



LOCAL WISHES LASTING IMPACT

2025 British Columbia and Yukon Report

With Gratitude: A Letter to You

On behalf of Make-A-Wish® Canada, thank you for the generosity and belief that make our work possible. Your support continues to deliver meaningful impact for children with critical illness and their families across British Columbia and Yukon.

Children facing critical illness endure far more than physical symptoms; they experience prolonged uncertainty, fear, and emotional strain. A wish intervenes at a pivotal moment, providing more than joy or distraction. Wishes help restore hope, strengthen resilience, and support emotional well-being at a time when it is needed most. *Wishes Are Medicine.*

As a champion of our mission in British Columbia and Yukon, you are an essential part of this impact. This report highlights how your generosity translates into measurable outcomes and real experiences for children in your community – from key statistics and insights to stories that reflect the depth of change a wish can create.

Your commitment ensures that more children can access this critical intervention when they need it most. As Wish Mom, Jessie, shared: “I truly felt [my daughter] had given up on her fight. Experiencing her wish was a breath of fresh air, and post-wish she is happier, more content, and has regained her willingness to endure medical procedures along with a happy spirit that shines so brightly. Having her personality restored is the biggest win I could have ever asked for.”

Thank you for believing in the power of a wish and for helping deliver hope, strength, and healing to wish kids and families in our region.

With sincere appreciation,



ABOUT MAKE-A-WISH CANADA – Make-A-Wish Canada creates life-changing wishes for children diagnosed with critical illnesses. *Wishes Are Medicine* – a vital part of a child’s medical journey that helps restore strength, hope, and resilience. Research shows that prescribed wishes can improve adherence to treatment, reduce emergency room visits, and deliver lasting health benefits.

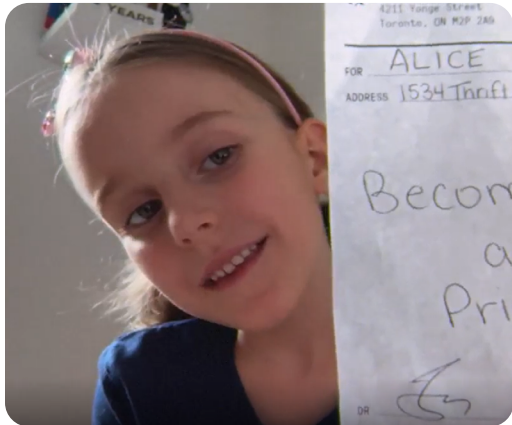
Make-A-Wish Canada is part of the world’s leading children’s wish-granting organization, serving children in communities across Canada and in 50 countries worldwide. Over the past 43 years, Make-A-Wish Canada has granted more than 40,000 wishes, including 1,835 last year alone.

(On the cover: Navy, 3, I wish to go to my favourite theme park)

Not All Medicine Comes in a Bottle

Wishes Are Medicine

Every day across Canada, children face critical illnesses no child should have to endure. In these moments, hope, strength and resilience matter more than ever. With your support, they receive something research shows is a powerful part of their care: a wish prescription that supports their medical journey and reminds them they are so much more than their diagnosis.



“The entire [wish] trip was surreal for her. By the time we went, Alice’s hair had grown to a point where she felt more like a ‘girl’ again, and when she became ‘Rapunzel’ with a hair clip, in Alice’s own words, she finally felt beautiful again. That is something medicine alone could never do.”

Jacquie, Alice’s mom

[Click to watch Alice’s story](#)



95% of surveyed doctors believe wishes improve health outcomes.

Patients who received a wish reduced their likelihood of using the emergency room by half.

95% of surveyed medical providers observed that wishes gave children strength to fight their critical illness.

Medical Advisory Committee



“As an oncologist, I see wishes as medicine every day. When I’m discussing wishes, or the kids come to clinic so excited to tell me about their recent wish experience. You just really see the child change when they’re telling you about the joy of the wish, and you can see the instant improvement in their emotional, mental, and often even physical well-being.”

Dr. Rod Rassekh, Pediatric Oncologist, BC Children’s Hospital
Make-A-Wish Canada Medical Advisory Committee

[Click to learn more from Dr. Rassekh](#)



Bravery, Bubbles, and Big Smiles – Chloe’s Wish

Chloe is a beacon of light – silly, optimistic, full of jokes and compliments. A lover of singing and dancing, Chloe dreams of becoming an actor or performer. At age seven, she began experiencing persistent knee pain. Her family assumed it was growing pains or a minor injury, but when the discomfort lingered, a visit to the emergency room turned into a month-long stay.

“When we first received the news that Chloe was diagnosed with leukemia, it was April Fool’s Day, and it was like the whole world was playing a big joke on us,” shared Chloe’s mom, Tina. “We were terrified. But mostly, we felt an immense amount of sadness knowing Chloe’s life would never be the same.”



