



February 2024

United Way NWT - 2023 Emergency Response Program

Information for NWT Residents, Donors, and Others

Many people in our communities, particularly those who are impacted by evacuations and wildfires, have been patiently waiting to hear about how these funds have been used or distributed to be supporting evacuation and wildfire relief efforts.

As an organization that is made up of people who are also impacted by evacuations and wildfires, we understand why people want to know where these donations have gone. We're hopeful that this information will answer some of these questions.

About United Way NWT:

United Way NWT is a volunteer-run charity in the NWT that specializes in providing funding directly to charitable organizations in the NWT. The organization is a separate legal entity from United Way Canada, and is governed by an independent Board of Directors made up of people from the Northwest Territories.

The organization has one permanent part-time contractor, working an average of 10-15 hours per week to support the organization. During Emergencies, UWNWT engages one additional part-time contractor to support the Emergency Response. In rare circumstances, such as the most recent Yellowknife, Hay River & Fort Smith evacuations, UWNWT has engaged some additional support to help with finances, communications and other needs.

Donations collected from the public through the NWT Emergency Fund do not go towards paying for the costs of delivering the Emergency Response Program, including staff and contractor labour. These costs are covered through support from UWNWT's corporate, and government partners.

How many donations has United Way NWT received?

Since May 2023, United Way NWT has received over \$3.3 million in pledged donations from the public, private sectors, foundations, and governments. Around \$625,000 of these pledged donations are from the public. We had previously estimated around \$730,000 of these pledged donations from the public, but many of those donations were from small businesses who donated through our CanadaHelps portal.

We've redistributed just under 70% of these donations, and have just launched our Emergency Recovery Fund, inviting applications for funding from across the territory to distribute the remaining 30%.



How has United Way NWT distributed these donations?

Thanks to the generosity of donors, we've been able to award over 130 grants to First Nations governments, community organizations, municipalities and evacuation centres since May 2023.

During emergencies, we tend not to release the list of recipients to ensure that they are not inundated with requests that they cannot manage or respond to. Because the wildfire season has ended, we will be providing a list of organizations and totals attached to this report as an Appendix.

As has been our practice since the emergency season, we are providing an overview of the types of projects we've funded here.

Funds Distributed since May 2023:

Since May 2023, we have distributed over \$2.3 million in funding to community organizations, community governments, Alberta Reception Centres for NWT Evacuees, and Indigenous governments to help with costs associated with evacuations and wildfire relief.

These funds include all of the funding distributed to date.

- **Fuel Gift Cards:** Almost \$165,000
 - *These funds refer to funds spent on fuel specific gift cards that were provided to the Reception Centres in Alberta who are hosting NWT Evacuees.*
 - *This number had previously been reported as "Over \$165,000", however about \$2,000 was returned to us as it was unspent.*
- **Grocery Gift Cards:** Over \$440,000
 - *These funds refer to funds spent on grocery specific gift cards that were provided to Reception Centres or community organizations who are supporting NWT evacuees.*
- **Various Gift Cards:** Over \$150,000
 - *These funds refer to funds spent on gift cards that were provided to the Reception Centres in Alberta who are hosting NWT Evacuees. These are under "various" because they include gift cards that may have been for clothing, personal hygiene items, laundry, groceries, gas, etc.*
 - *This number had previously been reported as "\$160,000", however about \$6,000 was returned to us as it was unspent.*
- **Pets & Animals:** Over \$125,000
 - *These funds refer to funds provided to both NWT-based and Alberta-based organizations helping with pet evacuations, pet supplies, food, or other needs associated with caring for animals during evacuations.*
- **Youth Support & Care:** Over \$80,000
 - *These funds refer to funds provided to organizations supporting youth evacuees, either as organizations that evacuated with youth and are responsible for taking*



care of youth evacuees, or as organizations that are providing opportunities for youth evacuees to socialize and try and find reprieve from the emergency.

