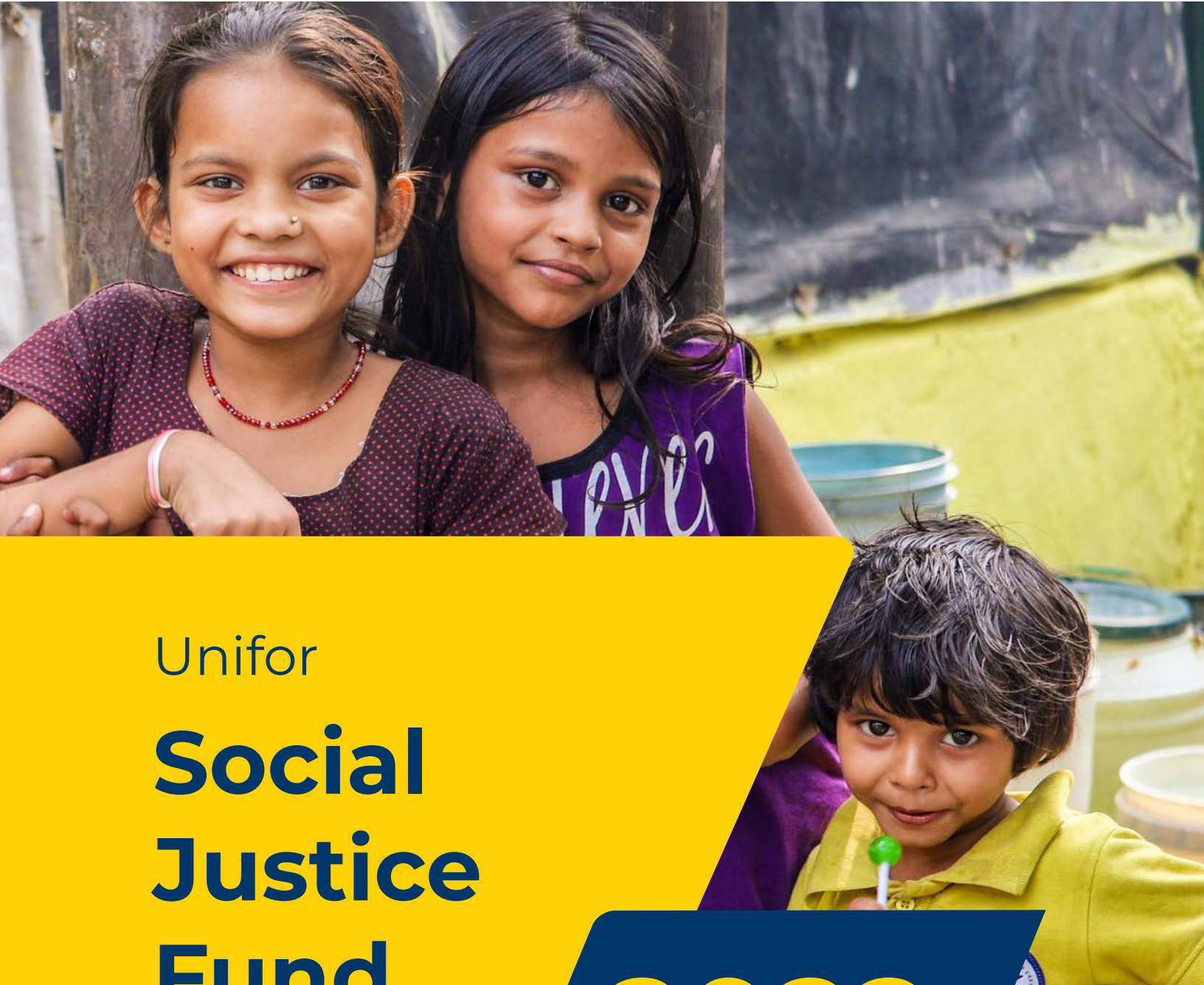




Unifor
**Social
Justice
Fund**

Unifor
**Fonds
de justice
sociale**



Unifor
**Social
Justice
Fund**

2022



ABOUT

The Unifor Social Justice Fund (SJF) is a fund that is negotiated at the collective bargaining by Unifor Locals, from employers. Money from the fund is used to support community groups, charitable organizations, trade unions and workers organizations – both in Canada and around the world – to strengthen democracy, improve labour and human rights, promote equitable development, and contribute to poverty reduction and social justice.

