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## **NEW FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS HELPING VULNERABLE YUKONERS**

(Whitehorse) – United Way Yukon is accepting funding applications for the new Emergency Community Support Fund. The ECSF provides financial support to charities and other qualified donees adapting their frontline services to support vulnerable Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"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," said MP Larry Bagnell. "With this new fund, the Government of Canada will be there for them so they can continue to be there for Canadians."

The \$350 million ECSF was formally announced by the Government of Canada on May 16. It is administered in collaboration with United Way Centraide Canada, Community Foundations of Canada and the Canadian Red Cross. Of the \$350 million available nationwide, about \$81,000 will be distributed by United Way Yukon to community-based charities and NGOs here.

Demand for many types of services provided by community groups has increased dramatically since the pandemic was declared earlier this year. United Way Yukon earlier allocated about \$70,000 through the Vulnerable Seniors COVID Response Fund to help address short-term needs for up to 2,000 seniors and Elders.

"United Way Yukon is pleased to support this vital investment by the Government of Canada in critical services for vulnerable people in our community," said United Way Yukon President David Whiteside. "We are committed to ensuring an open and fair application and review process. We hope to involve non-profits that historically have not applied for United Way funding in the past."

Application forms are available on the United Way Yukon website, at [www.unitedwayyukon.ca/ecsf](http://www.unitedwayyukon.ca/ecsf). There is also an "Applicant Guide" and FAQ document. Applications will be accepted from now up until midnight, June 14<sup>th</sup>, for projects that conclude by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Organizations may use funds for immediate needs and priorities related to the impact of COVID-19. This includes services such as:

- Preparing and delivery meals and/or food hampers
- Supporting individuals in accessing income supports and financial coaching
- Mental health and wellness supports, including crisis counselling and peer support, and
- Access to safe transport for essential appointments and errands.

Other types of activities that could be funded are community outreach, sharing information and knowledge, recruiting volunteers, and developing new programs, services or delivery models as a result of COVID-19.

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**The Emergency Community Support Fund is funded by the Government of Canada**

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