

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY



The charitable sector facilitates social good across the country

Friday, November 11, 2022

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If there's one thing Canada's charitable sector knows all too well, it's that the need never ends, and it's only through the ongoing generosity of donors – in amounts big and small – that the sector can continue to make a profound difference in the lives of people in need.

While Canadians hunkered down in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the world, many charities stepped to the fore to help where they could, just as they have done in countless past crises.

While the pandemic isn't over, most people are learning to live with it, but that doesn't mean charities get to take a breather. Their work continues as new needs arise – natural disasters, extreme weather events, war, famine, homelessness and now economic hardship – as the world slips into recession.

Ken Mayhew, chair, AFP Canada, and president and CEO, William Osler



During the last two years, the Canadian charitable sector played a huge role in maintaining physical and mental health, safety, security, information veracity, hope and the trust of Canadians.

Jane Potentier
Chair AFP Foundation for Philanthropy - Canada



Health System Foundation in Ontario, says while major global crises such as food insecurity, conflict and climate change remain a key focus for donors, the pandemic lifted the curtain on other critical issues that were present all along, such as inequities faced by vulnerable communities across Canada.

"We've all been impacted by and want to be part of a collective response to tough times, and I think Canadian charities are tapping into our shared desire to be part of solutions," he says. "Many Canadian charities have defined missions for global relief, such as the Canadian Red Cross, and stepped up their efforts, while literally thousands of local charities and nonprofits have increased their efforts to provide support for vulnerable communities at home."

Mr. Mayhew says Canadians have always donated to charities to address crises and social challenges and,

despite the pandemic and the current uncertain economic times, they continue to do so.

Jane Potentier, chair AFP Foundation for Philanthropy - Canada, and associate vice-president, alumni and development at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, says the

charitable sector will always be a major player in Canada's economy and is facilitating social good across the country.

"During the last two years, the Canadian charitable sector played

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ABOUT

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) represents more than 3,200 Canadian fundraisers and charities, and over 27,000 around the world, partnering with donors and volunteers to change the world through ethical and effective fundraising.

AFP helps its members raise more than \$115-billion annually for a wide variety of causes through advocacy, research, education, mentoring and the most rigorous code of ethics in the profession.

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YES, IN MY BACKYARD

Habitat for Humanity Canada urges a year-round welcome to people who need safe and secure housing

Habitat for Humanity Canada (Habitat) is looking to replace an age-old adage associated with resistance to neighbourhood change with a new spirit that sees Canadians welcoming the development of affordable housing in communities across the country.

"We want more Canadians to support a 'yes, in my backyard' attitude," says Julia Deans, the national charity's president and CEO.

"For the very first time, everyone understands how important it is to

have safe and secure housing – COVID has made that crystal clear – and the affordability issue confronts us all," she adds. "It's not somebody else's issue; it affects everyone. We all know someone who is having trouble finding housing. People are more ready now than ever before to say, 'I want people in my community to have a place to live.'"

Ms. Deans says that awareness is enabling people to help solve the country's housing crisis by urging local authorities and others to make affordable land available and support affordable housing being built.

As Canadians head into the winter holidays, Ms. Deans hopes the seasonal spirit of goodwill and generosity will extend to a warm year-round welcome to people in their neighbourhoods who need safe and secure housing.



Volunteers on site at Habitat for Humanity Canada's President Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project in Edmonton. **SAM DEAN**

Ms. Deans says there is a \$200,000 gain in social benefit when Habitat builds a house in a community.

"With secure housing, people can invest in themselves – get better jobs, have better educational outcomes and be more able to give back," she says, noting the hand up

can have profound ripple effects.

"Recently, when a Habitat Québec homeowner was able to secure stable housing, she was able to get a better job at the hospital where she worked," says Ms. Deans. "Affordable homeownership and a better job gave her the financial stability to pay

off her Habitat mortgage so we could reinvest in building homes for more families in her community."

While the COVID-19 pandemic slowed down construction and temporarily closed some ReStores, the charity's social enterprise, Habitat still built more than 200 homes in 2021.

While best known as a single-family home builder, two significant projects completed in 2021 included a 41-unit building with Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region, while Habitat for Humanity Kingston Limestone Region partnered with the Anglican Diocese of Ontario to demolish an aging church and build a Community Ministry Centre and six Habitat homes in its place.

Habitat for Humanity Canada has 49 active Habitats across this country and is part of an international network that operates in 70 countries around the world.

More information: habitat.ca

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Research can head off a cancer tsunami

World-class science at The Princess Margaret impacts cancer care for patients across Canada

A cancer tsunami is heading Canada's way, and the only way to lessen the impact is more research, says Dr. Miyo Yamashita, president and CEO of The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation.

"Cancer is Canada's leading cause of death; two in five Canadians will be diagnosed in their lifetime," she says. "It's also the second leading cause of death globally. When you consider the impact of cancer today, plus the dramatic rise in cancer cases we can expect over the coming decade because of an aging population, there is a cancer tsunami coming."

However, ground-breaking research and treatment protocols at Toronto's Princess Margaret Cancer Centre are changing outcomes for cancer patients in Canada and globally.

"Funding this research is a direct investment in creating a future where we conquer cancer," says Dr. Yamashita.

One of the world's top five cancer research centres, The Princess Margaret is part of University Health Network, the largest hospital-based research program in Canada working in close collaboration with cancer researchers across the country, and fully affiliated with the University of Toronto.

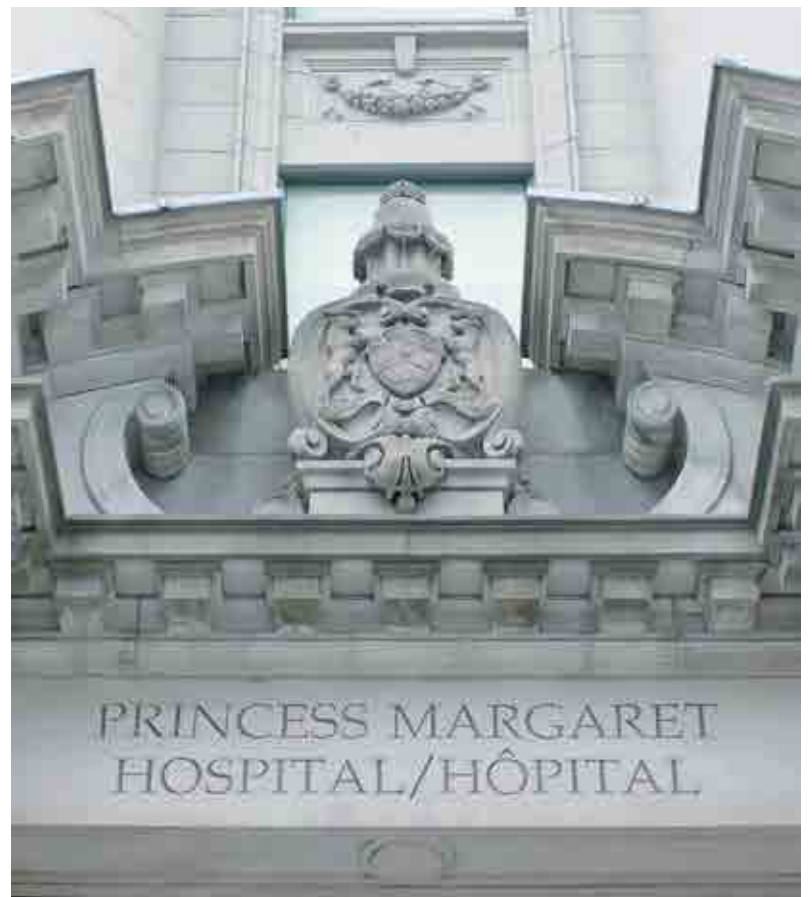
"Our world-class science impacts standards of cancer care not just for cancer patients treated at The Princess Margaret but every cancer patient across Canada and potentially around the world," says Dr. Yamashita. "We have over 200 of the world's best cancer scientists at The Princess Margaret and the largest cancer research space in the country – the equivalent of six soccer fields, dedicated entirely to better understanding, detecting and conquering cancer."

At The Princess Margaret, new ways of thinking about cancer, combined with new technologies, treatments and data, are driving the battle to conquer the disease. "We now know we can harness artificial intelligence to improve cancer radiation treatment planning, accuracy and outcomes for patients," she says, adding, sophisticated algorithms help scientists and clinicians ensure patients get the right radiation treatment, at the right time, customized to each individual patient.

Collaborations with other cancer centres around the world, such as the A.C. Camargo Cancer Centre in Brazil and the Davidoff Cancer Centre in Israel, are enabled by philanthropy and support sharing the expertise of The Princess Margaret's scientists and doctors.



Above left: Dr. Miyo Yamashita, president and CEO of The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation. (right) The Princess Margaret Hospital was renamed the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in 2012 and is now the the most comprehensive cancer centre in Canada. SUPPLIED



“We have over 200 of the world's best cancer scientists at The Princess Margaret and the largest cancer research space in the country – the equivalent of six soccer fields, dedicated entirely to better understanding, detecting and conquering cancer.”

Dr. Miyo Yamashita
President and CEO, The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation

"In the next 20 years, rates of new cancers are predicted to rise faster in Africa than anywhere else. We also have partnerships in Kenya, Ethiopia and Ghana, supporting initiatives like exchange programs for medical students and local care centres in rural, remote, and at-risk areas. Our supporters recognize both the importance and the urgency of global cancer control," says Dr. Yamashita.

Helping fund the research and treatment at The Princess Margaret is the focus of the foundation – Canada's largest cancer charity.

