

# **United Way** Prince Edward Island







# REPORT TO COMMUNITY 2022-23

PEIUNITEDWAY.COM

**United Way** Prince Edward Island



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# **CEO & PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

In writing this message, we have been reflecting on the fact that it's been yet another "unprecedented" year. Just as we were beginning to adapt to a new and fundamentally changed world post-pandemic, our Island was hit with Post Tropical Hurricane Fiona, and United Way's experience as a fundraiser, grantmaker, and systems connector was once again put into action. **Together with the support of our partners — government, corporate, individuals, and agencies — we directed emergency funds to those who needed it most, connected Islanders to available supports through our 211 service, and convened the community sector to identify longer-term supports required.** 

Through this response, we never lost sight of the need to address the underlying systems that maintain inequities and leave many Islanders behind. Our province is facing high rates of inflation, food insecurity, and a housing crisis. More and more, people are relying on charitable organizations to help fill the gaps between their income and their basic needs. In addition to providing funding, United Way of PEI is working to strengthen the community sector by developing strong leaders through our new ED Academy, and by providing training to staff and boards in areas such as program evaluation, governance, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

All of this work has been guided by our new strategic plan, which is built on a foundation of organizational excellence. It maintains and strengthens our roles as a funder, convener, and trusted advisor, and pushes us to be bold in our approach to increasing revenue and bringing people and resources together to respond to our community's greatest and emerging needs.

Your donations have powered this work and supported a network of local social service agencies, together reaching over 26,000 Islanders in the past year. Thanks to the commitment and leadership of our board of directors, staff, donors, volunteers, and entrusted community partners, United Way of PEI will continue to advance equity and find the best ways of uniting people and resources to meet immediate needs and find long-term solutions to the challenges facing our Island.

From everyone here at United Way of PEI, thank you for all that you have done to strengthen this place we call home.

With your support we have helped over 26,000 Islanders in the past year.



ANDREA MACDONALD CEO UNITED WAY OF PEI

LEA BRYDEN PRESIDENT UNITED WAY OF PEI



We know that for a community to be great, it has to be great for everyone.

**ABOUT US:** WHAT WE DO

United Way of PEI works to break down barriers, improve lives, and create opportunities for the people who need us most. Everyone on PEI deserves the opportunities, access, and connections they need to build a good life regardless of their income or their social identity.

United Way of PEI

We build and strengthen a network of local agencies that function as PEI's social safety net.

### We believe that we are stronger united. By bringing people together, we move people out of poverty by:



PAY TO THE ORDER OF

> **Increasing access** to mental health services







Addressing **food** security





Keeping seniors connected & engaged

Helping kids &

youth succeed





In 2021, the United Way of PEI became the first organization on Prince Edward Island to be accredited under Imagine Canada's Standards program.

What this means for our donors is that when you support United Way of PEI, you can be assured of excellence in accountability, transparency, and governance.

# HOW WE WORK

# **INVEST**

United Way of PEI sustains a network of local agencies that deliver essential services and programs. We provide financial support and mentorship to local organizations that are innovative, collaborative, and that create measurable impact.

# **ADVISE**

We offer strategic advice to companies, individuals, and other investors who want to make the greatest impact possible on the

# BUILD

We build and foster community by connecting leaders with the training, mentorship, and resources they need to excel at what they do.

issues that matter to them most.

# **FUNDRAISE**

We ignite a network of passionate and engaged donors - businesses, unions, foundations, and individuals - to get to the root of local issues and support long-term solutions.

With your support, United Way of PEI helped over









# LOCAL IMPACT: 2022 FUNDED PARTNERS & PROGRAMS

In 2022, we provided funding, support, and mentorship to 12 local organizations across PEI through our Community Investment Fund. The impact of these United Way-funded programs is reflected in the many inspiring stories of recovery, growth, and transformation, and it's all thanks to your generous support!

### **PEERS Alliance:** PEI Queer Youth Collective

The PEI Queer Youth Collective is a **low-barrier social support initiative** designed to promote community and social connection, community leadership, resiliency, and psychosocial well-being among 2SLGBTQ+ identified youth and youth allies. Group meetings are currently held in Summerside, Montague, and Charlottetown.



surveyed say that QYC helps them make friends, connect to the 2SLGBTQ+ community, and feel less isolated

# 12 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

across PEI through our Community Investment Grants.

