

HWB

2023 Impact Report



A Message from our CEO and Co-Founder

In our inaugural year of 2021, Helicopters Without Borders (HWB) set a goal to achieve three support flights to remote communities. Little did we know, our services would be in much higher demand than anticipated. By the end of 2021, we had completed 46 missions. Fast forward to the end of 2023, we've achieved over 130 community touchdowns, providing a variety of health and emergency services. Today, we reach over 3000 individuals annually, and we realize there is much more in store for us.

We recognize that Canada faces unique challenges in providing equal services to its population, which is widely dispersed over 9.9 million square km. Remote communities struggle with underdeveloped infrastructure, exacerbated by extreme weather conditions and high transportation costs, which hinder access to healthcare.

We are thrilled to present the first official Annual Impact Report, highlighting our Key Performance Indicators, detailed testimonials, and program highlights, in hopes of shedding light on a fraction of the true impact of HWB. I would like to thank our team for their dedicated efforts and the wonderful communities we partner with. We hope you enjoy coming along for the journey.



-Owen McClung-Sitnam
CEO and Co-Founder

Empathy • Creativity • Fairness • Well-being

Helicopters Without Borders would like to acknowledge with gratitude that we work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples – Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), Stó: lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.



Impact at a Glance

269

HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS
TRANSPORTED

3,154



INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED IN
REMOTE COMMUNITIES

17,340

LBS OF ESSENTIAL
CARGO FLOWN IN



129

HOURS FLOWN

48

MISSIONS
COMPLETED



721

IN-COMMUNITY
CLINICAL SESSIONS



1,820

MEALS DELIVERED

Addressing a Gap

Approximately 19% of Canadians reside in rural and remote areas. Many of these communities are situated far from hospitals, clinics, and specialized healthcare services, sometimes hundreds or even thousands of kilometres away from the nearest medical facility.

While helicopters in healthcare settings are often associated with emergency services, HWB is taking a preventative approach. Instead of reacting to health issues that require emergency evacuation, as is common in our province's healthcare model, we seek to address the root causes.

HWB bridges the gap in access to healthcare by transporting healthcare personnel, services, and essential supplies to remote communities.



Current Programs



**TEAM-BASED
CARE**



**FLY-IN
DENTAL
CLINIC**



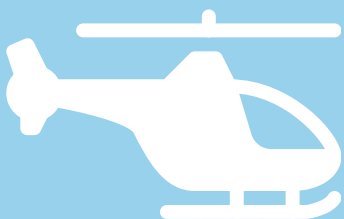
**EMERGENCY
EVENTS**



**FOOD
SECURITY**



**PATIENT
TRANSPORT**



ALL OUR FLIGHTS ARE CARBON-NEUTRAL.

We are fully committed to the stewardship of the lands we live and fly on. We offset all carbon emissions by purchasing carbon credits through the Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative.

