



United Way
British Columbia

NEWS RELEASE
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United Way Southern Vancouver Island Joins United Way British Columbia

Organizations amalgamate to address challenges and increase impact

Central Office, Burnaby, BC – February 1, 2025, marks an exciting new chapter as United Way Southern Vancouver Island and United Way British Columbia (United Way BC) unite to form a single entity — now serving all of British Columbia.

“We are excited to have Southern Vancouver Island join United Way British Columbia,” says Michael McKnight, President and CEO, United Way British Columbia. “Combining our strengths is important when addressing the unique challenges and needs in each community. As a unified organization, we are better equipped to strengthen the vital connections that build healthy, caring, and inclusive communities.”

United Way British Columbia was formed when six United Ways across the province amalgamated in 2021. The following year, United Way BC celebrated an integration with bc211. United Way of Northern British Columbia as well as Powell River & District United Way joined in 2023. Through this growth, United Way BC has continued to support local communities with programs and community investment grants while expanding initiatives with a provincial presence, like Period Promise, Wildfire Response, and School’s Out. With United Way Southern Vancouver Island joining in 2025, all United Ways in BC have officially come together, uniting for people in need.

For 87 years, United Way Southern Vancouver Island has supported the Greater Victoria community through programs to support seniors, families, and people struggling with mental health and/or addiction challenges. Amalgamation offers capacity growth and operational efficiencies for the organization, and United Way BC remains focused on local support and presence in Southern Vancouver Island. Dollars raised locally will stay within the region.

By coming together, United Way BC is in a stronger position to address challenges and make a difference — now in every corner of our province.

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

United Way BC 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 4.5 million people, with a focus on emergency response, kids and youth, seniors, poverty, mental health and food security.

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About United Way Southern Vancouver Island

For 87 years United Way Southern Vancouver Island (UWSVI) served the community, which included 13 municipalities, 11 First Nations, and the Southern Gulf Islands. UWSVI was proud to support local people

in areas where they most needed it, in the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to reach their potential. Last year, UWSVI supported more than 50,000 individuals across Southern Vancouver Island in building better lives.

Interviews are available with Michael McKnight, President & CEO, United Way British Columbia

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