



**RWRC**  
RICHMOND WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

**Richmond Women's Resource Centre**

Richmond Caring Place  
#110 - 7000 Minoru Blvd  
Richmond, BC V6Y 3Z5

**Phone:** 604 279 7060

**Email:** [office.rwrc@shawcable.com](mailto:office.rwrc@shawcable.com)

**Website:** [richmondwomenscentre.bc.ca](http://richmondwomenscentre.bc.ca)



Mission Statement

---

To empower women one at a time through education and training  
in a safe and supportive environment.

---



## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Contents .....   | 1  |
| AGM Agenda .....   | 1  |
| AGM Minutes.....   | 2  |
| Board of Directors' Report.....                            | 5  |
| Executive Director's Report .....                          | 6  |
| Board of Directors .....                                   | 7  |
| Testimonials from our program participants .....           | 8  |
| Annual Reports from Program Facilitators .....             | 9  |
| Grandmother's Support Group .....                          | 9  |
| Basic English Writing and Basic English Conversation ..... | 10 |
| Intermediate English Conversation.....                     | 11 |
| Computer Training Program .....                            | 12 |
| Work Ready Program.....                                    | 13 |
| Richmond Shares .....                                      | 14 |
| French Speaking Women's Support Group .....                | 16 |
| Movie Night .....  | 17 |
| Zumba Workshop for Moms .....                              | 18 |
| Remember Our Sisters Everywhere (ROSE) .....               | 19 |
| Key Statistics.....  | 20 |
| Events .....   | 21 |
| Scotia Run Fundraiser .....                                | 21 |
| Zumba Fundraiser .....                                     | 22 |
| International Women's Day.....                             | 23 |
| Christmas Potluck .....                                    | 25 |
| Youth Now Graduation .....                                 | 26 |

## Special Thanks to

*The Royal Bank of Canada*

*The Richmond Firefighter Society (Local 1286)*

*Gord Pipkey Verico Realmortgage Services*

*MacDonald Realty*



Their generous cheque donations were presented to much applause at the International Women' Day Celebration on March 9, 2019!

## AGM Agenda

Annual General Meeting 2018-2019

Room 340 - 7000 Minoru Blvd, Richmond, BC

- ❖ Welcome & Introductions
- ❖ Approval of 2018 AGM Minutes
- ❖ Approval of 2019 Agenda
- ❖ Board of Directors' Report
- ❖ Treasurer's Report
- ❖ Executive Director's Report
- ❖ Event highlights
- ❖ Existing Board to stand down
- ❖ Election of new Board
  - Present slate for new Board
  - Other nominations
- ❖ Recognition of Service
- ❖ Recognition of Volunteers
- ❖ Closing Remarks: Request for support / Special Thanks
- ❖ Adjournment

## AGM Minutes

Annual General Meeting 2017-2018

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Room 340 - 7000 Minoru Blvd.

Richmond, BC

### 1. Welcome & Introduction

- Welcomed honored guests, board members, staff, and volunteers
- 21 guests attended (including 16 voting members)

### 2. Call to Order & Approval of Agenda M/S/C

- Call to order - 7:12pm
- Agenda - Approved
  - Motion by Kathy; Seconded by Marielle; Carried

### 3. Approval of 2017 AGM Minutes M/S/C

- 2017 AGM Minutes - Approved
  - Motion by Kathy; Seconded by Marielle; Carried

### 4. Board of Directors Report

- Welcome volunteers, staff, and special guests (Ed Gavsie, Lonnie Belfer, Mayor Malcom Brodie)
- Introductions of and thanks to RWRC board members, staff, volunteers, and friends.
- On behalf of the Board of Directors, President Tammi Belfer presented a report on the past year's activities, challenges, and successes.
  - Highlights:
    - International Women's Day event was well supported and attended
      - Thanks to Carol Day, Bill McNulty, Linda Reid, Tara Teng, Kathy Kent, and Francoise Desautels for helping to make the event a success
    - Board Member Marielle Demorest received the Governor General's award and the Star of Richmond Award at the 2018 Volunteers are Stars Awards
    - Board Member Mikaela received the Shooting Star Award at the 2018 Volunteers are Stars Awards
    - New event: Board Member Lisa Sukul has organized for RWRC to participate in the 2018 Vancouver Scotiabank Half-Marathon and 5K Run

