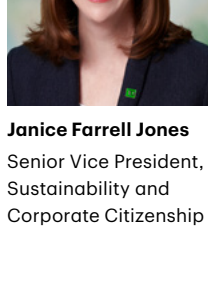


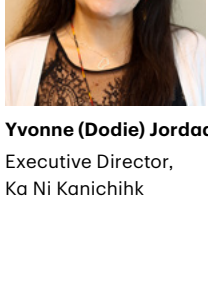
Q1 • 2023

TD Corporate Citizenship Newsletter

Opening doors for a more sustainable and inclusive tomorrow



Janice Farrell Jones
Senior Vice President,
Sustainability and
Corporate Citizenship



Yvonne (Dodie) Jordaan
Executive Director,
Ka Ni Kanichihk

Message from Janice Farrell Jones

With warmer days just around the corner, I'm feeling a sense of renewal as the freshness of Spring inspires and sparks new opportunities. Reflecting on the last quarter, and with the recent release of the **2022 TD Ready Commitment Annual Report**, I'm energized by the strides we've made so far and our efforts to help open doors for a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable tomorrow. Through the TD Ready Commitment, we are proud to support organizations and initiatives that are working to make an impact and drive positive change in communities across our footprint in Canada and the U.S.

One organization that is making a difference and offering a much-needed resource in the community is **Ka Ni Kanichihk** in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Through Velma's House, they provide a 24/7 safe space and temporary shelter for women, as well as financial counselling, mental health experts, employment counselling and skills development, and support navigating housing and health care. With a nation-wide housing crisis, and continued crisis in Winnipeg in particular for women¹, women from Indigenous communities, and gender-diverse individuals, access to shelter, affordable housing, and related wrap-around services is absolutely critical.

This quarter, I spoke with **Yvonne (Dodie) Jordaan, Executive Director** at Ka Ni Kanichihk, to learn more about the pressing need for access to care and housing, and how Velma's House is tackling issues in the community.

Q&A with Yvonne (Dodie) Jordaan

Janice: Affordable housing is one key aspect of financial security and helping people feel confident that they can meet their goals in a changing world. Today, in cities and towns across the country, there is an urgent need for affordable access to stable housing, particularly for women from Indigenous communities and gender diverse individuals.² What are some of the barriers they face, and how do safe spaces like Velma's House help address this need?

Dodie: Velma's House is operated by Ka Ni Kanichihk, an Indigenous-led organization, and programming and services were developed and continue to be guided and shaped by community. Velma's House opened as Winnipeg's only 24/7 safe space for women and females from the gender-diverse community in March 2021, two years ago. Since that time, thousands of people have come through the doors looking for the basics we all expect – an understanding community, warmth, food, harm-reduction supplies and rest...basically, a home. Having this place is critical as Winnipeg remains ground zero for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

It's only when people are safe and have their basic needs met that they can start to think about next steps like financial security and more permanent housing.

The folks here face barriers most of us can't imagine – in every facet of their lives. Velma's House is the one place folks can go where the doors are always open and never slammed in their face.

Its important services exist at all levels so that people can be met where they are on their journeys and be supported.

It's also critical that as a society we work to address the barriers and inequities that exist and provide solutions to ensure people can access adequate income supports.

Janice: We know that the intersection of gender, race, socioeconomic status, and other social identities impact how people experience homelessness and housing insecurity.³ How does Velma's House incorporate trauma-informed, culturally safe services to support people as they transition to stable housing and independent living?

Dodie: The staff who work at Velma's House have lived experience. They are part of the community, and most have experienced the same circumstances as the community members who are now welcomed at Velma's House. Culture is embedded in all programs and additions, with person-centered, trauma-informed care the foundation of the work. Additional programming in healing and working through trauma and grief complement wrap around supports provided. The people of Velma's House – staff, Elders, volunteers, and community members – are all committed to walking the journey with each other.

Janice: Social and economic inequities have been exacerbated over the past few years, particularly for women and individuals from equity-deserving communities.⁴ Has the need for the services you provide changed in recent years and what has been the biggest obstacle in meeting those needs?

Dodie: The need in Winnipeg continues to grow – exponentially. In fact, it's huge. People continue to be affected by violence, grief, and vicarious trauma. The folks who come to Velma's House are looking for support for multiple issues stemming from colonization – physical health, mental health, trauma, grief, their finances. This intersection takes long-tailored supports, time, and many touchpoints. Velma's House is the only 24/7 safe space in Winnipeg, and while we are centrally located, not everyone in the community knows about Velma's House or can access it on their own.

Janice: At TD, we recognize the importance of helping people feel confident about their financial health and that they are able to take part in society. That is why we are committed to supporting initiatives that can help people improve their feelings of financial security by helping them to gain the financial skills they need. How can low-barrier programs and services, like those offered at Velma's House, help build a foundation for greater inclusion to support women and gender-diverse people experiencing or at risk of homelessness?

