



Unique Get  
Together Society

Children . Family . Community

2022  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

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# WHERE WE STARTED

*Unique Get Together Society was founded by Debra Abraham in 2014 with one of her six children with the intention of spot lighting the injustices to marginalized and underserved. The goal: create change.*

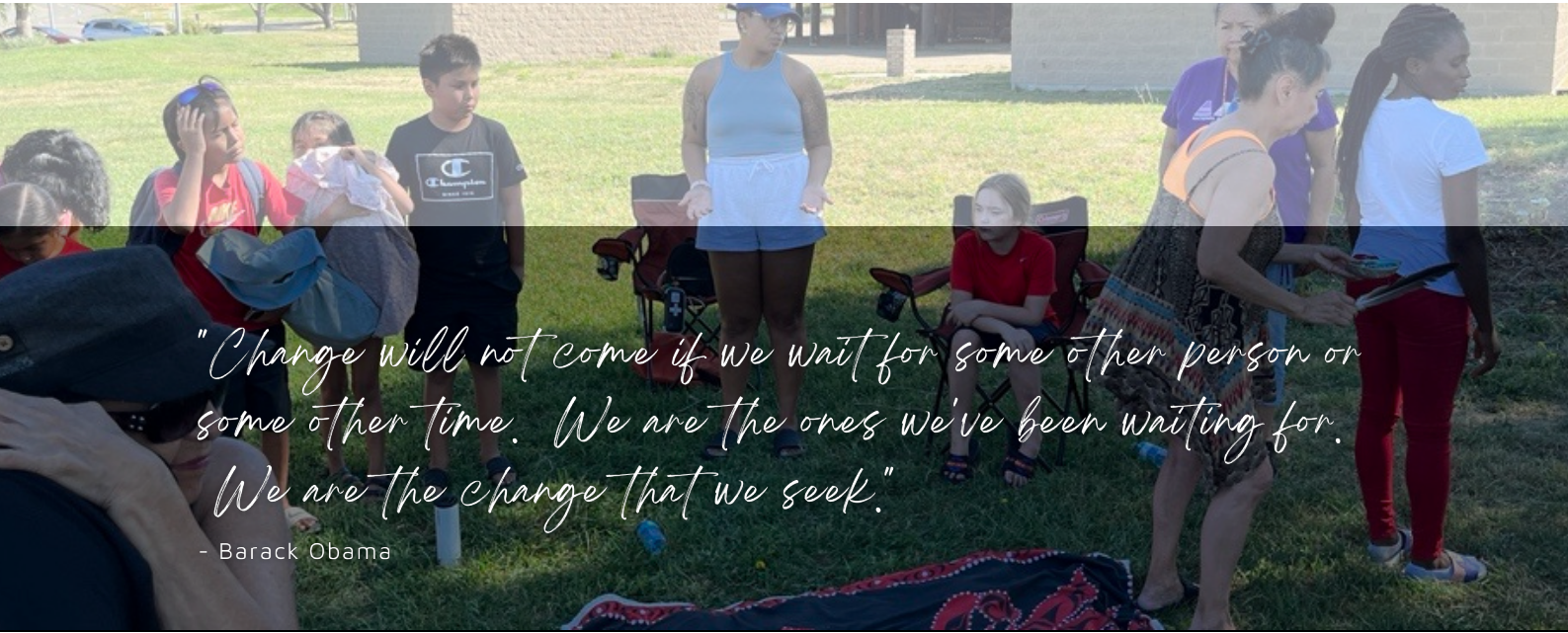
## OUR MISSION

Here at Unique Get Together Society, we see the value in everyone. We are dedicated to empowering Indigenous, marginalized and underserved communities, individuals and families. Dedicated to strengthening their overall physical, mental, social-emotional, and spiritual development. To assist families, communities and individuals through our programs such as nutritional health, family support advocacy and subsidies. We are here to fight racial and other social inequalities with love and compassion.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is to be empowered by love for humanity, the land, and for the things we do to support each other every single day. We want to create a safe place to promote individual integrity, inclusion, and diversity. That is what we were created to do: love each other no matter what, regardless of skin colour, religion, or values, without judgment, and be open-minded and accepting of each other to love.

