

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Acknowledgement: The Social Planning Council of Ottawa (SPCO) would like to acknowledge that we are located on the traditional, unceded, and unsurrendered territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin People. Through our work, we embrace our responsibility to create social and economic change that lasts in our community.

# Message from the Board

As we reflect on the past year, we express our heartfelt gratitude to our employees, whose dedication has ensured our organization's growth and resilience. Special thanks go to our funders including the City of Ottawa, United Way, Ottawa Community Foundation, the Federal Government, Red Cross, Cooperators, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Canada Service Corps, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, our members, and generous donors for your continued support during these challenging times.

We appreciate the extraordinary efforts of our 498 volunteers, who collectively dedicated over 5,580 hours to our community initiatives, demonstrating the spirit of service that defines the SPCO.

Our Board of Directors has been instrumental in guiding us through this period of transition, and we are grateful for the commitment and leadership they have shown. Looking ahead, we remain committed to collaborating with our staff, partners, and stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities of the future. Our ongoing projects and initiatives are set to continue making a significant impact on the community.

Thank you to everyone involved for your continued support and dedication to the SPCO's mission of fostering informed community leadership and sustainable development in Ottawa.

#### Few words from the Executive Coordinator

2023 has been a year of transition for the organization, rallying after a challenging previous year. From a financial standpoint, we rebuilt from a few remaining staff members to a full team of 22, including both full-time and part-time staff. With support from the community and our amazing volunteers, we stabilized our funding, expanded our team, and, most importantly, strengthened and launched new impactful projects, ensuring continued support for our community. The dedication and resilience of the SPCO community - staff, volunteers, board members, funders, and community supporters – have been pivotal in navigating this transition.

Thanks to them, and the unwavering support from partners like the City of Ottawa, United Way, Ottawa Community Foundation, the Federal Government, Red Cross, Cooperators, Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, our members, and generous donors, we are well-positioned to maintain our mission of catalyzing sustainable social and economic development. We are committed to harnessing both the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

# **OUR BOARD**

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- · Akur Mathiang, Community Outreach Worker
- Berat Acar, Strategic Marketing and Resources Development Manager
- · Cindy Flynn, Accountant
- Eduardo Gonzalez, Data Analyst
- Eliakim Hawi, TRAC Social Enterprise Coordinator
- Farnaz Ershadi, Social and Health Services Researcher
- Gawahir Ismail, Employment Support Youth Worker
- Girma Urgeacha Kussa, Geomatics Technologist and Data Analyst
- Malek Hassan, Community Services Navigator
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- Prayash Khanal, Manager, Effective Measures
- Reuben Nashali, Executive Coordinator
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- Shireen Faza, Coordinator, Ethnocultural Seniors Network
- Silwan Al-Eryani, Web Developer
- Somayeh Momen Zadeh, Office Manager
- Sonia Sabet, IT Specialist
- Stefka Patchova, Lead, GIS and Data Consortium
- Wendell Louis, Digital Literacy Connector

## **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION**



#### **Thank You to Our Volunteers**

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the year to support our community. Their contributions were invaluable - 498 volunteers contributed more than 5,580 hours to drive positive change in our community.



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# SPCO - A Catalyst for Sustainable Development



The Social Planning Council of Ottawa (SPCO) has been empowering residents to lead on social and economic issues since 1928, fostering informed leadership and sustainable development. Our mission is to provide residents of Ottawa with the means to exercise informed leadership on issues affecting their social and economic well-being.

We help communities make lasting changes by focusing on key issues and using a holistic approach that involves research, planning, coordination, networking, and supporting collaborative solutions.

#### Our focus areas



#### Community Economic Development

Create equitable opportunities in a sustainable local economy to meet local needs.



# Increasing Inclusion

Increase access to resources, empower community leaders, and drive systemic change.



#### **Access to Basics**

Build robust community infrastructure to aid marginalized individuals, families, and tackle specific challenges.



# Support the Voluntary Sector

Increase capacity of the voluntary sector to use research and evaluation to support effective programming.

#### Our toolkit for change

#### Research that matters

We create authoritative research and information used to respond to local needs.





# Support network, organizations, residents and decision-makers

We provide a range of supports to agencies, residents, networks and decision makers addressing community-identified issues and priorities.

#### **Community & Program Planning**

We work with the community to design solutions, incubate new initiatives to respond to unmet needs and support community participation in decision making.



Throughout 2023, we have remained committed to empowering the residents of Ottawa and our unwavering dedication has led to significant progress in crucial areas such as youth employment, digital equity, and psychosocial well-being, positively impacting numerous lives in our community.

Our primary focus has been on capacity building in five essential areas: programmatic, resource, organizational, networking, and political. Through strategic leadership and sustainable practices, we have not only met current community needs but also established a robust groundwork for future growth and resilience.





