



United Way
British Columbia

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

MEDIA RELEASE
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United Way BC grant application open for wildfire relief

Agencies helping with immediate & long-term wildfire relief efforts encouraged to apply to the United for BC Wildfire Recovery Fund

Central Office, Burnaby, BC - With devastating wildfires already affecting northern communities of British Columbia, the United for BC Wildfire Recovery Fund has quickly begun channeling resources to meet the immediate needs of displaced residents, ensuring they receive the vital assistance they require.

Mobilizing within 24 hours of the Fort Nelson wildfire crisis, United Way British Columbia - working with communities in BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland, and Central & Northern Vancouver Island, has already begun collaborating with partners on the ground, assessing urgent requirements and swiftly bridging gaps such as proactively supplying food, gas cards and transportation support for those fleeing the fire.

United Way BC is committed to supporting access to essential needs, such as food assistance, trauma care, and mental health support, through strategic partnerships with non-profit agencies. United for BC extends its helping hand to agencies engaged in immediate relief for those impacted by the wildfires. What sets this grant apart is its adaptable nature, designed to respond with agility and precision to the evolving needs of impacted communities.

British Columbians affected by wildfires who are looking for information on supports during these difficult days are encouraged to connect with 211 British Columbia, available by phone, text, email or chat, 24 hours a day. In addition to a user-friendly resource database, 211 British Columbia provides a regularly updated online [BC Wildfire resource list](#) to help people navigate relevant information, providing easy access to key phone numbers and detailed, up-to-date information as it becomes available.

Michael McKnight, President and CEO of United Way British Columbia, underscores the significance of being united for people in need during times of crisis: "In these trying moments when thousands of British Columbians find themselves evacuated or on alert, the United for BC Wildfire Recovery Fund is a vital lifeline for those in need. We recognize the acute trauma of these events and stand steadfast in supporting the path ahead for those affected."

Organizations stepping up to aid in wildfire relief in Northern BC are encouraged to apply for assistance through the [online portal](#) under "Northern BC."

Recognizing the urgency, United Way BC is committed to expediting approvals and distributing funds to areas of highest need.

The United for BC Wildfire Recovery Fund stands as a testament to unity, compassion, and resilience. Grants for long-term recovery, resilience building, and preparedness for future activities will be available at a later date. Individuals and businesses are urged to make a monetary donation at uwbc.ca/campaign/wildfires.

- > [Apply for United Way BC's Emergency Response Grant](#)
- > [Connect with 211 British Columbia for Support](#)
- > [Donate Now](#)
- > [Volunteer Now](#)

-30-

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 six regions of Central and Northern Vancouver Island, East Kootenay, Lower Mainland, Southern Interior, Thompson Nicola Cariboo, and Trail and District, our organization serves a population of more than 4 million people, with a focus on kids and youth, seniors, poverty, mental health and food security.

www.uwbc.ca

Interviews are available. Please contact:

Dara Hill

Senior Marketing & Communications Specialist

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

DaraH@uwbc.ca

Office: 236-427-1265 | Cell: 604-314-7844

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for BC wildfire recovery