



RWRC
RICHMOND WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Richmond Women's Resource Centre

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Mission Statement

We are a long-standing and vibrant community network of women of all ages living in Richmond. Our goal is to provide community-based resource options to help women build connections and thrive in their community. Through a supportive environment, we encourage women to empower themselves and enhance their lives through our training programs, peer support groups and community partnerships.

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Special Thanks to

The Royal Bank of Canada

The Richmond Firefighter Society (Local 1286)

AGM Agenda

Virtual Annual General Meeting 2021-2022

- ❖ Welcome and Introductions
- ❖ Greeting Video by Mayor Malcolm Brodie
- ❖ Greeting by MP Wilson Miao
- ❖ Greeting Video by MLA Teresa Wat
- ❖ Greetings by MLA Henry Yao
- ❖ Greetings by MLA Kelly Greene
- ❖ Approval of Agenda June 27th, 2022
- ❖ Approval of Minutes July 8th, 2021
- ❖ Treasurer's Report
- ❖ Board of Directors' Report
- ❖ Executive Director's Report
- ❖ Existing Board to stand down
- ❖ Election of new Board
 - Present slate for New Board
- ❖ Adjournment
- ❖ Staff Turnover Announcement
- ❖ Recognition of Service
- ❖ Recognition of Volunteers
- ❖ Closing Remarks: Special Thanks

AGM Minutes

Annual General Meeting 2020-2021

Wednesday July 8th, 2021

Zoom - 7:00 PM

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Call to order at 7:03PM
- 37 guests attended (including 29 members)
- Welcome honored guests, volunteers, staff, board members and special guests Mayor Brodie, Councillor Bill McNulty, MLA Teresa Wat, MLA Aman Singh, MLA Kelly Greene, MP Alice Wong
 - Greetings made by special guests
 - Speech by MLA Kelly Greene on gender equity and the pandemic

2. Approval of Agenda July 8th, 2021

- Approved by De Whalen; seconded by Shayla

3. Approval of Minutes July 22nd, 2020

- Call to order at 7:03PM
- President Tammi Belfer acknowledged that the AGM took place on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples
- Approved by De Whalen; seconded by Marilyn

4. Treasurer's Report

- Office has done a great job keeping expenses under control and finding revenue
- Government subsidies allowed the center to continue programs in an online format
 - Shayla moved to accept; seconded by Kathy; approved
 - Shayla moved appoint Michael Auras to be the accountant until March 2022; seconded by Megan

5. Board of Directors' Report

- Despite challenges of this year, the centre was creative in how it operated and reached audiences
- Virtual International Women's Day was on the theme of "Choose to Challenge"
- RWRC stepped up to support women, especially those in isolation, during the pandemic
- Tammi congratulated staff, volunteers, and board members for their hard work
- Tammi acknowledged the recent passing of Doreen Steiner, the original founder of RWRC

6. Executive Director's Report

- Florence thanked community partners, community members, and funders for their support throughout the past year
 - Their support allowed the centre to carryout various workshops and programs to support women
- Special thanks for facilitators who have been facilitating the programs online
- Thank you to the 30 volunteers who have contributed a total of 1700 hours

7. Existing Board to stand down

- 2020-2021 Board of Directors
 - Amanda Low

- Chris McDowell
- Jackson Kemmis
- Marielle Demorest
- Megan Chambers
- Michelle Yuen
- Mikaela Nuval
- Rachel Ling
- Shayla Feldstein
- Tammi Belfer

8. Election of the new Board

- Present slate for New Board for 2021-2022

- Amanda Low
 - Jackson Kemmis
 - Li Qing Wang
 - Marielle Demorest
 - Megan Chambers
 - Navdeep Dhillon
 - Rachel Ling
 - Shayla Feldstein
 - Tammi Belfer
- Motion to accept the slate; moved by Kathy, seconded by Elaine
 - The new board has been accepted

9. Adjournment

- Tammi called for adjournment of AGM at 7:44PM

10. Recognition of Service

- Acknowledgement of facilitators and staff who have been delivering services online
- RWRC bid farewell to Jessica Liu who left RWRC at the end of March
 - Elaine Hu has stepped in and has worked hard to make the AGM happen

11. Recognition of Volunteers

- Florence thanked volunteers who have supported RWRC
- Special thanked Anastasia Gavrilova who has been volunteering with RWRC since 2006

12. Closing Remarks: Special Thanks

- Florence recognized community partnerships with businesses and other non-profits for their contributions
- Kathy Kent thanked the centre for the work and support that RWRC has provided

Board of Directors' Report

Tammi Belfer, President of the Board of Directors

Dear Supporters of Richmond Women's Resource Centre

On behalf of my fellow directors, the staff and myself, I thank you for your support throughout the year(s).

"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself." --
Unknown author



That is what Richmond Women's Resource Centre is all about. We have helped many women and girls this year and through the years. Our creative writing program for high school girls had waiting lists and we added sessions; our work ready program was full capacity; our new high school committee continues to blossom and the need for the Centre continues to grow. Most of our programs and support groups were online all through 2021. All of them filled. The impact of COVID on women is still being felt and we will see those results and affects for years to come. RWRC is here ready, willing, and able to help create and re-create yourself.