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# Year At A Glance

In an impactful year of service, we have significantly expanded our reach and deepened our community impact. Our efforts this year have touched the lives of thousands, thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and the strength of both new and continuing partnerships.



#### **TOTAL REACH**

9486

Residents in priority neighbourhoods, youths, ethnocultural seniors, etc.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS**

81

Engaged with 49 grassroots and ethnocultural seniors groups, and 32 new partnerships in 2023.

#### **EVENTS**

15

Public events such as job fairs, exhibition, walk-a-thon, launch of G7 Ottawa initiative, soccer tournament, annual volunteer appreciation, etc.

#### DIGITAL ACCESS

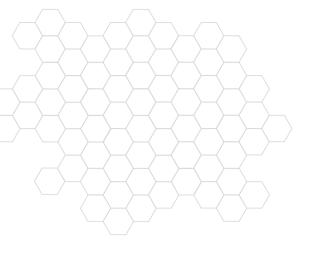
215

Digital devices distributed, impacting 644 individuals. Total 599 distributed to the community members till date.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

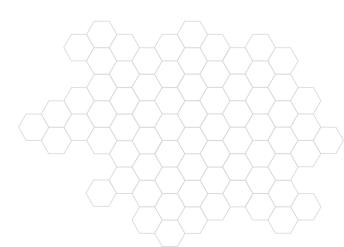
498

Contributing 5,580 hours of service.



# COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





# Prosperity for young people from priority neighbourhoods or racialized groups



# YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

We offer youth employment support program that provides support around resume building, soft-skills training, one-on-one mentoring, and paid work placements. Our community outreach engages racialized youth and community, forms partnerships, and addresses social and economic needs in Ottawa.

#### **KEY OUTPUTS**

- 236 youths from priority neighbourhoods or racialized groups received employment services
- 164 individuals received training in soft and/or hard skills, with 59 earning certifications
- 106 youths benefited from career development services offered by economic incubators
- 98 youths received career-focused mentoring
- Youth program outreach in 6 agencies, 15 lowincome neighbourhoods and 8 families to facilitate youth engagement in the program
- Our youth program evaluation in 2023 revealed:
  - 72% of participants expressed satisfaction with the youth employment program
  - 95% reported feeling encouraged and supported while in the program

#### **KEY OUTCOMES**

- 88% of supported youth participants are employed
- 85 youths received paid work internships
- Our evaluation in 2023 revealed:
  - 89% of youth participants felt ready for the workforce
  - o 45% secured long-term employment

"The youth program gives a great opportunity for them to get enough training and work in an actual position before they get hired."

Employer (youth placement), non-profit





#### YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGE

To promote service and volunteering among racialized youth aged 18-30 in Ottawa., we collaborated with the Canada Service Corps to provide micro-grants to support youth to lead social benefit projects. It empowers youth to address community issues, develop leadership skills, and enhance their planning abilities.

#### **KEY OUTPUTS**

- Micro-grants totaling \$135,000 were disbursed to 27 youths to support them in leading their social benefit projects and enhancing their capacity for success
- Reached additional 352 youths in communities through social benefit projects
- A total of 22 mentors engaged, reaching 166 young individuals through the mentoring sessions

# Few examples of social benefit projects led by racialized youths:

- Light Room Show
- Win The Ball: Basketball Youth Tournament
- Gamers for Good
- Refugee Action-Aids
- Somali Preservation Project
- 3-on-3 Photography Project, etc.





# TRAC TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATIONS

TRAC supports the needs of nonprofits, small businesses and community organizations, while fostering and empowering young people, helping them to grow their skills, and gain new employment opportunities.

#### TRAC SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ENGAGEMENT

23 active youth participants deeply engaged in diverse community projects

#### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

- Six community organizations received support from TRAC during the year addressing their communications needs, and provided crucial support in the website development as well.
- Most recently, TRAC helped the Jamaican association improve its online presence by:
  - Opening social media channels
  - o Designing promotional flyers for their programs and events





# ON THE SPOTLIGHT... ...Youth Employment Support

"My engagement with SPCO started in 2023, involving volunteer work and IT courses. The supportive nature of SPCO, which helps in finding suitable jobs and aids in learning new things, motivated me to join their programs. This decision has been pivotal in shaping my professional and personal growth. I am currently working with ACB Wellness Resource Centre.

One of the most memorable experiences I had with SPCO was when I volunteered there. It allowed me to give back to my community and help others navigate through their challenges, which was incredibly fulfilling. The IT training I received was particularly beneficial, covering troubleshooting and various computer hardware components, significantly enhancing my job prospects.

For anyone considering seeking support from organizations like SPCO, I recommend getting involved in volunteering and attending their workshops and training sessions. These activities not only help in building your skills but also in expanding your network."