### 5. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Shireen Gregorius presented a report on the RWRC's financial status for the year.
  - For the last 2 years the Centre has been working hard to build a better future through fundraising and cost-cutting
  - The IWD dim sum was a huge success - selling out the event

- Thank you to the member of the Board for helping with this year's marketing approach to the event
- Important factors in RWRC's success has been youth innovation and sticking to our roots
  - RWRC continues to contribute to the Richmond Community Foundation
  - There has been a small increase to staff and facilitator wages.
- Upcoming event: Steveston Seafood House Brunch
- The purchase of membership is encouraged.
- The RWRC Office will be closed for the summer, as a cost cutting measure to ensure RWRC stays afloat.
- Shireen can answer any questions about the financial statements available for pickup.

## 6. Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Florence Yau thanked the guests for attending and presented a report on the Centre's programs for the past year
  - This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year of Florence's tenure as the Executive Director
  - Between April 2017 - March 2018 more than 3138 information referrals were provided
  - The support of community members, donors, supporters enables us to continue our programs
  - Thanked members and supporters for their participation in programs and events, board members for volunteering their efforts, facilitators for their work in programs, and Administrative Assistant May for being an asset to the Centre.
  - RWRC worked with over 43 volunteers who contributed over 1,200 hours
- Moving forward RWRC will strengthen existing programs and implement new program to support women of the community

## 7. RWRC Website Highlights

- N/A

## 8. Event Highlights

- Facilitator Chris McDowell presented a report on the activities of Remembering Our Sisters Everywhere (ROSE)
  - ROSE will be bringing a speaker and 3 Yazidi women to Vancouver in September
  - Chris provided background on the plight of the Yazidi, and ROSE's involvement in advocating on their behalf to the Canadian government
    - E.g., promoting the need for trauma care
  - Stressed the need to show support by being present at an upcoming event on September 29<sup>th</sup> and a press conference on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Women's Monument
- A graduate of the Work Ready Program spoke about her experience in the program, what lead her to join it in the first place, and the skills that have allowed her to be successful and confident moving forward

## 9. Election of new Board

- Life-member Kathy Kent has agreed to chair the meeting to allow for the resignation of all board members and the election of a new board
  - Board members who resigned: Tammi Belfer, Shireen Gregorius, Marielle Demorest, Mikaela Nuval, Lisa Sukul, Winnie Lee

- Nominees for RWRC 2018-2019 Board of Directors: Tammi Belfer, Shireen Gregorius, Marielle Demorest, Mousheera Hashem, Mikaela Nuval, Winnie Lee
- APPROVED - Elected by acclamation
  - Moved by Kathy Kent/Carried

## 10. Recognition of Volunteers

- Volunteers in attendance were thanked and presented Certificates of Appreciation by Mayor Malcom Brodie, President Tammi Belfer, and Executive Director Florence Yau in recognition for their work
  - Afterwards, Mayor Malcom Brodie thanked RWRC for its hard work and congratulated RWRC on getting out of financial straits
  - Former Board Member Lisa Sukul spoke about how she was first introduced to RWRC at the last year's IWD event, and participated in the 2017 Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon & 5K Run
    - From her experience she thought it would be a great opportunity to have RWRC participate in the event
    - RWRC's Goals for participating:
      - 1) To increase awareness of the Centre
        - Inclusive participation - everyone is invited to come out and help however they can
      - 2) Raise \$5,000 to support existing programs and provide seed money for future programs
    - RWRC has 25 days left to event day and has already received a lot of help from the community

## 11. Closing Remarks and Thanks

- Tammi closed the event speaking on RWRC moving forward
  - RWRC has received a grant for its "refresh and rebrand" project to innovate marketing strategies moving forward
  - RWRC wants to support the community through its programs
  - RWRC has only become successful when everyone participates and lends support in any way
- Special thanks to Crabtree and Evelyn for providing hand creams gifts
  - Particularly, thanks to a graduate from the Work Ready Program, who is now Assistant Manager at the CF Airport Outlet branch

## 12. Adjournment

- 7:59pm



## Board of Directors' Report

*Tammi Belfer, President of the Board of Directors*

Dear RWRC Members,

2018-2019 was a good year for Richmond Women's Resource Centre. We spent time in exploration and discovery. Our mission statement has been re-described, not changed. This is a living organization and needs to continue evolving as women's needs progress.



