



## MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release: December 22, 2020**

# **United Way of Saskatoon and Area announces Round Two of the Emergency Community Support Fund, supporting organizations in Saskatoon, and central and northern Saskatchewan.**

## **Saskatoon, SK – December 22, 2020**

On October 5, 2020, United Way of Saskatoon and Area launched a second call for applications for the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF). The fund provides financial support to charities and other qualified donees adapting their frontline services to support vulnerable Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of Canada has released the balance of funding for ECSF which is being administered in collaboration with United Way Centraide Canada, Community Foundations of Canada and the Canadian Red Cross.

Today, United Way of Saskatoon and Area is pleased to share an update on the recipients of this second round of funding. We have received over 50 applications for community programs and services that support vulnerable community members. To date, 36 organizations have been approved for a total of \$533,172.

“United Way of Saskatoon and Area is a proud partner in delivering funds to these important projects throughout central and northern Saskatchewan; helping to ensure the people of Saskatchewan are supported in times of unprecedented need,” says United Way of Saskatoon and Area’s CEO, Sheri Benson. “The way Saskatchewan communities and organizations have adapted to respond to changing needs and disruption has been inspiring and speaks to the resiliency of our communities. United Way is honoured to be able to support this resilient spirit to help keep communities strong and support vulnerable individuals and families during COVID-19.”

For the funding flowing through the Athabasca Health Authority, \$25,000 will be allocated to provide food security for vulnerable populations in Stony Rapids, Uranium City, Camsell Portage, Black Lake and Fond du Lac. Due to increased isolation through road closures due to COVID-19, many residents in these communities have been faced with desperation, and a lack of financial resources and goods to feed their families adequately.

Humboldt Community Soup Kitchen has been allocated \$12,500 to support all community members who are money and food insecure. Nutritious meals, workshops, and food drives—these are some of the services that Humboldt Community Soup Kitchen provides. COVID-19 has created different challenges for vulnerable populations. Some are unable to work, others have had their hours cut, and some cannot get daycare, so they are in a position to ask for more assistance.

Ille a la Crosse Friendship Centre Inc. has received \$15,000. The Ille a la Crosse Friendship Centre Inc. provides holistic health through referral services, information services, social, cultural, and health awareness services, and recreational programs which ensure increased quality of life to the people of Ille a la Crosse and surrounding area.

The funding flowing through Kikinahk will support the undertaking of a shelter program and will amount to \$25,000. The mandate of the shelter program is to provide Covid Safe housing, transportation, and nutrition. As the cold weather progresses, Kikinahk is working to prevent deaths from freezing, malnutrition, and substance abuse.

For Meadow Lake Outreach Ministries \$12,500 will be provided for the purposes of providing ongoing, existing services. The funds will also help to provide food security offered by the Meadow Lake Food Bank and The Door of Hope Soup Kitchen. For those struggling to know where, or when, their next meal will be, the services provided will help to lessen that struggle.

\$25,000 will flow through the Montreal Lake Cree Nation, providing community outreach and engagement, and delivering new models, tools, programming, and services or resources. The Montreal Lake Cree Nation strives to maintain the social, economic, and political bases of the First Nations people, including their rights to land and resources, to culture, to language, and to self-government and self-determination. To support the Northern Village of Beauval, \$18,500 has been allocated. With a mission to support Seniors and Elders, the Northern Village of Beauval will use funds to provide PPE to workers, to reduce social isolation amongst Seniors and Elders, to provide mental health and physical well-being support during COVID-19.

Finally, moving through the Northern Village of Cumberland House will be \$20,000, which will help to support community outreach and engagement, delivering new models, tools, programming, services or

resources, disseminating information and knowledge, and providing volunteer engagement and recruitment.

For a full list of all funding recipients please visit our website <https://unitedwaysaskatoon.ca/our-response-to-covid-19/ecsf-recipients-2/>

The ECSF was announced by the Government of Canada on April 21, 2020, and is administered in collaboration with [United Way Centraide Canada](#), [Community Foundations of Canada](#), and the [Canadian Red Cross](#).

Funds were provided to organizations supporting immediate needs and priorities related to the impact of COVID-19. This includes, but is not limited to, services such as:

- Preparing and delivering meals and/or food hampers
- Supporting individuals in accessing income supports and financial coaching
- Providing home care or personal support for seniors, elders, and persons with disabilities
- Mental health & wellness supports, including crisis counselling, and peer support
- Personal safety supports, including those living in or escaping situations of violence
- Access to safe transport for essential appointment and errands, and others

“Canadian charities and not for profits are always there to help you, in your time of need. But the COVID-19 pandemic is bringing real challenges to these important organizations. With today’s announcement, the Government of Canada will be there for them so they can continue to be there for Canadians.” – The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

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The logo for Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a serif font with a small Canadian flag icon above the letter 'a'.

In partnership with



## **About United Way of Saskatoon and Area**

For over 60 years, United Way of Saskatoon and Area has been working to positively impact the lives of vulnerable children, youth, and their families in our community by identifying and addressing barriers. We work with community partners to spread Local Love and create opportunities for a better life for everyone. Currently, United Way of Saskatoon is working with community partners to help vulnerable individuals affected by COVID-19.

*For more information or interviews contact:*

### **United Way of Saskatoon and Area**

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