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*"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."*

- Barack Obama

# WHAT WE STAND FOR

*UGTS aims to be a place where we can nurture and respect each other with our uniqueness, that includes all of our strengths and weaknesses as humans. We are here to make a difference and grow together. These are our foundations:*



*"It always seems impossible, until it's done."*  
-Nelson Mandela

# WHERE WE ARE NOW

*We are at the highest point we've been since we were founded in 2014 in our journey to fight racial and social inequalities. Congratulations everyone!*

Unique Get Together Society has grown to a staff of 59. All who come with their own strengths and passion to help others.

This includes an incredible support staff for group homes for at risk youth in the Fraser Valley and Coquitlam. We have succeeded in gaining the trust of these youth, who, in our care, have learnt how to cope and communicate without conflict. Our staff have been able to share their wisdom and create a safe and stable space for them to heal from their traumas. These homes run double staffed at all times, with a team of house managers on rotation, available 24 hours a day in case of incident.

This year we have expanded our reach into beautiful Kamloops, led by our founder, Debra Abraham. There, she is developing support programs, and creating an extension of all things UGTS. In an effort to highlight and create an inclusive environment, we have connected with several local BIPOC organizations, and recently we hosted two Indigenous led culture camps with support of the Kamloops Indian Band.

We also took part in a multi-cultural event in Kamloops: The Tapestry Festival, to connect with the community!

In addition to these events, we have also hosted a Black History Month events, attended job fairs and fundraised at KMS Tools and hosted our Walk for Trauma.

In Chilliwack and Vancouver, our Spring and Summer Camps have been successful! At full capacity our kids enjoyed fun filled days, which included swimming and on the land activities.

On April 1st, we expanded our Food Hamper Program to the Chilliwack area. We opened registration in the last week of March with a launch of the first delivery on April 1st. In the first week of opening registration, we had an overwhelming response to the program and registered 124 families, which equates to approximately 375 individuals. Ages ranging from infant to the elderly. Currently between Vancouver and Chilliwack, we are serving approximately 500 clients through this program.

Our on-going support programs are running successfully with leadership from our programs manager Marina Garmon and our director of operations, Kelsey McGregor.



*"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family."*

-Kofi Annan

# DID YOU KNOW?

*Unique Get Together Society has some incredible partners? Below are some of our sponsors, partners and supporters who have shown us love through donations and/or in-kind donations.*

We have had the honor of participating and contributing to the event: The World Indigenous Forum! The World Indigenous Forum (WIF) is the largest indigenous-focused conference in the world. They exist to support indigenous business owners globally – and to connect them with expert knowledge, international markets and the investment partners they need to finance and scale their businesses.

We are proud to share the platform with the Africa-Canada Education Foundation in our Sankofa Seniors Digital Literacy Program. We are so excited for our seniors and their journey into the world of technology and easy access to information.

FoodMesh, Second Harvest and Pomme Natural Foods are the ultimate food partners! They are amazing businesses that partners charities to various vendors to rescue food and give it a second life. Our food hamper program relies heavily on these types of relationships.

The Salvation Army has been vital in the launch of our Chilliwack Food Hamper Program this year. As a community partner, they helped us feed over 300 people over the span of five months.

GIV Society is also an amazing partner whom we've been able to lean on for volunteers in the past to ensure success at events and fundraisers.



## Thank you to our Sponsors & Partners:



# HEALTH & WELLNESS

*Although our primary goal is to help marginalized and underserved families, we also strive to create an inspiring, safe and stable workplace.*

In a time where health and wellness are at the forefront of most people's lives, we have developed many resources this year for our staff to utilize if ever they feel they need the extra support.

In addition to having more management staff, we have added 5 IFOT (Indigenous Focus Oriented Therapy) sessions for every employee. Our two wonderful IFOT therapists, Sabina Galay and Jennifer Apedaile, on our team are available to all staff at anytime.

We have built an HR department that is in the works of growing. Developing protocols and resources that staff will have full access to as daily guides. As living documents, our staff are welcome to share their input for the success of the organization. The opinions of our front liners is what will keep these documents current and relevant.