Special thank you to our wonderful Board of Directors executive members Shayla Feldstein, Treasurer Amanda Low, Secretary, thank you for your time and effective delivery of your portfolios. Thank you to our Board of Directors, Marielle Demorest, Traci Corr, Casey Skuce, Liqing Wang, Navdeep Dhillon and Jackson Kemmis (on leave).

In a bittersweet moment, I announce that Florence Yao, our Executive Director is moving on to pursue her life goal of working for her Church. We wish her our very best wishes and buckets of thanks for all the hard work she has done over the last 14 years. We will miss your knowledge, your expertise and just you. If you would like to acknowledge Florence's great effort on behalf of RWRC feel free to send her note through our office and we will be sure to forward it.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammi Belfer

Executive Director's Report

Florence Yau

This year, RWRC achieved many great milestones with our programs and events. Our online IWD auction and raffle raised much needed funds for our programs. We received more than 50 items from generous individuals, community partners, and business organizations. We also had the honor to invite MLA Kelly Greene to kick start our annual speaker series. The success of these events was a group effort that fostered the power of community giving and partnership.



Our numbers of participants for our programs increased as more women looked for learning opportunities and community support after the pandemic. Many of our programs expanded so that more participants could have the opportunity to learn and achieve their potential. For example, this year, we held three sessions of Work Ready, with a 100% completion rate. One of our previous programs, Hot Ink, also resumed, taking on a total of 59 participants throughout the year. We are honored to have the opportunity to provide and support women of all ages and backgrounds, offering a variety of services targeting different needs.

Many adaptations were made to our services and programs as well. Some of our classes, such as Work Ready, now take on a hybrid method that includes both online activities and in-person teachings. Programs that include large numbers of participants, such as English Conversation & Writing, Computer Training and Richmond Shares, remained online for the past year for safety purposes. We look forward to moving more programs back in person in the following year.

Besides expanding our services, RWRC is also doing its' part to promote sustainability. Many of our materials and publications, such as AGM Reports, IWD Reports, and Hot Ink Magazine, are now offered online to help build a green environment.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our funders: Province of British Columbia, City of Richmond, Health Sciences Association, Richmond Community Foundation, Literacy Richmond, as well as our donors and supporters. Thank you to our volunteer board members, volunteers, and staff. Thank you for your continuous support.

Sincerely,

Florence Yau

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 2021-2022 Board of Directors (in alphabetical order)

Amanda Low
Casey Skuce (Youth Now)
Jackson Kemmis
Li Qing Wang
Marielle Demorest
Megan Chambers
Navdeep Dhillon
Rachel Ling
Shayla Feldstein
Tammi Belfer
Traci Corr

2022-2023 Board of Director Nominees (in alphabetical order)

Carole Lacapra
Casey Skuce
Jackson Kemmis
Jenny Mak
Li Qing Wang
Marielle Demorest
Navdeep Dhillon
Mikaela Nuval
Shayla Feldstein
Tammi Belfer
Traci Corr

Annual Program Reports

Grandmother's Support Group

The program connects senior immigrant women with other services and resources available in the community they may not otherwise know about. The group chat created on WeChat allows grandmothers to stay connected and informed on current events despite social distancing. The group meets online twice a month to discuss issues surrounding senior lives. They also share local information and organize traditional events together during cultural days, such as teaching dumpling folding online. During Christmas, we also partnered with Richmond Emmanuel Church to deliver free hot meals to the grandmothers as a special Christmas treat.

Basic English Writing and English Conversation

This program helps immigrant women learn and develop basic communication skills, so they are able to integrate more fully into the community. It also teaches women various English writing skills such as sentence structure and grammar rules. This program offers the opportunity for immigrant women to make friends through the interactions in the class. In addition, it also improves their employment prospects which further benefits their families and community as a whole. Due to COVID-19, this program was transitioned online. However, all participants show tremendous dedication to learn by participating eagerly in a Zoom environment.

Computer Training Program/Tech-Talk

During Computer Skill Training, Work Ready program participants learned to use Microsoft Office programs, including Office, Excel, and PowerPoint, in a three-month program designed to prepare them for the workforce. It is taught in one-to-one format where each participant will have a learning plan and objectives based on their future career goal, current strengths and needs.

The Tech-Talk program is also a computer-skill class that is open to general participants. This program focuses specifically on participant's own inquiries and teaches a variety of software programs and general technology usage. It is perfect for tech-users of all age and level as it teaches a variety of skills from keyboard usage to complex editing. It offers a personalized and secure environment for participants to address their concerns with computers and follow their own pace in technology training. Many women have taken this course during COVID-19 to help them use devices more efficiently at home to connect with others.

Work Ready Program

The Work Ready Program, which has been in existence since September 2008, provides support to women who wish to enter or re-enter the workforce.