- **Food Needs:** Over \$320,000
 - *These funds refer to funds that were provided to help with feeding evacuees. These funds were accessed generally by Indigenous governments, or community organizations feeding NWT evacuees.*
- **Accommodation Support:** Over \$50,000
 - *These funds refer to funds that were provided, in exceptional circumstances, to help with the cost of local Indigenous community governments who housed evacuees in communities that didn't have access to hotels or other accommodations. We generally do not make it a practice to fund accommodations, and this allocation was made in an exceptional circumstance.*
- **Human Service Organizations:** Over \$130,000
 - *These funds refer to funds provided to human service organizations, generally organizations that provide services to vulnerable populations such as people who are unhoused or homeless, people with disabilities, survivors of violence, seniors, or other vulnerable groups. Human service organizations have accessed funding to help with the costs of supporting evacuees with complex needs.*
- **Direct Aid:** Almost \$440,000
 - *These funds refer to funds provided to organizations, Indigenous governments, or Indigenous organizations who distributed direct financial assistance to their members, or to the public, impacted by evacuations, or evacuees in need.*
- **Transportation Needs:** Over \$65,000
 - *These funds refer to funds provided to initiatives that supported evacuees with ground transportation in the communities they've evacuated to.*
- **Families & Children:** Over \$140,000
 - *These funds refer to funds provided to Reception Centres, organizations, and charities that are providing direct aid or evacuee support to families, pregnant or post-partum individuals, babies, or small children. Examples include providing diaper hampers, providing direct financial assistance, or other needed baby supplies.*
- **Cultural & Mental Health:** Over \$85,000
 - *These funds refer to funds provided to organizations, Indigenous governments and Reception Centres to help address cultural and mental health needs of NWT Evacuees throughout the evacuations.*
- **Personal Hygiene & Laundry:** Over \$8,0000
 - *These funds refer to funds provided to organizations, Indigenous governments and Reception Centres to give evacuees personal hygiene supplies or products, and to help evacuees with cost of laundry services.*
- **Arts & Culture:** Over \$2,000
 - *These funds refer to funds provided to organizations doing work related to arts and culture that had costs associated with evacuation and wildfires.*
- **Emergency Infrastructure & Planning:** Over \$90,000



United Way
NWT

- *These funds refer to funds provided to organizations, Indigenous governments, and municipalities to put towards the purchase of infrastructure to mitigate impacts of future emergencies, or to put towards planning for future emergencies.*

Why are some totals lower than what we've seen in other reports?

When we award and distribute a grant to an organization, they often provide us with estimated budgets of how they anticipate using the funds. Sometimes, after they've undertaken the work they initially anticipated doing, they discover that the amounts they needed were less than expected. In this case, they return these funds to us, and we re-allocate the money to other projects.

As an example, there was an organization who applied for funding to purchase gas gift cards for evacuees, but they ended up needing less than they anticipated.

When will the public see which organizations actually received funding?

You can see a full list of organizations that have received funding at the end of this report. You can also see this full list by visiting our website.

Why haven't all the donations been distributed yet?

We know that members of our community may be curious about why 100% of the donations that we've received have not yet been distributed. Based on our experience with previous emergencies, such as the floods in the Southern NWT back in 2021, we know that communities will continue to have a need for financial support for a while. We also know that donations from the public and from the corporate sector may dwindle, meaning that we won't as easily be able to replenish our Emergency Response Fund.

With that in mind, we encourage Indigenous governments, charities, non-profits, and municipalities to apply for funding through our Emergency Recovery Fund program. There is about \$600,000 in that fund that we will be allocating to projects across the territory.

How to contact the United Way NWT's Emergency Response Team:

If you have any questions, you can contact our Emergency Response Team using the contact information below.

Emergency Response Coordinator:

Jacq Brasseur

Pronouns: they/them

(867) 675-2643

support@nwt.unitedway.ca



United Way
Northwest Territories

United Way NWT - 2023/2024 Emergency Response Program

Grant Recipients

As of February 15th 2024

We will note that some of these groups are unincorporated or grassroots collectives. Some groups may have used a fiscal agent to accept funding on their behalf. The fiscal agent will be listed in the UWNWT financial statements.

Total Funds Distributed:	\$2,322,654.44
NWT Groups	\$1,900,643.24
Northern Evacuation Centres	\$161,355.00
Southern Evacuation Centres	\$203,556.20
Southern Groups	\$57,100.00