Where We've Flown

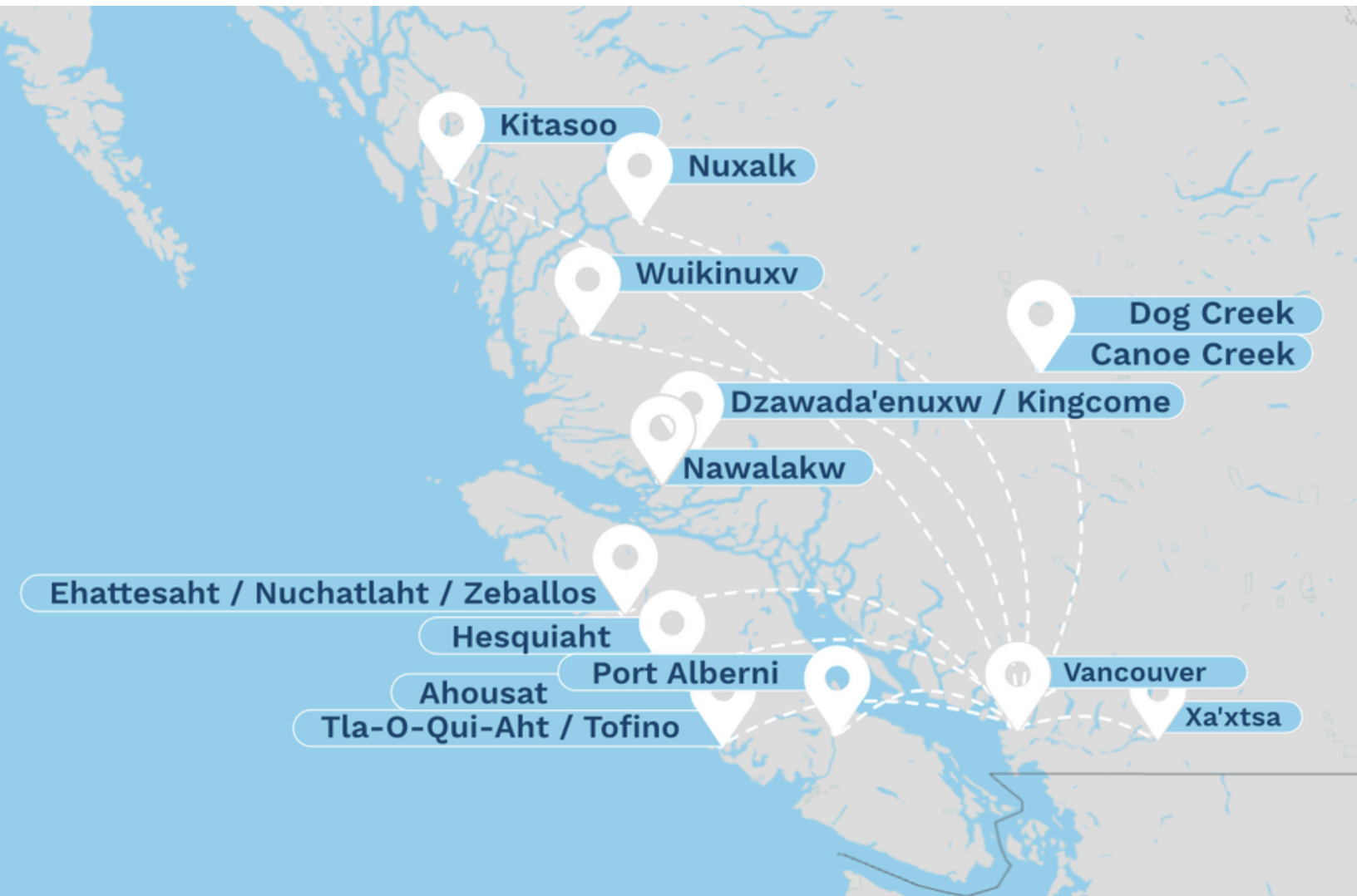
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO HEALTHCARE.

Welcome to our flight network! Below is a snapshot of the communities HWB has flown to in 2023. We operated flights to six of these communities on a regular basis; meaning weekly, bi-weekly, or quarterly.

For the remaining locations, we responded to emergency events by providing food security or patient transfer services or facilitated ad-hoc flights to promote other health and wellness efforts.

33,161
CARBON-NEUTRAL
KILOMETRES FLOWN

*That's equal to flying 82%
around the earth.*



Stories of Impact

TEAM-BASED TESTIMONIALS

"Working with Helicopters Without Borders, I've provided crucial hearing care to remote communities on North Vancouver Island. The impact has been profound. In areas lacking audiology services, restoring hearing is transformative. Imagine the isolation of missing familial conversations or the therapeutic sounds of nature. Returning excites me as many isolated areas await our aid. Being part of this team, delivering essential care where it's most needed, fulfills a lifelong ambition. Witnessing audiology's direct impact on lives is both inspiring and humbling. I remain dedicated to ensuring everyone, regardless of their location, gains access to the invaluable gift of hearing."

-Dr. Katarina Vavrovicova
Registered Doctor of Audiology

"Rural and remote areas in Canada face unique challenges in providing access to quality dental services.

What HWB is doing is essential and crucial for the health and well-being of these communities."

