



MEDIA RELEASE  
May 1, 2025

## **United Way BC Fund to Support People Impacted by the Tragic Events at the Lapu Lapu Festival**

*100% of donations will directly support the community*

**Central Office, Burnaby, B.C.** - In the wake of tragedy at the Lapu Lapu Festival in Vancouver, United Way British Columbia (United Way BC) has launched a special fund to support those touched by the traumatic events.

One hundred percent of donations to United Way BC's Kapwa Strong Fund will directly support Vancouver's Filipino community and those impacted by this tragedy. Proceeds will go towards mental health supports and trauma counselling, access to essential needs including meal and gas vouchers, events and spaces for community to connect and share resources, and more.

Kapwa describes the Filipino experience of community, interconnectedness and shared humanity. Many Filipinos practice this value through solidarity, and we've seen this value extended through overwhelming support.

"Our thoughts are with everyone who has been devastated by this tragedy, and our hearts go out especially to the Vancouver Filipino community who are grieving deeply after this heartbreaking loss," says Michael McKnight, President and CEO of United Way British Columbia. "United Way BC stands with our Filipino friends and neighbours during this moment of crisis."

United Way BC has always stood with communities in times of need. That commitment is more important than ever in moments of crisis, and we know the long-term needs of a community extend far beyond the immediate response.

We are committed to being a partner in long-term recovery, ensuring that individuals and families receive the care and resources they need to heal. We will continue to work with trusted partners and donors to adapt to emerging needs, provide transparent updates, and remain a source of strength and stability as the community rebuilds.

Anyone who has been impacted by this traumatic event can call or text VictimLinkBC, a helpline managed by United Way BC, for free, confidential support 24/7. Dial or text 1-800-563-0808 or email [victimlinkbc@uwbc.ca](mailto:victimlinkbc@uwbc.ca).

**Donate or learn more about United Way BC's Kapwa Strong Fund <https://uwbc.ca/kapwastrong>**

-30-

### **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. [uwbc.ca](http://uwbc.ca)

Interviews are available with Kim Winchell, Chief Program & Impact Officer, United Way British Columbia

### **Media contact:**

Chantal Beesley  
Marketing & Communications  
United Way British Columbia  
[chantalb@uwbc.ca](mailto:chantalb@uwbc.ca) Direct: 250-739-6286

**UNITED**  
for people in need