

**News Release**

**United Way Waterloo Region Communities**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 10 am, May 19, 2020**

**Emergency Community Support Fund distributes \$1,240,000 through United Way Waterloo Region Communities**

***Funding applications open May 19, 2020***

United Way Waterloo Region Communities (UWWRC) is accepting funding applications for the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF). The fund provides financial support to charities and other qualified donees adapting their frontline services to support vulnerable Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ECSF was announced by the Government of Canada and is administered in collaboration with United Way Centraide Canada, Community Foundations of Canada and the Canadian Red Cross.

United Way Waterloo Region Communities is proud to support the important investment of \$1,240,000 into our local communities.

“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. With today’s announcement, the Government of Canada will be there for them so they can continue to be there for Canadians.” Said The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development.

“This fund is a critical in supporting our local organizations as they continue to battle the pandemic and its economic fallout”, says Joan Fisk, UWWRC CEO. “We are working with all our community partners to help determine where these funds are needed most. The coronavirus has created more than one problem and we must be able to deliver more than one solution. Working with the Government of Canada has allowed us to continue our efforts while we all attempt to determine what recovery looks like for Waterloo Region”.

United Way Waterloo Region Communities is collaborating and jointly reviewing applications with Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation and Cambridge and North Dumfries Community Foundation to ensure we are coordinating and aligning funding to flow ECSF support to those organizations who need it most right now.

For more information, please go to [www.uwaywrc.ca](http://www.uwaywrc.ca)

**Canada** 

**Digital Assets:**

Please visit [www.uwaywrc.ca/communications](http://www.uwaywrc.ca/communications) to download our digital assets and further information, including photos, CEO bio and photo, and United Way backgrounder.

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**About United Way Waterloo Region Communities**

United Way Waterloo Region Communities is dedicated to helping people live better lives in every one of the seven communities we serve. We are fundraisers who support a network of agencies whose programs and services are locally focused, informed, connected, and deeply invested in helping people reach their full potential.

For more information or for media interviews, please contact:

**United Way Waterloo Region Communities**

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