



EXCITING NEWS!

Chilliwack Community Services and School District 33 Launch Drone Soccer Program for Students, Powered by the TELUS Friendly Future Foundation and Dogwood Lions Support

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Chilliwack, BC – Chilliwack Community Services is proud to announce the launch of a new Drone Soccer program, developed in partnership with School District 33 and the Dogwood Lions Club of Chilliwack, supported by funding from the TELUS Friendly Future Foundation®, through the TELUS Vancouver and Coastal Community Board. Drone Soccer is a fast-paced, team-based e-sport where students fly drones enclosed in protective exoskeletons inside a netted arena, competing to score goals while learning about aeronautics, drone assembly, coding, and collaboration. The program is part of the Beyond the Bell initiative and will run in select SD33 schools.

“This project reflects what’s possible when community and education come together,” said Trevor Johnson, Program Coordinator for Beyond the Bell. *“Thanks to the TELUS Friendly Future Foundation and the Dogwood Lions Club, we’re equipping students with real-world STEM skills in a way that’s fun, inclusive, and future-focused.”*

With Canada’s growing demand for STEM talent and digital literacy, early exposure to technology programs is more important than ever. Drone Soccer provides students with access to high-demand skills—like drone assembly, coding, and strategic collaboration—in a supportive, school-based setting. By removing cost barriers and offering tech-based engagement through the public education system, the program helps create equitable opportunities for students who may face barriers to traditional extracurricular learning. Funding will support drone kits, competition equipment, staff facilitation, and cross-curricular integration with 3D printing and technology education programs already active in SD33 schools. The program is designed to be inclusive and accessible, with opportunities for students of all abilities—including those who may face barriers to participating in traditional team sports.

About TELUS Friendly Future Foundation

The TELUS Friendly Future Foundation is a Canadian registered charity that believes all youth, regardless of circumstance, deserve an equal opportunity to reach their full potential. By funding more than 500 youth-serving charities and awarding over 500 bursaries each year, the Foundation is helping millions of youth across Canada build skills, confidence and feel a sense of belonging. In 2024 alone, we provided more than \$11 million in grant funding and TELUS Student Bursaries supporting 550+ health and education programs and 500+ bursaries for young changemakers experiencing financial need. To learn more, visit friendlyfuture.com.

For more information on Beyond the Bell or Chilliwack Community Services, please visit <https://www.comserv.bc.ca/>. [1]