"Without the foundation, a number of breakthroughs in cancer would not be possible, or these breakthroughs would have taken a lot longer to achieve," says Dr. Yamashita.

For example, she points out that scientists at The Princess Margaret have discovered everything from stem cells and the T-cell receptor, which is critical to immunotherapy, to breast density being a risk factor for breast cancer, and Hodgkin's Lymphoma becoming a curable cancer with extended field radiation. "More recently, we've been work-

ing on a simple, non-invasive blood test to detect cancer early, often years before symptoms appear. This innovative technology was developed at The Princess Margaret by scientists recruited thanks to a generous gift from the Gattuso and Slight families," she says.

But there's an ongoing need for more funding to maintain the pace of research and achieve new breakthroughs.

"Now is our time," says Dr. Yamashita. "From a historical perspective, looking back on multiple

decades of cancer research, we've learned more about cancer in the past 10 years than the previous 50. We are now at a moment of huge opportunity in terms of our ability to understand cancer and truly transform cancer outcomes and patient experiences. As a country, if we seize this moment, we can bring about a future where everybody lives longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer."

Information: thepmcf.ca

FROM PAGE 1

SOCIAL GOOD: THE PANDEMIC CREATED A NEW KIND OF COLLECTIVE

a huge role in maintaining physical and mental health, safety, security, information veracity, hope and the trust of Canadians," she says. "Whether that was in upping our national game in food security, domestic violence shelter, exponentially increased health-care capacity, caring for the aged and helping those struck by poverty, Canadian charities did not do something new, they did what they are set up to do."

Mr. Mayhew says the pandemic created a new kind of collective because Canadians all went through it together.

"I'm hopeful that our shared experience will have a lasting impact on the social construct of what it means to be involved in your community, including giving to others whether through volunteerism or philanthropy," he says.

Mr. Mayhew points out that Canadian charities focused on food insecurity, social justice and equity-seeking all saw significant increases in levels of support as did community hospitals such as William Osler Health System.

Equally important, he says, is that a survey conducted last year by the AFP Foundation for Philanthropy - Canada, confirmed that a growing number of Canadian donors express positive attitudes toward charities, including general confidence (84 per cent), trust to deliver on mission/goals (87 per cent) and trust to spend responsibly (82 per cent).

"Certainly, recent concerns around inflation and cost of living pressures are a consideration for people as they donate, but one lasting impact of the collective experience of the past few years is that people realize that there's a need for us to work together," says Mr. Mayhew. "I'm seeing signs that give me hope that this feeling won't dissolve, because while the pandemic certainly has profoundly impacted me and many, it's also reminded many of us what's truly important, including being part of a caring society."

Ms. Potentier says charities can respond to needs faster than government and much more broadly than the corporate sector.

"Pre- and now post-pandemic, charities like our education institutions uplift entire communities and, indeed, our entire nation through the power of knowledge and skill-building," she says. "During the

“Certainly, recent concerns around inflation and cost of living pressures are a consideration for people as they donate, but one lasting impact of the collective experience of the past few years is that people realize that there's a need for us to work together.”

Ken Mayhew

Chair AFP Canada; President and CEO, William Osler Health System Foundation



pandemic, funders eased access to much-needed funds. Charities and nonprofits continued asking for support and communities responded."

For example, Ms. Potentier says Food Banks Canada addressed needs three times higher than pre-pandemic and saw donor support increase to meet the need. Shelters and humane societies had similar experiences.

Ms. Potentier says apart from the work Canadian charities do in meeting needs at home and globally, they also make a significant contribution to the national economy.

"The sector employs 2.4 million Canadians at more than 170,000 nonprofits and charities (1 in 10 Canadian workers) and contributes 8.4 per cent of Canada's gross domestic product, exceeding the oil and gas or finance industries," she says.

But at the end of the day, it's what donor funds achieve that really counts, like the experience of a patient at the Osler hospital whose ruptured aorta was diagnosed in the ER using a bedside ultrasound machine. Had he been sent to another part of the hospital for a scan, he would have died on the way.

The ultrasound in the ER was paid for with donor dollars.


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Addressing health inequities in Scarborough

\$100-million campaign to upgrade aging hospital facilities

Scarborough is home to more than 630,000 people – nearly a quarter of Greater Toronto’s population. Their health-care needs are served by Scarborough Health Network’s (SHN) three hospitals – Birchmount, Centenary and General. Like other health authorities across Canada, SHN relies heavily on donations to help fund programs and capital costs not covered by the provincial government, yet it receives only one per cent of total donations to hospitals in Toronto.

Alicia Vandermeer, president and CEO of the SHN Foundation, says it’s an inequity that needs to change.

“Scarborough’s hospitals have been left behind for decades and are in urgent need of upgrades, expansions and renovations,” says Ms. Vandermeer. “Over half of our community comprises new Canadians who expect us to fulfill the Canadian promise of equal and equitable health care, and while our talented health care teams provide world-class care, the same cannot be said about our hospital facilities.”

So earlier this year, SHN Foundation launched the *Love, Scarborough* campaign to raise \$100-million and focus attention on addressing health inequities faced in Scarborough and close the gap between SHN’s world-class care and its aging hospital facilities.

Donors big and small responded, including Orlando Corporation, whose gift of \$50-million – the largest donation in SHN’s history – will fund a diverse range of activities, and Northpine Foundation’s \$20-million gift to fund the creation of Canada’s first no-wait emergency department at SHN’s Centenary Hospital.

Orlando Corporation, one of Canada’s leading landlords of industrial and commercial properties, is investing \$50-million to help redevelop the Birchmount Hospital to put it at the forefront of equitable, leading-edge patient care for the growing community. The redeveloped hospital will house the Orlando Corporation Emergency Department. Some of the funding will go towards the establishment of the Orlando Corporation Mental Health Centre of Excellence across all SHN sites, and a portion will support SHN’s areas of greatest need.

The company is also investing \$25-million in the University of Toronto’s Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health.

Orlando Corporation president Blair Wolk said at the time the gift was announced that every resident in Scarborough and the eastern Greater Toronto Area (GTA) deserves to live a healthy life and to have



Above and top right: The *Love, Scarborough* campaign is like an open letter from people who work for and have used SHN hospitals. As part of the campaign, Scarborough Sans, a font made using the handwriting of 26 different people who have a connection to SHN, was created. Jessica stands for the letter Z for Gen Z in the unique alphabet. Here she shares a hug with her grandmother, who received exceptional care at Centenary Hospital. Bottom right: Dr. Martin Betts, corporate chief and medical director of critical care at SHN, reflects on the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic. SUPPLIED

“Support, whether it’s through donations, spreading the word, sharing our social media posts or attending events is how we continue to get closer to our goal of transforming health care for Scarborough.”

Alicia Vandermeer
President and CEO of the SHN Foundation



access to excellent health care whenever they need it.

“Scarborough Health Network and the University of Toronto are two institutions that can help make this goal a reality, and we’re pleased to be able to support them,” he added.

A portion of Orlando Corporation’s \$50-million gift to SHN is a pledge to match, dollar-for-dollar, donations from the community.

Ms. Vandermeer says Orlando Corporation’s gift ushers in a new era of equitable health care, helping to update and expand SHN’s hospitals and provide enhanced services such as increased access to kidney care and dialysis, improved diagnostic imaging at the General Hospital and barrier-free mental health care.

She adds that while transformational gifts like those from Orlando Corporation and the Northpine Foundation tend to grab the headlines and boost campaigns, every donation matters, no matter how small.

“We count on the support of one-time, monthly and annual donors to make a difference in the lives of our patients and community,” says Ms. Vandermeer. “Support, whether it’s through donations, spreading the word, sharing our social media posts or attending events is how we continue to get closer to our goal of transforming health care for Scarborough.”

While donations to SHN have lagged behind those to other Toronto hospitals for years, the COVID-19 pandemic helped galvanize the need to do something about it.

SHN experienced the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases in the province, and it was during this time that the foundation brought its cause to the forefront.

Ms. Vandermeer says the pandemic demonstrated Scarborough’s tremendous resilience and proved that SHN is uniquely equipped to

improve the population’s health because its health-care teams and staff reflect the diverse and unique community.

Scarborough’s population includes 59 per cent new Canadians and 74 per cent visible minorities, making it one of the most diverse communities in Canada. Ms. Vandermeer says this diversity brings strength but also challenges like racial, financial and cultural gaps. Scarborough has the lowest household income in the GTA, an aging population and culturally prevalent conditions and diseases.

Nevertheless, she says SHN teams are able to address health concerns in a culturally sensitive manner and in multiple languages. They became leaders in equitable health care during the pandemic because they are innovative, creative and courageous, and ensure the community is represented and supported.

“If the past two and a half years taught us anything, it’s that sickness does discriminate,” she says. “Unfortunately, the same can also be said for our health-care system. One of the problems is lack of awareness that this health-care gap exists.”

Ms. Vandermeer says the launch of the *Love, Scarborough* campaign showed Toronto what SHN has known for years – that the Scarborough community deserves the same level of innovative technology and facilities enjoyed by other Toronto communities.

“The campaign is an open letter to the rest of Toronto to raise awareness that health care isn’t actually equal and to shine a light on these health-care inequities – and to tell Torontonians that we need them to back us up,” she says.

Information: shn.ca

SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS-LED RESPONSE TO THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19

The CMA Foundation, the charitable arm of the Canadian Medical Association, has made a \$2-million contribution to the Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund (IPRF) to address health, social and economic priorities in First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.

The IPRF is an Indigenous-led organization that was launched in response to COVID-19 to support Indigenous organizations and communities while taking a long-term view on community resilience.