Hertz Mukiza, 19, English

"My journey with SPCO began when I realized the potential impact their programs could have on a diverse range of people in Ottawa, including myself. The IT program at SPCO particularly caught my interest and has since become a significant part of my daily life, transforming a budding interest into a growing passion. Currently, I work at Rideau-Rockcliffe Incubator13, a position I secured after engaging with the SPCO in 2023.

The most remarkable experience during my time with SPCO was discovering the vast network of connections they offer. This realization came when I was struggling with finding employment due to a lack of connections. SPCO stepped in and bridged this gap, which not only helped me secure my current job faster than I had ever anticipated but also significantly expanded my professional network. This has opened numerous doors for me. allowing me to meet amazing people with strong connections throughout the city.

My advice to other young people struggling to find work is to not give up too easily. Persistence is key, and with the right support, like that from SPCO, finding employment is definitely achievable."

Tek Obang Omat, 18, Arabic

# ON THE SPOTLIGHT... ...Youth Leadership for Change

"I'm incredibly grateful for the Youth Leadership for Change program. As a recent newcomer, leading the Gamers for Good project has been transformative, allowing me to significantly impact my community and gain invaluable networking experiences. Thanks to the entire SPCO team for making this possible."

Yavuz Selim, 22, Leader Gamers for Good Project

"As someone new to photography, I'm extremely grateful for the chance to learn this craft, fully equipped with the necessary tools and venues at no cost, thanks to the SPCO grant. This opportunity has allowed me to connect with wonderful artists in the city, all of whom are enhancing their skills and enriching our communities."

Adnan Kuyga, 19, Participant 3-on-3 Photography Project "The micro-grant has been a game-changer for our Nepalese community, enabling us to adress mental health issues among marginalized youth. We've seen remarkable improvements in wellbeing, confidence and resilience, and a reduction in anxiety, depression and self-harm. We are grateful for the investment in our future and look forward to continuing this vital work."

Sudesh, 25-30, Leader Nepalese Ottawa Football

# **INCREASING INCLUSION**



# Anti-Racism and Increased Capacity of Grassroots Organizations Supporting Marginalized Residents



# ANTI-RACISM AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION THROUGH GRASSROOTS GROUPS

To enhance grassroots groups supporting equity-seeking communities, a capacity-building model focusing on five domains is utilized to promote active engagement in all aspects of community life and address anti-racism initiatives.

#### **KEY OUTPUTS**

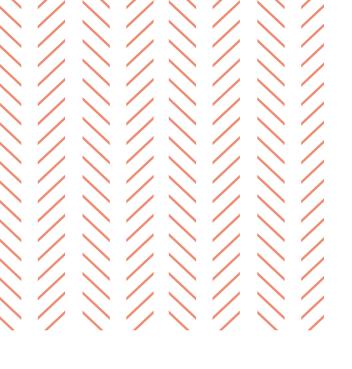
- Supported 49 grassroots organizations
- Supported 210 community initiatives focused on safe and inclusive development
- Launched the G7 Ottawa initiative,
   "Culturally Based Social Programs By and For Racialized Families, Children and Youth", to foster leadership and resilience among Black and racialized youth and families
- Developed an evaluation framework for the G7 Ottawa initiative
- Managed funds totaling \$605,710.83 to deliver programs for equity-seeking grassroots groups
- Produced and disseminated Anti-Black
   Racism data projects and updated the
   Neighbourhood Equity Index
- Engaged actively with the Ottawa Black
   Mental Health Coalition

#### **KEY OUTCOMES**

Of supported groups:

- 100% had increased resource capacity
- 95% had increased programmatic capacity
- 88% had increased networking capacity
- 61% had increased ability to represent the interest of their members/target population
- 22% had increased organizational capacity (space, infrastructure, etc.)





# **ACCESS TO BASICS**





#### Supports for ethnocultural seniors



#### ETHNOCULTURAL SENIORS NETWORK

We partnered with 28 ethnocultural seniors groups to support seniors facing isolation and barriers. Our Ethnocultural Seniors Network support program aims to improve living standards through tailored activities promoting social engagement, health, and cultural inclusion.

#### **KEY OUTPUTS**

- 4,623 seniors participated in various activities organized by over 28 grassroots ethnocultural groups
- 1,023 unique seniors engaged in 31,200 interactions, promoting social connections and active participation
- SPCO assisted volunteers by reimbursing mileage claims for program facilitation
- Events such as the Walk-A-Thon and Ethnocultural Exhibition and Festival united seniors
- Workshops on health and education enhanced seniors' access to valuable resources
- Special programs featured mobile heart disease screenings and Care for Life projects
- Non-profit liability insurance from SPCO supported ethnocultural seniors groups

#### **KEY OUTCOMES**

- Expanded caregiving services increased seniors' independence.
- Caregiver support reduced isolation and stress, improving care quality
- Community events like the Walk-A-Thon, Exhibition, etc. promoted social interaction
- Programs like digital literacy training and health awareness enhanced seniors' skills and knowledge
- Program activities helped seniors combat isolation and fostered a sense of community.