> I think that if I hadn't found QYC when I first moved to PEI, I'd never have met my friends and known what it's like to have a family that accepts me for all I am.

- QYC Participant

Π

### **The Black Cultural Society of PEI:** BPOC Peer Support Program

The Black Cultural Society of PEI's BPOC Peer Support Program offers **mental health support for PEI's Black and People of Colour communities**, while simultaneously **running an anti-stigma campaign** around mental illness within BPOC communities.



# **Native Council of PEI:** The Reconciliation and Healing Initiative

Reconciliation and Healing will bring offreserve Indigenous women, youth, and 2SLGBTQ+ community members affected by residential schools and poverty **together to provide group healing activities, Elders support, and education on traditional practices and intergenerational poverty,** and will raise awareness of the NCPEI programs and services available to end poverty.



surveyed reported feeling an increased connection to their culture and other women in their community

## Blooming House: First Step Program

The First Step Program **helps women navigate services** such as housing, mental health and addictions, transportation, and community programming, while also developing practical life skills to minimize the risk of chronic homelessness and find long-term solutions.



that participate in the First Step Program were able to find housing I'm glad this peer support option is being offered! I think a lot of my friends will benefit from it

- BPOC Peer Support Program Participant



Without the women who work at Blooming House, it wouldn't be possible to have such a great support team in place when I'm in need of a helping hand. I'm grateful to have had the resources to discover the better parts of life. I could probably write a book on how they saved my life.

- Blooming House Client

There were opportunities for healing, crafting, discussion, and sharing of stories, topped off with playing, laughter, and dancing. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of such a healing space.

- Participant of the Reconciliation and Healing Initiative

### **BGC Prince County:** Nutritional Breakfast Program

The Nutritional Breakfast Program operates Monday - Friday from 6:30 AM - 8:30 AM year-round, **providing kids with a healthy breakfast, physical activity, time with friends, learning and mentorship opportunities, and homework support**. The Club also provides transportation to and from the Club and school, along with healthy food for lunches when needed.



said that thanks to the club, they have an adult mentor they can turn to for support

### **BGC Charlottetown & Montague:** Great Futures Bursary Program

The Great Futures Program **aims to remove financial barriers and provide high-quality educational, social, and recreational based programming to kids ages 5-14**, regardless of household income. The aim is to introduce kids to their communities, instill the value of giving back, and showcase the value of being part of a community.







Our funded partners are required to measure program impact. Besides funding, we provide them with mentorship, training, and support to help ensure success.



We're very thankful for this program, especially with the cost of food these days. Every little bit helps.

- Parent, BGC Prince County



If the staff at BGC hadn't let us know about the Great Futures Bursary Program, I don't know what we would have done. Thanks for caring enough about us to provide this support so that our kids can stay at the Club.

- Parent, BGC Charlottetown

### **PEI Literacy Alliance:** Ready Set Learn Program

The Ready Set Learn program **provides one-to-one tutoring during the summer to children in grades K-6** who are enrolled in English, French, and EAL language programs. Ready Set Learn is the only free Island-wide tutoring program for children ages 5-12 who struggle in the areas of reading, writing, and math.





developed the literacy and socialemotional skills they need to address their learning challenges

said their children improved their reading, writing, and math skills over the summer

### **PEI Family Violence Prevention Services:** Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives Program

The program **supports the mental and emotional wellness of women fleeing violence**. Funding will improve training and increase staff time dedicated to supporting Anderson House clients.



surveyed reported improvements in coping skills and general mental wellness, and a greater understanding of how their thoughts, feelings, and behaviours interact

### **Family Service PEI:** Increasing Access to Mental Health Services

Family Service PEI **provides mental health counseling to Islanders** regardless of their ability to pay. United Way funding supports the ability to provide fee subsidies and waivers to low-income clients, ensuring barrier-free access to mental health support.



received reduced-fee or fully subsidized counseling services and resources I learned I can do a lot of challenging things if I practice hard or put my mind to it! For example, I thought writing was hard and I used to only write a few words or one sentence, but once I ended up writing an entire page!

- Ready Set Learn Participant



I gained skills to help me better cope with my anxiety.

- Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives Participant During my two years as a Clinical Therapist at Family Service PEI I have been fortunate enough to witness first-hand the considerable impact United Way's financial contribution has had on clients during their time of need. My therapeutic niche is trauma therapy. It is not a band-aid solution or a quick fix, but an opportunity for lasting change in the lives of individuals. When clients make the decision to resolve trauma the process is raw, vulnerable, and incredibly rewarding. It has been a great relief knowing that even if unexpected financial barriers show up in the lives of clientele, it does not mean that their healing process needs to be halted, prolonged, or rushed. By offering these fee waivers you are investing in the belief that people can change their circumstances. I have had the privilege of witnessing individuals who received your funding recover from addictions, escape domestic violence, embrace their gender identity, shed their shame, and accept themselves as they are. It is a remarkable journey to be a part of and I sincerely thank you for breaking down financial barriers to ensure that opportunity for healing is more equitable. Thank you!

FSPEI Clinical Therapist

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters PEI:** Teen Mentoring Program

The Teen Mentoring Program matches elementary school children with teen mentors weekly throughout the school year, providing the opportunity for participants to build confidence and form new positive, healthy relationships. The program helps encourage achievement at school while engaging in a variety of fun and educational activities.



received peer-to-peer support during the year, helping them succeed in school, develop friendships, and build confidence

### Sierra Club (Wild Child PEI) & Women's Network PEI: Wild Hub Program

Wild Hub is a **weekly program for teens designed to build peer connection and support, inspire youth leadership**, and assist youth in developing and learning about healthy relationships. At Wild Hub, participants will cook food together, play on the land, learn from guest speakers, host discussion groups, create art, and learn more about themselves.



reported feeling more connected to peers, their community, supportive adults, and mentors There were days when I wasn't going to go to school until I realized that my mentor would be there that day.

- Teen Mentoring Program Participant

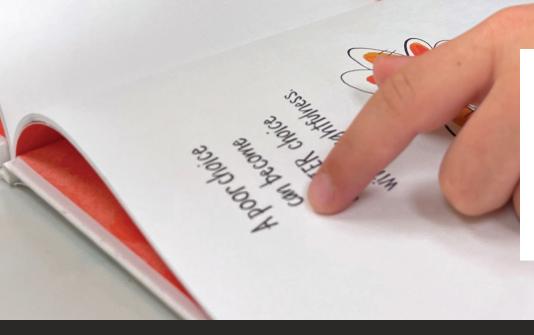


Wild Hub is one of my favourite places in the world. Everyone here is so kind and supportive!

- Wild Hub Participant







The United Way of PEI has been **proudly serving** Islanders and Island communities since



That's over 60 years of changing lives!



# Get Help Finding Help.

Live. Personal. Local. Support.

211 PEI answered over

211

When you don't know where to turn.

5,800 CALLS

related to Hurricane Fiona programs, services, and supports.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

211 PEI has continued to grow over the past year, helping even more Islanders navigate the complex network of social, community, and government services available across the Island.

From April 1st 2022 – March 31st 2023, there were:



WEBSITE USERS

**211 PEI was a critical resource in the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona.** For many Islanders, it was one of the few places they could turn to speak with a real person who could help them find muchneeded support.

The high level of service provided by 211's Community Resource Navigators along with the high volume of calls from Islanders clearly demonstrates the **critical role that United Way's 211 service plays when disaster strikes.** 

### **But 211 isn't just for times of crisis.** In 2022, the top needs of callers not related to Hurricane Fiona included:





Free | Confidential | Available 24/7 | 365 days a year Accessible in over 240 languages | Dial 2-1-1 or visit www.pe.211.ca

I cannot speak highly enough about 211. The Navigator I spoke with was so calm and knowledgeable, and my family is so grateful for the help. If it wasn't for 211, I would never have known all this help was available for me.

- 211 Caller



The United Way of PEI operates PEI's 211 service, helping Islanders connect quickly and easily with community, social, government and health programs and services across the province.





