



United Way
Northern BC

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



**United Way
of Northern BC**



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www.unitedwaynbc.ca



With gratitude, we acknowledge that our administrative office is on the unceded traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and we work throughout Northern BC where First Nation territories are vast and many. We are committed to connecting with the communities we serve across Northern BC and understand that begins with respect for the many Nations that were first upon this land.



MISSION

Our mission is to improve communities in Northern BC through connecting resources to local needs.

VISION

Everyone in every Northern BC community has the opportunity to reach their full potential.





A Message From:

TRISTA SPENCER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **UNITED WAY OF NORTHERN BC**



As I write this letter, we are amidst the changes of what is arguably, the single largest step we can take as an organization, and it's both a bit nerve-wracking, and extremely exciting! We are moving through the amalgamation of the United Way of Northern BC to the provincial United Way British Columbia entity and though it is so clear to us that this is the best next step in serving the North with the greatest possible impact, I am mourning the loss of the "Northern" piece of the name. I know many of you are, too.

Over the last few years, United Way of Northern BC has seen a lot of change. Some of it has been refreshing, and positive. Some of it has been extremely challenging (pandemic included!). As a charity organization, our job is to help where help is needed, use donor dollars in the most efficient way possible, and make sure our impact is felt in a positive way, for the short and the long term. With the challenges we've faced, this job has become harder to manage on our own. As a small team covering an extremely large region, our ability to meet the mark on where communities need us to be was becoming unattainable. We needed to find ways to work with others to strengthen our presence, not spread it thin like we have been for many years. We may be small and mighty, but we are also aware we needed to do more...better.

In 2021, six United Ways in BC merged to create one United Way British Columbia, and now, it's our turn to join the circle. As of October 1, 2023, United Way of Northern BC will amalgamate with United Way British Columbia and be known under that name.

I know this brings up some feelings of fear and uncertainty for those that work with United Way in the North but let me reassure you, we are still here, working and investing locally. There are systems in place to ensure investments are appropriately allocated and to ensure the voices of each unique region are heard. To be honest, I've never been more excited for this piece! Being a part of the provincial entity allows us an audience with government and change-makers like never before, it allows us to maximize efforts by sharing resources and create more efficiencies. It allows our team to grow the work rather than just maintain it, and it allows United Way to do the good work it does elsewhere into the North as well now.

I am a true believer that change is all around us all the time. It is the only constant, the one thing that we can count on for sure. I accept that change means discomfort, but what's on the other side of that discomfort is beautiful and inspiring...and I can't wait to see it!

With that, this will be my final sign off as the Executive Director of United Way of Northern BC. It has been an incredible privilege to serve the staff, volunteers, donors, agencies, and communities during my tenure. I am grateful to everyone for lending me their support and allowing me so many learnings through this experience. I have faith we will work together once more through this new iteration of United Way in Northern BC.