“BalanceforBetter” as defined by UN International Women's Day 2019 has led us to “Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change”.

This is and will be our ongoing theme going into our new year. Everyone has a part to play - all the time, everywhere. Locally, Richmond Women's Resource Centre celebrated IWD at Continental Seafood House and launched our new brand with great success. 180 people attended and RWRC raised \$15,000.

We look to the future to build more relationships, partnerships and new programs.

Inclusion is about all of us. Our goal is to ensure that people (in our case women and girls) feel they belong, are engaged and connected. “It is a universal human right whose aim is to embrace all people, irrespective of race, gender, abilities and other attributes which can be perceived as different.” (Keys to Inclusion)

RWRC has rebranded and looks to a bright future for women and girls everywhere. The work is not done, nor is it easy. We are here to help you reach your personal goals in a safe, nurturing, inclusive environment.

Special thanks to our wonderful Board, our staff, community partners and funders for all that you have done during this past year to make this year successful. RWRC encourages all to Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change.

## Executive Director's Report

*Florence Yau*

2019 has witnessed the grand reveal of our new logo at the International Women's Day fundraiser. This Rebrand and Refresh project was made possible with the support of the Richmond Community Foundation. We believe that the updated logo presents a more up-to-date representation of RWRC and revitalizes our image in the community.



Throughout the past 43 years, the Richmond Women's Resource Centre has served the community by delivering programs and services that help to make a difference in women's lives. Our mission is to empower women one at a time through education and training in a safe and supportive environment.

We are delighted to report that from April 2018 to March 2019, we responded to more than 6000 individuals and provided them with a wide range of services, including information and referral services, educational and training programs, and support groups. Over the past year, we received many testimonies from past participants attesting to the wide range of women we serve, from immigrants overcoming the challenges of living in a new country, to women actively seeking training and employment.

Thank you for the ongoing support from our core funders: the Province of British Columbia, the City of Richmond, Richmond Literacy, as well as financial support from our members, donors and supporters.

I would also like to thank our volunteer board members, volunteers, front-line staff, facilitators, and donors for their valuable contributions in our annual International Women's Day Fundraiser and other fundraisers. With your support, we were able to raise essential funds to continue to provide services to women in our community.

Our work is made possible with the talent and commitment of our volunteers over the year in our many events, workshops, potlucks, movie screenings, December Candlelight Vigil, Christmas Party and fundraisers with an astounding total of 1981.70 volunteer hours! We are grateful for your help and are confident that together we will continue to make a difference in the lives of women!

It has been an honor to be part of the Richmond Women's Resource Centre and the stories of women we impacted for the last 11 years. Your continued commitment is an inspiration for me and my staff as we continue to empower women in the community. I look forward to this coming year. Thank you again for your support!

## Board of Directors

Every year the current Board of Directors “stands down” at the Annual General Meeting, and a new Board is voted into position by the membership of the Richmond Women's Resource Centre.

### *Stand Down of 2018-2019 Board of Directors (in alphabetical order)*

Marielle Demorest  
Michelle Yuen  
Mikaela Nuval  
Shireen Gregorius  
Tammi Belfer  
Winnie Lee

### *2019-2020 Board of Director Nominees (in alphabetical order)*

Amanda Low  
Anita Stuart  
Joanne Wilkinson  
Kaidi Zhu  
Marielle Demorest  
Michelle Yuen  
Mikaela Nuval  
Tammi Belfer  
Winnie Lee

## Testimonials from our program participants

We have all kinds of activities with the Grandmothers Support Group, such as attending workshops, going to International Women's Day celebration party, learning English, learning about financial planning for seniors and visiting Homes for Independent Living. Our facilitator Sophie is very responsible. She calls us one by one to notify us before the activities. We are happy to spend time with each other.