# HURRICANE FIONA RESPONSE

When Hurricane Fiona devastated the Island in September of 2022, the United Way of PEI was there to meet the immediate needs of Islanders and assist with **community recovery efforts.** Thanks to funding from the Government of PEI and generous donations from Medavie Foundation, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, CIBC, The Mutual Fire Insurance Company of British Columbia, and individual donors, United Way of PEI provided \$565,782 to 40 community organizations able to get support into the hands of individuals who needed it most.

### The result of this collective community recovery effort was truly phenomenal:



OF EMERGENCY FUNDING WAS PROVIDED TO HELP THOSE MOST IN NEED

**5,800** 

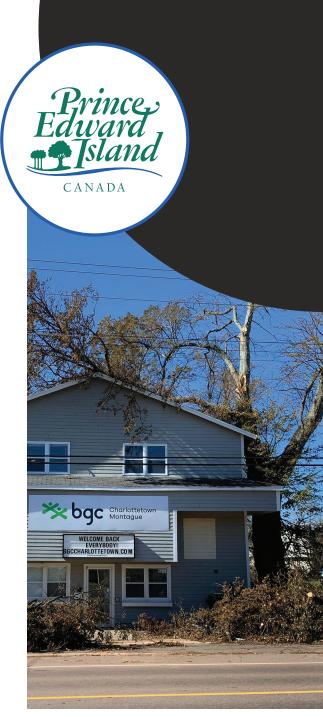
ISLANDERS CONNECTED TO INFORMATION AND SUPPORT THROUGH OUR 211 PEI SERVICE













# United Way of PEI provided \$565,782 to

40 community organizations.

This support helped families feel loved and cared for, above and beyond helping parents feed their kids. We hope that you will communicate to donors that they saved lives with this donation. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

- Ted Lockie, Executive Director of BGC Charlottetown

II As Rural transit was not available during the week of Fiona, some people could not get to work even though their workplace was open. This left people with lost income, and there were no programs for lost wages if the place of employment was open. The growing issues of food insecurity and affordable housing are placing newcomers in increasingly vulnerable situations, so our clients were so thankful to receive this support. **II** 

- PEI Community Navigators

I wasn't sure how I was going to get groceries this week. I cried when you called me to offer this support. II

- Recipient

### FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS:

The following community organizations received funding to support the urgent & long term needs of the populations they serve. We want to thank them for stepping up to help Islanders and Island communities as, together, we recover from the impacts of Hurricane Fiona.

- BGC Charlottetown
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of PEI
- BIPOC USHR with Charlottetown Mutual Aid
- PEERS Alliance
- PEI Association for Community Living
- PEI Family Violence Prevention Services
- PEI Military Family Resource Centre
- Immigrant and Refugee Services Association PEI
- Women's Network PEI
- PEI Transgender Network LTD.
- Kings Playhouse
- ResourceAbilities
- Native Council of PEI
- East Prince Youth Development Centre Inc.
- PEI Humane Society
- Black Cultural Society of Prince Edward Island
- Lennox Island Band Council
- Alzheimer Society of PEI
- Hospice Palliative Care Association of PEI (Hospice PEI)
- Credit Counselling PEI
- Family Service PEI

- Atlantic Student Development Alliance (ASDA)
- Gifts from the Heart Inc.
- Autism Society of PEI
- BGC Prince County
- Voluntary Resource Council
- Conseil Scolaire-Communautaire Evangeline
- Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church
- Chances Inc.
- UPEI Student Union
- PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre (PEIRSAC)
- Spinal Cord Injury PEI
- WellSpring Presbyterian Church
- Kidney Foundation of Canada Atlantic Branch
- Abegweit First Nation
- West Prince Ventures Limited w/ PEI Community Navigators
- Brain Injury Association of PEI
- Blooming House
- La Coopérative D'Intégration Francophone de l'île-du-Prince-Édouard
- Winsloe Lions Club

Special thanks to the Confederation Centre of the Arts and Choir! Choir! Choir! for hosting "Sweet Relief!": a special evening of song and community building in support of United Ways in Atlantic Canada working to aid in Fiona recovery efforts.





# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & INDIGENIZATION

Local issues can only be addressed when we are held accountable for creating a community where individuals are provided the opportunity to live with hope, dignity, and a sense of belonging.

The United Way of PEI believes it is our role to lead by example as it relates to diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy implementation. We strive to model this work in every aspect of our organization, including in the support we provide to our community. We strive to be a model of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### **OUR COMMITMENTS**



Increase and grow diversity in our committees, volunteer groups, board of directors, and staff.



