

News Release



July 30, 2020

Emergency funding for cancer patients during COVID-19

Government of Canada and United Way partner to help Alberta communities

Alberta - During the pandemic, Albertans have been struggling. Some with sudden job loss and financial strain in addition to a cancer diagnosis. As the effect of this global pandemic continues to evolve for Albertans, the needs of cancer patients province-wide continue to increase.

"The Alberta Cancer Foundation is grateful to have received an incredibly generous grant from United Way Alberta Northwest to support our COVID-19 Psychosocial Emergency Response Program," says John Lehnert, Alberta Cancer Foundation trustee, who lives in Grande Prairie. "This grant will help ease the financial burdens of Albertans facing cancer during the pandemic and will allow them to concentrate on healing instead of worrying about making ends meet."

The funding will provide interim financial support to patients of the **Grande Prairie Cancer Centre** and the **Peace River Community Cancer Centre** who are experiencing financial distress. The Alberta Cancer Foundation is the proud partner of Alberta Health Services and CancerControl Alberta which allows us to provide emergency financial assistance to patients at the cancer centres.

Employment & Social Development Canada (ESDC) has established a COVID-19 Emergency Community Support Fund (COVID-19 ECSF) and has chosen the United Way Centraide Network to administer these funds in local communities. The objective of the COVID-19 ECSF is to provide assistance to organizations attending to the needs of vulnerable populations during the global COVID-19 outbreak. This funding increases the capacity of community service organizations to respond to the immediate and short-term needs of Canadians through providing community supports and services. The ECSF is a \$350 million investment and United Way Alberta Northwest is disbursing \$435,000 to serve an area of roughly one quarter of Alberta, from Grande Cache to the NWT border and from Slave Lake to the B.C. border.

The COVID-19 ECSF has allowed United Way to make several investments in our communities. The Alberta Cancer Foundation is grateful to Employment and Social Development Canada and United Way Centraide Canada for this partnership funded by the Government of Canada.



albertacancer.ca

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Pictured: John Lehnert (ACF Trustee), Jamie Craig (Executive Director, United Way Alberta Northwest), Tracy Zuk (United Way Alberta Northwest Business Development Manager)

For media inquiries, contact: **Please note Skype interviews can be arranged*

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Our Purpose

To create more moments for Albertans facing cancer by inspiring our community to give to innovation in detection, treatment, and care.



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