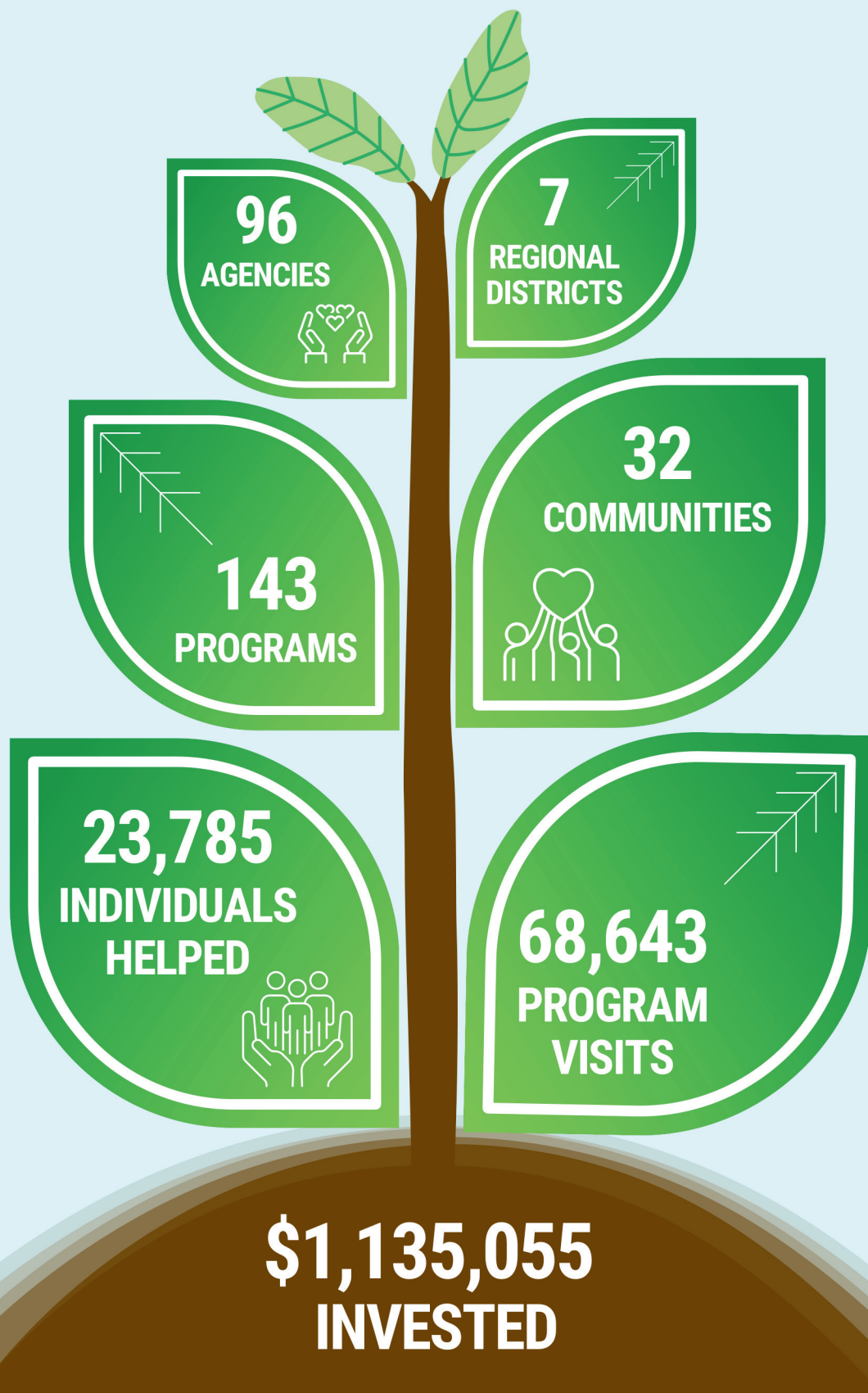
With heartfelt gratitude,

Trista Spencer



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Making a difference!



IMPACT PRIORITIES

Focus for the North



As part of the UWNBC Community Investment Plan, we have developed focus areas for the North to move our work toward meaningful contributions in long-term positive change in critical issues faced by Northern BC communities.



POVERTY TO POSSIBILITY

- a. Contribute to decreasing the rate of overdose in the Unregulated Drug Poisoning Crisis.
- b. Advocate for greater access to services for Northern BC residents.
- c. Help people to move out of/avoid homelessness.



ALL THAT KIDS CAN BE

- a. Help 2SLGBTQ+ youth to grow in safety.
- b. Help children to grow to thrive as an adult.



HEALTHY PEOPLE, STRONG COMMUNITIES

- a. Bring cultural safety to the forefront.
- b. Assist with the growing food security issue in Northern BC.
- c. Continue support for regional programs bringing supports to rural areas.
- d. Bring a voice to the needs of people and communities in Northern BC.

PROGRAMS & Initiatives



Enjoy the following highlights from the 2022-2023 year!