“We are pleased to partner with IPRF to support the organization’s critical work and to collaborate in knowledge sharing and knowledge translation to achieve meaningful action,” says Allison Seymour, president of the CMA Foundation. “This includes improving health outcomes for the health and well-being of First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals and communities.”

The CMA Foundation is joining a group of philanthropists, change-makers and the IPRF leadership to provide immediate resources for preparedness, health-care support and long-term resources to build community resilience based on traditional knowledge, contemporary health services and ways of being that emanate from lived experience.

“These funds will help the IPRF continue to support the many Indigenous-led organizations and communities as they adapt, act and respond to the effects of COVID-19 from coast to coast to coast,” say Wanda Brascoupe, Kanien’keha, Skarù re’, Anishinabe; and Victoria Grant, Teme-Augama, Anishnabai Qway, of the IPRF.

Information: cmf-famc.org



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PECCM Hospital Foundation

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Help change the life of someone impacted by a winter emergency.

This holiday, your gift will make all the difference for people impacted by emergencies at home and around the world. From those left without shelter due to Hurricane Fiona, to the millions living amid conflict in Ukraine, harsh winter conditions only make life harder. When the news crews leave, the Red Cross will continue to be there – **but we can't do it without your support.**

Visit redcross.ca/winterhelp or scan here to give the gift of warmth this holiday.





Be prepared for severe weather events

Cold weather compounds the situation for people impacted by conflict and climate-related emergencies

As the holiday season approaches, the Canadian Red Cross is preparing to launch its biggest annual fundraising campaign. This year, the campaign theme focuses on the challenges many people will face in the winter months as cold weather compounds the already difficult situations faced by those impacted by conflict and climate-related disasters such as Hurricane Fiona in Canada's Atlantic provinces and eastern Quebec and flooding in Pakistan.

"In all these emergency situations, the Red Cross contributes to health and wellness by providing shelter, warmth and support to people," says Sarah Sargent, the charity's vice-president, programs.

"As climate-related emergencies become more frequent and severe, new disease outbreaks threaten lives, and armed conflicts impact millions around the globe, Red Cross donors and supporters enable the charity's mission to help people and communities in Canada and internationally in times of need and support them in strengthening their resilience."

She says donors to the Red Cross have stepped up tremendously over the past year.

"They've stood beside us during the COVID-19 pandemic, contributed to the Red Cross helping more than five million people in Ukraine and surrounding countries, shipped thousands of supplies to Pakistan, and sheltered more than 1,200 people after Hurricane Fiona hit Atlantic Canada and eastern Quebec," says Ms. Sargent.

But emergencies don't end when they are no longer in the headlines, she adds. The Red Cross remains in affected areas for months or years to support recovery efforts.

More than five years after the Alberta wildfires in 2016, the organization remains a strong supporter in the province through its Community Partnerships Program and has implemented 62 projects related to emergency relief, community strengthening, safety and well-being, Indigenous programming and disaster risk reduction.

Along with emergency relief, when disaster strikes, the Red Cross also mobilizes its expertise. One



such initiative is its Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation programs that are activated to reduce vulnerability to disasters and increase capacity to anticipate, mitigate, prepare for, cope with and recover from natural hazards and shocks.

There is a movement to resilience planning that calls for support efforts to address and mitigate future risks and enable communities to adapt to climate change before disasters happen, says Ms. Sargent.

For the Red Cross, this is about supporting locally identified programs that address recovery needs while building on community capacity and strengths, she adds.

These programs include: household risk awareness and education campaigns such as Be Ready workshops; working with providers to arrange service continuity planning workshops to ensure at-risk populations can access services during emergencies; supporting under-resourced communities with disaster risk management planning; and helping those affected by a disaster



Top: Port aux Basques, Newfoundland. Hurricane Fiona left many homes in Port aux Basques damaged or destroyed with its ferocious storm surge and strong winds. Above: Charlottetown, P.E.I. A Red Cross emergency responder speaks with a person impacted by Hurricane Fiona who came to a Red Cross reception centre to register with Red Cross. TOP: BRIANNA ANGEL; ABOVE, SUPPLIED

with support to build back better.

With the theme of the holiday campaign focusing on cold-weather challenges, Ms. Sargent notes winter brings many safety risks, including high winds, poor visibility and slippery roads during blizzards and ice storms.

She says Canadians can be better prepared for the colder months by taking simple actions ahead of extreme weather events including listening to local news and weather reports for information on changing conditions, keeping warm clothing and blankets on hand in their cars and homes, and ensuring there is a working alternative heat source, such as a fireplace, wood burning stove or a generator in case their neighbourhood loses power.

Ms. Sargent says there are three steps to being well prepared for severe winter weather: Know the risks; Make a plan; and Build an emergency kit (learn more at redcross.ca/ready).

"We encourage everyone to be prepared and self-sufficient for 72 hours following an emergency. This allows local authorities to help those who require an emergency response," she says.

The Red Cross values the individual contributions that staff, volunteers and supporters make to ensure the charity is able to meet its humanitarian commitment, says Ms. Sargent, recalling the experience shared by volunteer Wajid Mughal.

After a devastating earthquake in Pakistan in 2005, Mr. Mughal was so inspired by the Canadian Red Cross's disaster response that he wanted to help others in their time of need. He came to Canada four years ago and joined the Canadian Red Cross and was deployed to support people affected by wildfires in northern Ontario, floods in Manitoba, an Ontario COVID-19 clinic, and most recently, supporting arrivals fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

The holiday campaign invites Canadians to make a financial donation to support the work of the Red Cross in communities across the country and around the world.

Information: redcross.ca

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Light a life

'We are all in this together'

Growing number of Canadians facing food insecurity turn to The Salvation Army to feed families

As last year's Christmas season approached, Shaylan Wall was feeling anything but festive. The 29-year-old single mother from Portage la Prairie, Man., was worried about how she would put food on the table for her and her six-year-old son, let alone gifts under a tree. She needed help.

Wall had a part-time job at a local fast-food restaurant, but finding childcare was difficult. She faced a difficult choice – turn down valuable income to stay home to look after her son or go to work and see her income eaten up by babysitting fees. Either way, her decision would leave her short on grocery money.

"We just didn't have enough," she says. "And what money I did have didn't go very far because the prices of everything had gone through the roof."

She recalled how her mother had turned to The Salvation Army for help when Wall was a child. She reached out to the organization, which provides assistance to more than 2.6 million Canadians each year.

Getting groceries through The Salvation Army was an easy process, according to Wall. In the first hamper she received just before Christmas, she found staples, like fresh meat, produce, milk, potatoes and onions. There was also a toy to wrap and give to her son. "Being without enough food caused me a lot of stress," she says. "Being provided with food gives me peace of mind. I can stretch my grocery money further."

Food insecurity and hunger has become an urgent issue for many Canadians, notes Lt-Colonel John P. Murray, territorial secretary for communications for The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda. "Across the country, we're witnessing how increased costs are impacting people's choices," he says. "Vulnerable people are having to decide between paying bills and skipping meals, and we're seeing growing demand for food-related assistance as a result."

Many people are still recovering from the impact of the pandemic. "Those hit hardest include families with children," explains Murray. "We've seen a 30-per-cent increase



The Salvation Army's Major Brenda Hammond (left) with single mom Shaylan Wall, who relies on the organization for monthly food hampers to get by. "There are a lot of people who are struggling," says Wall. "There should be no shame."

“Vulnerable people are having to decide between paying bills and skipping meals, and we're seeing growing demand for food-related assistance as a result.”

Lt-Colonel John P. Murray
Territorial secretary for communications,
The Salvation Army,
Canada and Bermuda

in families with children who need our help. And 31 per cent of the households we've served this year have needed our support for the first time ever. What's especially troubling is that our food bank services to children have increased by 27 per cent from the previous year."

And as the threat of a recession looms and inflation rates are at the highest in almost 40 years, many more families are likely to reach out to The Salvation Army this season.

The organization's new fundraising campaign, Her Only Meal, focuses on at-risk groups who face hardship this winter, especially women and children. "They make up the majority of food bank users in Canada," says Murray. "More than a third of food bank beneficiaries in this country are children."

The Salvation Army provides practical interventions for all. "We are there for anyone who comes to us, without discrimination," he explains. "We support everyone who needs our services based on our capacity to help."

That may involve meals, food banks, children's breakfast programs and housing supports, as well as care for women and children fleeing domestic violence. The organization

also provides yearly assistance to families at Christmas, such as food hampers and toys. "Now more than ever before, we're there for people who need us," he adds.

Last year, an upsurge in need meant an increase of 500,000 people who looked to The Salvation Army for assistance. It helped more people with food supports than at any other time in its history. And the need continues to grow. When Canadians choose to support the work of The Salvation Army (through SalvationArmy.ca or 1-800-SAL-ARMY), they're choosing to lend a hand to vulnerable people in their own communities.

Donations to Her Only Meal will support programming that provides food, clothing, gifts for kids and other necessities. "Having access to food supports can mean that a parent doesn't have to give up a meal so that their child can eat," says Murray. "It can mean that a senior

doesn't have to make the choice between paying her rent or eating properly that week. And we know that children who aren't facing hunger and food insecurity are better equipped to focus at school."

For people like Wall, who continues to get a monthly hamper from The Salvation Army, it has also meant finding a supportive community and knowing she's not alone in her struggles. Once a month, she meets up with others in a similar position to cook in the community kitchen of her local Salvation Army. The group prepares five different meals to take home, share stories and form new friendships.

"I think it helps put an end to the stigma associated with getting help," Wall says. "There are a lot of people who are struggling. There should be no shame. At The Salvation Army, I've always been treated with kindness and respect. It really shows we are all in this together."

HER ONLY MEAL TODAY COULD BE FROM YOU.



