

# CAP FOUNDATION – 2024 MEMBER UPDATE AND IMPACT SUMMARY

Manu Paranjape, President, Canadian Association of Physicists Foundation

## SUMMARY

The last update on the activities of the CAP Foundation (CAPF) in *Physics in Canada* was in 2016—now nine years ago. It is time to provide members with a refreshed overview. As a charitable organization, CAPF is dedicated to raising funds to support education and student activities within the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP). Over the past year, we have focused on four key administrative objectives: Leadership Renewal, Board Membership Update, Ratification of Terms of Reference (2024), and Update Investment Policy Statement (IPS) (2024).

## WHAT IS THE CAP FOUNDATION

The **Canadian Association of Physicists Foundation (CAPF)** is the charitable arm of the CAP, dedicated to advancing physics education in Canada. Our mission is to support students, educators, and the broader physics community through sustainable funding, outreach programs, and strategic partnerships.

This update provides members with an overview of how your donations – both big and small – are making a difference. It is not a formal activity report, but rather an **information package** to highlight the **impact of your support**, recent developments, and the Foundation's goals for the future.

## WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Thanks to a combination of individual contributions and major endowments from partner foundations, the CAPF funds a wide range of programs – from national physics exams and travel grants for physics students to scholarships and public lectures. Member donations are critical for sustaining our core programs, especially those aimed at high school outreach and undergraduate engagement.

Whether you give \$10 or \$1,000, every tax-deductible donation helps inspire and support the next generation of physicists in Canada.

**Donate today:** <https://cap.ca/capf/donate/>.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS JUNE 2024 – JUNE 2025

(bios of the Board of Directors can be found on the CAPF website at <http://www.cap.ca/capf>)

Manu Paranjape, Université de Montréal (Chair)	Ken Iliadis, MEA Forensic (Vice-Chair)	Gordon Drake, University of Windsor (Treasurer)
Ian D’Souza, Honeywell Aerospace	LeeAnn Janissen, LeeAnn Janissen Ceramic Art	Kyla Smith, Oxford University
Ann McMillan, Retired	Michael Morrow, Memorial University of Newfoundland	Francine Ford, CAP (Executive Manager)

## RECENT CAPF ACTIVITIES

### ENDOWED

**CAP Lecture Tour:** Funding from a generous donor in 2022 ensures that the CAP Lecture Tour continues in perpetuity, offering around 15 lectures annually for undergraduate physics students across Canadian universities. The program particularly benefits smaller departments where access to high-profile speakers is limited. Departments nominate preferred speakers, and students ultimately select the lecturers. As part of the endowment agreement, at least one lecture will now be aimed at high school students. Under the leadership of National Coordinator Gwen Grinyer (University of Regina) and CAP Vice President Pierre Benard (Université du Québec à Trois Rivières), the tour has transitioned from virtual (pandemic years) to hybrid and, in 2025, will return to fully in person with an anticipated 12 lecturers delivering 20 talks.

**Stoicheff Scholarship:** Generous donations allowed us to establish an endowment to fund a \$3,000 biennial award. This scholarship is administered by the CAPF in even years and the Optica Foundation (formerly the OSA Foundation) in odd years. Further information on this scholarship can be found on [the Stoicheff Scholarship web page](#). Since 2016, it has been awarded to:

**2016:** Christopher Pugh (Waterloo)

**2018:** Aimee Gunther (Waterloo)

**2020:** Matthew Robbins (Waterloo)

**2022:** Kate Fenwick (Ottawa)

**2024:** Everett Patterson (Waterloo)

**Svensson Memorial Scholarship:** This \$3,000 biennial award, created in 2019, recognizes graduate students for research excellence and service to the physics community. It is awarded by the CAP in odd years. **This scholarship is not yet endowed and will end once the original donation is exhausted should funds not be secured before then.** Further information on this scholarship can be found on [the Svensson Scholarship webpage](#). Recipients to date:

**2021:** Robin Hayes (TRIUMF/UBC)

**2023:** Janani Balasubramanian (Ontario Tech)

**Carswell Graduate Scholarships:** Endowed in 2019 by the Allan Carswell Family Foundation, this scholarship (two \$5,000 scholarships awarded annually) supports physics graduates pursuing a teaching degree. Further information on these scholarships can be found on [the Carswell Scholarships webpage](#). Recipients to date:

**2020:** Samantha Scarfe (Ottawa), Joshua Mogyoros (Toronto)

**2021:** Jay Florica (Guelph), Michelle Sullivan (Alberta)

**2022:** Eli Sollid (Calgary), Eloise Faehndrich (UBC)

**2023:** Elijah Adams (Calgary), Kara Deane (UBC)

**2024:** Ben Giers (Mount Royal), Dennis Thai (Alberta)

## SPONSORED

**High School / Cégep Teaching Awards:** These five regional annual awards include two years of free CAP membership and a grant for professional development or classroom resources. The grants are funded by TRIUMF, Perimeter Institute, CAP and, until 2021, Engineers & Geoscientists BC. One award recipient is given the opportunity to receive a special award to attend a CERN High School Workshop the following summer, sponsored by Perimeter Institute and the Institute of Particle Physics (IPP). The remaining award recipients are offered the opportunity to participate in a Research Experience at any of TRIUMF, Perimeter Institute, Canadian Light Source, or SNOLAB. Regional winners since these awards were established can be found on [this section of the CAP's Recognitions website](#).

## FUNDED SOLELY THROUGH MEMBER DONATIONS

**Lloyd G. Elliott University Prize Exam:** A national competition for undergraduate physics students, funded by CAPF member donations. Prizes: \$500 (1st place), \$300 (2nd place), \$200 (3rd place). [The list of winners can be found on the Undergraduate Prize Exam webpage](#).

**Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF):** The CAPF sponsors one or more physics prizes at the CWSF to engage students in STEM and showcase the value of physics education. The CAP holds the distinction of being one of only two organizations that have sponsored at least one prize at the CWSF since its inception. During years when sufficient member donations are received, the CAPF expands its sponsorship from just the Senior level to also include the Intermediate and/or Junior levels. [Previous winners can be found on the CAP's CWSF webpage](#).

**High School Prize Exam:** This annual competition offers national prizes and, when donations allow, provincially-based awards. The top national-level students are invited by Dr. Andrzej Kotlicki, the Olympiad Coordinator to travel to UBC and train for a possible spot on the International Physics Olympiad Canadian team. Suspended during the pandemic (2020-2022), it was reinstated in 2023 and will continue in 2025.

**Conference Support:** When funding permits, the CAPF sponsors travel support for student attendees at the Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference (CUPC) and the Canadian Conference for Women and Gender Minorities in Physics (CCUW\*iP) (virtual during the pandemic) and has supported student travel to the Canada-America-Mexico Graduate Student Conference four times since 2016.

## MOVING FORWARD

**Infographic & New Donation Drive:** CAPF is working on new promotional materials to engage members in funding initiatives.

## STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES TIMELINE

**2016:** Launched the "Ignite the Spark" campaign, successfully raising member donations to match the Carswell Family Foundation's \$50,000 contribution.

**2017:** Kyla Smith joined as the first student Board member, co-developing the "Spot the Physicists" campaign and producing five career profile videos ([careers.cap.ca/careers.html](https://careers.cap.ca/careers.html)).

**2018:** Identified as a strategic initiative and established the following year, the Svensson Memorial Scholarship was created.

**2019:** Carswell Family Foundation donated \$250,000 to endow the Carswell Physics Educator Scholarship Program (\$5,000 per award, two awards per year).

**2020-2021:** Programs adapted for online delivery due to the pandemic. Board members included Kyla Smith, Gabor Kunstatter, Mike Morrow, Mike Roney (Chair), LeeAnn Janissen, Anastasia Ziprick, Gordon Drake, Ian D'Souza and Stephen Pistorius.

**2022-2024:** Successfully secured an endowment of \$300,000 for the CAP Lecture Tour, ensuring its long-term sustainability. Manu Paranjape was appointed to the Board to replace Mike Roney and was subsequently elected Chair of the CAP Foundation. We extend our gratitude to Mike Roney for his long-term service on the CAPF Board. The Investment Policy Statement and Board Terms of Reference were formally updated and ratified, reinforcing governance and financial oversight. Stephen Pistorius and Anastasia Ziprick completed their terms, and we extend our gratitude for their service. They have been succeeded by Ann McMillan and Ken Iliadis, who bring fresh perspectives and expertise to the Board.