Dodie: Critically, people feel seen at Velma's House. It's important we meet people where they are at and provide multiple points of entry to support. Velma's House does that, as do all Ka Ni Kanichihk programs. We do not judge. We see people for who they are. We see people's strengths. Our approach is based on harm reduction principles. And we provide opportunities for greater inclusion. We help build community.

At the same time, it's important that we also address and change the structures and systems that allow amazing members of our community to fall through the cracks of support.

¹ Malone, K. G., Taylor, S. (2022, June 26). *In a crisis: Deaths of Indigenous women in Winnipeg spark calls for safe housing*. CBC. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/indigenous-women-winnipeg-1.6502091>

² Schwan, K., Versteegh, A., Perri, M., Caplan, R., Baig, K., De, E., Jenkinson, J., Brails, H., Elloff, F., & Pahlavan Chaleshtari, T. (2020). *The State of Women's Housing Need & Homelessness in Canada: Key Findings*. Hashe, A., Nelson, A., Kratochwil, E., & Molenfant, J. (Eds). Toronto, ON: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. <https://womenshomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/Key-Findings-State-of-Womens-Homelessness.pdf>

³ Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network (n.d.). *Women & Girls' Homelessness in Canada*. <https://womenshomelessness.ca/women-girls-homelessness-in-canada/>

⁴ Canada, Parliament, House of Commons, Standing Committee on the Status of Women, *Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Women*, 43rd Parl, 2nd Session, N° 6 (March 2021). https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/parl/scr71-XC71-1-1-432-6-eng.pdf

The Four Interconnected Drivers of Change

Financial Security

Early Learning, Income Stability, Affordable Housing, Financial Literacy

Funding approved for 227 organizations in total this quarter in **Canada** and the **United States**.

TD Bank and National Urban League (NUL) announced a [five-year agreement in November](#) focused on accelerating existing NUL initiatives that support economic empowerment for low-to-moderate income individuals, especially in areas of workforce development and entrepreneurship. The collaboration also offers thought leadership opportunities for NUL and will provide access to highly visible NUL programs, such as the Equal Opportunity Dinner, which was hosted on November 16th, 2022, in New York City and the upcoming Annual Conference in Houston, TX in July 2023.

A US\$55,000 grant was made to United Way of Androscoggin County in New Hampshire to support its Early Learning Initiative, helping students improve reading and math skills. Providing support to more than 900 K-6 students, the program activates parent involvement and helps more children attend enriched after school programs, and addresses summer learning loss and the COVID slide.

Vibrant Planet

Green Spaces, Low-Carbon Economy

TD is providing a \$750,000 grant through the TD Ready Commitment to support the **Wiwemikong Nursing Home** and their efforts to build a new care home for the Elders of the Wiwemkoong Unceded Territory and neighbouring communities on Manitoulin Island.

The new Elders' home will provide safe and affordable housing as well as culturally focused care for residents and will enhance opportunities for the Elders to engage with youth and the community to preserve language and traditions so they can be passed on to future generations.

Ka Ni Kanichihk has been awarded a \$600,000 grant through the TD Ready Commitment to support **Velma's House**, a 24/7 shelter for women and females from the gender diverse community in Winnipeg, MB. In addition to providing a safe space and temporary shelter, Velma's House offers financial counselling, mental health experts, employment counselling and skills development, and support navigating affordable housing and health care.

Vibrant Planet

Green Spaces, Low-Carbon Economy

Funding approved for 40 organizations in total this quarter in **Canada** and the **United States**.

2022 TD Tree Days wrapped in December with the last planting project in Homestead, FL. Through the U.S. program, 628 volunteers planted a total of 1,503 trees and shrubs at 19 events from Maine to Florida and in Detroit. In addition to helping revitalize and restore green spaces, TD Tree Days provides opportunities for volunteers and colleagues to help make a difference in their communities as we work toward our goal of planting one million trees and shrubs by 2030.

Vanessa Rodriguez
VP, Small Business Relationship Manager
TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank

Connected Communities

Shared Experiences, Arts and Culture, Local Needs

Funding approved for 282 organizations in total this quarter in **Canada** and the **United States**.

January 22nd marked **Lunar New Year**, celebrating the Year of the Rabbit for many Asian communities, and the Year of the Cat in Vietnamese culture. Through the TD Ready Commitment, TD supported multiple community events that reflected and helped amplify diverse voices in arts and culture, and enabled people to connect and celebrate the new year.

TD Bank sponsored the Curated Spotlight program at the **20th annual New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA) Art Fair** in Miami, FL from November 30th – December 3rd, 2022. Featuring gallery exhibitions, commissioned projects and public events, the Curated Spotlight program provided an opportunity to amplify diverse curators, artists and gallery owners from Black, Indigenous, and equity-deserving communities.

TD is the presenting sponsor of the **Canadian Opera Company's City Sessions Free Concert Series**, which runs from November to June and brings audiences a new online concert each month. The series features rising and established opera artists and ensembles performing in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre in Toronto. Current and past City Sessions Free Concert Series performances are available on the Canadian Opera Company website [here](#).