The Fund is a registered charity managed by a Board of Directors comprised of Unifor and community leaders and is guided by principles of social unionism and working-class and international solidarity.



SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Message from

*Unifor National President
Social Justice Fund Board Chair*



Lana Payne

In 2022, the world began slowly reemerging from ravages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtually no country was left unaffected in some way by this global health crisis, demonstrating the need for and importance of the world to come together in the face of mutual challenges and adversities.

The pandemic also shed light on the deeply embedded social and economic systemic inequities that have longed persisted in society. Sadly, these were intensified by further global crises in 2022 -- from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, environmental and humanitarian disasters such as Hurricane Fiona that devastated Atlantic Canada and the floods that submerged large parts of Pakistan, and the rising cost of living crisis fueled

by increased inflation, made worse by monetary policies implemented by global central bankers.

However, Unifor and the trade union movement, NGO's, community organizations, social justice advocates and other civil society groups, rose to the challenge, defending, protecting and supporting workers and those in the margins. This, in essence, reflects the purpose of the Unifor Social Justice Fund (SJF) – standing in solidarity with workers and communities during times of hardship and struggle, while fighting for social change.

This report provides a brief overview of the work and impact the SJF has had over the past year, in Canada and around the world – from defending human

rights activists in Colombia and Guatemala, helping health care workers in Kenya, supporting women and girl's education in Afghanistan, including supporting journalists and their families fleeing the country with the return of the Taliban, to supporting immigrant and migrant workers in Montreal and young women experiencing homelessness in Toronto.

We also want to thank the many food banks and women's shelters operating from coast to coast to coast that continue to be an important source of support in our communities.

We wish to extend a deep thanks to all the Local Unions that have bargained SJF language into their collective agreements and the companies



that support the Fund with their contributions. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the work of Mohamad Alsadi, who recently retired as the Director of Unifor's International Department and the Social Justice Fund in March of 2023. We want to thank him for his years of dedication not only in supporting and promoting

the SJF, but his contributions to the labour movement and his unwavering commitment in defending workers' rights in Canada and around the world. In Solidarity Always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Lana Payne".

Lana Payne,
Unifor National President

Unifor Social Justice Fund 2022

By the numbers

Total International Projects Funded	17
Total Canadian Projects Funded	3
Total Number of Countries Reached	25

Total donations
\$738,000

Total Number of Organizations Supported **216**

This includes \$275,000 donated to a total of 64 food banks and \$125,000 donated to 79 women's shelters across Canada during our December donation drive.



Humanitarian relief: \$550,000 donated towards humanitarian relief efforts, including assisting those impacted by Hurricane Fiona, the war in the Ukraine and floods in Pakistan

SJF

Project Snapshots

Here are just some of the projects Unifor's Social Justice Fund helped support in 2022.

ASIA

Afghanistan

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan: Access to Technology and Education for Women and Girls.

The Taliban's return to rule in Afghanistan has threatened human rights for many groups in the country – particularly for women and girls trying to access education. The SJF, in collaboration with the Calgary-based organization Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, is helping to support efforts to ensure continued access to educational resources for women and girls in the country. This includes direct delivery of books and other

learning materials and supplies to households, translation of videos and audiobooks to local languages, development of online courses and facilitating access to synchronous classes.