Community Action Teams

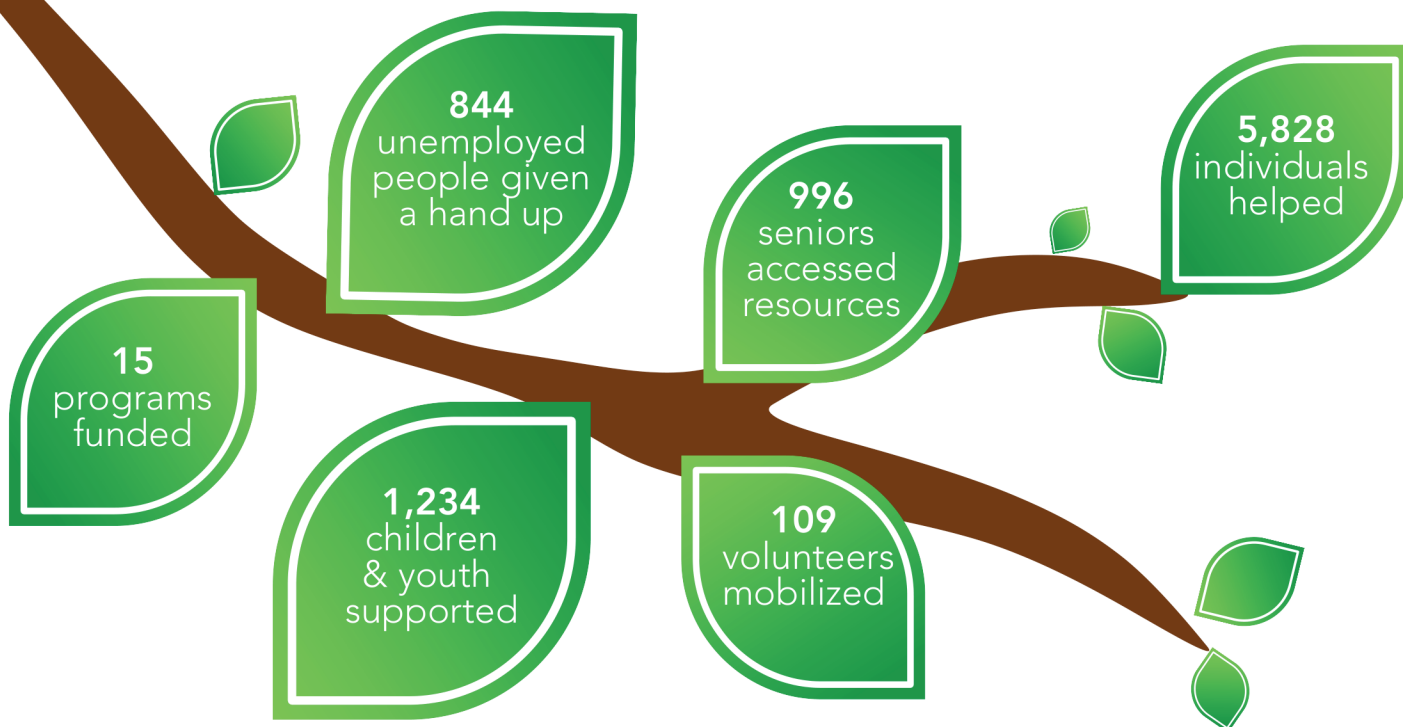
To learn what we need to know about the Unregulated Drug Poisoning Crisis in Northern BC and get involved at a community level, UWNBC Community Impact staff have been meeting and collaborating with Northern BC Community Action Teams (CATs) in Prince George and Fort St. John regularly throughout the year. Whether it's about lending our voice, our efforts, or our resources, UWNBC is committed to making a positive contribution in decreasing the rate of overdose in our Northern BC communities.

Community Investment & Impact Program

The UWNBC Community Investment & Impact Program (CIIP) focuses on issues that affect disadvantaged populations to achieve community impact. It exists to address root causes or systemic issues, offer rich opportunities to align the work with multiple community partners, enable evidence-based approaches, and capitalize on community energy, all to change lives for the better.