Better Health

Innovative solutions for more equitable health outcomes for all

Funding approved for 97 organizations in total this quarter in **Canada** and the **United States**.

TD is donating \$150,000 to the **BC Cancer Cascadia Project**, a program that is bringing the very latest in Artificial Intelligence (AI) diagnostics to the frontlines of cancer detection and care.

On Dec 14th, the **QEII Foundation** announced a **\$1MM donation from TD to support Atlantic Canada's first orthopaedic robot and affiliated research at the QEII Health Science Centre in Halifax**.

This donation – the Bank's largest to date to a healthcare centre in Atlantic Canada – is a significant step toward the \$2.5 million Mako SmartRobotics system project, which will be fully donor-funded by the QEII Foundation and its *We Are* campaign.

Prisma Health announced a US\$125,000 donation from TD Charitable Foundation to support a pilot project to help Doulas work with Black mothers in South Carolina. The project aims to reduce the adverse health outcomes disproportionately faced by Black women. Doula support and their services could lead to shorter labors with fewer complications, and greater success with breastfeeding.

Q1 2023 – Nov – Jan. Results are reported for Q1 FY'23 year to date and are preliminary. Final figures will be reflected in the 2023 TD Ready Commitment Report. All dollar values are in Canadian dollars, unless otherwise stated.

Quarterly Art Moment: TD Corporate Art Collection

The TD Corporate Art Collection is committed to helping support the amplification of contemporary, under-represented, and diverse voices in arts and culture across Canada and the U.S. Each quarter, we highlight two art pieces from the TD Corporate Art Collection to help create a conversation around equity, sustainability, and art.

This quarter we are featuring:



Deanna Bowen, Proof of Presence (Calendars) and Proof of Presence (Slacks), 2020
Pigment print mounted on dibond

Deanna Bowen (b. 1969) is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice uses film, video, drawing, sculpture, installation, and photography to address issues of trauma and memory. Born in Oakland, California, she is the descendant of African Americans who migrated north to Canada from Alabama and Kentucky in the 19th Century. Anchored by investigations of personal and official histories related to migration, Bowen uses artistic gestures to define the Black body and trace its presence and movement through place and time. Her series, Proof of Presence documents the daunting task of sorting through her mother's personal belongings who, recently diagnosed with dementia, has amassed a life's worth of items from various stages of life as a single mother and career secretary. Bowen shares a collection of objects to describe – and hopefully help her mother recollect, and us to recall our own associations – a past and present-day connection between mother and daughter.

© Deanna Bowen, 2023.
Image courtesy of TD Corporate Art Collection



Ronny Quevedo, pan american (Alberto Spence uncu), 2019
Pattern paper, wax, carbon and gold leaf on muslin

Ronny Quevedo's (b. 1981) artistic practice merges personal and cultural narratives to explore the convergence, tension, and play that emerges when people exist between identities, histories, and space. Born in Ecuador and raised in New York City, growing up bilingual was Quevedo's first experience of reconciling two distinct cultural realities. His artworks relate visual topographies and pathfinding, such as pre-Columbian architecture and Peruvian earth drawings, celestial constellations, and geographical coordinates, to improvisational movements in life. Movement through migration, sports activity, or manual labour become metaphors for a persistence of survival by highlighting their adaptability, generative of ever-evolving identities.

© Ronnie Quevedo, 2023.
Image courtesy of TD Bank Corporate Art Collection

2023 Housing for Everyone Competition Focused on Supporting Organizations Helping Renters in Need

The 17th Annual TD Charitable Foundation [Housing for Everyone grant competition](#) launched on January 10 with the theme: Preservation of Affordable Rental Housing. US\$7 million will be allocated to 37 non-profit organizations across the TD U.S. footprint aimed at delivering rental assistance, rehabilitating affordable housing properties, and building organizational capacity to address resident sustainability for the long-term.

Since its inception in 2005, more than US\$42 million has been awarded to support over 500 affordable housing initiatives, helping individuals and families access stable housing and live with greater financial confidence.

The recipients of this year's Housing for Everyone grant competition will be announced in May.



Awards and Noteworthy Mentions

- TD colleagues and retirees raised more than CDN\$24 million for United Way and other charitable organizations across our North American footprint during the 2022 TD Employee Giving Campaign, with new record-breaking totals reached in both Canada and the U.S.
- The second annual TD North American Pro Bono Marathon took place on November 15 & 17, 2022, pairing 5 U.S. and 5 Canadian nonprofit organizations with close to 60 TD employees. Over two half-day volunteer consulting sessions, colleagues from TD were carefully matched to each organization's challenge based on their skills and worked to help develop a deliverable or set of recommendations for the organizations they supported.

Coming out Next Quarter

Read more about this year's Black History Month programming and the recently announced 2022 [TD Ready Challenge grant recipients](#).

For more information about the TD Ready Commitment, please visit td.com/treadycommitment.