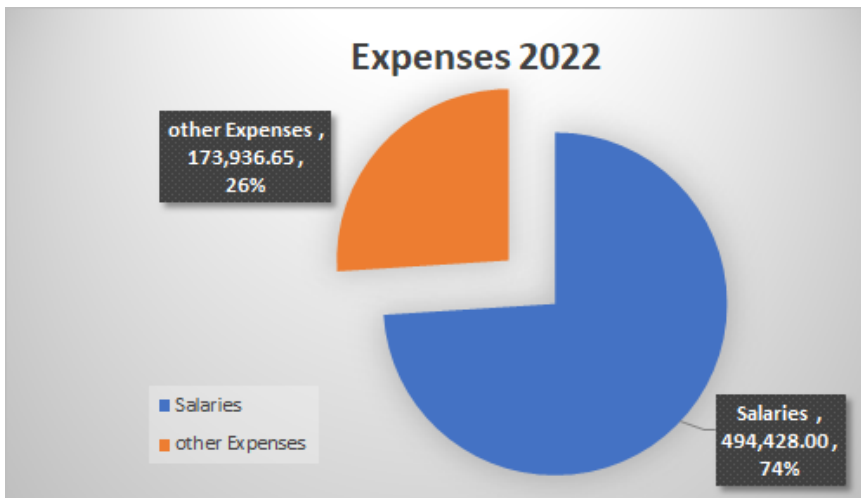
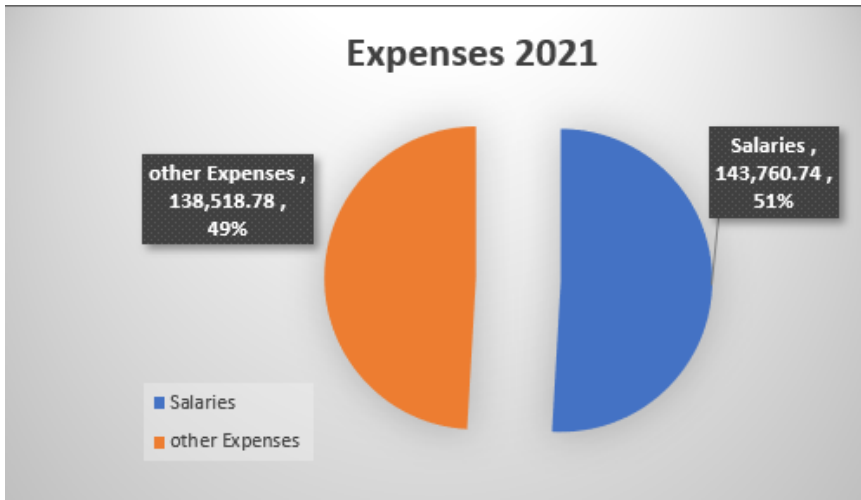
This year, with restrictions softening, we were able to host our in-person staff retreat at the beautiful Trout Lake Community Center. Here we were able to reconnect with colleagues in person, and learn different coping mechanisms led by yoga instructor Farah Nazarali. The change in scenery, and opportunity to voice our opinions and struggles in a safe space was a positive experience for all.