The Work Ready program includes Computer Skills, English Writing, Communication and Job Search Skills and a volunteer opportunity to allow participants to apply their learned skills to real-life situations. We offer a diverse range of learning materials to make sure that the skills learned can support our participants in a variety of work environments and professions. Upon completion of the program, the women are better equipped to handle the Canadian work environment, allowing them to succeed in various work fields or further training. This year, our work ready program had a 100% completion rate with many women entering their dream profession after completion.

Richmond Shares

Richmond Shares Mission Statement:

Richmond Shares is dedicated to serving low-income 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 **113 matches** of donated items and **226 participants**. This service fosters the spirit of giving and encourages environmentally friendly living, preventing usable items from being thrown into landfills. We received many positive testimonies from our participants, and we are glad to see how these items can support those in need. You can find the heartfelt testimonies available on our website.

French Speaking Women's Support Group

This program provides support to French-speaking women in Richmond. During the pandemic, the group continue to meet at the mall, or at the courtyard at Minoru Seniors Centre; safety protocols were observed. Participants exchanged news of the Richmond and The Francophonie. Bonding through their native tongue has also decreased their sense of isolation, especially during the pandemic.

Single Mother's Support Group

This program was designed to provide support for Richmond mothers and caregivers. It is a meaningful program that encourages women to socialize and reduce the stress of their daily life in a non-judgmental environment. It aims to help participant finds connection, make new friends, express themselves through art activities, share their concerns in a safe space, and learn about resources that can support them and their family.

Key Statistics

During the fiscal year from April 2021 - March 2022

- 4662 participants of our programs and workshops

- 666 phone calls and 2134 email inquiries/referrals provided

Our accomplishments were made possible because we had the privilege of working with 38 amazing volunteers, who contributed 1,162 hours of their valuable time to helping.

Our hard-working Directors of the Board have contributed 945 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

Speaker Series with MLA Kelly Greene

This year, we had the honor to invite MLA Kelly Greene, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment as our keynote speaker for our Past, Present, Future Speaker Series on March 23rd, 2022. MLA Kelly Greene talked about the importance of being eco-friendly and the positive impact it will have on our community environment. She also shared about her story and the work she has done to help Richmond be greener. Many valuable resources were shared to help citizens become more aware of sustainability and make our city a better place.

The flyer is for the 'Past, Present, Future Speaker Series' event titled 'Richmond, Women & The Environment'. It features a photo of MLA Kelly Greene, who is identified as the MLA for Richmond-Steveston. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022, at 7:00pm on Zoom. The flyer includes contact information for the Richmond Women's Resource Centre (RWRC) and a 'REGISTER NOW' button. Social media links for Kelly Greene are also provided.

**PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE
SPEAKER SERIES**

**RICHMOND, WOMEN &
THE ENVIRONMENT**

MLA for Richmond-Steveston
*MLA
Kelly Greene*

Date: Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Zoom

REGISTER NOW

Email: office.rwrc@shawcable.com
Phone: 604-279-7060

Learn More about Kelly Greene:
<https://www.kellygreene.ca/>
Email: Kelly.Greene.MI_A@leg.bc.ca
Facebook: [@KellyGreeneRichmondBC](https://www.facebook.com/KellyGreeneRichmondBC)

International Women's Day

The Richmond Women's Resource Centre celebrated its 46th anniversary and International Women's Day with around 96 guests joining us online on Zoom on March 4th, 2021. The theme for 2022 will be "Stop

Eco-Gender Gap." At RWRC, we hope to encourage everyone to be more eco-friendly, regardless of gender.

This year, we also had an online auction and raffle event along with our Zoom celebration. We raised a total of over \$5000 in both our events. Thank you to all our members, staffs, volunteers, supporters and donors for making this happen.

If you missed it, don't worry, we have created an IWD 2022 Report that showcases all the highlights of the event. View the highlights here: <https://richmondwomenscentre.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/RWRC-IWD-2022.pdf>



Committee

High School Committee

The High School Girls Empowerment Project aims to empower young women to overcome social barriers when pursuing a professional career and to equip female students with the tools to succeed as much as their male counterparts.

The project's goal is to pinpoint what female-identifying youth need most to help them decide which careers to pursue.

The final product is to create workshops on pursuing professional careers highlighting female-specific experiences. The committee wants to learn how you feel about career planning, and what would be beneficial to you in such a workshop.

Fill out the survey today to have your voice heard: <https://forms.gle/ZWaCGAXpgr8XwKWs8>

CALLING ALL GIRLS!

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

RWRC YOUTH
Richmond Women's Resource Centre

WHO: We are the Youth Committee from the Richmond Women's Resource Centre.

WHAT: We are aiming to **create workshops on pursuing professional careers** highlighting female-specific experiences.

HOW: We created a survey asking high school girls about any questions they may have about professional careers.

WHY: To learn about how you feel about career planning and what would be beneficial to you in such a workshop!

ANSWER THE SURVEY TO BE ENTERED IN A DRAW FOR PRIZES!

- Personal development-related books
- MUJI stationery

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW!

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