-Sara Babaeian
Dental Hygiene Practitioner

"Because of HWB, I was able to see a family that had not had access to an autism diagnosis. This was related to their remote location and lack of access to regular care that most people receive when they are not remote. I was very happy to have helped the family get a diagnosis. They were very grateful as once there is a diagnosis, the child can now get access to much-needed medication. Access to medicines and treatment is a human right. It makes me proud to be contributing to health equity in BC."

-Charmaine Miranda
Registered Psychologist

"HWB flights are essential for working professionals to serve remote communities. Right now, it takes me about a day and a half of travel to reach the community I visit. When I flew with HWB, it only took a few hours without the necessity of having to allow for advance check-in times or staying overnight in a hotel. Remote Indigenous communities deserve experienced, highly skilled professional services, and HWB makes it possible for those of us with full-time practices to step forward and provide this."

-Kate Saunders
Registered Clinical Counsellor

Community Spotlight

WUIKINUXV NATION

“Wuikinuxv, a remote First Nations community accessible solely by boat or plane, faces significant challenges in accessing essential healthcare services and resources.

In essence, HWB’s commitment to delivering comprehensive, accessible, and affordable healthcare has a transformative impact on the lives of many community members.

By addressing both direct healthcare needs and the broader determinants of health, HWB services empower members of our community to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives, ensuring that Wuikinuxv thrives as a resilient and vibrant First Nations community.”

-Jennifer Anastacio
Health Program Coordinator



PRIORITIZING COMMUNITIES.



Program Spotlight

FLY-IN DENTAL CLINIC

Quality and reliable dental care can be difficult to access for some remote communities due to poor transportation infrastructure, creating tremendous logistical barriers for community residents.

In February 2023, HWB took a step towards health equity by launching a fully portable flying dental clinic, complete with x-ray machine, a dental chair, a compressor unit, a sterilizer, and more. This mobile clinic is packed into transport boxes that fit into a helicopter, so our talented team of dental hygienists and dentists can utilize state-of-the-art dental equipment in remote locations around BC.



139
DENTAL
APPOINTMENTS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

“

These incredible communities have been wanting to visit the dentist, but the long and tiresome travel held them back.

Now, seeing the delight of our patients in having a fully decked-out mobile clinic just a short walk away from their homes has been truly incredible.

-Jennifer Seclon
Certified Dental Assistant

”



Partner Spotlight

FNHA



First Nations Health Authority

REACHED

152
INDIVIDUALS

PRACTITIONERS FLOWN INCLUDE:

- Counsellors
- Dieticians
- Doctors
- Mental Health Professionals
- Midwives
- Nurses
- Occupational Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Registered Dental Therapists



“

It's been lovely to have Helicopters Without Borders (HWB) as a part of our coordinating team-based care for Remote Nations within our Region. The huge added benefit of their work as a charity and their administrative support with coordination and connections to providers has been such a huge enabler for us in this work.



**We are so grateful for their
dedication to this work!**

**-Tanille Johnston
Regional Manager, Primary Care**

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Words from Our Team

"As the Director of Operations at HWB, I see HWB continuing to build partnerships with the Ministry of Health, regional health authorities, and individual communities, facilitating these groups in achieving their health and wellness goals, and ultimately becoming an essential pillar of an equitable health system for Canada's most remote communities. Through efficiencies and a joined-up approach, I see HWB using extra capacity to facilitate additional services of high impact that would otherwise have difficulty accessing these communities at commercial transportation rates.

As we establish this not-for-profit transportation model we are also building in a capacity to redirect our assets in the event of natural disaster, adding a further level of impact. Overall I'm hopeful that as the aforementioned model grows, we will provide a proof of concept that can be applied across Canada - and beyond - having a profound impact on the well-being and happiness of many."

-Dr. Carl Faichney
Director of Operations



"As the Impact and Engagement Manager at HWB, I am incredibly proud of the work our team facilitates and our approach to this important mission. In 2023, HWB positively impacted 3,154 individuals, one of whom recently expressed to me that "the services provided by HWB have truly made a difference in remote living."

At the core of our operations lies strong relationships. Our connections with Indigenous community leaders and members, generous donors, supportive partners, health authorities, and skilled healthcare practitioners all converge to advance health equity in BC. HWB is a collaborative endeavour, with every individual contributing to the shared vision of achieving equal health outcomes regardless of location.