Fund, steward, and build the capacity of organizations that have inclusion and diversity as a core part of their mandate.



Support and educate agencies and communities to grow their DEI capacity through workshops, training, and sharing resources.



Ensure the voices of our communities are heard, and that the cultures of all community members are respected.



Working with businesses, organizations, and agencies to promote the value of PEI's diverse communities through education and engagement opportunities. United Way of PEI respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we live and work is the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people of PEI. We encourage everyone to seek opportunities to learn and support Indigenous communities.



### Our progress over the past year:

• We guided **13 staff members** from our funded partner organizations through a **6-month intensive DEI cohort** for the purpose of strengthening their internal capacity to navigate DEI challenges.

 We conducted 130 individual DEI 1:1 sessions with funded partners and community organizations. Additionally, we delivered
4 DEI community workshops to funded partner organizations.

• We have made an **intentional effort** to ensure that our board and staff demographics **reflect the diverse community we serve.** 

• We have engaged in **learning opportunities** internally to continue to grow the individual capacity of our staff and board. These initiatives include workshops, 1:1 DEI coaching support, and a book clubin partnership with United Way Halifax.

• We have joined **United Way Centraide Canada's Diversity Council** to **promote DEI initiatives** across the United Way network.

• We partnered with the **PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre** to produce a **podcast on gender-based violence awareness** as it relates to members of marginalized community groups.

• Our staff **participated in special advocacy days** by attending community events like the PEI Pride Parade, Women's Network PEI's International Women's Day celebration, the Red Dress Walk, various Black History Month events, and more.

• We created a **Diversity Library** for staff, board, and funded partners to help with accessing **DEI resources**.

• We have **developed our own internal** Land Acknowledgement and introduced a process to include the sharing of current Indigenous events and new Indigenous knowledge learned by staff as standard practice before meetings and events. This work is so important, and I can already feel the impact on how our organization is going to make decisions going forward. There are a lot of trends in nonprofit spaces toward actions that feel like 'equity and justice on a surface level', and I feel like we are discussing things on a deeper level that will provide better results for the families we serve. There is so much to do, and this intentional program and the space it creates to openly talk about these things is very necessary and so helpful already.

- DEI Cohort Participant



# ED ACADEMY: COACHING, MENTORSHIP & TRAINING FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The United Way of PEI is very excited to have developed a coaching, training, and mentorship program for new Executive Directors in the not-forprofit social sector. The goal of "ED Academy" is to help develop advanced leadership skills and provide a supportive network for those who are stepping up to lead.

**ED Academy is a 12-month program** that is being facilitated by leadership coach Sara Roach-Lewis of SRL Solutions. The program includes online training models focused on fundamental leadership skills such as strategy and governance, financial management, human resources, and communications. Participants of ED Academy will also benefit from monthly group coaching and mentoring sessions with valuable opportunities to network with others in similar roles.

### ED Academy welcomed its first cohort of executive directors in the spring of 2023. The group includes Executive Directors from the following community organizations:

- BIPOC USHR
- Pride PEI
- Community Sector Network of PEI
- Lennon Recovery House
- Blooming House
- Family Service PEI
- Actions Femmes ÎPÉ
- ResourceAbilities
- Black Cultural Society of PEI
- Meals on Wheels PEI
- Sierra Club Canada Foundation / Wild Child PEI
- PEI Association for Community Living
- Voluntary Resource Centre
- BGC Charlottetown and Montague
- Lennox Island Development Corporation
- PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre



COACHING, TRAINING, AND MENTORSHIP FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS





I am looking forward to learning with everyone and connecting with people in our community. II

- ED School Participant



We want to thank this incredible group of local leaders for stepping up to join us on this journey of learning and growth!

> I am excited about a multitude of things, especially being able to actually learn how others approach the ED role. I started during the Pandemic, which was a really atypical time, so I look forward to being able to not only network, but to learn the necessary skills so that I can keep the organization afloat while also not burning out.

- ED School Participant

# 2023 UWPEI LOCAL LEADERS AWARDS

This year we were excited to introduce the United Way of PEI "Local Leaders" Awards, celebrating workplaces across PEI that have led the way in supporting our mission of making PEI better, for everyone.