When Chloe was referred for a wish by her nurse, Suzanne, the family chose a magical getaway to Florida – sunshine, princesses, and adventure. Finding out Chloe’s wish would be granted offered a joyful focus and a much-needed distraction. Chloe and Olivia spent a week being carefree kids again, meeting their favorite characters and turning a bath into a mountain of bubbles that reached the ceiling.

“My favorite memory,” Tina recalls, “was watching Chloe and Olivia go on some of the scariest rides and them laughing about it, together. Ever since Chloe was diagnosed, I’ve been a protective mama bear, and seeing them let loose and enjoy their childhood was a blessing.”

“For one week,” Tina said, “we got a little piece of life back and plenty of hope. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”



I wish to go to my favourite theme park
Chloe, 7
 leukemia

Building Memories – Julian’s Wish



From the very beginning, Julian has been a source of joy and light to everyone around him. But when his mom, Lolliver, was five months pregnant, a routine ultrasound revealed a congenital heart defect that would require immediate attention. “The day we found out was one of the hardest days of our lives,” recalls Lolliver. “However, we as a family, decided that we would go through with the pregnancy and give Julian all the love and care he needs.”

Once Julian was born, he underwent three open-heart surgeries: one at just one week old, another at nine months, and a third at age four. He also received a heart catheterization and a minor procedure to plug a blood vessel bypassing his lungs. Despite everything, Julian’s spirit never wavered. His condition is isolated to his heart, and he hasn’t needed special care beyond monitoring his energy levels. Doctors encouraged his family to let him live freely, and Julian has done just that.

Julian was referred for and granted a wish after his third surgery. For his wish, Julian followed his love for building and chose a trip to LEGOLAND® in San Diego. The highlight was an exclusive Master Builder’s tour, where he saw how LEGO® comes to life. The team even created two custom LEGO® figures of Julian, one for him to keep and one to place in the park. “It was truly heartwarming,” Lolliver said. “Knowing he’ll be part of that place forever, it’s something we’ll never forget.”

Julian’s favorite memory? The pirate ride, where guests could spray water at each other, and even at unsuspecting bystanders. “It was truly a memorable trip,” Lolliver recalls. “Julian was so happy.”

Since returning home, Julian and his brother, Maverick, often talk about their adventure. “Wishes do come true,” they tell friends and cousins. Now eight years old, Julian continues to shine, sharing his joy, kindness, and love wherever he goes.



I wish to go to LEGOLAND®
Julian, 7
 congenital heart disease

Wishes by the Numbers in British Columbia and Yukon

262

Wishes granted in British Columbia and Yukon in FY25

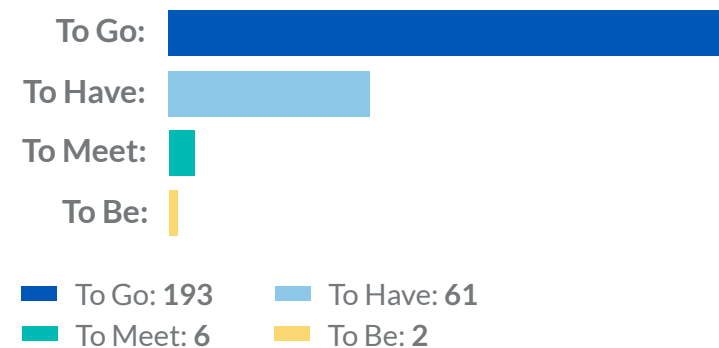
1,835

Wishes granted in Canada in FY25

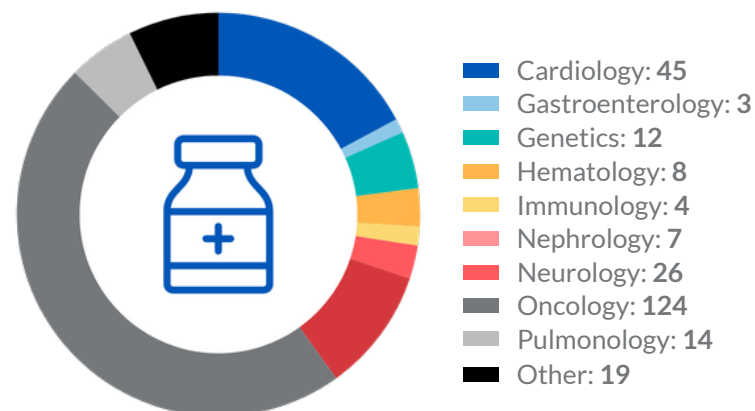
75

Communities wishes were granted British Columbia and Yukon in FY25

Wishes by type in British Columbia and Yukon: 262



Wishes by Illness in British Columbia and Yukon:



Every 2 hours...

a child in Canada is diagnosed with a critical illness

3,531 Wishes Are Waiting

in Canada as of October 1, 2025

322 referrals

were received in British Columbia and Yukon in FY25

Want to Learn More?