--Grandmothers Support Group

RWRC Movie night has provided us with an opportunity to meet with women of all ages and backgrounds in the Richmond community with whom I might never have come to know otherwise. It has been an opportunity to watch and review film works from a multitude of genres and perspectives. The open and candid discussions are very lively and informative and provide insight for outlooks that are beyond our own pursue. I thoroughly enjoy Movie night... it is an intellectually stimulating and personal growth experience. Beyond this, it is a means for getting to know and sometimes support other folks within our community.

--Movie Night

Marilyn is good at teaching and also very kind to us. If we have any questions, she explains it very well. We are lucky to have her as our teacher. We always have fun at our class. Time passes very quickly because we are having fun.

--Intermediate English Conversation

"I think this website and the work you do and the others in Richmond Shares is really great, instead of those items going in the garbage bins or recycling, especially when others can use it.

"Priscilla, you are very kind. It brought tears to my eyes to see the pics, and that my mother's clothes are going for a worthy cause, as much as it was hard for me parting with them. You are welcome to give the recipient my email, but she does not need to thank me, seeing her pics are more than a thanks, it was my pleasure. I am glad I hung onto it for the right person."

--Richmond Shares

Work-ready program offers us with trainings on computer and business writings skills which is great for newcomers. Job search workshops on Mondays are key to job seekers, especially for those who are the first-time job seekers in this country. All the courses are well prepared and taught in excellent structure, easy to understand, and very useful. We so appreciate all the efforts and support Sarah and Laurie have put in this program. Besides the training sessions, RCWC also provides us with volunteering opportunities. And May as the supervisor teaches us how to handle daily tasks at the office. Hence, we could apply what we have learnt to the workplace immediately and gain local work experience at the same time. I'd strongly recommend this program to my friends in the future.

--Work Ready

## Annual Reports from Program Facilitators

### Grandmother's Support Group

*Sophie Li*  
*Program Coordinator*

In the past year, the activities in Grandmother's Support Group included:

- Grandmothers joined programs about "Liver Disease", "Diabetes Self-management" and "Aging and Memory Loss" held by Richmond Library and Vancouver Coastal Health. Grandmothers shared their experiences and what they had learned from the programs during the discussion.
- "Estate Tax" presented by Ella Lu and "Attorney & Power of Attorney".
- We held parties: Dim sum party, International Women's Day Event. Grandmothers enjoyed the delicious food, sang and danced during the parties.
- We had sessions of English study during the past year. They love to learn and practice their English as a second language in order to better participate and be involved in the community.
- We had visited R. Grace Seniors Home. Grandmothers learned about the facilities, prices and services of the nursing homes.

The grandmothers love all the activities and services we provide to them, and actively participate and support all the activities.



## Basic English Writing and Basic English Conversation

Winnie Kwok  
Program Coordinator

### Basic English Writing:

There are several things that the participants find very useful in the Basic English Writing Class. Every week they learn a set of vocabulary, phrasal verbs and grammar points. They are required to write sentences using the vocabulary and grammatical expressions they have learned. In this class, they get to: practice using the new words; use phrasal verbs correctly; join sentences using conjunctions and conjunctive adverbs; use prepositions; use verb tenses correctly; edit sentences; make subjects and verbs agree.

The students in this class are very eager to learn and they are gaining confidence in expressing their ideas in writing.



### Basic English Conversation:

The RWRC Conversation Class is now held at the Richmond Public Library. It continues to attract a lot of new students.

The students are very happy with this class because the location is convenient. There are several young moms in this class and they find that child-minding allows them to concentrate on learning English. They also enjoy talking about the different topics presented in the class.

Topics covered in this class include: Preparing for an earthquake; Making a medical appointment; Going to the bank; Cooking healthy meals; Preventing crime; Buying grocery; Shopping online; Exercising to stay healthy; Describing people; Junk food.



The feedback from the students is very positive. They feel this class helps them to improve their vocabulary, grammar and conversation skills. They really appreciate being able to connect with fellow classmates.

## Intermediate English Conversation

*Marilyn Berger  
Program Coordinator*

Over the past year, the group has grown to 15 students and integrated together well. The women range from very young to seniors. Students come together from around the world. Many are from Asia but we also have students from Brazil, Mexico, Peru and our latest from Iran. In our class it is literally “a small world after all”.