Vietnam

CARE Canada: Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment

The SJF has partnered with CARE Canada to enhance economic security for rural and ethnic minority women in the Ha Giang and Lai Chau regions of Vietnam through increased participation in paid economic activities. It is estimated that 20% of women in the country do not have paid employment due to spending, on average, nearly 5 hours a day performing unpaid care and domestic work. The project will use a multi-pronged approach consisting of education, outreach, policy advocacy, leadership training, improved access to child care services, promoting financial literacy and conducting technical training sessions on tea production, agriculture and private sector employment opportunities to empower and support women's economic rights.



AFRICA

Somalia



Oxfam Canada: Providing Lifesaving Assistance to Vulnerable Communities

Droughts, conflict and rising prices for oil and fertilizers, have all contributed to the escalating crisis of food security in Somalia. It is estimated that 7 million people in the country are experiencing acute hunger and malnutrition (including 1.5 million children). These figures are nearly double compared to when a famine was declared in 2011. The SJF has partnered with Oxfam Canada as the organization looks to provide support to 420,000 people in Somalia with food aid, water and sanitation and hygiene supplies. Oxfam is also working with the government and community partners on the ground to develop long-term, sustainable solutions to enhance food security in the region.

Mozambique

CODE: Supporting Better Schools

The SJF is supporting the Canadian-based children's education and literacy organization, CODE, with funds to assist with the assembly and distribution of education kits for children in Mozambique. Kits will contain books, school supplies, teaching aids, and cleaning and hygiene supplies. Over 112,000 students and 2,400 teachers in 62 provinces across four regions of the country will benefit from this project.

Kenya

Health Partners International of Canada: Bringing Health Care Workers into the Light

In many parts of rural Kenya, reliable access to electricity is a challenge for health care workers and their ability to provide quality care to patients. Emergency procedures often get delayed, or conducted with little to no light, and life-saving equipment becomes unusable without a power source. Unifor's SJF has partnered with Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC) to develop a project to improve access to reliable electricity in five health care facilities in Western Kenya. It will include the procurement and installation of six 'solar suitcases' so that health care workers providing maternity care can make use of critical equipment, such as obstetric lighting and fetal heart rate monitors. An estimated 64 health care workers, along with 3,500 women and babies and 40,000 community members will benefit from this project annually.



CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Guatemala



Horizons of Friendship: Supporting Survivors of Sex Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Guatemala

Horizons of Friendship are a Canadian-based international development organization promoting social justice in Mexico and Central America. This SJF supported project aims at providing young survivors of sexual violence and sex trafficking – many of whom are Indigenous, refugees and migrants and housed in a shelter in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala – with comprehensive, trauma-informed care. Activities will include improved training for shelter staff, medical and nursing students, local health authorities and other medical professionals. Just over 1,700 children and youth aged between 9 and 17 years of age will benefit from the outcomes of the project.

Peru/Colombia/Chile

UNI Global Union: Promoting workplaces free from violence and harassment

The SJF is supporting a three-year project led by UNI Global and UNI Americas to help support and implement the 2019 International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention and Recommendation on violence and harassment in the workplace in three countries – Peru, Colombia and Chile. Violence and harassment at work – particularly against women – is a significant problem in many countries across

South America. One study found that Chile leads all Latin American countries in physical violence and harassment of workers. This project will help promote the adoption of the convention in Chile and Colombia – two countries that have not ratified – while working towards implementation in Peru. Key project activities include developing a broad public awareness raising campaign, using the ILO convention to strengthen violence and harassment language in collective agreements, research and survey development to measure the overall prevalence of the problem and evaluate progress, and conducting training sessions with trade union leaders.



El Salvador

Federation of Independent Associations and Unions of El Salvador: Promoting the Effective Enforcement of Labor Rights for LGBTQ+ workers

The Federation of Independent Associations and Unions of El Salvador is a trade union organization representing workers in different sectors of El Salvador's national economy. In collaboration with the SJF, the Federation will be working in partnership with feminist and LGBTQ+ organizations, to strengthen labour rights and reduce discrimination against workers on the basis of gender and/or sexual orientation. Key activities will include launching a regional school for LGBTQ+ people from trade unions and feminist and LGBTQ+ movements, conducting research on sexual diversity and employment in the country, develop training guides on labour rights and supporting the creation of a Central American Network for LGBTQ Labour Justice with additional countries, including Honduras and Nicaragua.