SalvationArmy.ca/ChristmasMeal
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Canuck Place helps families at the most difficult time of their lives

Support enables children with life-threatening illnesses and their families to live fully in the time they have left

Chris and Hollie Hall admit their first encounter with Canuck Place staff was “scary and confusing.” At the time, they were still hopeful that their 16-year-old daughter Lily would recover from the rare malignant brain tumour that required frequent hospital admissions for treatment.

“At first we were not happy to see Canuck Place staff because we knew they were from a hospice for children to go to die, and we had so much hope that Lily would recover,” says Ms. Hall.

But it soon became clear that Canuck Place was exactly the support the family needed to help them through the most difficult time of their lives, and they entered the pediatric palliative care program early in 2017.

The Halls describe Canuck Place as a unique facility because it takes care of the whole family from the point of diagnosis, through the progression of the child’s illness, to end-of-life care.

“We accessed Canuck Place for medical respite care for when we needed a break for a few days or went on a short trip away,” says Ms. Hall. “Recreation therapy was fantastic; it gave Lily and Chris an opportunity to go to see Canucks hockey games from right behind the net. When we used their respite services, we were all provided with exceptionally good care. We had a comfortable suite to stay in, delicious meals and a chance to relax. We know Lily was in excellent care.



Chris and Hollie Hall created many memories with their daughter Lily at Canuck Place. SUPPLIED

“It was a time for us as a family to laugh and feel connected – literally – at what really was an incredibly sad time.

Hollie Hall

She loved hanging out in the alcove watching TV and catching up with the nurses. We always felt special and well cared for when we stayed in-house.”

Chris Hall says Lily was a beautiful girl, exceptionally kind and caring. She loved animals, dancing and had a great sense of humour.

“Lily made a special connection with all the Canuck Place nurses but especially with Pip, Sandy, Jenny – and with Poppy the therapy dog,” he says. “Nurse Sandy, Camara and

Dr. Natasha made sure to check in with us at home a month before Lily passed away. We spent her last four days at Canuck Place so we could just be with her and not worry about having to think about administering her medication. We could just savour every moment with her. I will never forget how recreation therapist Laura made a special trip to buy Lily some bath bombs so she could have a nice bath.”

Making memories together is an important part of recreation therapy

at Canuck Place.

“Canuck Place recreation therapists Laura and Gillian came over to help us make our family hand mould. It was a time for us as a family to laugh and feel connected – literally – at what really was an incredibly sad time,” adds Ms. Hall. “We got to escape the reality that our daughter was dying and have a joyous time. We also got beautiful pendants made with Lily’s fingerprint and name engraved on the back. I wear mine always.”

Lily died on November 25, 2020, but Canuck Place continues to play a big role in the Halls’ lives.

“I talk to Canuck Place counsellor Andrea, who offers me grief counselling every one to two weeks, and we have just finished a Zoom bereavement group with other families run by Canuck Place counsellors,” says Ms. Hall.

The couple have applied to join the Canuck Place Family Advisory Committee, a volunteer council integral to supporting the organization in delivering the best-possible care to children and families across B.C.

They are also representing Canuck Place in this year’s Light a Life campaign, which runs from October 17 to December 31. Every gift will support children with life-threatening illnesses and their families to live fully during the time they have left.

For more information:
canuckplace.org

FAMILY MATTERS

How charitable giving can be a family affair

The William Osler Health System hospitals in Greater Toronto Area’s (GTA) Brampton and Etobicoke neighbourhoods hold a special place in the hearts of Bikram and Varinder Dhillon – their four children and nine grandchildren all were born at Osler’s hospitals.

Therefore, it came as no surprise when as a family, the Dhillons with their company, BVD Group, decided to donate \$10-million earlier this year to William Osler Health System Foundation.

“This community has given so much to my family, and this dona-

tion is the best way to give back,” said Mr. Dhillon, who moved to Canada more than 40 years ago and today serves as CEO of BVD Group. “We will all need health care, and there’s no better time to contribute – in whatever way we can – to help our hospitals.”

For Nicole McCahon, vice president, philanthropy of William Osler Health System Foundation, a significant aspect of the gift was that it was a joint decision by the whole Dhillon family, a trend in giving she wants to encourage.

“For many years, family giving

was thought of as donating through a family foundation, but it actually means something different,” she says. “It’s a form of philanthropy that enables families to pass along their shared beliefs and values.”

Ms. McCahon says family giving can take several forms, including volunteering, organizing third-party charitable events, attending charitable events and giving money through donations.

“More and more, families are coming together to make philanthropic decisions as a whole, rather than a unilateral decision by the patriarch or matriarch of the family,” she says. “Not only does this bring philanthropic conversations into family life, but it’s a way for a family to share a common vision.”

“

Some families have a personal tie to their giving, and some want to leave a lasting legacy for years to come. For others, it’s part of the fabric of their family unit or faith, while for families like the Dhillons it can incorporate all these reasons and more.

Nicole McCahon

Vice President, Philanthropy,
William Osler Health System
Foundation



Family giving also helps entrench philanthropy over multiple generations and draws families closer together, adds Ms. McCahon, pointing to research by Fidelity Charitable, a U.S. public charity, that shows 45 per cent of people who grew up in families with strong giving traditions continue to give back in some way.

Ms. McCahon says there’s no one reason why families give back to charities.

“Some families have a personal tie to their giving, and some want to leave a lasting legacy for years to come. For others, it’s part of the fabric of their family unit or faith, while for families like the Dhillons it can incorporate all these reasons and more. They have also experienced first hand the impact of quality health care close to home and appreciate the courage and the character of the people who helped support their family members,” says Ms. McCahon.

“Not only does their gift tell our community members that their family stands with the families across our region, but it also tells our 7,000-plus health-care workers that they do not walk alone.”

Information: oslerfoundation.org

FOR CANCER SURVIVORS AND CAREGIVERS, COVID-19 STILL POSES A SERIOUS RISK

CCSN is working with policymakers across Canada to make sure cancer survivors have a seat at the table to make sure adequate cancer care continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Canadian Cancer Survivor Network will work to ensure that:

Patients and survivors will easily access tools to understand decision making processes for positive change on issues critical to optimal patient care.

Patients and survivors will be supported to make a difference through working with others to take action on those issues.

Patients and survivors will obtain current knowledge about cancer treatment, options, and outcomes and be able to work together to end disparities in patient care and treatment.

A network of patients, survivors, friends, families, community partners and sponsors will work together taking action to promote the very best standard of care, support, follow up and quality of life for patients and survivors.



The Canadian Cancer Survivor Network, as the name implies, is a connecting place for cancer patients, survivors and caregivers to learn about the complexities of our healthcare system, connect with others to plan action, and act on those plans to promote better care and healthier survivorship.

613-898-1871

survivornet.ca

Together, we're creating change.

Thanks to its generous donors, the Douglas College Foundation has raised more than \$140,000 to create new awards dedicated to Indigenous and immigrant students to help remove financial barriers to their education.

To learn more about the impact of the campaign, visit douglascollege.ca/spring-campaign



DOUGLAS COLLEGE
Foundation

Cancer centres unite to revolutionize treatments

Accelerating the role of precision medicine in the fight against cancer

The Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network will accelerate the role of precision medicine in the fight against the disease.

With cancer stubbornly remaining as the leading cause of death for Canadians, the Terry Fox Foundation is super-charging the fight against the disease by uniting world-leading research teams at cancer centres across the country to revolutionize cancer treatments.

The Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network (MOHCCN) is a cutting-edge collaboration between the country's top cancer hospitals and universities to accelerate the role of precision medicine in the fight against the disease.

Facilitated by the Terry Fox Research Institute, the network includes support from the Government of Canada and fundraising and

research partners across the country.

Michael Rossi, chair of the Terry Fox Foundation board of directors, says the organization is uniquely positioned to lead the initiative.

"It is the type of innovation and creativity we need to beat cancer and presents a significant investment opportunity to unify the scientific community and create a powerful tool for all research moving forward," he says.

Mr. Rossi says transformational gifts will help to fast-track the project.

"With the federal government matching donations up to \$150-million over five years, it is incumbent on us to leverage and maximize that support to get the most impact for Canadians."

Dr. André Veillette, the network's executive director, director of the

Molecular Oncology Research Unit at the Montreal Clinical Research Institute and a professor of medicine at the University of Montreal, is excited at the prospect of developing more effective and personalized treatments for patients.

"It's fantastic to see the country's top oncologists on the same page – they support the MOHCCN philosophy and share the commitment," he says.

Currently no one hospital or health-care system has enough datasets to drive the next generation

of discoveries and innovation, says Dr. Veillette.

"Canada is a big country, but it does not have a big population – gathering data that reflects a very diverse population will be an extremely powerful research tool for improving the health of all Canadians in the future," he says.

Whether you live in a big city or a small town, cancer patients will benefit from the learnings of scientists and doctors at hospitals across Canada, says Mr. Rossi.

"Our dream is for patients to receive

the right cancer treatment at the right time based on their unique, individual needs," he adds.

"Terry's vision was a world without cancer, and this is a huge step towards that vision – being able to do something in Canada that has never been done before and that will deliver better results and outcomes for patients inspires everyone connected with the MOHCCN campaign."

More information:
marathonofhopecancercentres.ca



Terry Fox's dream to see a world without cancer continues as world-leading research teams at cancer centres across Canada unite to revolutionize treatments. **CANADIAN PRESS**

TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Fundraising goal reached for new hospital – new focus on equipment

The Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital Foundation's (PECMHF) Back the Build campaign for a new hospital in Prince Edward County (PEC), Ontario, has surpassed its original fundraising goal – but the campaign isn't done yet.