We discuss our similarities and differences and news of the world utilizing clippings from the local newspapers. Primarily the sources of readings and discussions come from the West Coast Reader, Challenge and Side by Side series for English Learners. Several students have taken it upon themselves to make individual presentations about topics that they are interested in such as Terry Fox and learning how to handle situations when language does not come easily.

Saku, from India, has shared her presentations given at different locations and her excellent recipes for Indian delicacies. I enjoy being part of this class and look forward to learning as much from my students as they learn from me. A highlight was learning not only our Canadian National Anthem but listening to and having explanations of the national anthems from the countries represented around the world. We conclude each class with a song that reflects the season or the weather. I'm happy to say that the group is growing larger and larger and so we might have to add another table to our set up. The more the merrier. Thank you to May Wang who with a smile on her face assists me in arranging the teaching materials every week. I look forward to continued success working with these wonderful women.



## Computer Training Program

*Laurie McEwan  
Program Coordinator*

I facilitate a class in learning Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel 2010. We use tutorials that take around 10 weeks to complete. Anyone who finishes these tutorials early receives other tutorials such as Outlook, which they have to learn on their own computer and another one for learning how to create tables in Word. If they are interested in learning the basics of PowerPoint. I give them the tutorials and files to create a PowerPoint presentation. I am in the class and I am available to help with any questions. I teach them how to use their USB drives and supply them with the files needed. I also show them how to safely remove the USB drives from the computer. After the Work Ready Program is complete, I send the students an email with places on the internet that they can learn even more skills to increase their skill set. I also send them a YouTube link that refreshes their memory on the tutorials they learned for a quick refresher before a job skill test.

Some RWRC members want to learn the basics of Word or Excel, emailing, and the internet. They have access to the same tutorials as the Work Ready students. I show students/members how to find answers to their questions on the computer. I look for tutorials for the computer lab to help people learn new computer skills.





## Work Ready Program

*Sarah Ross*  
*Program Coordinator*

The Work Ready Program, which has been in existence since September 2008, provides support to women who wish to enter or re-enter the work force mainly in the local community of Richmond. While some participants are originally from Canada, the majority are new immigrants who are seeking to become more familiar with their new employment environment.

As of the end of March 2019, we have successfully run 32 sessions of the Program, and nearly 300 women have so far participated. Over the past ten years, the level of education and experience of our participants has continued to rise, and consequently more women are finding suitable employment or going on to further education after finishing the Program.

Most of our participants complete thirty (30) hours of volunteer work in our office, while others volunteer their time with Richmond Multicultural Community Services with whom we have an ongoing arrangement. In some cases, the volunteer shift required is waived when a participant already has considerable office experience, or when their type of employment is in no way related to an office environment.

We offer classes in Computer Skills, English Writing, Communication and Job Search Skills which attract candidates from all parts of the world. The mix of the large variety of ethnic groups makes for an enriching learning environment where women can make friends and share information about their different cultural backgrounds.

Recently, we have started to allow women to attend classes over a period of several sessions, thus making it easier for some to complete the Program while still fulfilling other work or domestic obligations. Thanks to the special expertise of one of the participants in the January-March 2019 session, we were able to offer extra computer networking workshops, and we hope to make similar additions to the Program whenever possible.

It would seem that, so far, this Program has withstood the test of time, and we continue to attract a large number of applicants, even though some similar programs are now being offered by other organizations. Many of these women come to us through word of mouth recommendations from previous participants, which attests to the effectiveness of the training and support provided. We hope to continue to offer this support for as long as it remains needed.



## Richmond Shares

*Priscilla Tarigan*  
Program Coordinator

Richmond Shares Mission Statement:

Richmond Shares is dedicated to serving low families in Richmond.

This past year, Richmond Shares keeps on its mission and acting as a place where community members including new immigrants, single mothers, seniors and low-income families can benefit, either by donating items or receiving items. Richmond Shares had a total of 199 matches of donated items and 413 participants.

In order to keep the donations coming in, we have distributed widely Richmond Shares posters for posting in a variety of public places including churches, community centers, and senior clubs periodically.

We added new features on our website, 'Subscribe to New Item Listings' and 'Share this Post'. The purpose of these features is to let any subscribers receive email notifications of new posts and enabling them to share the post to others.