Colombia/Guatemala:

Peace Brigades International: Making Space for Peace

Peace Brigades International (PBI) is a global movement of peace and social justice activists that support human rights defenders and organizations by way of physical accompaniment (i.e. unarmed bodyguards), conducting advocacy and providing physical and political security so they may carry out their work in the defence and advancement of human rights. The SJF has provided PBI with two years of funding to expand and carry out their work in Colombia and Guatemala – regions that continue to pose a significant threat to human rights, political, environmental and labour activists. Additional project activities will include recruitment and training of PBI volunteers, undertaking workshops, awareness raising and advocacy.



MIDDLE EAST

PALESTINE



International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF): Driving for Change

The Israeli government's ongoing occupation of the West Bank continues to threaten the economic livelihoods of Palestinians who are dependent on trade with Israel, as they have no direct access to airports or seaports. Because all exports/imports to the country must enter through Israel on Israeli trucks and pass through the West Bank separation wall, Palestinian truck drivers often have to wait hours at checkpoints, without shade, shelter, refreshments or washroom facilities in order to receive the goods to be transported back into Palestinian territories. Since 2010, the SJF has partnered with the ITF to support the building and maintenance of driver waiting facilities, including canteens, constructed at border crossings, so that truck drivers can rest, and access washrooms and food during long waits. These facilities have also been used as a space to educate drivers around labour rights, occupational health and safety, and the role of trade unions.

CANADA

Toronto



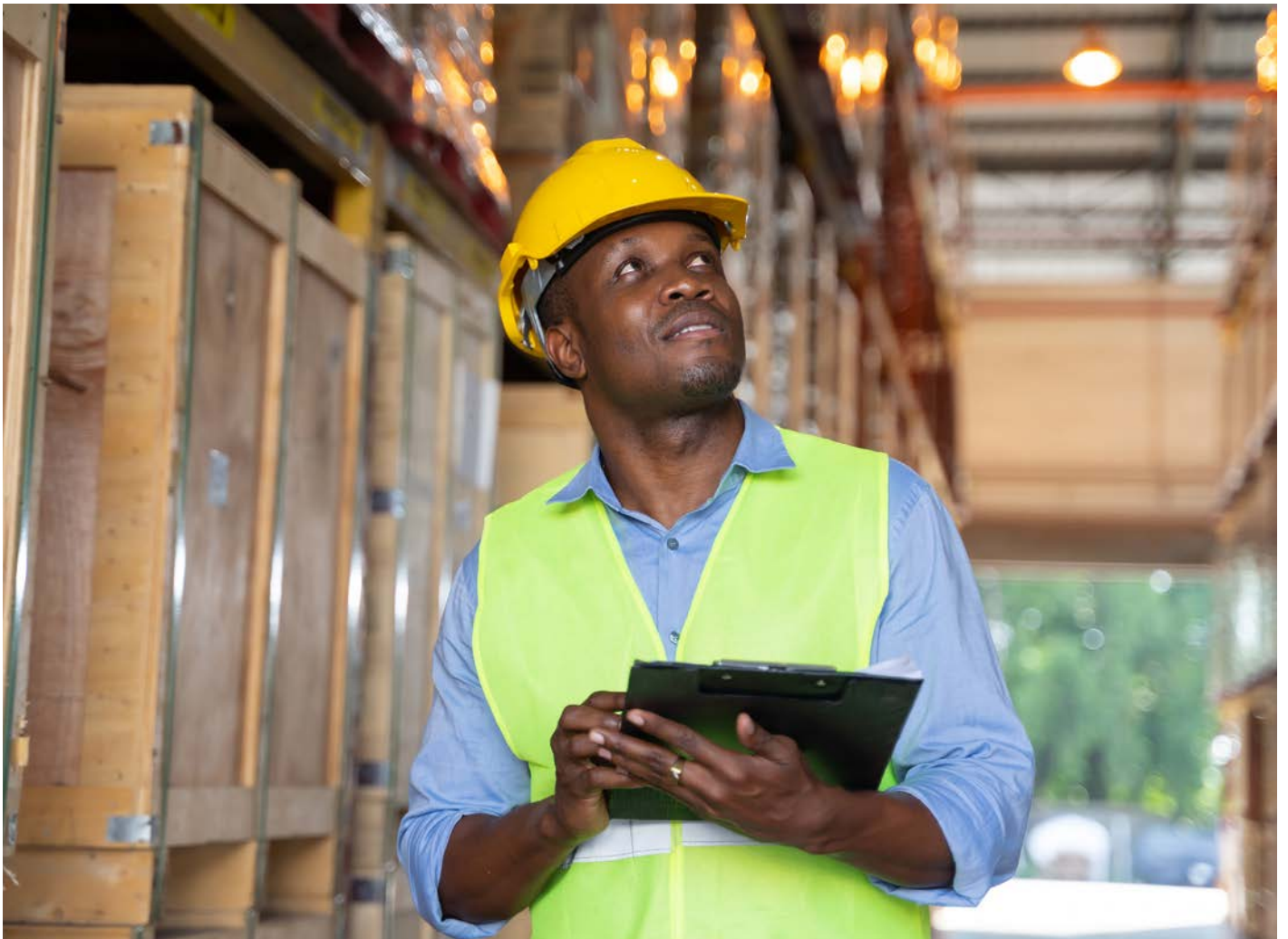
Covenant House Toronto: Creating Pathways Pilot Program