Through this program we offer an annual funding stream to support programs and services in Northern BC communities, investing these resources where they are needed most and to make the greatest impact.

For the 2022-2023 funding year, we made great impact with the partnership of 14 agencies in the region:



PROGRAMS

& Initiatives, continued...

Community Services Recovery Fund

UWNBC is proud to have worked with United Way Centraide Canada as part of the Community Services Recovery Fund. This fund is a collaboration between the Canadian Red Cross, Community Foundations of Canada, and United Way Centraide Canada to provide funding to Community Service Organizations, including non-profit organizations, Indigenous Governing Bodies, and Registered Charities located in Canada. The Community Services Recovery Fund responds to what Community Service Organizations need right now and supports organizations as they adapt to the long-term impacts of the pandemic.

The Community Services Recovery Fund (CSRF) is a one-time investment of \$400 million to help Community Service Organizations (charities, non-profits, Indigenous governing bodies) adapt, modernize, and be better equipped to improve the efficacy, accessibility, and sustainability of the community services that they are providing through the pandemic recovery and beyond.

Funded by the
Government of Canada's
Community Services Recovery Fund

Canada

The following projects are being supported in Northern British Columbia:

- \$100,000 was invested to fund Fort St. John Women's Resource Society in Fort St. John for a program and services redesign to better serve clients in 2023 and beyond;
- \$100,000 was invested to fund Tluu Xaada Naay Society in Masset, Haida Gwaii to carve a new path forward with skill development and training;
- \$89,813 was invested to fund Skeena Diversity Society in Terrace to foster community diversity, inclusion, and food security;
- \$27,450 was invested to fund British Columbia Schizophrenia Society in Prince George for virtual access for health and equality;
- \$120,000 was invested to fund Prince George Humane Society in Prince George to provide access to veterinary care;
- \$99,630 was invested to fund Kiwanis Arts Centre Society in Dawson Creek to expand infant toddler daycare room;
- \$100,000 was invested to fund Taku River Tlingit First Nation in Atlin to address the food crisis;
- \$17,150 was invested to fund Harbour Theatre Society in Prince Rupert for their digital media initiative to share stories remotely;
- \$85,120 was invested to fund Smithers Multicultural Society in Smithers to provide a safe and cultural space for cultural reconnection; and
- \$66,837 was invested to fund Robson Valley Community Society in McBride to modernize facilities and programming for community services.

**Community Services
Recovery Fund**



**Canadian
Red Cross**



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA



**United Way
Centraide
Canada**

PROGRAMS

& Initiatives, continued...

Day of Caring Program

A Day of Caring® is an opportunity to help local non-profits with projects that would not be completed without our help. These days are a great opportunity for businesses and organizations to work with local non-profits on a variety of projects. These projects can include building a fence, planting a garden, putting up a fresh coat of paint, or a mixture of small projects that need to be completed.

With this being the first year since the pandemic that we could really bring people together in-person, it was an exciting opportunity to get back to making important connections and help agencies in the region complete necessary projects.

Firstly, we partnered with Northern Health, who shares the same geographic region, to acknowledge our front-line healthcare workers in the North with a wellness gift for each member for their incredible efforts throughout the pandemic and beyond. We mobilized 24 volunteers, and 2 corporate partners, CIBC and Integris Credit Union, to make this happen! With their help we were able to send a thank you to over 4,000 frontline staff at more than 50 destinations across Northern BC.



Through the rest of the year we also coordinated the following projects:

- R.E.A.P.S. with CIBC: Building planter boxes for community garden, Prince George
- Phoenix Transition Society with Kelson Group: Program room repair from burst pipes, Prince George
- Happy Gang Centre for Seniors with RBC: Financial literacy for seniors presentations, Terrace
- Better at Home with CIBC: Spring yard clean up +delivery of 211 information to mailboxes, Kitimat
- Abbeyfield House with Alta Gas: Decorating the facility for the holidays, Fort St. John
- Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre with Dawson Group: Garden clean up and perennial planting, Smithers



PROGRAMS

& Initiatives, continued...