As plans to build a new hospital progress, PECMHF has raised more than \$20.7-million to support the biggest transformation in the local health-care system since the first hospital opened in the area in 1919.

The \$20.7-million covers the local share of the hospital build, set out by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). This funding requirement includes 10 per cent of the hard construction costs for the new hospital.

With the fulfilment of the local share requirement, PECMHF will now focus its efforts on the major equipment needed by the hospital and raise \$6-million over the next five years.

The \$6-million raised will equip PEC's new hospital with medical equipment devices like a computerized tomography (CT) scanner, digital mammography equipment and a new digital radiography machine. Funds will also support environmen-



Work is scheduled to start on the new hospital to be built in Prince Edward County, Ontario, in 2023. **SUPPLIED**

tal sustainability enhancements and smart technology initiatives, says PECMHF's executive director, Shannon Coull.

The current hospital – which serves 40,000 patient visits a year – is more than 60 years old and is too small to accommodate the county's growing population.

"Our caregivers continue to provide exceptional care for patients and their families, but the aging facility is a challenging environment to work in," she says. "Between now

and 2027, our goal is to raise enough money to ensure we have the medical equipment needed for our new hospital."

With construction targeted to begin spring 2023, Ms. Coull says the project partners are positioned to build a hospital that could be the first of its kind in North America and will continue the legacy of providing exceptional care, close to home.

Information: backthebuild.ca

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The global food crisis and its impact on vulnerable children

Compassion Canada partners with local churches to fight global poverty

In Ghana, Raphael's parents skip meals so that he and his siblings can eat twice a day. In Katamoja, Uganda, "lucky families" eat once a day, and in Brazil, the only meal Gabriely could rely on was lunch at school.

This is the reality for families struggling during the global food crisis – the collision of war, inflation, extreme weather and the pandemic, resulting in 345 million people around the world facing food insecurity, according to the United Nations.

"As a result of the various geopolitical, social, economic and environmental realities, we are seeing rates of hunger and malnutrition rise quickly, creating the largest food crisis in history and the risk of mass starvation," says Allison Alley, president and CEO at Compassion Canada.

Children living in poverty are the most vulnerable. As kids go hungry, malnutrition can cause significant developmental setbacks that last into adulthood. Nearly 200 million children were already experiencing malnutrition in 2020, but now, the numbers are on the rise again, says Ms. Alley.

As Palamanga Ouali, vice president, Africa Region, Compassion International, says, "To thrive, children and youth must first have access to the basics of life. There is nothing more basic than food."

Ms. Alley agrees and adds the physical impacts of malnutrition – stunted growth, chronic health conditions, vulnerability to diseases and developmental delays that hamper education and subsequent earning potential – have serious consequences.

"But beyond the physical and developmental realities of malnutrition, we're also concerned that in times of scarcity, women and children are at an extreme risk of exploitation and abuse. Girls are being offered in child marriage in exchange for dowries so families can feed themselves, and there's the danger of child labour increasing as food becomes more expensive," she says.

This place of desperation is where Compassion's local church partners are connecting with hungry children and families. These "first responders" are trained to identify malnutrition and hunger in their communities and take immediate action to address it. In the short term, they are halting food insecurity by delivering food packs (full of essentials, such as rice, beans, flour and oil) and completing cash transfers, giving



“We are in the business of life transformation and ending the generational cycle of poverty to help kids grow up to be adults who change communities and nations in time.”

Allison Alley
President and CEO at
Compassion Canada

hungry families the freedom to purchase supplies and cover basic expenses.

Compassion's interventions and programs are different in every community and range from relief and resiliency efforts to long-term development initiatives.

"Compassion is a long-term, locally led holistic development organization. We know that you can't develop kids, families and communities in the long-term without prioritizing relief and resiliency activities in the short-term. So, when it comes specifically to the food crisis, some of our long-term solutions that complement the relief efforts include equipping families to grow their own food by providing resources like livestock, seeds and training," says Ms. Alley.

The organization currently partners with more than 8,500 local churches around the world who are embedded in their areas and know the communities' needs. Whenever possible, food is purchased in the area to sustain local economies, but if local markets are not feasible, Compassion's national offices work to find the best and closest source for necessary relief.

Clockwise from top left: Amoresia, a Compassion-assisted child in Southwest Sumba, Indonesia, was malnourished because of poverty. Compassion's program enabled these children to survive and be healthier than ever, as they received not only groceries but ready-to-eat meals three times a day to ensure their nutritional needs were met; Alirio (left) in Colombia, looks through the food basket he received from Compassion with his friends; Flora, a Compassion-assisted child in Malindi, Kenya, an area impacted by food insecurity; Verence, who lives in a rural community in El Salvador, receives a food kit from her Compassion centre – her family was running out of food after three tropical storms recently hit the country; Martin Byaruhanga, an alumni of Compassion's program in Uganda now lives in Fort McMurray, Alberta, working for the municipality in its culture and social development department. **SUPPLIED**

"One of the things that we find so effective about this model is that these church partners were there before a crisis hits, whether it's a global pandemic or food crisis. And they'll be there long after because they're planted and rooted in these communities," says Ms. Alley.

The charity also implements income generation programs for caregivers, including small business investments and skills training in addition to long-term child-development efforts, which includes investing in education and training and health interventions such as medical care and disease prevention.

"Another large focus is community development interventions to ensure that kids have systems and structures in which to thrive in the long run. That includes things like clean water and sanitation, solar panel and energy investments and home reconstruction," says Ms. Alley. "We are in the business of life transformation and ending the generational cycle of poverty to help kids grow up to be adults who change communities and nations in time. It's not just short-term, it's long-term, and it's not just one person, but it is how that person then grows up to impact the lives and communities around them."

One example is Martin Byaruhanga, who grew up as a sponsored child in Uganda. He says Compassion planted a seed of servant leadership in him.

"Today he works in community and social development in northern

Alberta, and he is investing in the lives of his neighbours there," says Ms. Alley.

She notes that the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted the poorest and most vulnerable.

"While we are starting to come out of the pandemic here in Canada and in other resourced and high-income economies, that's not yet the reality in low-income economies, where there are still waves of COVID-19," she says.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Compassion's church partners have delivered more than 23 million food packs to hungry families in their communities.

There are many ways to support Compassion's work. Individuals can donate to food security targeted responses (for example, a one-time gift of \$100 buys food packs, which will feed a family of four to six for one month). They can also sponsor a child to support his or her long-term growth and development. The organization also partners with donors, churches, businesses and foundations to fund longer-term relief and development projects that transform entire communities.

Ms. Alley says the majority of the organization's funding comes from individuals – about 90,000 Canadians are individual Compassion partners. The charity also partners with educational institutions, businesses, foundations and corporations.

Information: [compassion.ca](https://www.compassion.ca)



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BY THE NUMBERS

Over the last 70 years, Compassion revolutionized the fight against global poverty by partnering with local churches to lift children out of spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty. Compassion supports relief and resiliency efforts and is present with communities both when disaster strikes and for the long term. This is a snapshot of the charity's impact.

8,500+

local church partners embedded in communities who know the needs of children and families

23 million+

food packs delivered to hungry families in their communities since the beginning of the pandemic

2 million+

infants, children and youth served in areas of extreme poverty through Compassion's proven child development model

13 million+

hygiene kits distributed to families since the beginning of the pandemic

480,000+

cash transfers delivered to families in need since the beginning of the pandemic

27 countries

where Compassion helps children and communities overcome generational poverty

90,000

Canadians who are individual Compassion partners

Source: *Compassion Canada's Fiscal 2022 Annual Report*

Generosity powers kidney research

Research and new treatments transform outcomes for kidney patients

Kidney transplants and dialysis are life-changing interventions with a relatively short history. Canada's first successful kidney transplant took place in 1958, and hemodialysis treatments for Canadians began in 1962. Nevertheless, advances in research and medical science continue to improve the quality – and life expectancy – of Canadians with kidney disease.

"A diagnosis of kidney failure once meant little chance of survival. But decades of powerful donor support have fuelled research breakthroughs and treatment innovations that have transformed outcomes for kidney patients," says Elizabeth Myles, national executive director of The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

For nearly 60 years The Kidney Foundation of Canada has focused

on its vision to support research that improves outcomes for the more than 4 million people living with kidney disease, while also searching for a cure.

Dr. Rita Suri, a scientist at McGill University Health Centre's Research Institute, director of the McGill Division of Nephrology and a member of The Kidney Foundation's research council, says over the last few

decades significant research has focused on improving treatments for kidney failure. "We've developed new medications, therapies and programs to support patients with their quality of life," she says, adding innovative research now has patients participate in the design of the studies to ensure their perspective is included.

Reducing symptoms as well as increasing autonomy and having patients control their own schedule by enabling them to manage their own dialysis treatments at home is a huge advance in improving their quality of life, she says.

Other major advancements are preventative therapies that aim to delay the progression of kidney disease and reduce cardiovascular complications, says Dr. Suri. "This means if you do have chronic kidney disease, your life expectancy can be improved and you don't end up on dialysis as quickly," she says adding there is much research focused on conservative kidney management options – ways to improve quality of life for those patients with kidney disease who do not want dialysis.

Major advances in kidney transplantation have improved life expectancy for patients with end-stage kidney disease, says Dr. Suri. "We are now able to accept a wider range of deceased kidney donors and offer more patients a kidney transplant due to better therapies and monitoring," she says. She stresses it is important to also increase public awareness of living kidney donation. "Healthy people only need one kidney."

The generosity of philanthropic donors plays a crucial role in funding these initiatives, says Dr. Suri, who, in addition to her work as a researcher, also volunteers as an organizer of The Kidney Foundation's annual golf tournament in Montreal.

