



REXDALE WOMEN'S CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019



As we reflect back on our milestone 40th anniversary celebration, we continue to be proud of the work our dedicated staff and volunteers have accomplished in the last 12 months. Each year brings new milestones: 2018-2019 was no different, bringing with it new funding and service offerings, inspiring our organization to better serve our clients and the broader community.

In January 2019, Rexdale Women's Centre was awarded funds to address the challenges visible minority newcomer women experience in entering the labour market. Our new Women's Employment Resource Centre opened its doors in March 2019. The resource centre is equipped to assist drop-in clients, as well as to provide registered services and sessions. Also in March, we expanded our Dixon and Islington Youth Hub, and we co-hosted our first Youth Summit, in partnership with Humber College, to inspire youth to become tomorrow's leaders.

We are proud to report that our dedicated teams of staff and volunteers assisted over 13,000 individuals this past year, helping them to address their needs and to successfully overcome personal challenges.

The commitment of staff and volunteers to our community is exemplary, and at the very heart of this organization. We are committed to assisting our clients to live healthy, happy and productive lives, succeeding and contributing to their communities.

Additionally, our work with clients could not be achieved without the support and stewardship of the board of directors. The directors have demonstrated their support of Rexdale Women's Centre's vision and mission by ensuring that the staff and clients have access to the right tools, resources and supports.

The organization has grown tremendously over the years with the help of the community. From 1978, when the organization was one room with 3 part-time staff, to the present, with more than 80 staff, three locations, and offering a variety of services in 20 different languages, we have achieved so many successes and enriched the lives of those in our community. We look forward to the coming year, and continuing to grow and provide services for the changing needs of our clients and the community.

Thank you,

Sabina Filipescu and
Chairperson



Fatima Filippi
Executive Director



Our Mission

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.



Celebrating 4 Years



On Saturday, September 22, 2018 more than 400 clients, staff, volunteers, past and current board members, special guests, government officials and financial supporters came to celebrate Rexdale Women's Centre's 40th Anniversary. It was a fun-filled day with games, activities, prizes, awards and of course, speeches! Congratulations RWC!





Sense of Community

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

“English Conversation Circle (ECC) has been a great experience for me as it helps to improve my English speaking and listening. The facilitators are very helpful and knowledgeable. I like the topics and the kind of materials that we use. It’s excellent service for us.” - Client



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: 245 volunteers contributed 39,454 hours

Mary is a 65-year-old widow, who just retired after working at a factory for about 23 years, and is living with her daughter. Her daughter was worried what her mother would do while staying at home alone. Some seniors told her about RWC's seniors' program and yoga activities. She approached RWC for her mother and enrolled her in the yoga program. Mary shared, "my daughter is happy to see me happy and is pleased to see how I am participating in the seniors' yoga at the centre and enjoying a healthy lifestyle."

2,666

Clients Served in 2018-2019



Special Events & Activities:

Black History Month Celebration

International Women's Day

South Asian Heritage Month
Celebration

Seniors' Month Celebration

Trips to Local Toronto Parks

Canada Day Celebration



A WORLD OF DIFFER
REXDALE WOMEN'S CENTRE
6-745-0062



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

Equitable Access

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

Rexdale Domestic Violence Collaborative

Toronto West Local Immigration Partnership

Recognizing and Responding to Intimate Partner Violence for Refugee Resettlement Programs in Ontario

Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants: Mental Health Promotion for Newcomers

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 in to the labour market, resume preparation, cover letter and job search preparation

“I am a Canadian citizen with lengthy work experience....After many years, I was laid off. I came to Rexdale Women’s Centre to obtain support with my resume and cover letter preparation as I wanted to undertake a career change. I received supportive guidance with regards to various occupation prospect and employment outlook, employability skills required and conducting my own skills assessment. Through one-on-one support and attending the employment group, I updated my skills and adopted new strategies and a more focused job search approach. Currently I working full time as a human resources manager.” - Client

4,462

Clients Served in 2018-2019

NEW!

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



W.E.R.C. OPENING CEREMONY
MARCH 2019

Safety From Violence and Abuse

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

Special Activities 2018-2019

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

“I am an immigrant woman from India who sponsored my husband to Canada with great hope. Once he arrived in Canada, he became physically, financially and psychologically abusive and isolated me from all family and friends. I came for help and support to Rexdale Women’s Centre and with the support and guidance from the counsellor I started making changes....I gained strength to empower myself and leave the abusive situation. I am presently working part time and enrolled in Humber College Social Service program.” - Client

“I am a young woman from Nigeria that recently immigrated to Canada with two children fleeing from an abusive situation by my husband....I came for supportive counselling and attended both the violence prevention counselling program and healing groups. Now, I am working as well as studying, and living an abuse-free life with both of my children.” - Client



2,342

Clients Served in 2018-2019

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

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 and Youth Council

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

“Rexdale Women’s Centre helped me to connect with the right lawyer who advised me to submit an application for permanent residence on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. RWC assisted me to get my travel document that enables me to visit my family in Kenya. I appreciated RWC for the ongoing support and helping me to be a productive, contributor member of the Canadian society.” - Client