LGBTQ2S+ Investment

We are thrilled to be able to support a first-of-its-kind initiative supporting cultural safety and awareness for Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ people within Northern BC.

UWNBC provided a seed-funding investment for Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society to embark on a journey to increase capacity for greater inclusion, services and safe spaces for Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ people in the communities they serve: Smithers, Houston, and Dease Lake. This investment activated meaningful change for the Dze L K'ant as they have never seen funding support for 2SLGBTQ+ programs despite the many stories of discrimination and lack of safe spaces and culturally supportive services.

Dze L K'ant reports that receiving this funding spurred a significant amount of action and has brought together many passionate people to mobilize the work. It has allowed the community to begin an important dialogue, identify priorities, and plan for the future.

Key milestones for this programming since receiving United Way's support:

- Gatherings for dialogue: Well-attended workshops were hosted in Smithers on gender-based violence education, cultural approach, and changes to policy. These workshops included leadership by experts in the field and those with lived experience.
- Leveraged for more funding: Program staff were awarded funding through the Department of Women and Gender Equity aimed at increasing awareness, safety and supports for Indigenous women and Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ community members who experience or are at risk of gender-based violence including education, cultural supports and changes to organizational policy frameworks.
- Connecting with the experts: Work began by working with an experienced and culturally knowledgeable consultant to undertake a research and policy development project. This will involve changes to Dze L K'ant's policies and process to increase inclusion and safety for 2SLGBTQ+ people.

*A logo to tell the story:
created by local two-spirited Wet'su'weten artist, Satsi Naziel*



A human in the bentwood box design:

In our culture bentwood boxes carried precious things, this human is seen carrying a drum and drum stick, the drum has a rainbow circle with a north west coast style heart in the center.

It can be said that the spirit of a two-spirit person is that special thing within the box of our body, they can be the heartbeat of a nation and of a song.

Drums are said to call back our spirits. This proud two-spirited human is drumming to call back the spirits of others on their two-spirit journey of self discovery and the salmon within the eyes represent the fish we are famous for harvesting.

PROGRAMS

& Initiatives, continued...

PG Christmas Wish Breakfast

UWNBC partnered with Wish Breakfast PG to bring Christmas joy to the people who do not have the means for buying toys for their kids. On one morning in December, people can donate a new unwrapped toy and can enjoy a warm breakfast before the day gets going! As a partner in this event, UWNBC connects the donations with the people that needs them through working with local agencies who serve vulnerable people. In 2022, toys for 108 children and youth were delivered to clients in 6 different programs at 4 agencies, ensuring to target those that may fall into gaps through other opportunities. Through the help of our partner corporates, Bandstra Transportation and Make Space Storage, we were able to ready the toys to deliver to families in good time for the holidays.

PPE Distribution

UWNBC continued to distribute PPE through to the spring of 2023 as a result of health measures brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Masks, gloves, and sanitizer continued to be added costs for agencies throughout the north, and we were grateful to be able to provide some relief to that through stock we had secured over the last couple of years. By the end of the year we had sent out what we had remaining and closed the door on the storage unit that Make Space Storage had donated to us for the better part of four years. It was good to be able to also close the door on the pandemic period and look forward to brighter things.



School Supplies for Northern BC

United Way's School Supply initiative aims to reduce a known barrier preventing children and youth from successful learning and participation in school - giving kids the tools they need to succeed! Through support of community donors and corporate sponsors, we continue to meet the needs of children and youth in our community.

This year, Staples Canada expanded their charitable support for school supply drives and chose United Way to be their sole official partner for Western Canada. Donations were accepted at the Staples locations in Northern BC with funds going to UWNBC to distribute out to agencies that works with vulnerable children and families in the local community.