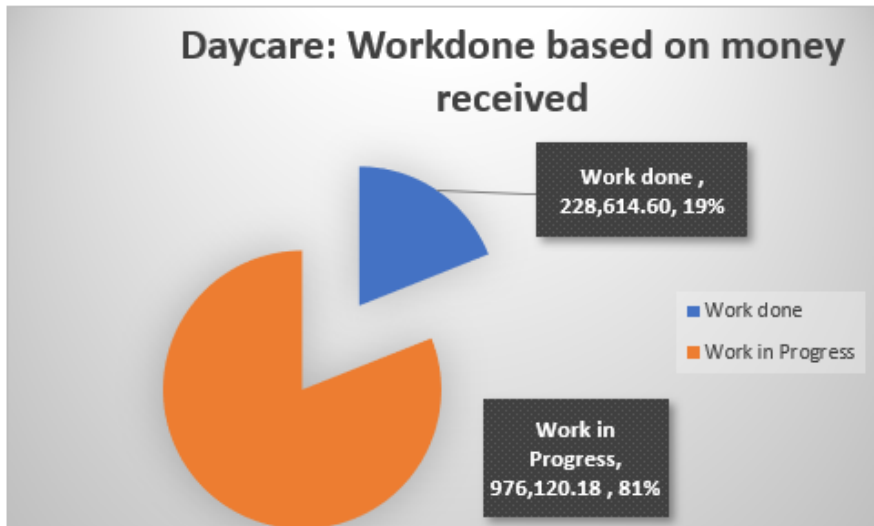
Our marketing team has also grown this year, giving us the opportunity to expand our online presence and outreach. They have also developed a bi-weekly newsletter highlighting local events, health and wellness resources and tips, along with the current events within the organization. In an effort to keep current, the marketing team also contributes blog pieces on the website to engage the public in conversation on exciting (and sometimes controversial) topics keeping the door open for conversation.



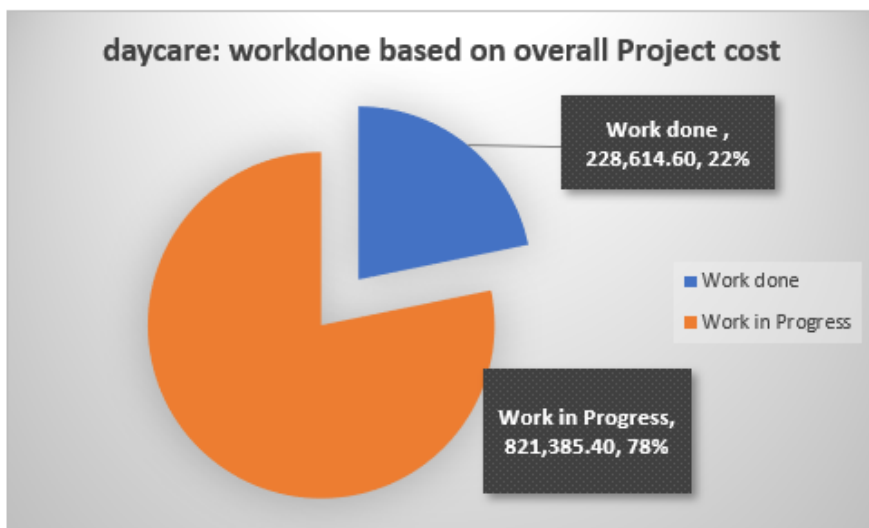
# COMPANY STATISTICS

Details	2021	2022	Percentage	Comments
Salaries	143,760.74	494,428.00	71%	From 2021 to 2022, wages increased by 71% due to additional new employees in 2022.
Other Expenses	136,518.78	173,936.00	20%	From 2021 to 2022, the increase in business operations was the primary contributor to the 20% rise in other expenses.