13,782

Clients Served in 2018-2019

NEW! Awards

To commemorate Rexdale Women's Centre's 40th anniversary, we introduced two awards to recognize clients who have overcome challenges and who are inspiring – and in turn – inspire others. We congratulate the three recipients:

INSPIRING YOUTH AWARD (FEMALE)
EUNICE KANEZA

INSPIRING YOUTH AWARD (MALE)
VINCENT KAZIBWE

**INSPIRING WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR-
CAREER ADVANCEMENT AWARD**
SARABJET KAUR UBHI



INSPIRING YOUTH AWARD (FEMALE):
EUNICE KANEZA



INSPIRING YOUTH AWARD (MALE):
VINCENT KAZIBWE



**INSPIRING WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR-
CAREER ADVANCEMENT AWARD:**
SARABJET KAUR UBHI



81,940

Total Number of Services
Delivered in 2018-2019



13,099

Total Number of Individual
Clients Served in 2018-2019

12-Month Period Ending March 31, 2019

REVENUES	2018-2019	2017-2018
Government	\$3,578,587	\$3,367,520
Private Sector	517,500	584,809
Other	193,420	156,904
Capital Contributions from funders (<i>net</i>)	67,784	51,111
Total Revenues	\$4,357,291	\$4,160,344
EXPENSES		
Salaries & Benefits	\$3,296,799	\$3,291,994
Operating and Programme Expenses	629,632	450,060
Building Occupancy	430,405	423,296
Total Expenses	\$4,356,836	\$4,165,350
Excess Of Revenues Over Expenses	\$455	\$(5,006)

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.



Chairperson:

Sabina Filipescu

Vice-Chairperson:

Valentina Vaguengueim

Secretary:

Snita Balsara

Treasurer:

Gentiana Shyti

Directors:

Aida Bejte

Ankita Bhardwaj

Rutu Gadhia

Lara Roccatani

Florentina G. Stancu-Soare

Leslie Sutherland

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

Funders

Government of Canada

Immigration, Refugee and
Citizenship Canada
Employment Social Development Canada

Government of Ontario

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

Municipal

City of Toronto

Public Sector

United Way Greater Toronto

Foundation

Clayton Gytoku Fund at
Toronto Foundation
Cornelius Van de Graaf and
Terence Clarkson Foundation at
Toronto Foundation

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Michal Er-El
North West Company
Panera Bread
R.Roots Gadhia
Rotary Club – Etobicoke
Royal Bank of Canada

The Shoe Box Project
TD-Canada Trust-Toronto Dominion Bank
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
Delta Family Resource Centre
Ernestine's Women's Shelter
Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition
George Hull Centre for Children and Families
JobStart-Toronto West Local Immigration
Partnership
North York Harvest Food Bank
Ontario Council of Agencies Serving
Immigrants
The Prince's Trust Charity
Rexdale Community Health Centre
Rexdale Community Hub
Rexdale Community Legal Clinic

Rexdale Employment and Resource Centre
Social Planning Toronto
Squiggle Park Education
Toronto District School Board
Toronto Employment and Social Services
Toronto Public Library

Service Collaborators

Al-Arab Community Centre
Albion Neighbourhood Services
Al-Qazza Foundation for Education and Development
Attwell Employment and Social Services
Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
Braeburn Neighborhood Centre
B.W. Fleming Public School
Canada Revenue Agency – Income Tax Program
Catholic Cross Cultural Services
Central Library-Mississauga
Children's Aid Society – Etobicoke Branch
Children's Aid Society – Peel Region
COSTI Employment Services
Daystrom Public School
Delta Family Resource Centre
Dixie Bloor Neighborhood Centre

EarlyON and Family Centre
Embank Community Centre
Emery Collegiate Institute
Etobicoke North Probation and Parole Office
Evergreen College
Golden Miles Employment and Social Services
Gord and Irene Risk Community Centre
Halton Multicultural Council
Harbourfront Centre
Heart & Stroke Foundation- Canada
Highfield Junior Middle School
Humber College
Humberwood Community Centre
International Muslim Organization-Rexdale
Kingsview Village Junior School
Malton Neighborhood Services
Marriott International
MIAG-Centre for Diverse Women and Families
Mirage Coaching
Mississauga- Central Library
North Kipling Community Centre
Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services
Punjabi Community and Health Services
Rexdale Community Health Centre

Rexdale Community Hub
Rexdale Community Legal Clinic
Rexdale Employment and Resource Centre
Ryerson University
St. Maurice Catholic School
SAV- Canada Syrian Community Centre
Service Canada
Syrian Canadian Foundation
Thistletown Community Services Centre
Toronto District School Board LINC
Toronto Employment and Social Services
Toronto Fire Department
Toronto Public Health
Toronto Public Library: Humberwood
Victim Services Toronto
YWCA



Where to find us:

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

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

RWC – Youth Centre
222 Dixon Road
Suites 302-303
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9P 3S5

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