NWT Groups

Assumption Catholic Church	<u>Total:</u> \$5,000.00
Avens	<u>Total:</u> \$25,000.00
BACupNorth	<u>Total:</u> \$22,200.00
Charter Community of K'asho Got'ine	<u>Total:</u> \$20,000.00
Dechinta	<u>Total:</u> \$25,000.00
Déljñę Got'jñę Government	<u>Total:</u> \$22,500.00
Deninu Kue First Nation	<u>Total:</u> \$48,500.00
Hamlet of Enterprise	<u>Total:</u> \$27,500.00
Hay River Family Support Centre	<u>Total:</u> \$50,000.00
Food First Foundation	<u>Total:</u> \$184,825.00
Fort Providence	<u>Total:</u> \$15,000.00
Fort Smith Animal Shelter	<u>Total:</u> \$15,000.00
Fort Smith Metis Council	<u>Total:</u> \$123,700.00
Fort Smith Metis Daycare	<u>Total:</u> \$5,200.00
Foster Family Coalition of NWT	<u>Total:</u> \$27,500.00
Yellowknifers Helping with Transportation	<u>Total:</u> \$5,500.00
Habitat for Humanity	<u>Total:</u> \$25,000.00
Hay River Animal Welfare Society	<u>Total:</u> \$35,000.00
Hay River Seniors' Society	<u>Total:</u> \$7,500.00
Hay River Youth Centre	<u>Total:</u> \$18,400.00
HomeBase Yellowknife	<u>Total:</u> \$58,200.00
Jean Marie River First Nation	<u>Total:</u> \$25,000.00
K'alemi Dene School	<u>Total:</u> \$7,500.00
Kátl'odeeche First Nation	<u>Total:</u> \$75,000.00

Kole Crook Fiddle Association	<u>Total:</u> \$2,500.00
Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation	<u>Total:</u> \$26,750.00
Makerspace YK	<u>Total:</u> \$34,280.00
North Slave Métis Alliance	<u>Total:</u> \$50,000.00
Northern Birthwork Collective	<u>Total:</u> \$25,000.00
Northern Mosaic Network	<u>Total:</u> \$25,000.00
NWT Disabilities Council	<u>Total:</u> \$2,500.00
NWT Literacy Council	<u>Total:</u> \$2,500.00
NWT Métis Nation	<u>Total:</u> \$25,000.00
NWTSPCA	<u>Total:</u> \$12,504.00
Salvation Army	<u>Total:</u> \$25,000.00
Sambaa K'e First Nation	<u>Total:</u> \$12,358.24
Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre	<u>Total:</u> \$130,000.00
Soup Kitchen Hay River	<u>Total:</u> \$2,500.00
St. Andrew's Anglican Church	<u>Total:</u> \$2,500.00
The Karuna Group Hay River	<u>Total:</u> \$5,375.00
Tłıchq Community Government of Gamèti	<u>Total:</u> \$10,000.00
Tłıchq Community Government of Whatı	<u>Total:</u> \$20,000.00
Tłıchq Government	<u>Total:</u> \$125,000.00
Veterinarians Without Borders	<u>Total:</u> \$60,405.00
Western Arctic Moving Pictures	<u>Total:</u> \$2,457.00
West Point First Nation	<u>Total:</u> \$144,764.00
Yellowknife Women's Society	<u>Total:</u> \$142,725.00
Yellowknives Dene First Nation	<u>Total:</u> \$112,500.00
YWCA NWT	<u>Total:</u> \$25,000.00

Evacuation Centres

Northern Evacuation Centres Total: **\$161,355.00**

Evacuees from Hay River & KFN	\$110,345.00
Evacuees from Behchoko	\$46,005.00
Evacuees from Wekweeti	\$5,005.00

Grants provided to Northern Evacuation Centres were provided through fiscal agents who agreed to purchase gift cards or other requirements for Evacuation Centres. In some instances, these amounts have included costs incurred by the fiscal agent in undertaking these logistics.

Southern Evacuation Centres Total: **\$203,556.20**

City of Calgary	\$4,000.00
City of Grande Prairie	\$30,000.00
City of Lloydminster	\$5,656.20
City of Red Deer	\$25,000.00
City of St. Albert	\$52,500.00
Town of Fox Creek	\$25,500.00
Town of High Level	\$2,500.00
Town of Peace River	\$23,400.00

Town of Valleyview \$10,000.00

Town of Whitecourt \$25,000.00

Grants provided to Southern Evacuation Centres were generally provided for the purchase of gift cards or direct aid that was redistributed to evacuees.

Note that not all Southern Evacuation Centres accessed funding through UWNWT.

Southern Groups

McMurray Métis	<u>Total:</u> \$2,500.00
Grande Prairie Friendship Centre	<u>Total:</u> \$17,700.00
Let's Help Society of Alberta	<u>Total:</u> \$34,400.00
Parachutes for Pets Calgary	<u>Total:</u> \$2,500.00

Disclaimer: *United Way NWT makes all reasonable efforts to ensure this list is accurate. This list has not been reviewed by an auditor or accountant, and corrections may be made during the 2023/2024 audit process for UWNWT.*