Through additional partners in London Drugs and Bootlegger clothing stores, we were also able to provide some additional supplies to Prince George students in need.



PROGRAMS

& Initiatives, continued...

Transit Assistance Program

The Transit Assistance Program (TAP) is offered in collaboration with the City of Prince George and the City of Quesnel. This program allows our most vulnerable to access free bus transport through the provision of transit vouchers to agencies who apply to the program. The transit vouchers serve individuals within the community that need access to transportation to services and programs such as emergency needs, employment, education, medical, dental, social recreation, food, and shelter.

The TAP is unique to each community. UWNBC has run the Prince George Transit Assistance Program since 2005. Though UWNBC has been affiliated with the Quesnel Transit Assistance Program for many years prior, 2022 was the first year for UWNBC to fully administer the program in partnership with the City of Quesnel.

Prince George

31
programs
supported

11,758
rides made
possible



Quesnel

12
programs
supported

4,705
rides made
possible

Urgent Response - Wildfires 2023

In an effort to assist with 2023 wildfire crises in Northern BC, UWNBC initiated an Urgent Response Fund to help with the response and recovery, raising funds that will address important needs within wildfire affected communities.

We worked with non-profit agencies throughout the north to identify gaps in the community resources around wildfire response. These gaps could be related to alerts, evacuations, air-quality, recovery after fire, and adapting programs and services to changes in need. Most of the need was identified around wildfire smoke.

Through this initiative, we were able to raise over \$200,000 and, as a result, helped 22 programs/services in 24 communities get critical support at a time that everyone was feeling particularly vulnerable. This funding went to things such as safe social spaces for seniors, adaptations to allow programming to continue running, drinking water to affected areas, and emergency planning and drills.

In addition to the funding, UWNBC was able to secure a large shipment of N95 facemasks and shipped them all over Northern BC to 37 different agencies, helping to keep the non-profit staff and their clients safe while the wildfire smoke prevailed. Thanks to our shipper partners, Rosenau Transport, Bandstra Transportation, and Red Spade Enterprises, these shipments were sent free of charge.

VOLUNTEER

Mobilizing the community!



- Case management
- Committees
- Crisis line support
- Day of Caring
- Deliveries
- Food programs



16,482
VOLUNTEER HOURS



192
VOLUNTEERS

- Group support
- Seed libraries
- Peer connection
- Rehabilitation groups
- Shelter assistance
- Tutoring



Through various events, initiatives, projects, and campaigns, dozens of people came out to lend a hand to United Way or one of our many partner agencies in the region, improving the lives of those in their community. Whether it's completing a project for a non-profit agency, helping with one of our committees, or lending a hand at an event, volunteers showed up to make a difference in their community showing that many hands truly do make light work.

Thank You!

DONORS

Partners in change!



Coastal GasLink



PETRONAS



AltaGas

BMO  Financial Group



UNBC
UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA



VISTA Radio
APRIL



LiUNA! Local 1611
BC & YUKON



REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George



DONORS

Partners in change, continued...



O.J. Pipelines Canada



BANDSTRA
TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEMS LTD.



TIMKEN



**STERLING
CRANE**

Warmac
Ventures Ltd

King Pine
Contracting Ltd



DONORS

Partners in change, continued...

- Aecon
- BC Energy Regulator
- BC Northern Real Estate Board
- Bell Media
- Bootlegger Clothing Ltd.
- C3 Alliance Corp.
- Canada Life Assurance Co.
- Carrier Lumber Ltd.
- CDN Controls
- Copper Falls Custom Homes
- Dawson Group
- Federal Government Retirees
- Fisheries & Oceans
- Fluor
- Fort St John Co-Op
- Four Rivers Co-operative
- Global Affairs Canada
- IG Wealth Management
- Integris Credit Union
- London Drugs
- Nadleh-Macro
- NC Ron's Towing
- North Central Labour Council
- Pacific Northern Gas
- PayPal Giving Fund
- Prince George Airport Authority
- Prince George Cougars Hockey Club
- RCMP
- RE/MAX Core Realty
- Sanjel Energy Services
- Saputo Inc.
- Service Canada
- Spartan Controls
- Wood Wheaton GM Supercentre
- Wood Wheaton Honda

There are so many to acknowledge and thank for their contributions of funding, time, and other resources. Thank you to each person, group, and organization who has made the incredible impact we've had in Northern BC possible.



