

BLG raises more than \$660K for vulnerable communities

December 23, 2020

This year, we know the need in our communities is greater than ever. In response, BLG redoubled efforts to support United Way by establishing a national approach and coordinating efforts and resources across the country.

Earlier this fall we reconnected with United Way local representatives in our five cities to ensure our members could help some of the most pressing causes, from an increase in senior citizen isolation to spikes in local poverty.

We also issued a firm-wide challenge to rally firm members in each of our five offices virtually in an effort to raise awareness and donations. The five offices also held intense fundraising activities of their own, organized by their local committees.

With our combined efforts, BLG raised \$660,000.

Here are some of our regional highlights:

Vancouver



Vancouver rallied together “in order to help United Way of the Lower Mainland and their mission to serve the needs of our local community,” wrote Emily Galer, BLG Vancouver’s HR director.

The Vancouver committee added a new element this year: a letter writing initiative, which focused on veteran senior citizens in the community who are currently isolated. Members of the firm delivered cards and letters to all the veteran seniors residing at Whole Way House, which serves the residents of The Veterans Manor neighbourhood in Vancouver.

The veterans received the correspondence on Remembrance Day morning as a bagpiper played in their outdoor foyer.

Calgary

A highlight of Calgary’s campaign included hearing virtually from United Way Kick-Off Impact Elder Patrick Daigneault (a member of the Circle of Aboriginal, International Association of Public Participation and the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business). Elder Daigneault spoke to BLG members about being taken from his home and placed in a residential school. He also relayed extensive knowledge of his Cree cultural and spiritual teachings.

Toronto

BLG Toronto members participated in a number of fundraising activities that concluded with an event featuring the United Way’s Wali Shah — a South Asian speaker and poet who has inspired thousands through his work as an artist-educator. We also heard from 12-year-old Grace, a SickKids Patient Ambassador who, together with her parents, shared her story of courage and perseverance.

Ottawa



Ottawa’s members chose to raise funds for three priority United Way programs: All that Kids Can Be, From Poverty to Possibility, and Healthy People, Strong Communities.

“Our Ottawa office’s United Way campaign gave us a platform to virtually connect and give back ... I am proud to work with colleagues that came together to give back to our community in a different way this year,” wrote [Jamison Young](#), an Ottawa-based partner in the commercial real estate group.

Montréal

BLG’s Montréal office focused on a Stay Active challenge, which encouraged firm members to get out and about (running, walking or biking), from Oct. 26, 2020 to Nov. 6, 2020, while keeping track and sharing the kilometres covered. The Montréal office matched every kilometre with a donation to Centraide of Greater Montreal.

“In Greater Montréal, one person in seven benefits from our fundraising,” wrote BLG partner [Gabriel Lefebvre](#) to his Montréal colleagues. “A major benefit of giving to Centraide is that it invests the funds where the needs are the greatest and adapts its strategies to the realities of each neighbourhood.

**Photos of some of the heartfelt cards and letters from the members of the firm (and their children) as well as a photo of the delivery to Whole Way House.*

BLG | Canada's Law Firm

As the largest, truly full-service Canadian law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) delivers practical legal advice for domestic and international clients across more practices and industries than any Canadian firm. With over 800 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals, BLG serves the legal needs of businesses and institutions across Canada and beyond – from M&A and capital markets, to disputes, financing, and trademark & patent registration.

blg.com

BLG Offices

Calgary

Centennial Place, East Tower
520 3rd Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB, Canada
T2P 0R3

T 403.232.9500
F 403.266.1395

Ottawa

World Exchange Plaza
100 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON, Canada
K1P 1J9

T 613.237.5160
F 613.230.8842

Vancouver

1200 Waterfront Centre
200 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada
V7X 1T2

T 604.687.5744
F 604.687.1415

Montréal

1000 De La Gauchetière Street West
Suite 900
Montréal, QC, Canada
H3B 5H4

T 514.954.2555
F 514.879.9015

Toronto

Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower
22 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, ON, Canada
M5H 4E3

T 416.367.6000
F 416.367.6749

The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to constitute legal advice, a complete statement of the law, or an opinion on any subject. No one should act upon it or refrain from acting without a thorough examination of the law after the facts of a specific situation are considered. You are urged to consult your legal adviser in cases of specific questions or concerns. BLG does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy, currency or completeness of this publication. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior written permission of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. If this publication was sent to you by BLG and you do not wish to receive further publications from BLG, you may ask to remove your contact information from our mailing lists by emailing unsubscribe@blg.com or manage your subscription preferences at blg.com/MyPreferences. If you feel you have received this message in error please contact communications@blg.com. BLG's privacy policy for publications may be found at blg.com/en/privacy.

© 2026 Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. Borden Ladner Gervais LLP is an Ontario Limited Liability Partnership.