"Finding a cure for kidney disease is a driving force with our work," adds Ms. Myles. "The Kidney Foundation is funding 95 research projects and 437 researchers, investigating 21 research areas from dialysis to diabetic kidney disease. Canadians' generosity powers the research that can one day create a world without kidney disease."

[More information: kidney.ca](https://www.kidney.ca)

TIME FOR CREATIVITY AND BOLD IDEAS



Kim Fuller, founder and CEO of Phil, says the charitable and nonprofit sector needs systemic and structural changes to enable it to significantly improve the outcomes both for people who count on it for support, and for those who work in the sector. SUPPLIED

While the charitable and nonprofit sector generates more than eight per cent of Canada's gross domestic product (an estimated \$192-billion) and employs more than two million people, it has no government representative to champion its work as it faces enormous challenges emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our charitable sector requires strong, unified leadership to address the many concerns, negative trends and inequalities. The status quo is failing those in need," says Kim Fuller, founder and CEO of Phil, a company that supports nonprofits, charities and foundations to strengthen their relationships with funders.

Ms. Fuller works with not-for-profit

organizations and social enterprises to transform and propel all aspects of their operations, from strategic planning to effective fundraising, to the benefit of Canadians across the country. She questions why there is still no federal government minister or national entity – such as the Canadian Bar Association for the legal profession – to advocate for a sector that is bigger than the country's high-profile oil and gas industry.

As a consequence of the pandemic, she predicts that the next few years will be especially tough, but believes in the strength of ambitious organizations. "There is still a lot to recover from. So many organizations are having to rethink their missions and how they operate. Now is the time for

creativity and bold ideas that will rally those looking to shape a better future for all," says Ms. Fuller. "Our clients are seeing an increase in demand from people counting on support from charities and social services to survive. How can we work together to address the biggest issues [that result from] a decrease in funding?"

Mainstream funders and grant makers are reluctant to support charities' operational costs, which is exacerbating the industry-wide challenge of recruiting, retaining and adequately compensating staff. "Most funders want to focus on programs and services, but not-for-profits need to better remunerate their staff, have a roof over their heads and keep the lights on. The lack of funding for capacity-building is my biggest heart-ache," says the industry veteran.

"I have had donors tell me they will not give to charities if the administration overhead is more than 12 per cent. This is not how one should judge the credibility of an organization – it is one data point among many others," she says. "We need to work on trust. Charities don't get enough credit in how they manage unrestricted funds and allocate the money. Above all, we need systemic and structural changes if we hope to significantly improve the outcomes for those who count on and for those who work in the charitable sector."

[More information: phil.ca](https://www.phil.ca)



Left: Research breakthroughs and treatment innovations have transformed outcomes for kidney patients. Right: In addition to her work as a researcher, Dr. Rita Suri also volunteers as an organizer of The Kidney Foundation's annual golf tournament in Montreal. LEFT: ISTOCK.COM; RIGHT: CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

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Education unlocks children's power to achieve their dreams

Learning to read and write helps children understand their rights and advocate for themselves

Children in vulnerable communities in Africa, Asia and the Americas have big dreams, but they face many barriers to achieving their aspirations. Poverty, malnutrition, harmful traditions, armed conflict and gender inequality are just some of the obstacles in the way of accessing education, preventing them from reaching their full potential.

"Inside or outside of the classroom, learning is the most powerful tool children have to change their world," says Fred Witteveen, CEO of Children Believe, an Ontario-based charity that works globally to help children help themselves through access to education. As a member of ChildFund Alliance, Children Believe is part of a global network of child-focused development organizations working to create opportunities for nearly 23 million children and their families in 70 countries.

"Education can change the trajectory of the life of a child. When children have access to education, especially quality education, it can make a real difference in helping them reach their dreams and become leaders within their own communities," he says.

"I've witnessed the power that education can have. Learning to read and write helps children understand their rights and advocate for themselves."

Dr. Belinda Bennet, Children Believe's chief international programs officer, agrees it is essential for children to know how, and who, to ask for help.

"We had a big campaign in India to stop child marriage. We encouraged children to talk to their teachers (who in turn inform authorities) or call a hotline we provided if they were aware of a young girl being forced to marry," she says.

"Girls with no education are three times more likely to marry before age 18 than girls who attend secondary school or higher," says Dr. Bennet. "If a young girl is being forced into marriage, the organization works with the parents to try to ensure she stays in school and delays having children herself," she adds, noting there has been success in this area of their work.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic when schools closed, children in vulnerable circumstances were greatly disadvantaged, and the digital divide became even more pronounced," says Dr. Bennet. While many children in resource-rich countries were able to switch to online learning, that option was not available in lower-income communities. Even if



Top: Fred Witteveen, CEO, Children Believe, met with children in a Children Believe supported classroom in a community in Burkina Faso in May. Above: Dr. Belinda Bennet, Children Believe's chief international programs officer. SUPPLIED

a family was able to acquire a smartphone, it was difficult to give each child enough access, she says, and connectivity was often challenging.

In addition to the benefits of the digital world, it quickly became apparent that children needed to be protected from online dangers, such as trafficking and sexual abuse, says Dr. Bennet.

In Burkina Faso, Ghana and India, Generation Global, a collaborative program of Children Believe and the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, addresses the need for

digital learning while providing a safe online space. Teens learn core dialogue skills – global communication, active listening, critical thinking, questioning and reflection – and participate in video conferences to practise these skills. The digital platform creates opportunities for them to explore and understand current global issues, such as climate change, the rights of women and girls, and action against hate speech.

While Children Believe works with communities to improve access to quality education – like building

classrooms, providing training for teachers and even obtaining birth certificates for children in some countries so they can register for school – its most powerful allies are children themselves.

Children who have been educated and go on to fulfill their dreams and get jobs that enable them to help support their families, play an important part in showcasing the value of staying in school.

Dr. Bennet shares an example in Ghana where a group of educated young people established a forum where they meet and support one another, and also act as role models in the community, pointing out the choices they could make because they have an education.

Mr. Witteveen describes a Cana-

dian government-funded project in Nicaragua called Preventing Irregular Child Migration in Central America. As a result of improved education, and access to life and vocational skills, young people were able to secure livelihoods in their country rather than being forced to migrate for opportunities.

He adds that the work of Children Believe wouldn't be possible without the generous support of Canadian sponsors and donors.

One of the ways to support Children Believe is to become a child sponsor or give the gift of education through the Children Believe's Gifts for Good catalogue.

Information: childrenbelieve.ca



The CCSN created a 10-module Science of Cancer e-course to prepare cancer patients, caregivers, survivors and others to sit on committees, boards and peer review research panels. ISTOCK.COM

CANCER PATIENTS AND THE PANDEMIC

CCSN gives cancer patients, caregivers and survivors a voice that must be heard

"Across Canada, we have all witnessed the physical, psychological and financial impact of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic," says Jackie Manthorne, president and CEO of the Canadian Cancer Survivor Network (CCSN). "For those Canadians facing cancer, the impact is even greater."

To gauge the impact of the disruption of cancer care during the pandemic, CCSN – a public policy organization that works to improve patient access to care – commissioned Cancer Can't Wait, a series of surveys conducted by Léger, to determine how cancer patients and caregivers from coast to coast are coping with the pandemic as it enters its third year.

"The fourth survey results [released in July 2022] tell us that many cancer patients and caregivers still believe that COVID-19 poses a serious risk for them, and that they feel the weight of responsibility for keeping themselves and their loved ones safe," she says.

According to the survey's findings, availability of health care remains a significant concern. Fifty-five per cent of respondents worry whether they will receive care in a timely fashion. Half of all respondents said they are not comfortable visiting a hospital because they feel the risk of getting COVID-19 is too high.

Ms. Manthorne believes CCSN is the only cancer organization that has commissioned professional surveys about cancer care disruption during the pandemic and says they play a

key role in CCSN's mandate to raise awareness of issues that impact cancer care.

Another CCSN initiative is the creation of All-party Cancer Caucuses in Ontario and Alberta, and the network is currently creating new caucuses in British Columbia and Nova Scotia. These caucuses bring together CCSN, legislators and staff, and patients, caregivers and survivors to discuss current problems faced by cancer patients, says Ms. Manthorne. Previous topics included gaps in rehabilitative services for cancer survivors, with current topics to include lung cancer screening and the impact of COVID-19 on cancer care since the pandemic began.

Recently, CCSN also created a 10-module Science of Cancer e-course available free of charge to anyone wanting to learn more about cancer. The main purpose of this course is to prepare cancer patients, caregivers, survivors and others to sit on committees, boards and peer review research panels.

"Patients deserve to have a seat at the table – they are the experts as they have been on a personal cancer journey," she says.

CCSN depends on individual and corporate donors to fund its work in identifying and then working to resolve problems that result in cancer patients not receiving optimal care.

"We give cancer patients, caregivers and survivors a voice that must be heard in any attempt to improve our health care and cancer care systems," says Ms. Manthorne.

Information: survivornet.ca

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Building the skills and capacity of social purpose organizations

Government funding aims to benefit diverse and underserved organizations

Building on the success of a pilot program that ran from 2019 to 2021, the Government of Canada has allocated another \$50-million to its Investment Readiness Program to help build the skills and capacity of social purpose organizations (SPOs) such as social enterprises, non-profits, charities and co-operatives that are at the forefront of tackling Canada's persistent social challenges and climate crisis.

Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, says the government sees great potential in growing social innovation in Canadian communities.

"More Canadian organizations and businesses are offering smart solutions to reduce poverty, reach social equality and fight climate change," she says. "The Investment Readiness Program will help them scale up and become investment-ready, so that they can create impacts for Canadians for years to come."