COASTAL GASLINK

Legacy Fund



The Coastal GasLink Legacy Fund - provided through fundraising efforts across the Coastal GasLink pipeline project in partnership with United Way - aims to remove barriers by enabling UWNBC to provide funding to address socioeconomic issues facing local communities in Northern BC. This fund works alongside the UWNBC's Community Investment and Impact Program (CIIP) and fuels additional support to provide local solutions addressing the issues of food security, poverty and social assistance, housing and homelessness, and mental health & addictions. Coastal GasLink, along with all of their prime contractors working on the pipeline project, enabled significant impact into 16 different communities. It's key partnerships like this that create real change, lift up communities, and give hope to those in need.

Through 2022-2023 this fund supported...

- 4,142 individuals
- 36,345 interventions
- 2,339 children & youth
- 1,473 seniors
- 337 homeless
- 1,233 unemployed
- 1,395 disabled

...and mobilized 89 volunteers who provided more than 7,500 hours of support for the programs (and their participants) funded by the Coastal GasLink Legacy Fund!



AGENCIES

Community change-makers



Our partner agencies are the key to making the local impact that we do. There are so many experts and knowledge holders within each community, we just need to provide the resources they're missing to make change happen. It's a privilege to work with each of these incredible organizations.

- Aboriginal Housing Society
- Active Support Against Poverty
- AimHi
- Alano Society of Prince George
- Amata Transition House
- Autism Society of British Columbia
- Autumn Services Society
- AWAC Community Services
- BL Chamber of Commerce
- Bridges Supportive Housing
- British Columbia Schizophrenia Society
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Carney Hill Neighbourhood Centre Society
- Carrier Sekani Family Services
- Central Interior Native Health
- Change Makers Education Society
- Community Counselling Centre
- Connaught Youth Centre Society
- Connexus
- Crisis Centre for Northern BC
- Dawson Creek Alliance Church
- Dawson Creek Literacy Society
- Delta King Place
- DP Todd Secondary School
- Duchess Park Secondary School
- DUDES Club Society
- Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society
- Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society
- Fort Nelson Women's Transition House
- Fort St. John Association for Community Living
- Fort St. John Women's Resource Society
- Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary School
- Handy Circle Resource Society
- Happy Gang Centre for Seniors
- Harbour Theatre Society
- Houston Community Services Association
- Houston Link to Learning Society
- Kitimat Community Services Society
- Kiwanis Arts Centre Society
- Ksan House Society
- Learning Differences Centre
- Mackenzie Counselling Services Society
- March of Dimes Canada - Stroke Recovery
- MCC Apartments (MCCBC)
- McNaughton Centre Alternate Highschool
- Mouse Mountain School
- Nenan Dane zaa Deh Zona Family Services Society
- Network Ministries
- Nezul Be Hunuyeh Child and Family Services Society
- Niwukowin Metis Family Services Society
- North Cariboo Aboriginal Family Program Society
- North Cariboo Metis Association
- North Cariboo Seniors' Council
- North Coast Transition
- Northern Brain Injury Association
- Northern Health
- Nusdeh Yoh Elementary School



AGENCIES

Community change-makers, continued...

