

MEDIA RELEASE  
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## United Way BC Is One of BC's Top 100 Employers for the Second Year in a Row



*Photo – United Way British Columbia staff from various regions at an all-staff in-person meeting in Burnaby, 2022*

**Central Office, Burnaby, BC** – United Way British Columbia (United Way BC) is proud to announce it has been named one of BC's Top 100 Employers for 2025-2026. This prestigious recognition highlights organizations that are leading the way in creating exceptional workplaces across British Columbia. This is the second year in a row United Way BC has received this esteemed acknowledgment, reinforcing our commitment to local impact and employee well-being.

"Being recognized as one of BC's Top 100 Employers reflects the strong culture we've been cultivating since our amalgamation in 2021," says Michael McKnight, President & CEO, United Way BC. "I am incredibly proud to lead such a dedicated and passionate team that consistently goes above and beyond. This recognition reaffirms our belief that by working together, we can overcome any challenge and continue making a meaningful difference in our local communities."

Fostering an inclusive workplace is the result of a dedicated investment from the organization over the years. When Ravi Grewal was starting out as a practicum student at United Way BC in 2022, he noticed how his supervisors valued his input and welcomed open communication. "Everyone has a voice," says the Project Coordinator with United Way BC's Food Security team. "That sort of open communication made me feel really valued and respected." This culture of inclusivity and equity has helped Grewal envision a long-term career with the organization, as he continues to contribute to its mission of supporting communities across British Columbia.

United Way BC is dedicated to attracting a diverse, community-focused, and purpose-driven workforce. "We believe our people are our greatest asset, and we are committed to supporting their long-term well-being," says Shaffina Hirji, Provincial Director of People and Culture, United Way BC. "As a socially responsible employer, we proudly offer the Municipal Pension Plan (MPP), which helps our employees prepare for a secure future."

The MPP provides employees with a reliable and structured way to plan for retirement, offering key benefits that contribute to their long-term financial stability.

"By offering the MPP, United Way BC reinforces a culture of care and security, empowering our team members to focus on their work with confidence in their financial futures," Hirji adds.

BC's Top 100 Employers list, published annually, recognizes organizations with progressive HR practices across the province. Employers are evaluated based on several criteria, including workplace atmosphere, benefits, vacation policies, employee communication, performance management, training, and community involvement.

Since the amalgamation of six United Ways in 2021, United Way BC has navigated significant change and growth. The integration of bc211 and three additional United Ways has further strengthened our commitment to creating a positive and supportive work environment. Our inclusion in BC's Top 100 Employers list underscores our ongoing dedication to fostering a thriving workplace that aligns with our mission to serve local communities effectively.

Aligning internal policies with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights is integral to United Way BC's work, as seen in initiatives such as the Regional Community Food Hubs. "Access to nutritious food is a human right," Grewal explains. "We approach food equity by focusing on programming to promote food sovereignty and sustainable food access, empowering communities to thrive."

The next step in United Way BC's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) journey was the creation of a dedicated human rights officer position, announced in August 2024. This role, awarded to Shaffina Hirji, helps strengthen the organization's mission and practices from a human rights perspective, ensuring fairness and compliance across all operations.

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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](http://www.uwbc.ca)

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

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