

Taxation workers' union gives over \$120,000 to Food Banks Canada, Red Cross

Ottawa, May 25, 2020

The Union of Taxation Employees (UTE), a Component of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, represents approximately 28,000 employees working at the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Our members are diligent and hardworking employees who are going above and beyond, answering thousands of calls and processing, not only income tax returns, but also important new benefits for Canadians, including the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB), the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payment increase and the GST/HST supplementary payment. They are working long hours and weekends to ensure Canadians get the help they need.

In addition to the crucial role played by its members to help the federal government fund a multitude of services to ensure the well-being of Canadians, our union believes it has an important social role to play in our society and has a reputation for its caring and generosity in cases of need.

In the past, UTE has contributed to some very worthy causes as needs arise. Our members demonstrate their incredible generosity by personally contributing year after year to the CRA Workplace Charitable Campaign for the United Way. Furthermore, UTE supports a charity of choice, the International Children's Awareness, to whom we provide financial and human resources.

During these unprecedented times, the Union of Taxation Employees recognizes that it must continue to support not only its members but also our neighbours in need in our communities.

On behalf of its 28,000 members, the Union of Taxation Employees is therefore extremely proud to announce two new important donations during these times of crisis.

The first donation is to the **Red Cross – Stronger Together Fund**.

This charity was set up for the families affected by the tragedy in Nova Scotia where twenty-two innocent people lost their lives on April 18 and 19, 2020 in the worst mass murder in Canadian history. UTE is donating one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per victim, for a total of twenty-two thousand dollars (**\$22,000**) to the **Red Cross – Stronger Together Fund**.


The second donation is to **Food Banks Canada**.

In 2019, there were over 1.1 million visits to Canadian food banks. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been significant job losses, layoffs and business closures which are predicted to increase the demands on food banks by between 30 and 50%. The pandemic has had an impact on many Canadian working middle class families, including some of our own UTE members and their families. UTE is making a donation in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars (**\$100,000**) to **Food Banks Canada**.

UTE has also invited its sixty Locals to consider supporting this very worthwhile cause by directly donating to their local food banks.

The Union of Taxation Employees is very proud of the hard work accomplished each day by its members and their unending commitment to continue to play an important role in supporting our communities across Canada.

In Solidarity,



Marc Brière
National President
Union of Taxation Employees