



United Way
Northwest Territories

Annual Report

Convening for Resilience and Collaboration

APRIL 1, 2024 – MARCH 31, 2025



TOGETHER
We Are Strong

nwt.unitedway.ca

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**Building strong,
healthy communities
across the Northwest
Territories**

Our Mission

United Way Northwest Territories (NWT) exists to promote the capacity of people in the Northwest Territories to care for each other.

We raise funds and redistribute them to support local non-profits and charitable organizations through our Community Investment Fund and Emergency Response programs.

We focus on addressing the root causes of social issues, while fostering community resilience through engagement and investment in community-driven initiatives.

Community Impact

Community impact is about achieving meaningful, long-term improvements to the quality of life in Northern communities, by addressing not just the symptoms of problems but also getting at the root causes. It's about making fundamental changes to community conditions.

United Way NWT works hard to do this by searching for and supporting non-profits and charities in the Northwest Territories that are working to alleviate these social problems such as addictions, mental illness, violence, racism, homelessness, poverty, lack of access to traditional culture and other effects of colonialism.

Statement of Values

We believe in its ability to bring our community together from all walks of life to create opportunities for people to improve their lives. We strive to earn our community's trust guided by our shared values of Community, Integrity and Accountability, Diversity and Inclusion, Excellence and Innovation, and Service.

UNITED WAY NWT

P.O.Box 1145, STN. Main, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N8

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Letter from the Board Chair

The past year has been one of growth and learning for United Way NWT. It was a year where our role as a connector came into focus—bringing people together, supporting communities in recovery, and co-designing paths forward. None of this would have been possible without the tremendous support of our donors, partners, volunteers, and, community members, all of whom have ensured that our work has continued to meet the needs of Northerners.

The central theme of this year's Annual Report is convening and collaboration. In the wake of the 2023 wildfires, communities sought spaces to share lessons and prepare for the future. We responded through two gatherings: READY NWT, co-hosted with the Canadian Red Cross in October 2024, and Resilient Together, a four-day gathering in April 2025. Both focused on psychosocial wellness, service continuity, and emergency preparedness in communities, building on the strengths and relationships that strengthen Northern resilience.

Concurrently, our core programs continued to provide community support across the NWT through our Community Investment Fund and our Emergency Funding Program, which shifted from immediate response in 2023 to supporting recovery in 2024.

This work was made possible thanks to the generosity of donors and partners. From federal and territorial workplace giving campaigns, to community events, major charitable giving and individual donations—support came from every corner of the North and beyond.

The past year also marked a transition in board leadership, with Paul Gillard completing his term as Board Chair. We thank Paul for his steady leadership through times of challenge and tireless advocacy for the well-being of Northern communities.

Guided by our values of community, inclusiveness, integrity, and service, United Way NWT will continue to bring people together, strengthen organizations, invest in local resilience, and promote the organized capacity of people in the North to care for one another.



On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Ben Linaker

Chair of the Board, United Way Northwest Territories

Vice-Chair: Jhillian Adams

Board members:

Sara-Jayne Dempster

Treasurer: Ebere Duru

Matthew Spence

Margaret Lovely

Past Chair: Tracy St. Denis

Yanik D'Aigle

Sandra Lester

Main Theme: Convening for Community Resilience

In the wake of the 2023 wildfires, it became clear that preparing for future emergencies could not be done in isolation. Northern communities expressed their need for space to come together, share lessons learned, and plan for future emergencies. This past year, United Way NWT helped create those spaces by convening gatherings with partners.

This past year, United Way NWT helped create those spaces by convening gatherings with partners and communities to focus on strengthening emergency preparedness, service continuity, and psychosocial wellness.

Ready NWT Gathering: Strengthening Preparedness Together



In October 2024, United Way NWT supported the Canadian Red Cross in hosting **READY NWT**, a two-day gathering in Yellowknife that brought together community organizations, local leaders and territorial representatives to explore how we can be stronger together in times of crisis.

Participants mapped organizational strengths, identified critical gaps, and tested assumptions through a simulated power outage exercise. The gathering created a collaborative space to share insights, build new connections, and highlight the vital role of local organizations in emergency response.

“Preparedness begins with each organization, but resilience is achieved when we unite with a shared purpose and approach.”

– Kim Maclean, Senior Director of Emergency Operations, Canadian Red Cross

Resilient Together Conference: Strengthening NWT Communities



Public Safety Canada's Investing in the NWT's Emergency Response program and the NWTAC. This event brought together 45 participants, including Indigenous governments, NGOs, service providers, and community leaders.

Through storytelling, reflection, and design sessions, participants mapped hazards, envisioned resilient futures, and co-created practical actions around food security, housing, communication, and youth engagement. The gathering also included Red Cross-led training in service continuity planning and **Psychological First Aid certification**, equipping participants with skills to support emotional well-being during crises.





