

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND(ECSF) OPENS!

Effective May 19, 2020 – United Way of Northern BC is accepting funding applications for the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF). The fund provides financial support to charities and other qualified donees adapting their frontline services to support vulnerable Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ECSF was announced by the Government of Canada and is administered in collaboration with United Way Centraide Canada, Community Foundations of Canada and the Canadian Red Cross.

United Way of Northern BC is proud to support the important investment of just over **\$708,000** into our local communities.

“Canadian charities and not for profits are always there to help you, in your time of need. But the COVID-19 pandemic is bringing real challenges to these important organizations. With today’s announcement, the Government of Canada will be there for them so they can continue to be there for Canadians,” says The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

“The funding announcement of \$708,000 to United Way of Northern BC is great news for our community. I am so proud of the work they do to support our vulnerable and now, more than ever, this money is appreciated,” says Todd Doherty, MP, Cariboo- Prince George. “Thank you to the entire team at United Way of Northern BC for your work and dedication to improving the lives of our most vulnerable and please be assured that I will continue to strongly advocate for United Way funding in the weeks ahead.”

“On behalf of the Board of Directors at United Way of Northern BC, I would like to thank the federal government for recognizing the magnitude and urgency of the incremental needs created by this pandemic. We also appreciate the confidence and trust demonstrated by the selection of the United Way to steward the distribution of this funding to maximize local impacts to worthy agencies across the country,” says Sotirios Korogonas, Board Chair, UWNBC. “At the United Way of Northern BC, we are committed to ensuring this generous support gets to the most vulnerable and where the need is greatest throughout our entire Northern BC region.”

"In our outreach, we have seen an increase in the need across Northern BC for services to support our most vulnerable in response to COVID-19. This incredible influx of funds will help us to reach all corners of the region and help bring relief at this uncertain time," says Trista Spencer, Executive Director, UWNBC. "We are truly grateful for the support Canada is providing for this essential sector."

To meet the critical needs of those in need as quickly as possible, the rapid allocation of funds will be done with a review committee made up of stakeholders from across the Northern BC region with initial decisions being made in the first week of June. Agencies looking for help are requested to get their applications in as soon as possible. For more information on who can apply and how to apply, visit [unitedwaynbc.ca/ECSF](https://unitedwaynbc.ca/ECSF).



**United Way**  
Northern British Columbia

### **About United Way of Northern BC**

United Way of Northern BC aims to improve communities in Northern BC through connecting resources to local needs. UWNBC positively affects 1 in 3 people through their impact work in the region; empowering other non-profit agencies, engaging with community partners and multiple levels, advocating the unique needs of the Northern BC region, engaging in the Day of Caring initiatives, and providing funding to other non-profits through their Community Investment & Impact Program.

For further information, please go to our website [unitedwaynbc.ca](http://unitedwaynbc.ca) or contact us via phone at 250-561-1040 or via email at [info@unitedwaynbc.ca](mailto:info@unitedwaynbc.ca)

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