

Interior Savings and Gulf & Fraser Collaborate to Accelerate Wildfire Relief

October 17, 2023 (Kelowna and Burnaby) – As communities across BC continue to face the devastating impacts of the wildfires, two long-serving credit unions have come together to bring about hope and relief for many.

The collaboration between Interior Savings and Gulf & Fraser has helped raise money for United Way BC's United for BC Wildfire Recovery Fund. The Fund, announced in August, focuses on helping people in our communities during times of crisis, with essential needs such as food, fuel, and mental health supports.

Through a *matching campaign*, each credit union pledged \$10,000, matching dollar for dollar donations made to the Fund, to accelerate their impact. Not only did they achieve their fundraising goal they exceeded it, thanks to the generosity of their members and others in the community who opened their hearts and wallets – to the tune of \$47,238. Combined with the contributions made by each of the credit unions, a total of \$67,238 was raised, surpassing their target and resulting in even more relief for those affected by the fires.

“When we announced that donations for the campaign would be matched, we hoped to inspire people to support the cause and maximize our pledge,” says Brian Harris, CEO of Interior Savings. “We couldn’t be happier with the result. Not only did the community rise to the challenge, they exceeded our expectations, proving once again we’re stronger when we work together.”

For over 80 years, both Interior Savings and Gulf & Fraser have been putting people before profits, to help create stronger, healthier communities. They are thankful for the support they’ve received from their members and communities across BC.

“Cooperation and concern for community are two key principles of credit unions around the world,” says Bill Kiss and Jeff Shewfelt, Co-CEOs of Gulf & Fraser. “The collaboration with Interior Savings is further demonstration of these principles in action, allowing us to amplify our support of the relief and recovery work being done by United Way BC.”

The change of season and cooler temperatures are expected to bring the remaining fires to an end, however the endeavor to rebuild the lives of many in communities across BC has only just begun. To help support the significant work that lies ahead, Interior Savings and Gulf & Fraser have collectively pledged a further amount of up to \$50,000. As recovery efforts get underway, so will the potential merger of these two member-owned co-operatives, as they seek stakeholder engagement to form the second largest provincially-regulated credit union in BC. To encourage member participation – irrespective of whether they are in favour or opposed – every vote cast in this democratic process will result in a donation made towards the Recovery Fund.

For more information or to donate to United Way BC's United for BC Wildfire Recovery Fund, please visit their [website](#).

About

Gulf & Fraser proudly provides credit union members with a full range of personal and business banking, investment, and insurance solutions. For over 80 years, we have been committed to empowering our communities through local collaboration, financial wellness education, and reliable advice and service. We're Gulf & Fraser and we're here to Power your possible™.

Gulf & Fraser serves over 71,000 members and offers personal and commercial banking and a full range of insurance and wealth management services through its network of 28 branches spanning from downtown Vancouver through the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley into the Boundary region of BC in Grand Forks. Learn more at gulfandfraser.com, or visit Gulf & Fraser on [Facebook](#) or [Do Some Good](#).

Interior Savings is a member-owned, democratically controlled credit union dedicated to creating local money while helping to build vibrant communities. Through its 25 branches, 16 insurance offices, Member Service Centre, and two Commercial Service Centres, the Credit Union offers personal and commercial banking and a full range of insurance and wealth management services to more than 90,000 members across 17 communities. In the last 10 years, Interior Savings has returned \$29 million to members through its Member Rewards Program and invested over \$5 million in support of community programs. Learn more at interiorsavings.com or visit Interior Savings on [Facebook](#) or [Do Some Good](#).

Contact

Corinne Johnson
Interior Savings
250-869-8320
cjohnson@interiorsavings.com

Emily Ingram
Gulf & Fraser
604-202-6146
eingram@gulfandfraser.com

*Gulf & Fraser is a trade name of Gulf and Fraser Fishermen's Credit Union.