Resilient Together

Strengthening NWT Communities

April 24–27, 2025

A Report on the Collective Insights, Wellness, Disaster Resilience & Recovery



Graphic Recording copyright Alison McCleek

The [Resilient Together report](#) captured over 20 cross-cutting priorities and hundreds of community-identified actions, reflecting the immense wisdom and capacity of Northern communities in building resilience and recovery.

THANKS TO OUR FUNDER:

**Government of Canada,
Public Safety Canada** – for their funding that enabled Resilient Together

AND TO OUR PARTNERS:

The Canadian Red Cross – for their partnership and support

Andrea D'Addario – facilitator and community host

Laurie Pearce – guest speaker and service continuity expert

Mandi Parkes – Emergency Fund Project Coordinator

And all the community participants who made these conversations so meaningful.



United Way NWT's Donation-Funded Programs

Emergency Funding Program

Over the past year, United Way NWT's **Emergency Funding Program** shifted from immediate crisis response to supporting recovery. Grants helped communities, non-profits, and Indigenous governments sustain their work long after the 2023 wildfire evacuations, focusing on rebuilding stability and resilience across the Northwest Territories.



Community Investment Fund

In 2024/25, United Way NWT awarded **\$205,000** in grants to 21 non-profit organizations, of which 17 were one-year grants of \$7,500 and 4 were part of ongoing multi-year agreements of up to \$15,000. These investments reflect our continued commitment to community-driven solutions across our three focus areas: From Poverty to Possibility, Healthy People, Strong Communities, and All That Kids Can Be.



This year, the Northern Birthwork Collective began a new three-year grant to expand access to Indigenous birthworkers and perinatal support services. Ongoing agreements with the Hay River Committee for Persons with Disabilities, the Hamlet of Ulukhaktok, and the Hay River Family Support Centre also continued, providing stability for organizations supporting their communities.



2024/25 CIF RECIPIENTS (SINGLE-YEAR FUNDING):

Food Rescue Yellowknife

Inuvik Youth Centre

Ecology North

Inclusion NWT Food
First Foundation

Foster Family Association

Home Base Yellowknife

YK Education District 1
(Ew ts'ehwhee – tanning hides)

Women's Society

Tree of Peace Friendship Centre

Hay River Youth Centre

Yellowknife Playschool
Yellowknife Seniors Society

Society Saint Vincent de Paul
Aspire Training Academy

Children First Society

Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre

2024/25 CIF RECIPIENTS (MULTI-YEAR FUNDING):

Northern Birthwork Collective

Hay River Committee for Persons with Disabilities Hamlet of Ulukhaktok

Hay River Family Support Centre

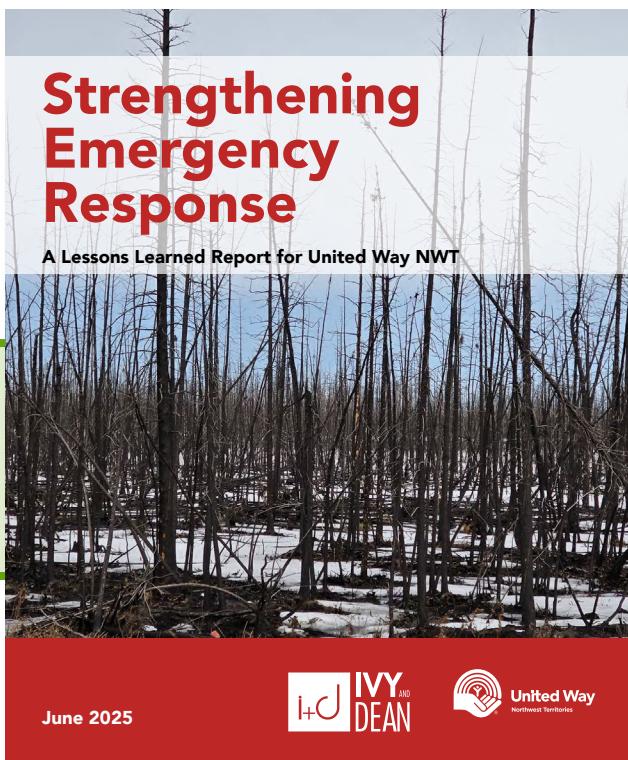
Additional Spotlights from 2024/25

Emergency Response: A Lessons Learned Report

Alongside recovery funding, we also took a step back to reflect on our progress. Following the unprecedented 2023 wildfire season, we recognized that resilience meant more than just response—it meant learning, adapting, and preparing for the future.

