



NEWS RELEASE
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Northern BC Communities Better Equipped to Tackle Cold Weather Challenges

Cold Weather Preparedness Grants help agencies plan and prepare



Regional Office, Prince George B.C. – United Way British Columbia (United Way BC)'s Cold Weather Preparedness Grant, made possible by the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), provides support to communities facing extreme weather emergencies. Focusing on Northern BC, Thompson-Nicola Cariboo, and the Southern Interior, 19 agencies received funding to prepare for and respond to cold weather.

"We know extreme weather events like wildfires, heat domes, and the current dangerously low temperatures disproportionately affect our most vulnerable community members. Youth, seniors, and those experiencing precarious or no housing are at greater risk. Thanks to this funding and our trusted community partners, we are able to provide some relief to those who are suffering," said Kristi Rintoul, Director, Community Impact & Investment, United Way British Columbia.

Most of these grants focused on proactive programming to prepare for winter and provide help to those most affected by extreme weather conditions. From free preparedness workshops, creating systems to better enable a response during the cold, and increased relationship building with vulnerable clients to creating and distributing cold weather kits, grants were used to address a growing need in many communities.

In Prince George, the grant supports the Association Advocating for Women and Community (AWAC)'s Emergency Weather Response, an outreach service. As the only service of its kind, outreach staff travel the streets from 6:30 p.m. – 3:00 a.m. every night to bring supplies and food to people experiencing homelessness. Transportation to their women's shelter, warming centre, hospitals or similar places where people can stay the night in winter is also part of the service. Thanks to the Cold Weather Preparedness Grant, they can expand their resources enabling the team to assist more individuals, even in more remote areas of Prince George.

United Way BC's Emergency Response provides year-round support to individuals, families, and communities affected by extreme weather events like wildfires, floods, and extreme cold. We are committed to fostering preparedness, social infrastructure recovery, and immediate crisis response. Through initiatives such as the Cold Weather Preparedness Grant, recovery grants, and [Extreme Weather Preparedness Guides](#), United Way BC helps communities build resilience.

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About United Way British Columbia

United Way BC helps build healthy, caring, and inclusive communities across our province. We strengthen vital connections that support people in need with a focus on emergency response, kids and youth, seniors, mental health, and food security.

www.uwbc.ca

Interviews are available with Kristi Rintoul, United Way British Columbia

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