2026 NLHF-hosted fundraiser: Night with Hockey Legends, scheduled for April 10, 2026, and presented by Bouchier. Momentum began immediately when Suncor purchased the Health Foundation's tree for \$100,000, securing the very first table for this exclusive event.

Another highlight of the Gala was the SMS Equipment "Comfort and Care Tree", dedicated to supporting cancer care close to home. The tree raised \$180,000 through the combined generosity of APE Maintenance, the Giles Family Foundation, and AlumaSafway. These funds will support the creation of one hundred care baskets for local cancer patients over the holiday season and will further strengthen cancer care at our community cancer clinic.

In total, twenty-three signature trees were auctioned during the Gala, with an additional three trees auctioned during Friday night's Ugly Sweater Christmas Party, and a range of community-decorated trees featured in a community silent auction.

The Foundation also extends its appreciation to all Signature Tree sponsors whose generosity, creativity, and beautifully curated packages helped make this year's auction an outstanding success. We also acknowledge CNRL for sponsoring Winter Wonderland, the venue that hosted our major festival events and showcased all Signature Trees across the entire weekend.

[Photo Gallery](#)





A Legendary gathering. This photo captures a portion of the distinguished donors who joined us at the Something Legendary Tree table – an unforgettable evening defined by generosity, celebration, and shared purpose.



Partners from APE Maintenance, the Giles Family Foundation, and AlumaSafway with SMS Equipment and the NLHF team, commemorating the \$180,000 purchase of the "Comfort and Care Tree" to provide comfort and support to cancer patients across Wood Buffalo.

WEEKEND RECAP

Friday - Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

The weekend opened with a high-energy celebration presented by CEDA, featuring live entertainment by Neon Smoke and a performance by the local favourite Joel Rebel. The evening included spirited DJ programming by DJ JD Hunter and the auction of three trees, setting a lively tone for the festival weekend ahead.

Saturday & Sunday - Santa's Village

Santa's Village, presented by Birch Mountain Enterprises LP, Fort McKay Group of Companies, and Fort McKay First Nation, remained the heart of our daytime programming. Families enjoyed photos with Santa, hands-on seasonal crafts, and a festive atmosphere that welcomed guests of all ages. Save-On-Foods added a sweet touch with a bustling cookie-decorating station that quickly became a family favourite.

A major highlight again this year was the Teddy Bear Hospital, presented by Inter Pipeline and delivered in partnership with Keyano College's Nursing Program. Children proudly brought their favourite stuffed animals for gentle "checkups," learning about care and compassion through play. Across the weekend, the Community Concerts presented by Hammerstone Infrastructure

Materials Ltd. filled the spaces with music and energy – running throughout Saturday and into Sunday morning. Local performers, school groups, choirs, and musicians created a warm backdrop that brought the festival to life and showcased the incredible talent across Wood Buffalo.

On Sunday morning, the magic continued as Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Buddy the Elf hosted Story Time with Santa, presented by Pembina.

The morning wrapped with ballet lessons led by Nicole Davis of Alberta Ballet, who introduced young children to movement in a joyful, welcoming way.

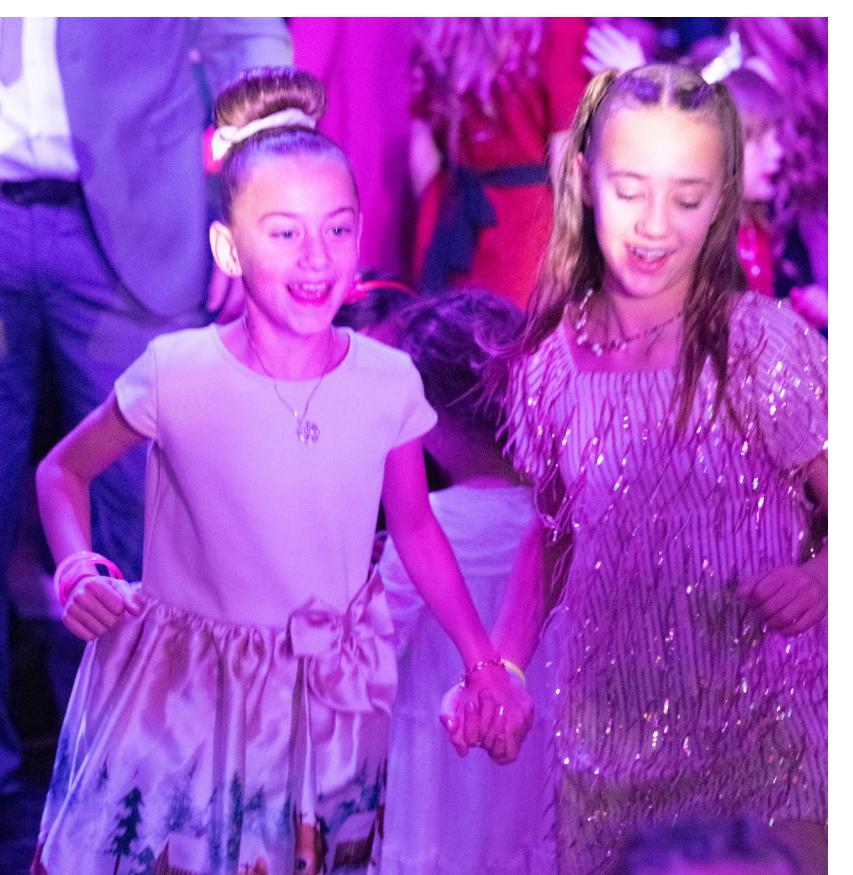
Saturday Evening - Festival of Trees Gala

Saturday evening's Gala, presented by Suncor, welcomed hundreds of sponsors, partners, and community supporters for an elegant night of celebration and generosity. The program was guided by Gala MC, Danny Hooper, and featured signature tree presentations, compelling fundraising announcements, and a special performance by Neon Smoke, who returned to the stage after Friday's appearance.

Sunday Afternoon - Family Events

Sunday afternoon featured two beloved family experiences. The Daddy Daughter Sugar Plum Fairy Ball, presented by APE Maintenance, offered a magical atmosphere with ballet-inspired performers, appearances by fairytale princesses including Belle, Cinderella, and Snow White, and enthusiastic father-daughter dances supported by the warm presence of Alberta Ballet performers.

The Super Mom Hero Son Ball, presented by United Rentals, delivered a high-energy celebration led by Matty Parlee, Buddy the Elf, and DJ JD, who filled the ballroom with conga lines, interactive dance moments, and upbeat programming. Children enjoyed character appearances ranging from a twelve-foot Bumblebee and the Mario Brothers to classic favourites such as Spider-Man and Superman, alongside RCMP officers, firefighters, community law enforcement members, and athletes from the Keyano Huskies.





COMMUNITY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Northern Lights Health Foundation extends sincere appreciation to all sponsors, performers, donors, families, partners, and the Festival Committee for their contributions to this year's Festival. We also acknowledge ATB, our Volunteer Sponsor, and FuseSocial for their exceptional support with volunteer coordination.

ATB

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To learn more, view galleries, or support healthcare initiatives in Wood Buffalo, visit: <http://nlhf.ca/festival-of-trees/>

About the Northern Lights Regional Health Foundation

Since 1985, the Northern Lights Regional Health Foundation has been dedicated to funding healthcare priorities in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Proudly accredited under Imagine Canada's Standards Program, the Foundation continues its mission to ensure residents have access to quality healthcare close to home.

For more information, please contact:

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