



Rexdale Women's Centre

Annual Report 2019 – 2020



Chairperson:

Sabina Filipescu

Vice-Chairperson:

Valentina Vaguengueim

Treasurer:

Gentiana Shyti

Secretary:

Snita Balsara

Directors:

Aida Bejte

Ankita Bhardwaj

Hamdi Jimale

Lara Roccatani

Florentina G. Stancu-Soare

Leslie Sutherland



As we began our fiscal year in April 2019, we were eager to continue our work and to continue to pursue service improvements for our clients.

Our vision, for immigrant, refugee and newcomer women and their families to effectively settle and integrate into Canadian society, continues to resound today as much as it did when our organization was founded. We affirm our commitment to working with our clients to be the catalyst that enables their self-sufficiency and builds financial security. It is our vision to have our clients live happy, safe, healthy and socially engaged lives where they are honoured and respected for who they are regardless of their background.

The needs of our community continue to drive our work and our ongoing commitment to improving our clients' lives. We are proud of the work and achievements of our dedicated team of staff who worked tirelessly to address the needs of our clients, with 13,210 individual clients served, especially during the challenging times that impacted all of our lives beginning in March 2020.

As March came to a close, we were faced with the prospect of closing our offices due the COVID-19 pandemic. This situation challenged our ability to be resilient and to pivot quickly to support our clients. Our staff were agile and resourceful. Within three days we were working and delivering services remotely.

We connected with our clients to ensure that they were safe. We reassured them that their needs would be addressed. We rose to the challenge and our clients did not go without the basic necessities of life they needed.

Our board's strong stewardship was never more evident than when the pandemic struck. The board of director was quick to support the staff and provided the strategic thinking, management and planning needed to face a challenge such as COVID-19, while also ensuring our organization can continue to deliver critical services even during times of crisis and forge ahead confidently.

As we close the 2019-2020 fiscal year, we reflect on our successful history, celebrate our present achievements and look to the future with confidence. We will no doubt look back on this year with many stories and lessons learned about the importance of community and supporting one another during hard times.

Thank you,

Sabina Filipescu and
Chairperson

Fatima Filippi
Executive Director



Our Mission

At Rexdale Women's Centre, we support immigrant, refugee and newcomer women and their families to become fully participating members in Canadian society. As a leader in our sector, we enhance our clients' self-sufficiency and competence by providing essential services and facilitating access to community resources.

Our Vision

Our vision is for immigrant, refugee and newcomer women and their families to effectively settle and integrate into Canadian society. We are committed to working with our clients to be self-sufficient and financially secure. They will live happy, safe, healthy and socially engaged lives in which they are honoured and respected for who they are regardless of their background.



42,980
Total Number of Services
Delivered in 2019-2020



13,210
Total Number of Individual
Clients Served in 2019-2020

Sense of Community

Helping our clients to **build** a sense of community and belonging

“Great support provided by the staff of Rexdale Women’s Centre during the pandemic. Community connections is a great platform for me to engage with new friends.”

- Sylvia



Community Engagement, Civic Participation, Leadership and Volunteering

- Support groups: cooking club, movie night
- English conversation circles
- Community kitchen
- Family March break and summer camps
- Befriending and matching newcomers with established residents
- Ethno-cultural seniors support
- Newcomer youth support
- Health and wellness program: light physical activities, nutrition and mental well-being
- Yoga programs for seniors, youth and new moms
- Volunteer recruitment, training and placement: 177 volunteers contributed 38,012 hours

“I had great experience with Rexdale Women’s Centre. The staff has been extremely helpful, friendly and they support newcomers in different ways even emotionally. With them, I feel I have friends in Canada who can listen and care for me.”

- Sandra

809

Clients Served in 2019-2020

Special Events & Activities:

Black History Month Celebration

International Women's Day

South Asian Heritage Month Celebration

Seniors' Month Celebration

Trips to Local Toronto Parks



REXDALE United Way
WOMEN'S CENTRE
Toronto & York Region

Building Self-Confidence

Helping our clients to **build** necessary skills and self confidence

Newcomer Settlement Services

- Information and orientation
- Referral and access to services
- Translation and interpretation
- Crisis support
- Newcomer workshops and information sessions
- Settlement Services in Language (SSIL)
- Library Settlement Program (LSP)
- English Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)

Children's Services

- Care for Newcomer Children – English Language Instruction
- Preschool and School Readiness Program
- Family Drop-in Summer Camp
- Squiggle Park Pilot
- Pyramid Project

Support for Women and Families

- Parenting and family supportive counselling
- Nobody's Perfect Parenting Groups
- Eating for Two Nutrition Program and Feeding With Love Information Support