The funding will enable selected organizations to build capacity and

“When the return on an investment is greater equity, well-being, justice and economic prosperity for all, it's always a smart investment to make.

Paulette Senior
President and CEO,
Canadian Women's
Foundation

get ready to access social finance opportunities through activities such as market analyses, building business plans, developing new services and products, and acquiring technical expertise, thereby

strengthening their operational capabilities.

The Investment Readiness Program aims to benefit diverse and underserved SPOs, including those led by or serving Indigenous

peoples, black Canadians and other racialized communities, women, official language minority communities, people living with disabilities and other equity-deserving groups.

Paulette Senior, president and CEO, Canadian Women's Foundation, says the renewed investment is welcome news at a critical time.

"Social purpose organizations led by diverse women and Two-Spirit, trans and non-binary people are doing impactful work," she says. "They're innovating to address major social and environmental concerns in Canada today, and these funds will help them keep moving forward. When the return on an investment is greater equity, well-being, justice and economic prosperity for all, it's always a smart investment to make."

There are an estimated 170,000 charitable and public benefit nonprofit organizations and 25,000 social enterprises across Canada, according to Statistics Canada. They are all part of the Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy ecosystem.

The nonprofit sector plays a significant role in supporting women, who represent about 77 per cent of this sector's workforce.

Andrea Dicks, president, Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), says Canada's social purpose organizations continue to uplift and support their communities following the pandemic.

"The Investment Readiness Program supports their purposeful ventures while growing Canada's social finance market," she says. "At CFC, we are thrilled to once again be part of this program through this new funding opportunity. We look forward to working alongside community foundations to support the incredible efforts of social purpose organizations."

Jocelyn Formsmma, executive director, National Association of Friendship Centres, says her organization supported Friendship Centres in developing, starting and growing their social enterprises in the first years of the Investment Readiness Program, and is eager to continue and expand that work to other urban Indigenous SPOs across Canada.

"Urban Indigenous community organizations are leaders in the social economy, and we hope to facilitate the growth of these institutions and the collective intergenerational wealth of urban Indigenous communities," says Ms. Formsmma.



Top: Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, recently announced 26 partner organizations that will collectively deliver the \$50-million renewed Investment Readiness Program. Above: The nonprofit sector plays a significant role in supporting women, who represent about 77 per cent of this sector's workforce, according to Employment and Social Development Canada. TOP: SUPPLIED; ABOVE: ISTOCK.COM



SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS AND IMMIGRANT STUDENTS

New bursaries are a critical step toward removing barriers for under-represented groups

While Douglas College has one of the most diverse student populations in British Columbia, a recent review of the post-secondary institution's awards, bursaries and scholarships identified a gap in financial aid and motivated the creation of a campaign to raise funds to better support Indigenous and immigrant students.

The Douglas College Foundation's Campaign for Indigenous and Immigrant Student Awards raised \$140,000, a record amount for the organization. The funds will support 10 bursaries of \$7,000 each, plus two endowed bursaries in perpetuity.

Cheryl Bosley, director of philanthropy for Douglas College Foundation, explains that these bursaries are a critical step in the college's commitment to remove barriers and level the playing field for under-represented groups.

"The campaign aligned with Douglas College's Indigenization strategy that focuses on deepening relationships with local First Nations communities in ways that serve their interests and needs," says Ms. Bosley, adding the initiative also responds to the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action – specifically to close gaps in education and equity for young Indigenous people.

The foundation's team introduced several new tactics to drive the campaign, says Ms. Bosley. For the first time, alumni were encouraged to participate in a fundraising effort, and the foundation secured a corporate sponsor, TD Bank, to match donations from these past students up to \$10,000.

"We already had the college's commitment to match gifts to the campaign, so TD Bank's additional support tripled every donation," says Theresa Blancaflor, the foundation's manager of philanthropy.

Fundraisers also reached out to other corporate donors, receiving additional support from the Bank of Montreal and London Drugs. Support was also provided from the Joseph Segal Family Foundation.

"One of the challenges facing potential funders is deciding where to direct funds when there are so many organizations that deserve support, particularly given the current economic realities in Canada," says Ms. Bosley.

"We believe those organizations that partnered with us did so be-

cause the campaign reflected their values of inclusivity and equity combined with their focus of supporting education and learning," she says. "London Drugs gave us this inspirational feedback: 'We believe in funding the future, and supporting education is key to creating a future all young Canadians deserve.'"

The final donation of \$6,500 came from the Douglas Students' Union, enabling the campaign to meet its goal. It came with a message: "Decades of struggle to enroll more students from marginalized communities in post-secondary education indicates that we are still a long way from equalizing access to education for all. Our hope is that this gift to the campaign encourages students to enjoy the journey rather than be concerned about the barriers."

While the terms of reference for the bursaries are still being finalized, Ms. Blancaflor says recipients of the awards in the identified groups will be full-time students at Douglas College with a demonstrated financial need.

"There will be no restrictions on what the students choose to study; we want to make the bursaries as accessible as possible," she says.

After celebrating the success of the Campaign for Indigenous and Immigrant Student Awards, the foundation is ready to launch its fall campaign. After consulting with stakeholders and researching the job market, the new campaign will focus on supporting veterinary technology students.

"The veterinary sector is in crisis with a lack of qualified veterinary professionals and steep increases in demand for services. While this puts animals at risk, it also adds to the stress of people working in the sector and adversely impacts the mental well-being of these professionals," says Ms. Blancaflor, pointing out that Douglas College is one of only two post-secondary institutions in British Columbia that offer a recognized veterinary technology program.

The initiative is intended to support three bursaries (in perpetuity) for veterinary technology students enrolled at Douglas College.

More information:
douglascollege.ca/strengthen-pathways



Doyin Agbaje (Bachelor of Business Administration in Management), one of the many graduates who have benefited from awards made available through donor support. SUPPLIED

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Shift to remove restrictions on grants in the charitable sector

Funders are rethinking the costs of running a charity and how to evaluate the impact of that work

Many Canadian charities face an ongoing "starvation cycle" due to funders stipulating that their donations be applied only to programs and not operational costs, such as salaries, technology and administration – commonly called "restricted funding."

But a report earlier this year by Imagine Canada, an organization that helps to strengthen charities, nonprofits and social entrepreneurs, showed attitudes may be changing. The report, *Trust & Impact: Funders' Perspective on Unrestricted Funding in Canada*, notes that research from Philanthropic Foundations Canada found that through November 2020, 56 per cent of surveyed funders removed restrictions on existing grants.

The shift is partly attributed to more funders rethinking the real costs of running an organization that delivers projects and programs, and how to evaluate the impact of that work.

The report's author, Steven Ayer, president of Kitchener, Ontario-based Common Good Strategies, says many funders have traditionally shied away from unrestricted funding because they perceived administration/overhead costs as separate from the projects and programs that nonprofits were implementing, and therefore less worthy of support.

The past two years have caused people to rethink practices in the charitable sector and across society more broadly. In rapid succession, policies and practices that had resisted change for decades were suddenly on the table, and the ways in which funders quickly increased unrestricted funding while reducing administrative burdens on charities was one of the most striking examples, says Mr. Ayer.

"The shift away from unrestricted funding has been occurring for decades as funders tried to invest in projects and programs but not organizations as a strategy to maximize impact. But then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and many organizations that funded nonprofits realized



Funders have a greater appreciation that to achieve their mission, nonprofits need funding for organizational health and resilience, says Steven Ayer, author of Imagine Canada's report, *Trust & Impact: Funders' Perspective on Unrestricted Funding in Canada*. [ISTOCK.COM](#)

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The shift away from unrestricted funding has been occurring for decades as funders tried to invest in projects and programs but not organizations as a strategy to maximize impact.

Steven Ayer
President, Common Good Strategies



the folks they were funding were significantly hampered in their responses by not having sufficient infrastructure, reserve funding or the technology to go remote," he says. "That meant activities that weren't typically funded became absolutely critical to respond to the pandemic."

Funders have a greater appreciation that in order to achieve their mission, nonprofits need funding for organizational health and resilience, including funding for staff salaries and benefits, and technology, so that organizations are well equipped to carry out their work, adds Mr. Ayer.

The Imagine Canada report was based on interviews with 25 major donors across the country in January and February this year with the aim of better understanding the attitude of Canadian funders.

The interviews revealed that many funders are trying to be less restrictive in their funding, with practices ranging from reduced burden for applications, to longer funding terms, to giving nonprofits more flexibility

in using funds, to explicitly investing in administrative costs and capacity building for nonprofits.

Many viewed the outcomes of these shifts towards unrestricted funding as effective and were looking to build these changes into their strategies going forward.

Still, while many funders are trying to be less restrictive with their funding, every funder interviewed, even those most committed to unrestricted funding, did have at least a small component of project funding.

Funders who expressed the need for more unrestricted and flexible funding still indicated that there are some limited circumstances where project funding makes the most sense, even if it is a small component of their giving portfolio.

The report concludes that it is still too early to tell whether the shift toward unrestricted funding will be maintained in the future. Many of the funders interviewed signalled their intention to do so, but as the interviewees noted, funders are sometimes prone to oscillate

between new approaches, and this itself is a barrier to building trust between funders and fundees.

Mr. Ayer says while some funders may see unrestricted funding as short-term until "things get back to normal," others could build it into their longer-term strategic impact goals.

"As funders look at what the organizations they fund have been able to accomplish with unrestricted funding that they wouldn't otherwise have been able to accomplish and figure out how that fits into their long-term strategy, that's what's going to change this from a flash in the pan to something that's quite enduring and that has an opportunity to be an increasingly significant part of organizational strategy going forward," he says.