Here are some heartfelt testimonials and feedback from our donors and recipients who benefit from our program.

I found Richmond Shares to be a great avenue to downsize our home and give to those in our community. I was also on a few "sell your stuff" computer sites, which was okay but at some point when you are moving it is wonderful to be able to just give a table, a dresser, cutlery and even house cleaning materials and staple food stuffs to someone who could truly use them.

Although the one person who contacted me from your site (her name escapes me) lives outside of Richmond, I was happy to meet with her and offered her items from my father-in-law's house in Richmond that we were selling at the same time as ours. She took a living room sofa and couch, a casual bench, kitchen table and chairs and also all of the non-perishable kitchen and laundry items, which was a huge help. At one point it was a blur as to who was helping whom!

I also gave her the food contents of the freezer and fridge (which included a bottle of wine which she was thrilled with). A simple pleasure for someone who worked so hard for her family.

I wish Richmond Shares the best of success. I hope to find the equivalent here in West Kelowna."

Thank you,  
Maureen



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>This is a brief feedback in regards to the excellent job people are doing at Richmond Shares, assisting low income people with their different household and house wear items needs.</p> <p>I have personally contacted Priscilla when I was in need to get a bed where to sleep and some household items. She made the contacts and a nice bed was delivered at my front door by the donor. I also got a nice patio set, lamps, a computer desk, kitchen items in excellent condition from two other donors,</p> <p>Again Priscilla made the contacts and she made sure my requests were served. Many thanks to Priscilla and to all other people at Richmond Shares for helping people by doing such an excellent job.</p> <p>Kind regards to all<br/>Enna</p> |   |
| <p>I have been quite happy with the response I got regarding the items I was interested in. I had a beautiful Futon delivered to me by the owner and a beautiful wool rug also delivered. The people who delivered the rug actually laid it out for me. I am quite happy with the response and the wonderful people.</p> <p>Thank you,<br/>Judy</p>   |   |
| <p>Priscilla, you are very kind. It brought tears to my eyes to see the pics, and that my mother's clothes are going for a worthy cause, as much as it was hard for me parting with them.</p> <p>You are welcome to give the recipient my email, but she does not need to thank me, seeing her pics are more than a thanks, it was my pleasure. I am glad I hung onto it for the right person.</p> <p>Thank you,<br/>Angel</p>  |    |

## French Speaking Women's Support Group

*Marielle Demorest  
Program Coordinator*

The French Support Group of the Richmond Women's Resource Centre meet every Wednesday morning from 10am to 12pm at the Dining Terrace of the Richmond Mall. We exchange information on events of the Francophony as well as local events. We provide information to immigrants on services of Richmond.

We organize supper at a local restaurant once a month.

This year we had a workshop on Counselling while working on Mandala. 12 French speaking women attended it.

We attended French movies, put on by VISION WEST, a group who presents movies in French from France and Quebec.

Women also come to practice speaking French. All women are welcome to join our group.



## Movie Night

Clare Yow  
Program Coordinator

Since 2011, we have screened more than 70 films for the community as part of our monthly free Movie Night. The program grew out of a humble vision to bring women together to bond and discuss the diverse topics facing women globally. This past year, we have watched feature films and documentaries about women's right to choose, how gender norms factor into the publishing and video game industry, and the hidden history of slavery in Canada.

After each screening, we regroup for an open discussion about the film and related issues. It is a profoundly special opportunity to share and learn from one another. In October 2018, we were especially pleased to host local documentary filmmaker, Joella Cabalu. Sharing two of her award-winning works about the construction of gender and identity, we were grateful for Joella's presence at this intimate screening and Q&A.

The films we watch are an escape from our daily lives, but also a reality check that women continue to face unspeakable conditions worldwide. Our program is committed to highlighting their stories, learning from them, and taking action in whatever ways we can. Sincerest thanks to all who help realize each event with their presence, adding thoughtfully to the dialogue, and lend an extra set of hands.



## Zumba Workshop for Moms

Winnie Kwok  
Program Coordinator

Zumba at Grauer Elementary School continues to be a well-attended program. Here are some of the comments from the participants:

"Zumba is the most awesome exercise class ever."