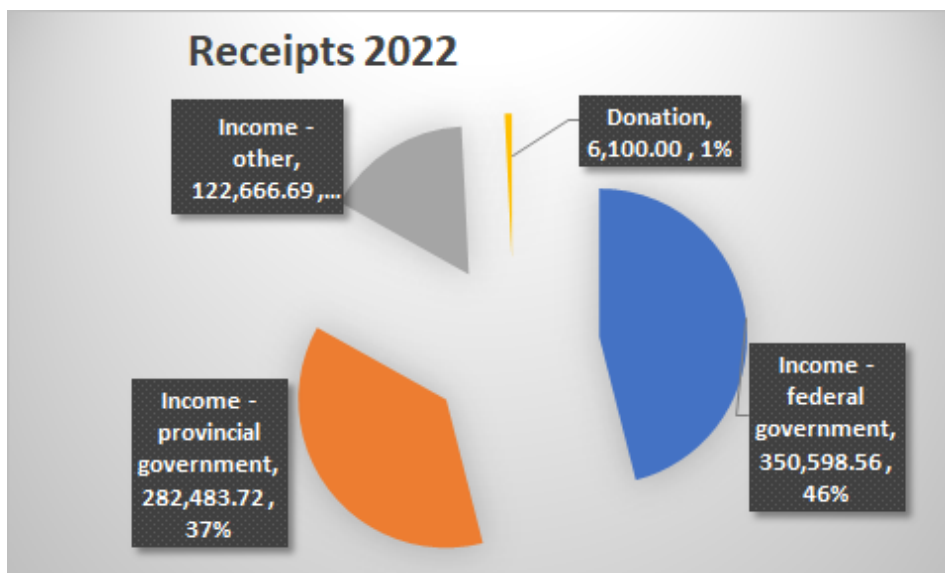
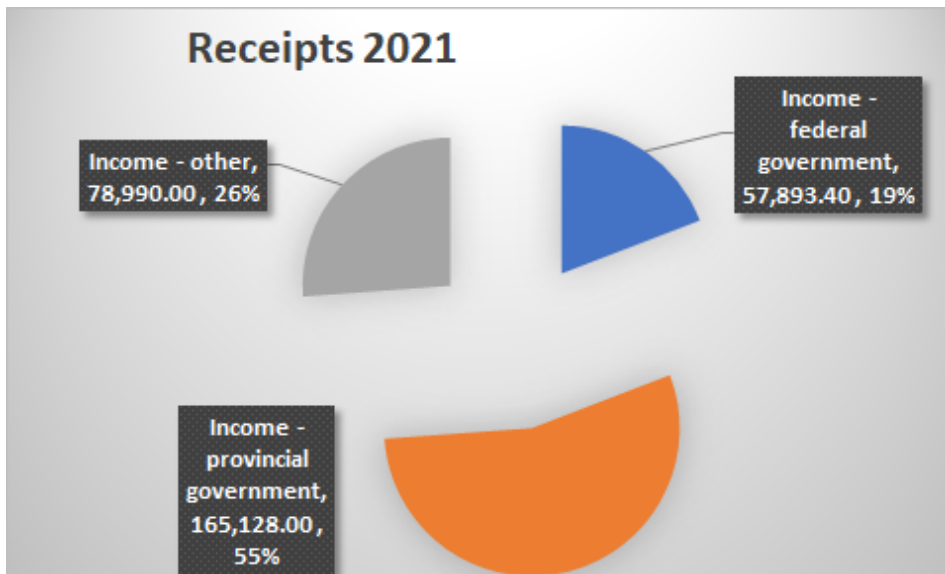
We have received \$481,893.91 out of which 47% have been spent towards the project.



The total Project cost estimate submitted was 1,050,000.00 out of which 22% we have spent.



Sources	% Revenue Increase from last year
Income - federal government	83%
Income - provincial government	42%
Income - other	36%
Donations	100%



# WHAT'S TO COME?

*As the organization grows, UGTS has some very exciting projects in the works! All programs will be ongoing, and open for registrations, while we continue to grow and expand our reach into more and more communities.*

## UGTS DAYCARE

Unique Get Together Society will be adding 36 daycare spaces in Chilliwack with \$1.2-million provincial grant. It's one of the first "state-of-the-art, 21st century" childcare centres in the province that will incorporate yoga and daily meditation with the kids, plus welcome elders and grandparents as part of the program.

Construction is well underway! We are set to open our doors in January of 2023!

## All Nations Healing House Treatment Center

This year, with expansion in Kamloops, we have found an opportunity to build an all-inclusive drug and addiction healing house. This house will incorporate be Indigenous led, with traditional medicines and practices based on the seven grandfathers teachings, as well as 12 step programs. The house will be staffed with medical professionals, elders and resource workers.

We will be fundraising for the Treatment Center in December 2022! Join us for this noble cause, helping diffuse the overdose crisis one recovery at a time.



# THANK YOU

*The progress and success of Unique Get Together Society is not possible without the dedication of our staff who go above and beyond to ensure needs are met; our volunteers who understand the mission and want to be a part of something great; our partners who show their support over and over again by keeping current with us and are always open to conversation about growth and progress; and our supporters, who know that every post, share, like, and mention to friends and family helps our society grow to help others. Thank you for being a part of this journey.*



*"A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people."*

-Mohatma Gandhi