In 2022, these workplaces stepped up with remarkable generosity, leadership, and commitment, rallying employees to give back to the communities where Islanders live, work, and raise families, and showing that we are "**stronger united**".

Through workplace campaigns and events, employees at these organizations went above and beyond. We are deeply grateful for the Island-wide outpouring of support and were thrilled to celebrate the following Local Leaders:

### OUR LOCAL LEADERS AWARDS GO TO ....













# We are #StrongerUnited





# WORDS FROM OUR DONORS

We hope you will continue to show your local love and stand with us as we continue to work for a more inclusive and equitable PEI, where everyone can thrive.

I feel like donating to the UWPEI is a great way to support the community, and there are a lot of challenges and needs in the community right now.

- United Way of PEI Donor

I have always given to the United Way of PEI. Years ago when I started my career, I was looking around for a trusted and credible organization that will do worthwhile things with my money, and I chose the United Way of PEI.

- United Way of PEI Donor

**II** Even before gas, food, and housing prices went up, I know many Islanders struggled just to afford rent, and owning a home was so far out of reach. I've watched friends struggle with mental health. Now that everything is getting out of hand, I feel for those already struggling and know they will have to make tough decisions on essential items and services. Instead of just saving, "How will these Islanders survive?", I decided that I'm in an OK place in my life to donate and I wouldn't miss \$20 off my credit card every month. It's only a little monthly donation, but it's something. I like the United Way because it supports many services, is socially conscious, and very transparent. 🔳

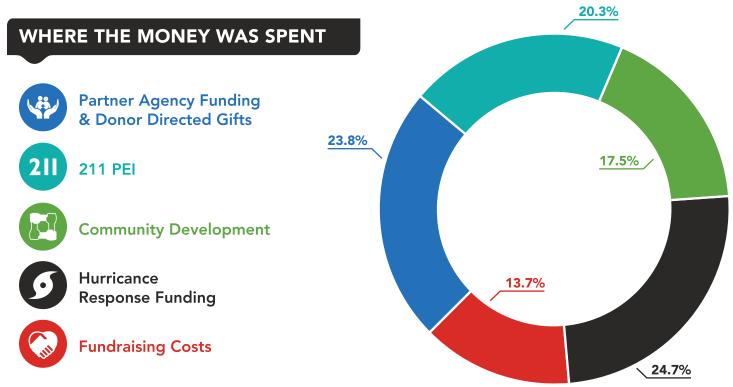
- United Way of PEI Donor



We value the trust of our donors & partners.



We are committed to financial transparency & accountability.



## FUNDED PARTNERS & PROGRAMS

# INVESTING IN PEI COMMUNITIES

### PEI Map

- THE BLACK CULTURAL SOCIETY OF PEI
- PEERS ALLIANCE
- NATIVE COUNCIL OF PEI
- BLOOMING HOUSE
- BGC PRINCE COUNTY
- BGC CHARLOTTETOWN & MONTAGUE

- PEI LITERACY ALLIANCE
- PEI FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES
- FAMILY SERVICE PEI
- BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS PEI
- SIERRA CLUB (WILD CHILD PEI) & WOMEN'S NETWORK OF PEI
- 211 PEI ALL OF PEI





















# **2022/23** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The United Way of PEI is governed by its Board of Directors, a group of diverse and dedicated community leaders who provide vision, strategic leadership, accountability, and stewardship. We invite you to visit our website at peiunitedway.com/board-of-directors to learn more about each member.



LEA BRYDEN PRESIDENT



MARY-LYNN KANE VICE PRESIDENT



RANDY CANNON PAST PRESIDENT



ASHLEY CHEVERIE TREASURER



JULIE PELLISSIER-LUSH



ANDREW MACDONALD



NINDIYA SHARMA



CARL PURSEY



**JODI MARRIN** 



SWETA DABOO



SYDNEY RIGGS

I am really grateful for the time we spent talking about how to deal with bullies and homophobia at school. It was great seeing everyone supporting and helping each other with our problems. II

- Wild Hub Participant

PARKIN FOR

# **PEIUNITEDWAY.COM**

# We are #StrongerUnited



United Way Prince Edward Island