Click to view our FY25 Annual Impact Report.

Wish Leadership

Celebrating those who guide, inspire, and support wishes across British Columbia and Yukon.

STARboard unites wish alumni ages 13 to 18 who volunteer to be a voice for wish children. Their advice, event support, and ambassador work help Make-A-Wish Canada better respond to the needs of wish families across the country.

Meet Your STARboard Member: Ming

“Hello, my name is Ming, and I’m 16 years old. In the summer of 2021, after weeks of headaches and double vision, I was diagnosed with a brain tumour. It was a huge shock; I thought it was just too much screen time. Treatment was long and difficult, with six cycles of chemotherapy, proton therapy, and two surgeries. I’ll never forget hearing that nearly 100 percent of the tumour had been removed. Healing was slow, and my vision issues made even standing a challenge, but I was grateful every day for the doctors, nurses, and staff who helped me recover.

In 2023, I learned my most heartfelt wish would be granted. At first, I wanted to travel, but then I thought about giving back to the hospital that cared for me. I used my wish to donate instruments, games, and craft supplies to the teen room—something that would help kids like me. Seeing the staff’s gratitude inspired me to join STARboard so I can help bring hope to other wish kids.”



Ming
STARboard Member

Chapter Advisory Board

British Columbia and Yukon’s Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) supports Make-A-Wish in delivering fundraising and wish-granting efforts across the province and territory. We are deeply grateful to the volunteers who share their expertise, time, and leadership.

Branko Bejo (Chair)
Wayne Arondus (Vice Chair)
Darcy Matheson
Feisal Nassar
Jaclyn Vanstone

Josephine Gonzales
Katie Mundy
Matthew McGee
Rebecca Casey
Shaemas Lal

Wish Granting Excellence

Generosity takes many forms. Here's just a few examples of how supporters in British Columbia and Yukon are helping grant life-changing wishes

Trees of Joy Vancouver

The inaugural Trees of Joy Vancouver raised \$100,000 to wish it forward for kids on the waitlist and brought together 152 guests and 29 volunteers at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel. Community partners purchased and decorated trees inspired by each child's wish, from princesses and hockey teams to galaxies and superheroes. Donors and wish families shared breakfast, unwrapped gifts, and celebrated together as each tree was revealed. After the event, the trees were delivered to the children's homes, extending the magic throughout the holiday season. Trees of Joy is more than a celebration. It is a chance to spark joy, create lasting memories, and bring the magic of a wish to life.



Wishes on the Roof

Wishes on the Roof, presented by Capital Direct Income Trust, raised an incredible \$310,000, granting 31 wishes and brought 126 guests together for an intimate evening atop the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. With sweeping city and mountain views, curated food and drink pairings, and unique entertainment, guests enjoyed a truly memorable experience. The highlight of the night was a surprise announcement to a child that their heartfelt wish was being granted. This invite-only event continues to blend connection, celebration, and meaningful impact, giving supporters a unique opportunity to witness the power of a wish firsthand.



Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie campaign and Hyatt Gingerbread Lane

The Holiday Smile Cookie campaign raised \$76,000 across 123 Tim Hortons locations in BC. The launch featured a media kick off day with alumni from the Vancouver Giants, BC Lions, and Vancouver Canucks, helping spread awareness and excitement. Thousands of customers purchased Holiday Smile Cookies to support wishes for children with critical illnesses. Over the past two years, the campaign has contributed more than \$133,000 to Make-A-Wish Canada. At the same time, Hyatt Regency Vancouver raised \$25,000 through their Gingerbread Lane display, inspiring generosity throughout the season by highlighting stories of hope and the impact of wishes.



Women for Wishes

Now in its third year, Women for Wishes continues to unite female leaders across the region in support of life-changing wishes. This year, 19 participants collectively raised \$105,000 in BC and Yukon, contributing to more than \$300,000 raised regionally since the campaign launched. Each woman joins a powerful network dedicated to making a difference. Their leadership, advocacy, and generosity help ensure more children experience the healing power of a wish.



Okanagan for Wishes

Brand new this year, Okanagan for Wishes raised \$250,000 and brought 115 guests together in Kelowna for an afternoon rooted in generosity, connection, and celebration. Hosted by Committee Chairs, Tom and Debra Mauro, the event highlighted the fundraising achievements of local youth and a multi-generational committee, inspiring and encouraging the next generation of philanthropists. Guests enjoyed an intimate experience filled with meaningful conversations, entertainment, and a surprise announcement to a local child that their life-changing wish was being granted. This event continues to strengthen the spirit of giving across the Okanagan and beyond, bringing hope to children and families when they need it most.



