



United Way
Northwest Territories

Change starts here

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2025/2026
September 24, 2026
5:30 UNW Building (First Floor)**

- 1. Welcoming remarks:**
 - a. Ben Linaker (Board Chair) called to order the meeting at 5:36pm.
 - b. Acknowledged YKDFN land that we are residing on.
 - c. Announced that we will have a few speakers giving updates as we go along.
 - d. Suggested to take a look at the annual report for all of the updates as we go along too.
- 2. Verification of quorum & attendance:**
 - a. 15 in attendance - Yanik D'Aigle, Ben Linaker, Ebere Duru, Stephen Van Dine, Whitney DeWare, Tony Brushett, Tracy St. Denis, Margaret Lovely, Lona Hegeman, Jhillian Adams, Bianca Romagnoli, Gordon Ross, Tania Hercun, Devon Hodder, Sandra Lester
 - b. 10 proxy votes - Keelen Simpson, Beverly Howell Brushett, Paulina Head, Victor Memedouski, Julie Mujcin, Alexandea Malakoe, Jeanne Besner, Theresa Hickey, Mark Needham, Sara-Jayne Dempster
 - c. Guests - Thys Hoeve (Crowe Mackay LLP)
 - d. Staff - Mandi Parkes (Executive Director), Lucy Spencer (Finance Coordinator)
- 3. Approval of agenda:**
 - a. Yanik and Stephen motion to approve - all in favour.
- 4. Approval of minutes: September 29, 2025**
 - a. Correction needed - Devon not listed as attendee. This is noted.
 - b. Devon and Sandra motion to approve - all in favour.
- 5. Chair's Report: *Ben Linaker***
 - a. Last year we supported a massive scale of emergency management work.

- b. We had our Executive Director, two Coordinators, Finance and Comms staff.
- c. We received a massive grant from the federal government and delivered many programs and community initiatives. This sparked many important partnerships with the CRC and other community partners through the federal government funded projects.
- d. CIF gave out \$235k with many multi-year grants.
- e. We were also able to coordinate a strategic plan (first since 2012), which overviews our direction for the next 6 years. The completion of this plan was supported by Plan It North.
- f. Linda (previous ED) also did a big push to finalize many UWCC policies and compliances.
- g. Devon (from the Co-op grocer) was added to our board, and we also recruited Stephen from the City of Yellowknife.
- h. Linda did an incredible job, big thanks to her for making the year successful.
- i. Tracy added that the tribute to Patrick Scott in the Annual Report is important and much appreciated as he was very instrumental in our organization and helped United Way work to do more for our communities.

6. **Committee Report:**

- a. Community Investment Fund - *Margaret Lovely*
 - i. We gave out \$235k to 19 non profits across the NWT.
 - ii. 10 organizations received 1 time grants.
 - iii. We committed to more multi year funding opportunities. We went into 6 new 3-year commitments.
 - iv. There were 3 other multi-year grants that are almost complete.
- b. Emergency Management - *Jhillian Adams*
 - i. We had an extraordinary emergency response year from April 2025-March 2026.
 - ii. We reactivated the emergency response fund while Whati was evacuated.
 - iii. The emergency fund support goes towards gap needs for the evacuated communities.
 - iv. We are happy to say that we are able to flow support to communities and organizations within days, sometimes hours.
 - v. PSAC and UNW funds helped to launch the campaign in the summer of 2025.
 - vi. We want to note a special mention to Javaroma's campaign (which raised \$3,000).
 - vii. We were also able to support other remote neighbours in their wildfire response efforts in Saskatchewan and Manitoba to both United Way and the Red Cross. This was a donation of around \$10k, which was 4% of the emergency fund.

- viii. In 2023 we started our 2.5 year project, with funds from Public Safety Canada. Multi-year projects were completed with Ivy and Dean consulting. 2 gatherings were hosted (Hay River and Inuvik) - that was built off the one previously held in Yellowknife in April 2025. Through these efforts our communities are stronger and more able to respond. We also flowed funding to the Town of Hay River for recovery efforts at NFTI and surrounding areas. In August 2025 we launched the service continuity plan grant to help organizations plan for future emergencies.
- ix. I want to say thank you for trusting us as a partner in this space. The efforts of donors and partners really help us meet the needs of our community members in crisis.

7. **Executive Director Report - *Mandi Parkes***

- a. Projects Completed: [April 2026 - September 2026]
 - i. Federal Project: We have wrapped up and completed reporting on the Public Service Canada project that ran from September 2023 through to March 2026. The final report indicated that we met our objectives to (1) support non-governmental organizations in their emergency response efforts while (2) simultaneously improving our own internal infrastructure and processes. With the help of Ivy & Dean Consulting, United Way NWT now has a Lessons Learned Report and an Emergency Readiness Plan that was utilized this summer 2026.
 - ii. Strategic Planning: This project was worked on throughout last fiscal year and was completed in April 2026. The plan is for 5-years and can be accessed on our website to view. Plan It North also supported United Way in completing a number of policies related to UWCC compliance that have been updated internally.
 - iii. Emergency Fund: This summer we actioned our emergency fund in support of two community evacuations (Fort Simpson and Wrigley) during the month of July, and into recovery efforts in August and September.
 - iv. Canadian Red Cross: This month we are completing our 3-year funding agreement with the CRC. This funding has helped support United Way NWT in capacity building efforts centered around emergency preparedness, strategic planning, staff training, and professional development opportunities.
- b. Looking Ahead: [October 2026 - March 2027]
 - i. Community Investment Fund (CIF): The CIF will launch this October and the application will be open for 6-weeks. Decisions on funding will be made in the new year, and funds given out by the end of this fiscal year.

- ii. Workplace Campaigns: The workplace campaigns will be launching this fall. We plan to improve our internal communications with the GNWT to create a larger pool of funds to support the CIF this year.
- iii. Corporate Donations: United Way NWT has a few larger donors that we plan to steward again this year, who are annual contributors. We would like to work towards growing our major donor numbers, as these contributions can help grow our CIF and support more organizations across the Territory.
- iv. Governance: We are working with Fora Network for Change to review, edit and enhance our by-laws and policies. We plan to complete this project by the end of this fiscal year.

8. Approval of financial statements for 2025/2026

- a. Thys is presenting on behalf of Crowe MacKay LLP.
- b. Two documents to go through. Auditors report and financial statements.
- c. Ben and Yanik motion to approve - all in favour.

9. Appointment of auditor for 2026/2027

- a. Ben would like to appoint Crowe MacKay as our auditors.
- b. Ben and Jhillian motion to approve - all in favour.

10. Elections

- a. All current board members will continue in their roles.
- b. Ben and Yanik motion to approve - all in favour.

11. Adjournment

- a. Ben and Devon motion to adjourn. 6:50pm.