Covenant House Toronto is the largest agency in Canada serving youth who are homeless, trafficked or at risk. The SJF will be supporting a new pilot program aimed at providing direct programs and services to 20 young women experiencing homelessness, or at risk of becoming homeless, for up to three years, to better achieve independent living and successful transitions to adulthood. Areas of support will include housing, education, employment, counselling and facilitating better connections to the community.

Montreal

Immigrant Workers' Centre Montreal (IWC): Helping Immigrant Workers, Protecting Rights, Changing Policies and Improving Working Conditions

Since 2000, the IWC has been working directly with migrant and immigrant workers in the Montreal area to support their rights, improve working conditions and empower workers through training and education. This two-year SJF funded project will build on the Centre's worker leadership development and training programs to improve conditions for precarious immigrant workers – particularly temporary agency workers in the warehousing sector. The project will also support outreach and research activities to better understand the challenges facing workers, raise awareness of the IWC and develop leadership capacity to strengthen labour policies through collective advocacy.



Humanitarian Relief

Pakistan: Floods



Between June and October of 2022, Pakistan was hit hard by heavy monsoon rains, causing devastating floods. It was estimated that one third of the country was under water, affecting 33 million people and resulting in the deaths of over 1,700 people. The SJF provided funding of \$100,000 to Save the Children Canada, to assist children and families in the Khaipur, Sindh province of the country, with food and hygiene kit distribution and emergency shelter support.

Canada: Hurricane Fiona

In September 2022, Atlantic Canada was devastated by post-tropical storm Fiona, with winds of over 100 km/h causing \$660 million in damages – more than \$380 million in Nova Scotia alone. The destruction resulted in many families losing their homes. In response, Unifor National, along with the SJF and Unifor Regional Councils, donated a total of \$500,000 to the Canadian Red Cross – \$300,000 coming from the SJF.

Ukraine: Supporting victims of armed conflict

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February of 2022, resulted in thousands fleeing for neighboring countries seeking refuge, creating a significant humanitarian crisis. In response, the SJF provided \$50,000 in funds to the Canadian-based organization, GlobalMedic, to support with the distribution of food, hygiene items, medical supplies and more, while also deploying a Rapid Response Team to address the need of refugees crossing the border into Romania. An additional \$150,000 was donated in collaboration between the SJF, Unifor National and Unifor Regional Councils, to the Red Cross to also support relief efforts.