Ultimately, Mr. Ayer adds, unrestricted funding is important for nonprofits and charities to rebuild their financial capacity, continue to invest in critical infrastructure that will allow them to be more effective, and to effectively plan for the future.

DEMENTIA NUMBERS SOUND THE ALARM

Increased supports from all levels of government could reduce the number of Canadians who will develop dementia

More than a million Canadians are forecast to be living with dementia by 2030, with that number expected to increase to 1.7 million by 2050.

These are some of the key findings of *Navigating the Path Forward for Dementia in Canada*, the first of three volumes of the new Landmark Study series released recently by the Alzheimer Society of Canada. The report represents the first significant update of Canada's dementia landscape since the Alzheimer Society released its *Rising Tide* report in 2010.

"While the figures in the report should sound alarm bells across the country, there is still hope that solutions can be found to support Canadians living with dementia and those caring for them," says Kevin Noel, interim CEO of the Alzheimer Society of Canada. "This is why the society is committed to educating Canadians about the steps they can take to reduce their risk of dementia and encouraging governments at all levels to invest more in dementia research and support programs."

The report's author, Dr. Joshua J. Armstrong, a scientist with the society, says the study also demonstrates the power of risk reduction.

"With effective mitigation efforts on the parts of individuals, combined with increased supports from all levels of government, the potential exists to drastically reduce the number of Canadians who will develop dementia in the next three decades," says Dr. Armstrong. "This would have a positive impact on our health-care system and on the family members and care partners of people living with dementia."

The Alzheimer Society is the leading Canadian funder of research into better understanding the causes of dementia, improving treatment and care, and toward finding potential cures for dementias, says Mr. Noel.

"Philanthropy helps to fund solutions that will help us one day defeat dementia, as well as providing help



The Alzheimer Society of Canada says it could not support people living with dementia and caregivers across the country if it were not for the generosity of the organization's donors and partners. [ISTOCK.COM](#)

“
At the heart of everything we do are the experiences of people living with dementia and caregivers, many of whom are inspired to give to the Alzheimer Society of Canada as they have been personally touched by dementia and want to support others in their dementia journey.

Kevin Noel
Interim CEO of the Alzheimer Society of Canada



to those who are living with dementia today," he says.

Living with dementia often means enduring many years of deteriorating quality of life as dementia impacts physical, mental and emotional health. Being a caregiver for someone with dementia also puts tremendous strain on individuals and families, adds Mr. Noel.

By giving to the Alzheimer Society, donors are funding: innovative research that focuses on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment of dementia, as well as improving the quality of life of people living with dementia; support, community and guidance to people living with dementia and caregivers; and advocacy work at all levels of government.

"At the heart of everything we do are the experiences of people living with dementia and caregivers, many of whom are inspired to give to the Alzheimer Society of Canada as they have been personally touched by dementia and want to support others in their dementia journey," says Mr. Noel.

The IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's is Canada's largest event focused on fundraising for dementia, says Mr. Noel, adding the proceeds go directly to supporting programs and services for people living with dementia and caregivers at Alzheimer Societies across the country.

In 2022, this annual event raised more than \$5.7-million. Registration for the next walk will open in early spring 2023.

Information: [alzheimer.ca](#)

TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT FOR CANCER CARE AT THE QEII HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

The QEII Foundation's We Are campaign recently received a major boost from the MacDonald family to help transform cancer care at the QEII Health Sciences Centre in Halifax, N.S., the specialized referral centre for the Atlantic provinces.

In honour of their late parents, Colin and Belle MacDonald, the MacDonald family's tribute gift of \$20-million will name a new cancer care centre being developed as part of QEII New Generation, a multi-year project that is laying out how the province will meet the health-care needs of Nova Scotians by developing new buildings and spaces to deliver care.

"The MacDonald family's \$20-million transformational gift for cancer care will raise the bar in delivering the world's best cancer care, right here at home. While we have reached an amazing milestone for the foundation – our largest, single donation to date – the real impact

and measurement of that milestone is the lives changed and lives saved as a result of the family's generosity," says Susan Mullin, the foundation's president and CEO.

The family has deep connections in the region's health-care community where the matriarch of the family, Belle MacDonald, spent her career caring for others as head nurse for many years at the former Halifax Infirmary hospital.

Donors to the We Are campaign have already raised more than \$52-million toward the \$100-million goal. So far, some of the campaign milestones include Atlantic Canada's first surgical robot, interventional radiology suites, genetic sequencing technology and e-mental health services (accessed by anyone, at any time).

More information:
[qe2foundation.ca](#)



The MacDonald siblings (from left) Rick, Ann, Jack, Colin, Michelle, Judi and Mickey gifted \$20-million to the QEII Foundation in honour of their late parents Colin and Belle MacDonald. [SUPPLIED](#)

Philanthropy is changing; so is United Way Centraide

Stretching beyond familiar spaces and approaches to serve communities today and build a better tomorrow



BY DAN CLEMENT,
PRESIDENT AND CEO, UNITED
WAY CENTRAIDE

When the pandemic hit, the community services sector responded, mobilizing frontline expertise and community compassion to support those already facing poverty

and disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Today, United Way Centraide and our network of more than 3,500 local community agency partners are still hard at work, this time against the backdrop of record inflation and soaring prices.

More individuals and families are struggling with food insecurity, energy costs and housing affordability. United Way Centraide's 211 helpline shows calls up across the board earlier this year – 19 per cent for assistance with food, 16 per cent for housing and shelter, and a staggering 34 per cent for mental health

counselling. Meanwhile the sector itself is grappling with new realities – flat-lined funding, rising costs, staff and volunteer shortages, and Canadian philanthropy in transition.

Change is indeed challenging philanthropy, but charitable organizations like United Way Centraides across the country are meeting this moment.

As more people work from home, we are evolving to deepen our relationships with donors wherever they are. We're also responding to changes not just in how people give, but their reasons for doing so.

More than ever, people want to feel connected to what they're doing, to feel greater purpose, to not only do good work but do good, period, especially in the communities in which they live. According to a 2021 Edelman survey, seven in 10 employees expected opportunities for social impact within their workplace. It's that sense of social purpose that is becoming a core employee engagement strategy – one different sectors are looking to United Way Centraide to help drive and deliver.

And we are.

Across Canada in communities large and small, local United Ways and Centraides are diving into innovative ventures with new, even unlikely, partners with a shared focus on strengthening local communities. Cases in point: United Way British Columbia's Social Purpose Institute is supporting businesses in helping them define (and embed) their social purpose to – in turn – create more societal value for their customers, employees and communities. United Way Calgary and Area's Social Impact Lab, a unique, collaborative

cross-sector initiative, is exploring solutions to complex systems-level issues. And United Way Greater Toronto has been championing community benefits, to ensure that with every major public infrastructure project, we are also strengthening community and creating jobs and other opportunities for those too often left behind.

We're finding strength where we always have – in community and with government, corporate, labour and civic partners – yet also stretching beyond familiar spaces and approaches to ensure that we can serve our communities today and build a better tomorrow.

Change propels us forward, and by working in a united way, we can not only meet challenges but overcome them and achieve something better. So as you look around your own community this fall, at the work being done and the work that remains to be done, know that you can play a key role in strengthening it. And that all of us at United Way Centraide are here to help.

FOOD BANK ACCESS FOR FOUR NORTHERN MANITOBA COMMUNITIES

Residents in four northern Manitoba communities – St. Theresa Point, Wasagamack, Garden Hill and Red Sucker Lake – will now have access to food banks in their communities following a memorandum of understanding between Harvest Manitoba, Anishinew Okimawin (Island Lake Tribal Council) and Food Banks Canada.

Harvest Manitoba, formerly Winnipeg Harvest, is the fourth largest food distribution organization of its kind in Canada. It recently became the first registered food bank with Nutrition North Canada (NNC), a Government of Canada program that supports food security in northern isolated communities by subsidizing a list of perishable foods and essential items flown in by air, and non-perishable foods and essential items brought in by seasonal sealift, barge or winter road.

As part of the program, charities and food banks can now claim subsidies for transporting and distributing food and essential household items in eligible northern communities.

There are currently 122 isolated northern communities benefiting from the NNC program. These communities are in Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Labrador.

"Bringing food to remote First Nations communities has always been a challenge for food banks due to the high costs of transportation. This partnership, working with First Nations leadership, holds great potential to improve food security in some of Manitoba's most food insecure communities," says Vince Barletta, president and CEO, Harvest Manitoba.

Announcing the agreement, Minister of Northern Affairs Dan Vandal said, "The partnership between Harvest Manitoba and the Island Lake Tribal Council is a significant step forward for addressing food security in the Island Lake Region. While we know there is still much work to be done to eradicate food insecurity, food banks now have access to subsidies to transport and distribute food to eligible communi-

ties and get food on the table for the most vulnerable residents and their families."

"We are a resilient peoples, but in time of need we look to other communities to help us. We are facing a crisis of food security in our region. High cost of food, transportation and supplies due to inflation are things that are not under our control. I applaud Harvest Manitoba, Food Banks Canada and Nutrition North Canada for partnering with us toward real solutions to permanently address food security in the spirit of reconciliation," says Clarence Mason, social development adviser, Island Lake Tribal Council.

NNC assists several other programs including the Community Food Programs Fund that supports culturally appropriate community-led food security activities and the Harvesters Support Grant that increases northerners' access to traditional foods by supporting hunting, harvesting and food sharing.

Information: cimac.gc.ca



As charities and nonprofits grapple with challenges such as rising costs and staff shortages, everyone can play a role in strengthening their community. [ISTOCK.COM](https://www.istock.com)

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