"It's fun dancing together with my friends."

"I didn't expect it to be so much fun!"

"Zumba makes me feel happy!"

"It's a great way to help us stay fit and strong."

"I didn't expect it to be so easy to follow."

All the participants have a great time dancing, laughing and working out together. They hope that RWRC will continue to run this program.



## Remember Our Sisters Everywhere (ROSE)

*Chris McDowell*  
Program Coordinator

Dear RWRC,

Remember Our Sisters Everywhere is dedicated to the prevention of violence against women and children. ROSE is an online community with members from mostly Canada, as well as the US and other countries. ROSE is based on a Ning platform and pays an annual fee for the site. "Ning" means peace in Chinese.

The ROSE website address is <http://www.rememberoursisterseverywhere.com>

On the ROSE home page is a Map of Women's Memorials marking the location of memorials in memory of missing and murdered women and girls throughout Canada and the world. Information is provided on each memorial. Memorials are marked as appropriate with a rose, feather or pink cross. ROSE uses Community Walk software to create this map, and pays a monthly fee.

The Map of Women's Memorials is here <http://www.communitywalk.com/womensmemorials>

Last year, in order to create a petition, a group of us formed the Women Refugees Advocacy Project to advocate for Yazidi women and girls who are survivors of torture and genocide by ISIS. The petition called for comprehensive trauma care for the Yazidi female survivors in Canada.

If you wish to learn more: <http://www.womenrefugeesadvocacyproject.ca>

The petition led us to work with Anna-Lee from One Free World International. OFWI sent their founder Rev. Majed el-Shafie to Vancouver. Rev. El Shafie brought three Yazidi survivors with him, a woman and her two nieces, to speak out and stand together.

Four public speaking events were held in Sept 2018: Ceremony & Press Conference in Thornton Park, Women and Children's Hospital, Simon Fraser University, and Canadian Memorial United Church.

On Oct 29, 2018, together with six Yazidi women, we delivered the petition to Vancouver MP Jenny Kwan at the Parliament in Ottawa, gave a Parliamentary Press Conference, and watched as Ms. Kwan tabled the petition in the House of Commons.

Our heartfelt gratitude to everyone at the Richmond Women's Resource Centre,

Christine McDowell & Lindsay Setzer



## Key Statistics

During the fiscal year from April 2018 - March 2019

- 1035 drop-ins to the office
- 3,585 participants of our programs and workshops
- 455 phone calls and 1,134 email inquiries referrals provided

Our accomplishments were made possible because we had the privilege of working with 49 amazing volunteers, who contributed 1,365.70 hours of their valuable time to helping out.

Our hard-working Directors of the Board have contributed 616 hours of volunteer work.



*We would like to thank each and every one of them personally for their enthusiasm and support of the women in our community.*



## Events

### Scotia Run Fundraiser

#### RWRC joined the ScotiaRun to:

Raise awareness for an organization that provides valuable support & programs for women in Richmond;  
and raise money to support & update existing RWRC programs and provide seed money for new programs.

The event has been most fun and memorable.



## Zumba Fundraiser

We held two Zumba Fundraisers in the past fiscal year. A big thank-you to our volunteer instructors Winnie, Priscilla and Joan for leading the dances.



## International Women's Day

The Richmond Women's Resource Centre celebrated its 43rd anniversary and International Women's Day with around 170 guests enjoying a delicious Dim Sum at the Continental Seafood Restaurant. Attending dignitaries took to the podium to share encouraging words about the importance of women's equality, including Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie, MLA Linda Reid, MLA Teresa Wat, MP Alice Wong, Councilor Bill McNulty, Councilor Chak Au, Counselor Alexa Loo and our MC Thor Diakow.





## Christmas Potluck

Our Annual Christmas Potluck was celebrated with our members, friends, program participants with food, gifts and happy singing.



## Youth Now Graduation

The RWRC Board of Directors is incredibly grateful to have had Amanda Low as their Youth Now Board Mentee for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Participation in the "Youth Now" program has brought many insight and passionate youth to RWRC whose experience and hard work have been an invaluable resource.

Amanda officially graduated from the program in April 18, 2019 at a ceremony held at Richmond City Hall.