Youth Settlement and Support Services

- Settlement and orientation support
- Self-esteem building
- Leadership and conflict resolution
- Education and career planning support
- Employment support
- Recreational and health and wellness activities
- Mentorship
- March break and summer camps
- Community service hours and volunteering
- Youth Clubs
- Youth Council

“Your agency has been and will be of great help and support to me and my family. I have received help in different areas: Health, finances, legal, emotional, cultural and family and in all they helped me to believe as a human being. Especially with the care of my daughters through the Nobody is Perfect Parenting program that I have attended. This program has helped me build a closer bond with my daughters, now ages 8 and 10. I want to extend a Big Thanks to each employee of this Centre who is of such help and guidance for immigrants and Canadians.” - Wendy

10,311

Clients Served in 2019-2020



Youth Hub
Empowering
youth to
become
confident and
self-sufficient

564
Youth served



Rexdale Women's Centre –
Community Reduce-Reuse
Program: Sharing-Reuse
and Learning Centre:

Many residents participated in
composting, community garden, reduce,
reuse, recycle education for youth,
community networking and celebrations.



Safety from Violence and Abuse

Helping our clients to **live** a life free of violence

Special Activities 2019-2020

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Take Back the Night

Women's History Month



Violence Against Women and Crisis Intervention

- Domestic violence support and crisis counselling
- Medical and legal referrals and client accompaniment
- Support and healing groups for women on domestic violence
- Anti-human trafficking of vulnerable women
- Syrian Refugee Initiative: workshops and support groups

Violence Prevention

- Partner Assault Response Program Groups
- Partner Assault Response Program – Spousal Contact

“I feel a lot more confident and able to manage my life and relationship expectations. I understand and value myself better and I now hold myself to a very high esteem. This group is accommodating and made me feel worthwhile. It has supported me greatly when I needed it the most. Thank you.”

- Amakat

712

Clients Served in 2019-2020

Financial Security

Helping our clients to **achieve** employment and financial security

Employment and Labour Market Integration Services

- Short-term supportive counselling
- Employment support groups for women
- Employment and career counselling
- Labour market integration support on labour market, starting own business, funding to support entry or re-entry into the labour market, resume preparation, cover letter and job search preparation

“Dear Fahmida,

It was a wonderful opportunity to be associated with you and Rexdale Women’s Centre. I will remain ever thankful to you for your valuable advice, which has shown me the correct direction and eventually helped me to land with a permanent employment in the telecom industry.... I cannot thank you enough for finding me other volunteer opportunities which gave me hands-on experience to work with a Canadian organization.”

- Shahar

1,510

Clients Served in 2019-2020

Women’s Employment Resource Centre (W.E.R.C.)

Supporting visible minority newcomer women to succeed in the Canadian labour market.

- Pre-employment counselling
- Employment opportunities, occupational essentials skills training, networking, internships, mentorships, work placement and preparation for the credential assessment process
- Skills, interest and values through self-assessment
- Research and explore possible careers
- Understand and explore labour market
- Develop an employment action and/or career decision; finding training and education options
- Information on funding that may be available to train, and re-train in a new occupation



- Start own business
- Support to prepare resume/cover letter
- Job search support, interview support, resume writing, preparing for job interviews

269

Clients Served in 2019-2020



Awards

Rexdale Women's Centre congratulates for inspiring action and tenacity and being role models for their peers!

INSPIRING YOUTH

Aiman Malhi, Iqra Tariq
Leda Sediqi
Tuba Tariq

FEMALE CAREER-ENTREPRENEUR

Sawsan Hezam Alshehri
Nighat Khalid

Equitable Access

Working with institutions and service providers to affect social and systems change so that our clients achieve **equitable access** and become **empowered**

The Toronto West Local Immigration Partnership (TWLIP) is a collaborative initiative to enhance local delivery of services to newcomers, while promoting the innovative and efficient use of community resources through improved coordination among social service agencies as well as other community stakeholders.

Rexdale Women's Centre is one of the founding partners of the partnership.

- Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants: Mental Health Promotion for Newcomers
- Recognizing and Responding to Intimate Partner Violence for Refugee Resettlement Programs in Ontario
- Rexdale Domestic Violence Collaborative
- Toronto West Local Immigration Partnership

12-Month Period Ending March 31, 2020

REVENUES	2019-2020	2018-2019
Government	\$3,736,207	\$3,578,587
Private Sector	543,086	517,500
Other	248,347	193,420
Capital Contributions from funders (net)	60,415	67,784
Total Revenues	\$4,588,055	\$4,357,291
EXPENSES		
Salaries & Benefits	\$3,547,400	\$3,296,799
Operating and Programme Expenses	515,282	629,632
Building Occupancy	524,578	430,405
Total Expenses	\$4,587,260	\$4,356,836
Excess Of Revenues Over Expenses	\$795	\$455

These statements are condensed from the full version prepared by Berman, Lofchick & Lum, LLP Chartered Accountants.