Supporting Journalists Fleeing Afghanistan

In 2021, the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan – 20 years after being forced out by a coalition of U.S. and allied forces. The Taliban's return to power caused widespread fear amongst Afghans, due to their long history of brutal political violence, repression and human rights violations – particularly against journalists and the free press. Many attempted to flee the country due to being targeted, kidnapped, and tortured – while others were tragically killed. The Social Justice Fund, Unifor National and the Unifor Media Council, joined together to donate over \$30,000 to support our partners at Journalists for Human Rights, International Media Support and International Federation of Journalists to coordinate efforts with Canadian federal government and support as many Afghan journalists as possible to safely flee the country.

These funds also helped cover sponsorship costs to ensure the safe evacuation of renowned Afghan TV journalist and satirist, Siar Mateen and his family – one of the 10 families Unifor was able to help leave the country and resettle to Canada and other parts of the world. A special thank you to Unifor's Kate Lonergan and Randy Kitt for their tireless efforts to ensure the safety of these journalists and families.



Donations

Every year, the Social Justice Fund makes donations to support hundreds of local, provincial, national and international organizations, supporting a range of important social causes, issues and events. Here are just some of what the SJF supported in 2022:



Women & Gender Equity

- John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights
- Journalists for Human Rights
- World Social Forum 2022

LGBTQ+ Rights

- Durham Alliance Outreach

Donations

Housing, Shelter and Anti-Poverty

- Raising the Roof
- First United Church Community Ministry
- Hope Mission
- Yonge Street Mission
- Shine Through the Rain (Rainy Day Food & Shelter Program)

Violence Against Women Shelters

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| • La Dauphinelle | • Lurana Shelter Society | • Grace Sparkes House |
| • Interval House of Ottawa | • Saskatoon Interval House | • Maison d'accueil le Mitan |
| • Maison d'Hebergement Accueil | • Willow Place | • La Maison des Femmes de Quebec |
| • Women's Resources of Kawartha Lakes | • Prince George Native Friendship Center | • Rainy River District Women's Shelter of Hope |
| • Hope 24/7 | • The Redwood | • Anduhyaun |
| • Nelson House of Ottawa-Carleton | • Bryony House | |
| • Monarch Place | • Cape Breton Transition House | |
| | • Anderson House | |

Children & Youth Services

- Gîte Jeunesse
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Victoria
- Motivation Jeunesse 16/18 Inc.
- Service d'Hebergement St-Denis
- Children's Health Foundation

Indigenous solidarity

- New Horizons Indigenous Association

Immigrant and Refugee services

- Christine Refugee Welcome Centre
- Immigrant Women's Services Ottawa

Food Security

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| • Hamilton Food Share | • Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Center | • Souris Food Bank |
| • Food Bank of York Region | • Regina and District Food Bank | • Glace Bay Food Bank Society |
| • Les Ailes de L'Espoir de St-Calixte | • Winnipeg Harvest | • Community Food Sharing Association |
| • Resto Plateau | • The London and Area Food Bank | • Woodstock First Nation Health Centre |
| • Moisson Quebec | • Daily Bread Food Bank | • Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Society |
| • Feed Nova Scotia | • Moisson Saguenay Lac-St. Jean | • White River First Nation |
| • Surrey Food Bank Society | • Food Depot Alimentaire Inc. | • Sagkeeng First Nation Food Bank |
| • Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank Society | | |

Social & Community Services

- YWCA Hamilton
- YWCA Metro Vancouver
- United Way Niagara
- Yorktown Family Services

Women & Gender Equity

- Girls Inc. of York Region
- Massey Centre for Women
- Women's Legal Education & Action Fund
- Bridges for Women Society
- YWCA Canada
- Cuso International



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