Slo Pitch for Kids

Slo Pitch for Kids (SPFK) raised a record-breaking \$208,000 during its 2025 tournament and brought 27 teams together at Burnaby's Riverway Sports Complex for a weekend of slo pitch, community, and fun. For more than 16 years, SPFK has united players, volunteers, and local businesses to support wishes for children with critical illnesses. With the tournament approaching \$2 million in cumulative support, SPFK remains a beloved tradition in the region. Every pitch, cheer, and moment on the field helps bring strength and healing to wish families across BC and Yukon.



Ways to Give

Click to learn more about the many ways to support our mission.



Celebration & Recognition

A Champion for Hope

How Bejo strengthens the mission in British Columbia and Yukon.

Branko Bejo's leadership, generosity, and unwavering commitment have been essential to advancing Make-A-Wish Canada's mission across BC and Yukon. As Chair of the region's Chapter Advisory Board (CAB), he has welcomed 11 new members and provided steady guidance and support at both the provincial and national level.

His leadership extends into key fundraising initiatives, including serving as the Golf for Wishes CAB Champion, where he played a central role in securing sponsors and golfer spots. Branko also contributes to the Trees of Joy Committee and is hands-on in wish delivery, connecting directly with children and families and ensuring they feel supported every step of the way.

This year, Branko was named the Provincial Volunteer of the Year in BC and Yukon in recognition of his outstanding impact. "Winning the Make-A-Wish Canada Provincial Volunteer of the Year award is a heartfelt honour. It represents the power of hope, the joy of giving, and the privilege of making a difference in children's lives," he says.

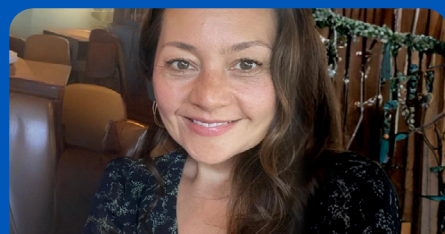
Branko's dedication continues to inspire those around him and plays a key role in helping make wishes possible across the region.



Number of Active Volunteers in British Columbia and Yukon: 105



Branko Bejo
Provincial Volunteer
of the Year



Jennifer MacMillan
Rookie of the Year



Slo Pitch for Kids (SPFK) Committee
Community Impact Award

Thank You for Making a Difference

Click to join our volunteer team.



What Healing Looks Like

Thanks to your support vital wish prescriptions were filled for kids like...



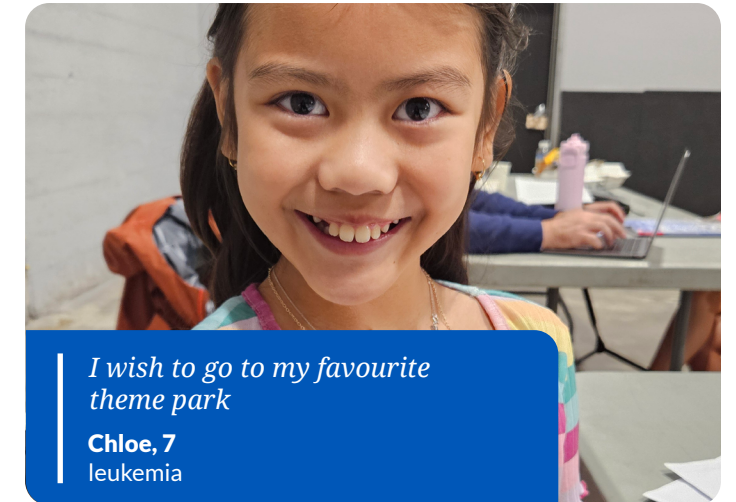
I wish to go on a tropical vacation
Maya, 13
congenital heart disease and genetic disorder



I wish to go to my favourite theme park
Ryker, 6
cancer



I wish to go to NASA and my favourite theme park
Winston, 6
heart condition



I wish to go to my favourite theme park
Chloe, 7
leukemia



I wish to go to Great Wolf Lodge
Faith, 8
cancer



I wish to go to a professional car race
Kingston, 13
leukemia



*I wish to go to my favourite
theme park*

Logan, 10
genetic disorder

Invest in Hope






A gift of publicly traded securities is a meaningful way to help grant life-changing wishes for children facing critical illness.

You may eliminate capital gains tax and receive a charitable receipt for the full value — while granting more wishes across our province.

Learn how you can invest in hope:
makeawish.ca/donate-securities

Imagine Accreditation

Accredited under Imagine Canada's National Standards Program, Make-A-Wish Canada ensures that every donor gift is managed responsibly to create meaningful impact.

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