In June 2025, United Way NWT released the [**Strengthening Emergency Response: A Lessons Learned Report**](#), compiled by Ivy + Dean Consulting. This report drew on community consultations, government interviews, surveys with our board and staff, and reflections from our Resilient Together gathering. The findings confirm what many already know:

- Emergency grants are trusted, fast, and accessible.
- Relationships matter, and dedicated, available staff were difference makers during crisis moments.
- Gaps remain, and more consistent communication and clearer processes are needed.
- The future requires readiness: stronger internal capacity, deeper engagement with Indigenous governments, and clarified roles are essential.



This work led to the development of a Readiness Toolkit and new policies to guide future emergency efforts, ensuring that the lessons learned in 2023 are implemented.

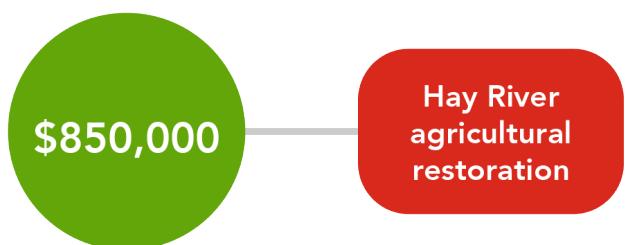
100+ voices consulted
147 wildfire grants reviewed
Toolkit and policies created

Investing in the NWT's Emergency Response (Federal Program)

In December 2024, United Way NWT launched **Investing in the NWT's Emergency Response**, a 30-month, **\$1.472 million** program supported by Public Safety Canada, creating space for collaboration around emergency preparedness and response, grounded in Northern voices.

SPOTLIGHTS

- **Bringing people together:** Hosting the Resilient Together gathering in April 2025, which convened NGOs, Indigenous governments, and service providers to co-design resilience strategies.
- **Supporting long-term recovery:** Investing **\$850,000** in Hay River's agricultural restoration, rebuilding farming infrastructure devastated by floods and wildfires, and helping re-establish Hay River as the "Agriculture Hub of the North."



This program creates space for collaboration, strengthens organizational capacity, and ensures that Northern voices lead the way in preparing for and responding to emergencies.

HAY RIVER RECOVERY

"The grant to support renewing the agriculture sector will have a lasting positive impact on farmers and the region, helping to launch Hay River as the Agriculture Hub of the North."

– Mayor Kandis Jameson



Gratitude & Donor Recognition: You Power, Our Work

United Way NWT's impact is only possible thanks to the generosity of donors and partners across the North and beyond. From federal and territorial workplace giving campaigns to community fundraising events, major charitable foundations and individual giving what they can, your support fuels our Community Investment Fund and Emergency Funding Program.

Learn more or donate on our website: nwt.unitedway.ca/donate

Workplace Giving

We are especially grateful to the many **public servants in the NWT** who give through payroll contributions. The **Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign** (NDWCC) and the **GNWT Workplace Giving Campaign** remain the backbone of our annual fundraising. These campaigns are powered not only by employee generosity but also by the dedication of department leads and volunteers who amplify their success.

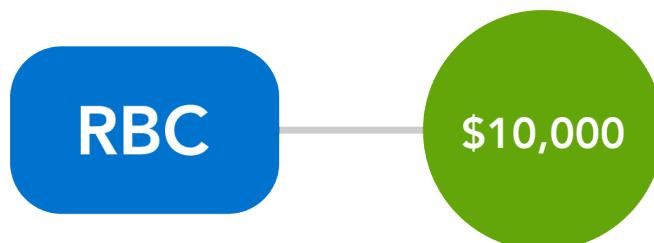
Major Contributions: Community Investment Fund

Our Community Investment Fund was bolstered by two significant contributions in 2024:

- The **Otto & Marie Pick Foundation** generously donated **\$30,000** in December 2024. This gift was especially meaningful as we honoured the legacy of the Foundation's beloved founder, Tom Pick, whose vision made this support possible.



- **RBC** contributed **\$10,000** in November 2024, helping expand opportunities for Northern charities and nonprofits to deliver programs that empower youth, strengthen families, and build healthy communities.



Community Events & Campaigns

Across the North, community members also came together to raise funds and increase awareness, showcasing how collective action can lead to real change:

- In June of 2024, **Bartle & Gibson** marked their 80th anniversary by hosting a wonderful community event with donation boxes supporting both our Emergency Response and Community Investment Fund.
- In March 2025, Northerners came together for **Tampon Tuesday**, collecting pads, tampons, and other menstrual hygiene products at local partners including **For Women Only**, **Yellowknife Co-op**, and the **Yellowknife Racquet Club**. This community effort made period products more accessible, challenged stigma, and ensured that no one in our community goes without basic essentials.





United Way

Northwest Territories

Audited financial statements can be found on our website at nwt.unitedway.ca

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