



MEDIA RELEASE  
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## **Chilliwack Bowls of Hope Receives \$1 Million to Address Growing Food Insecurity**

*New food hub bridges infrastructure gaps in the Fraser Valley*

**Central Office, Burnaby, B.C.** - A long-term solution to food insecurity in the Fraser Valley is on the horizon thanks to a \$1 million investment through United Way British Columbia (United Way BC)'s Large Food Infrastructure Grant, in partnership with the Government of British Columbia through the Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction.

The Chilliwack Bowls of Hope Society will lead, develop and manage a centralized food processing facility to expand meal production, improve food recovery, and increase food distribution for communities experiencing food insecurity across the Eastern Fraser Valley.

The new Upper Fraser Valley Regional Food Hub will replace the existing facility, which has been operating since 2021 but must relocate due to an expiring lease, rising demand, and a lack of space to expand their operations. This expansion will allow the Chilliwack Bowls of Hope Society to significantly scale its operations, producing more meals and food hampers to serve over 10,000 individuals annually, including school children, seniors, low-income families, and Indigenous communities.

With a larger kitchen, expanded cold and dry storage, and improved infrastructure, the hub will enhance school meal programs by 2,000 meals per day, expand food recovery efforts by 200%, and distribute food to schools, Indigenous communities, and low-income families.

Chilliwack Community Services is the funding recipient, while Chilliwack Bowls of Hope Society will lead and manage this project, which addresses a long-standing gap in food processing and distribution capacity in the Upper Fraser Valley and represents a sustainable, community-led solution to regional food insecurity. This project is supported by the \$14 million Critical Food Infrastructure Fund (CFIF), announced by the Government of BC in September 2023, spanning three years and administered by United Way British Columbia. The CFIF supports community food infrastructure projects by providing grants to increase capacity to offer nutritious and culturally appropriate food to people who need it.

The Large Food Infrastructure Grant (LFIG) totals \$6 million, with \$1 million allocated to each of six communities to support the development of regional food hubs, commercial kitchens, and expanded meal production services in high-need areas.

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### **> QUOTES**

"This investment of funding comes at a pivotal time in our organization. Now in our 20th year, Chilliwack Bowls of Hope has outgrown the current facility as the needs of the community have continued to grow. We are eager to increase our food processing and storage capacity to support the delivery of school food programs and enhance a variety of food security programs to meet the evolving needs of the community of Chilliwack and the Eastern Fraser Valley."

- Chris Csoka, Board President Chilliwack Bowls of Hope

"We are honoured to be selected to lead this vital food hub initiative, alongside Chilliwack Bowls of Hope. Together with the Province, United Way BC, the City of Chilliwack, and our community partners, we're proud to bring this much-

needed resource to our community. We remain deeply committed to addressing food security across our region and ensuring everyone has access to nutritious food.”

- Chris Veenstra, Board President, Chilliwack Community Services

“When it comes to strengthening food security and food supply for British Columbians, collaboration is key. This project brings together important community partners, non-profits and government to strengthen the local food system and help more people access affordable nutritious food.”

- Alžběta Sabová, Director, Food Security, United Way British Columbia

“We all want people to have access to nutritious food, so we’re taking more action to help people withstand the impacts of the trade war and global inflation. That’s why on top of hundreds of other projects, we’ve funded new critical infrastructure that helps people access fresh food in the Fraser Valley and throughout the province.”

- Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

> **PHOTOS:** [Assets found here.](#)

### **About Chilliwack Bowls of Hope Society**

Chilliwack Bowls of Hope Society is a registered charitable organization committed to combating food insecurity among children and families in Chilliwack and surrounding areas. Since its inception in 2005, the Society has provided over 1 million meals through its Feed the Children program, serving the Chilliwack School District. Additional initiatives include the Starfish Pack Program providing weekend hunger relief, the Community Roots Garden, and stewardship of the United Way Upper Fraser Valley Regional Food Hub. In 2023, Chilliwack Bowls of Hope became a subsidiary of Chilliwack Community Services, enhancing its capacity to deliver sustainable food security programs.

[chilliwackbowlsofhope.com](http://chilliwackbowlsofhope.com)

### **About Chilliwack Community Services**

Chilliwack Community Services (CCS) is a non-profit, accredited multi-service agency providing support-focused programming to people of all ages. For over 90 years, we have been dedicated to meeting social and community needs in Chilliwack and the surrounding areas. What began in 1928 with the efforts of a single woman helping a neighbour in need has continually grown to meet the increasing and changing demographics of the community.

[comserv.bc.ca](http://comserv.bc.ca)

### **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. Please contact:**

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