- Pacific Autism Family Network
- Phoenix Transition Society
- Positive Living North (No khēyoh t'sih'en t'sehena Society)
- Prince George and District Elizabeth Fry Society
- Prince George Brain Injured Group
- Prince George Hospice Palliative Care Society
- Prince George Humane Society
- Prince George Native Friendship Centre
- Prince George New Hope Society
- Prince George New Life Centre Society
- Prince George Public Library
- Prince George Secondary School
- Quesnel & District Child Development Centre
- Quesnel Shelter & Support Society
- Quesnel Women's Resource Centre Society
- Recycling & Environmental Action Planning Society
- Robson Valley Community Services Society
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch No 274
- Salvation Army Bulkley Valley Social Services
- Saulteau First Nation
- Skeena Diversity Society
- Smithers Multicultural Society
- Sources Community Resource Centre
- Stigma-Free Society
- Taku River Tlingit First Nation
- Tamitik Status of Women
- Tansi Friendship Centre Society
- Terrace Senior Centre
- Terrace Women's Resource Center Society
- The Garage
- The Intersect Youth & Family Services
- The Northern John Howard Society of BC
- The Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association
- The Prince George Sexual Assault Centre (SOS Society)
- The Salvation Army
- Tluu Xaada Naay Society
- Tumbler Ridge Public Library Association
- Uniting Northern Drug Users UNDU'ing Stigma
- YMCA BC



PERIOD PROMISE

in Northern BC



As we launched another year of United Way's Period Promise in Northern BC, we really thought big in terms of goals. While we didn't quite get to them, we brought in an extraordinary amount of product and funding for the program; increasing access to menstrual products all across the region.

With the support of countless volunteers and over 80 collection sites, a tremendous amount of product has made its way to those who need it most in the 13 communities supported by the program this year - two more than in 2022!

Through the dedication of the volunteers, UWNBC staff, and the staff of our receiving agencies, access to menstrual products, and information and conversation around menstruation has risen in our local communities. All this working toward normalizing something that should never have been hidden, shamed, or stigmatized in the first place.

Reports year-over-year tell us how valuable the Period Promise program is to providing this no-barrier resource to those that need it. Let's keep it going all-year long and hopefully, one day, there won't be a need for this campaign and period poverty will be a thing of the past.



2023

\$15,186

donated in support
of United Way's
Period Promise in
Northern BC

Did you know?

More than 1,500 people accessed the products from our 2022 campaign? Imagine what this meant to them in that moment...

16,307
pads



17,248
tampons



6,317
liners



315
cups



462
other



Period Promise Communities

- Burns Lake
- Chetwynd
- Dawson Creek
- Fort Nelson
- Fort St. James
- Fort St. John
- Houston
- Kitimat
- Prince George
- Prince Rupert
- Quesnel
- Smithers
- Terrace

TREE OF LIGHTS

in Prince George



For the fourth year in a row, the United Way Tree of Lights brought light and hope to the community of Prince George. With a theme of "United More Than Ever", we appeared at a broad number of opportunities throughout the campaign to connect with people and raise awareness, as well as funds. One of the engagements was a free public event on Plaid Friday in the Wood Innovation Square in downtown Prince George. We collaborated with multiple organizations to strengthen the impact of the event on our community, including Downtown PG,

City of Prince George, Prince George

Spruce Kings, Simply Beautiful,

Cantata Community Choir,

The Makerie, GSP Photography,

Canfor, UNDU, etc. ...even Santa

joined in the festivities!

While this year, we weren't

able to meet our lofty goal,

we raised a significant

amount of funding to

invest in the much

needed programs

and services for

Prince George.

\$35,500

raised for local programs & services in Prince George

10

local programs were funded with the help of the Tree of Lights

1,060

items collected through our cold weather wear drive, one of our Tree of Lights sub-campaigns.

300

volunteer hours support this inspiring campaign!

Tree of Lights



United Way
Northern BC



GRATITUDE

the Future is Bright!

Thank you, Northern BC, for welcoming us into your communities, for talking, working, and enjoying time with us, for doing the hard work in your community, for investing your time and efforts and money with us, for putting your trust and faith in us, and for being our partner in so much good for people who truly need it.

United Way will continue to strive to raise our Northern BC voice, to advocate for our unique needs, and to keep things local.

We are HERE.



United Way
British Columbia