

United Way BC

Presentation to West Kelowna Mayor Milsom & Council

Presenters:
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United Way
British Columbia

Working with communities in
BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland,
Central & Northern Vancouver Island



What do we do?

- United Way British Columbia supports the development of healthy, caring, and inclusive communities by strengthening vital connections that support people in need.
- Key Priority Areas
 - Emergency Response
 - Hi Neighbor
 - Seniors
 - Children & Youth
 - Helpline Services

What are we doing in West Kelowna?

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for emergency response



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Emergency Response

- Coordination of a “Social Response Task Force” with these **goals**:
 - Help social service sector prepare for climate related emergencies.
 - Ensure those most vulnerable such as the unhoused and seniors have the support they need during a traumatic event.
 - Help address unmet needs that were recognized in 2023 such as donation management and volunteers.
 - Emergency funds are activated to not-for-profit organizations to apply for in the case of an emergency.
- Committee members include: Local Government / ESS / Interior Health / BC Housing / Not-for-profit partners

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for seniors in need



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Seniors

- **Healthy Aging** - Support of programs that help older adults stay active, connected, and engaged.
- **Better at Home** - Support of programs that help prevent social isolation and keeps seniors connected to their communities.
- **Support** of above through local organizations such as the Westside Health Network.
- **Emergency Preparedness** – New Seniors Preparedness Guide & Central Okanagan Phone Resource Guide; Presentations in Community.



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for people in need



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Communities

- Supporting initiatives that:
- Create healthier communities
- Curb social isolation and loneliness
- Make neighborhoods safer
- Build resilience
- United Way BC's HI Neighbor Program
- "Local Love Funds" are micro-grants up to \$1000 to individuals that support above initiatives – we are working on several for the year!

Helpline Services – BC 211

- Free phone, text or online service for provincial resources including:
- Counselling
- Housing
- Food security
- Legal resources
- Mental health
- 24/7, 365 days a year, with interpretation available in over 240 languages and dialects.



Thank you & Questions



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