We are just beginning this journey toward a healthier future for all. All aboard for what lies ahead!"

-Lindsay Bodrug
Impact and Engagement Manager



Donor Testimonials

Thank you to our donors for your generosity and for sharing our vision - your continued support fuels our efforts and inspires us to strive for greater impact. Your contributions have been instrumental in enabling us to carry out our vital mission of bringing health equity to underserved communities, one flight at a time.

"Canada Post is dedicated to building stronger communities across Canada, especially when it comes to uplifting the next generation. We are proud to support an amazing organization like Helicopters Without Borders. The Community Foundation funding will expand their mobile services to deliver essential dental care access to 100 children and youth in isolated communities – increasing access to health services for our most vulnerable populations."

-Canada Post

"MT+Co. is dedicated to serving and empowering Indigenous Nations and, at its core, helping people do good things. We are proud to support HWB, an organization that is innovating to address barriers to health services. HWB is making a difference in underserved communities, and we stand behind HWB as a collective of individuals who are doing good things for all the right reasons."

-MT+Co

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS



A Collaborative Effort

Our partners champion our dream of providing equal health and wellness services across BC. We are deeply grateful for the dozens of partners and health service providers who support our mission.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

- Backpack Buddies
- BC Doctors of Optometry
- First Nations Health Authority
- Food Banks BC
- Gordon Food Service
- Khalsa Aid Canada
- Loaves and Fishes
- North Raven Dental
- Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
- Pacific Blue Cross
- Power to Give
- Soap for Hope
- United Way BC
- University of British Columbia

“HWB has been bringing health care services into our more remote community of Ehattesaht and Nuchatlaht. The service providers come from Port Alberni and in some cases, Vancouver and would not otherwise be able to serve these communities due to their remote location and the amount of time it takes to get there via road access.

Were it not for this service, these communities would have had limited to no access to a number of our service providers. We are grateful for this opportunity for quick and safe support to get in and out of our remote communities and provide them with the services they need.”

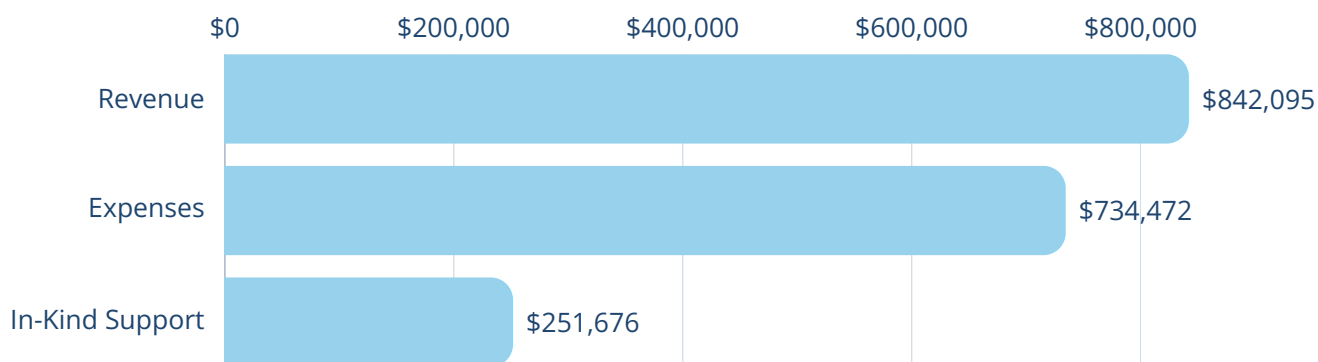
-Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council



Our Growth Mindset

From 2022 to 2023, we increased the number of individuals we reached by 269% while reducing our flight time by more than 10% - proving that we are expanding our impact while becoming more efficient with every dollar donated.

Our aviation services at Helicopters Without Borders continue to be in high demand. Interested in supporting our growth as a partner or donor? Please get in touch with Lindsay, our Impact and Engagement Manager, at l.bodrug@helicopterswithoutborders.org.





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LEARN MORE