A full copy of the audited financial statement is available upon request.



Rexdale Women's Centre gratefully acknowledges our financial supporters and donors.

Funders

Government of Canada

Department of Justice
Department of Women and Gender Equality
Employment Social Development Canada
Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada

Government of Ontario

Ministry of the Attorney General
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services – Citizenship and Immigration
Office of Women's Issues

Municipal

City of Toronto

Public Sector

United Way Greater Toronto

Foundation

Ontario Trillium Foundation –
Rexdale Youth Mentorship Project
The Sam Sorbara Charitable Foundation
Toronto Foundation:
• Cornelius Van de Graaf and Terence
Clarkson Foundation

Toronto Pearson Airport – Propeller
Project

YPI Youth Philanthropy

Other

Brighter Futures Coalition
Employment Social Development Canada
Evergreen Brick Works
OCASI – Mental Health
Toronto Local Immigration Partnership

Private Donors

Aida Bejte
Ankita Bhardwaj
Bayer Inc.
Conagra Brands
Conrad Fernandes
CP24 Chum Christmas Wish
Elevation Church
Etobicoke North Probation Office
Gangbar Agency
Kimberly-Clark
Ontario Provincial Police
Peter Smith
Rashpal Dhillon
Rebecca Rabinovitch
Shoe Box project

Socasize Fitness
TD Canada Trust
Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund
United Way Greater Toronto – Gifts In Kind
Valentina Vaguengueim

Service Partners

Albion Neighbourhood Services
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health –
Infant Mental Health
CMAS – Childminding Monitoring Advisory
and Support
Delta Family Resource Centre
Ernestine's Women's Shelter
Evergreen Brickworks
The Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition
The George Hull Centre for Children and
Families
JobStart – Toronto West Local Immigration
Partnership
North York Harvest Food Bank
Ontario Council of Agencies Serving
Immigrants
Rexdale Community Health Centre
Rexdale Community Hub
Rexdale Community Legal Clinic

Rexdale Employment and Resource Centre
Social Planning Toronto
Squiggle Park Education –
Innovation Testing Pilot
Taric Islamic Centre
Toronto District School Board –
Brookveiw School
Toronto Employment and Social Services
Toronto Public Library: Albion, Rexdale and
Richview
YMCA Language Training Assessments

Service Collaborators

Al-Arab Community Centre
Albion Neighborhood Services
Al-Qazza Foundation for Education and
Development
Barbra Schliker Commemorative Clinic
Braeburn Neighborhood Centre
B.W. Fleming Public School
Canadian Mental Health Association
Canada Revenue Agency – Income Tax
Program
Catholic Cross Cultural Services

Children's Aid Society – Etobicoke Branch
Children's Aid Society – Peel Region
COSTI Employment Services
Delta Family Resource Centre
Dixie Bloor Neighborhood Centre
EarlyON and Family Centre
Emery Collegiate Institute
Epilepsy Toronto
Etobicoke North Probation and Parole Office
Evergreen College
Halton Multicultural Council
Humber College
International Muslim Organization–Rexdale
MIAG – Centre for Diverse Women and
Families
Mississauga Central Library
North Kipling Community Centre
Peel District School Board: B. W. Fleming
Public School
Polycultural Immigrant and Community
Services
Punjabi Community and Health Services
SAV – Canada Syrian Community Centre
Service Canada
Syrian Canadian Foundation

Toronto Catholic District School Board:
St. Maurice Catholic School
Toronto District School Board:
Daystrom Public School,
Highfield Junior Middle School,
Kingsview Village Junior School
Toronto District School Board LINC
Toronto Employment and Social Services
Toronto Fire Department
Toronto Parks and Recreation: Elmbank,
Gord and Irene Risk, Humberwood, and
Thistletown Community Centres
Toronto Public Health
Toronto Public Library: Humberwood
Victim Services Toronto
YWCA



Where to find us:

925 Albion Road
Suites 207 and 309
Etobicoke, ON M9V 1A6

21 Panorama Court
Suites 1300 and 2300
Etobicoke, ON M9V 4E3

RWC-Youth Hub
222 Dixon Road,
Suites 302-303
Etobicoke, ON M9P 3S5

RWC Sharing-Reuse and
Learning Centre (CRRP)
2667 Kipling Avenue,
Unit B107
Etobicoke, ON M9V 4N4

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Website: www.rexdalewomen.org

Facebook: [rexdalewomenscentre](https://www.facebook.com/rexdalewomenscentre)

Instagram: [@rexdalewomenscentre](https://www.instagram.com/rexdalewomenscentre)

[@crrp__rwc](https://www.instagram.com/crrp__rwc)

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Rexdale Women's Centre is a
registered Canadian charity.
Charity Number 119118297 RR0001

