



United Way
British Columbia

Working with communities in
BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland,
Central & Northern Vancouver Island

NEWS RELEASE
October 11, 2023

United Way BC to Host Inaugural Menstrual Equity Symposium in British Columbia

Event focuses on reducing Period Poverty and Fostering Inclusivity

New Westminster, BC - United Way British Columbia (United Way BC), working with communities in BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver Island, is proud to announce the inaugural BC Menstrual Equity Symposium: Building Inclusive Period Poverty Solutions. This event, held in partnership with the Menstrual Cycle Research Group, aims to dismantle the pervasive barriers associated with period poverty and advance equity and inclusion.

Scheduled for October 20 & 21, 2023, the symposium will take place at Douglas College in New Westminster, marking a significant milestone in addressing this pressing social issue.

It is an established fact that limited access to menstrual supplies is inherently linked to poverty and disproportionately affects marginalized communities, including Indigenous peoples, Black and other racialized communities, immigrants, people experiencing homelessness, people living with disabilities and their carers, trans, nonbinary and Two-Spirit people, and those residing in remote areas.

Nikki Hill, Chair of the Government of BC Period Poverty Task Force, which plays a role in organizing the event, emphasizes the importance of providing free, safe, and diverse menstrual supplies to reduce period poverty. "This means ensuring that all menstruators have access to the menstrual supplies they want, precisely when they need them, in a practical, reliable, and culturally appropriate manner. This must be complemented by comprehensive education and resources for people of all genders," Hill says.

The BC Menstrual Equity Symposium will bring together a passionate community of individuals, advocates, and community leaders united under a common goal – to share knowledge, inspire action, and combat period poverty.

Kim Winchell, Provincial Director of Community Impact & Investment at United Way British Columbia, highlights the significance of the gathering, stating, "The symposium will shine a spotlight on the unwavering dedication of grassroots organizers, frontline workers, advocates, activists, and individuals who have personally confronted period poverty. It will serve as a platform for developing and supporting advocacy strategies, sharing initiatives for adoption by both government and the private sector, and embracing community-based, culturally sensitive approaches to destigmatizing menstruation."

Join us at the BC Menstrual Equity Symposium: Building Inclusive Period Poverty Solutions, and together, we'll pave the way for a future where access to menstrual supplies is a fundamental right, not a luxury.

For more information and to register for this event, please visit [BC Menstrual Equity Symposium: Building Inclusive Period Poverty Solutions \(swoogo.com\)](https://uwbc.canto.com/s/HS0RN?viewIndex=0).

Downloadable social media graphics can be found here: <https://uwbc.canto.com/s/HS0RN?viewIndex=0>.

-end-

About United Way British Columbia – working with communities in BC’s North, Interior, Lower Mainland, and Central & Northern Vancouver Island

United Way supports healthy, caring, and inclusive communities by strengthening vital connections that support people in need. Representing the five regions of Central and Northern Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, Southern Interior, Thompson Nicola Cariboo, and Northern BC, our organization serves a population of more than 4 million people, with a focus on urgent response, kids and youth, seniors, poverty, mental health and food security.

www.uwbc.ca

Interviews are available with Nikki Hill, Chair, Period Poverty Task Force.

Media contact:

Pinder Rehal

Public Relations, Marketing & Communications

United Way British Columbia

PinderR@uwbc.ca

Cell: 647.542.8545