



# UNISON FUND

Presentation to TMAC

Alex Johnson, Executive Director · May 2026

# Canada's music industry support organization.

Whole-person care for the people who make Canada sound like Canada. Financial, mental, and physical support.

## OUR MISSION

*Unison shows up for the people who give Canada its music. Because music has always been there for us.*

## WHO WE SERVE

Music workers across every role. Artists and crew, managers, engineers, technicians, and lifelong industry workers. Coast to coast to coast.

## WHAT WE DELIVER

Direct financial relief, professional counselling, and ongoing care. Delivered fast, with dignity. Every program is free.

# In 2025, someone reached out every eight hours.

Here's what we were able to do.

## \$1.5M

### TOTAL SUPPORT

delivered to 700+ individuals across Canada.

## 500

### GROCERY GIFT CARDS

music workers received one-time grocery supports to help them through crisis.

## 100

### EMERGENCY SUPPORT

individuals supported through Emergency Financial Support.

## 100

### LEGACY PROGRAM

supported through the Slight Family Foundation Legacy Program for senior and chronically ill music workers.

## 170

### COUNSELLING & THERAPY

mental health cases delivered via TELUS Health, plus Extended Therapy Support for workers needing more than short-term care.

## 4,537

### TORONTO LIFETIME

music workers supported in the GTA since 2011, with \$8.5M distributed locally.

Source: Unison Fund 2025 Impact Report. Toronto figures reflect supports delivered to music workers in the GTA since 2011.

# Care across the whole arc of a music life.

People come to Unison in one of three states: acute crisis, ongoing precarity, or long-term conditions. The continuum of care is designed to support all three.

01

## PREVENTATIVE

### *Unison Reset*

On-site nervous-system support in backstage and event environments. In design with Musicians' Clinics of Canada.

02

## STABILIZING

### *Crisis Response*

Emergency financial support and 24/7 counselling via TELUS Health. 2.5 day average application-to-decision turnaround.

03

## RESILIENCE-BUILDING

### *Extended Therapy*

Up to \$2,500/year for long-term mental health care, plus an exploratory regional caseworker model.

04

## LEGACY

### *Long-Term Care*

Up to \$10,000/year, no lifetime cap. Personal check-ins. The Slaight Family Foundation Legacy Program for senior and chronically ill music workers.

# How we deliver is part of the support.

Independent Phase 2 evaluation, published April 2026.

4.83/5

## RECIPIENT EXPERIENCE

Average rating. Among the highest in charitable program delivery.

2.5 days

## TURNAROUND

Average application-to-decision time for Emergency Financial Support.

97%

## FINANCIAL RELIEF

Of funded recipients report reduced financial stress after support.

55%

## BELONGING

Cite belonging or community as part of what they received.

*“Unison support helped me get through one of the most difficult times in my life. I wouldn't have been able to make it through without it.”*

Anonymous recipient, 2025

# The next three years of Unison.

## OUR VISION

*A vibrant Canadian music industry where no one falls through the cracks.*

01

### Coast to Coast to Coast

Think and act regionally, in order to be truly national.

02

### The Whole Arc

Programs as a continuum across a music life.

03

### Dignity by Design

Music-aware, human-to-human delivery is the work.

04

### Ambassador Network

A national network of music industry voices.

05

### Many Doors to Yes

Fundraising built on what Unison genuinely offers.

# What we're up against.

01

## Fundraising Diversification

Our fundraising currently relies on the industry itself and a few key partnerships. Long-term sustainability demands diversification.

02

## Demand outpacing capacity

As awareness grows, demand rises faster than we can scale. A good problem, and a real one, requiring sustained investment.

03

## Awareness gap outside the room

Even within music, gaps remain. Especially among younger workers and outside Ontario.

# Four ways you can help move the needle.

## 01 Spread the word

Make sure every music worker in your network knows Unison exists, and how to reach us. Our toll-free line is 1-855-9UNISON (1-855-986-4766).

## 02 Link to Unison

Add [unisonfund.ca](https://unisonfund.ca) and our toll-free line 1-855-9UNISON (1-855-986-4766) to your org's website, resource pages, and member comms.

## 03 Refer people who need us

When members or audiences are in crisis, point them to us. We answer fast and treat people with dignity.

## 04 Open doors

Partnerships, sponsorships, introductions. If music matters to your organization, there's a way to plug in.



# Thank you.

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