# **ON THE SPOTLIGHT** ...Ethnocultural Seniors Network

"It was in 2015 when we first started receiving funding from SPCO to support our seniors in the community. SPCO has played a huge role in making so many seniors' lives better. All the seniors always thank SPCO and I personally, from the bottom of my heart, thank SPCO for bringing change in my life and our seniors' lives. The support from SPCO to all the groups is tremendous - without financial support no program can run smoothly.

My experience with SPCO has always impacted me a lot. It has changed my perspective towards working with seniors in our community. I believe if we have funding, we can improve and impact other people's lives with better care. It has changed my life as I find this is the vision and purpose - to serve the most deserving citizens of our country which has been neglected. I have worked with seniors with dedication, passion and patience for years now which has made me what I am today.

Seniors are well-connected, happier, and enjoy the services we provide. I don't think without the support from SPCO, we can do any of our ongoing programs. Seniors share their stories and tell their friends to join. They are very happy to know that they still belong to our community and someone is taking care of their needs.

The independence from doing our programs gives confidence. I have gained love, respect, trust, and dignity over the years serving our seniors. When we age we understand life more than we ever did. My passion, dedication, and patience have earned the love and affection of the diverse seniors I work with.

First of all, I thank SPCO for supporting our diverse ethno-cultural groups. I would like SPCO to have more presence in our communities. We are fortunate to be part of SPCO since 2015 and look forward to working with this exceptional organization for years to come."

**Zeba Taj**, 50+
South Nepean Muslim Community & Seniors Wellness Community Group

# ON THE SPOTLIGHT ...Ethnocultural Seniors Network

"I have been engaged with the SPCO since 2011. During the most difficult time in my life, SPCO's empowerment and support helped me achieve my life goal of helping Chinese senior immigrants break their isolation and live a meaningful life in Canada, where they can call home, sweet home!

SPCO's endless encouragement has supported me in persisting in the commitment I made to myself and to the newcomer Chinese elders, allowing me to hold my head high and keep moving forward in these years. Because we didn't have the ability to apply for funding and hire people for bookkeeping, I had to focus on programming, and SPCO provided us with that support.

The service that SPCO provided to a small organization like ours has had a huge impact on the Kanata community. Because of our group, Kanata has become the first choice for Chinese new immigrants. The active lives of the Chinese seniors inspire others to be like them and get involved with their community.

SPCO offers support, but never doubts my ability to get the job done. This gives me lots of room to grow. I've gained good leadership skills, such as trust, and the skill of how to manage a small organization, like planning and implementation.

Thank you for your enthusiastic support and encouragement, which allows small organizations to do something for the community and solve some of its needs. Thank you very much SPCO for your help and please continue to support the work of small organizations so that they can continue to contribute to the community."

Wen Jean Ho, 65 Kanata Chinese Seniors Support Centre

#### **Digital Equity**

#### DIGITAL EQUITY OTTAWA

Enabling health, employment, learning, and social opportunities through digital access and technology use. We collaborate with partners like the City of Ottawa and Jewish Family Services to provide digital devices and enhance virtual care programming.



#### **KEY OUTPUTS**

- In 2023, 215 digital devices were distributed, benefiting 644 individuals, with a total of 599 digital devices distributed till date - SPCO supports the Strategic Advisory Committee for Digital Equity Ottawa and provides a centralized online portal for agencies to acquire digital devices.
- 279 seniors received computer or tablet training in 2023, totaling 1,040 seniors trained
- 172 households were connected with low-cost plans, supporting nine new households
- 33 students were trained and placed in digital jobs, bringing the total to 94
- Digital literacy training in 2023 reached 209 community members, totaling 809 individuals trained coordinated with Jewish Family Services for digital literacy training
- Digital Equity Ottawa raised \$36,973 in 2023 through fundraising

Thanks to SPCO for the laptops donation. I was able to support 3 families in the shelters and one youth who is currently unable to attend school due to safety concerns.

Jinny Caron, Youth Outreach Worker, BGC Ottawa

#### **Increased Mental Wellbeing in Priority Neighbourhood**



#### MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

We integrate mental health support in programs for community members, particularly in priority neighbourhoods and racialized groups. Collaborative efforts with partners create supportive environments for coping, healing, and thriving.

#### **Active Newcomer Youth Ottawa**

Since the summer of 2021, ANYO's programs have been instrumental in supporting participants to develop positive mental attitudes and gain a sense of achievement by enhancing their confidence in engaging in activities they enjoy.

#### In the Wind Art Collective

Led by Curtis Shaw, the initiative aimed to integrate the creative arts with mental health support, facilitating community connections and supporting both individuals and groups.

#### **EmpowerHer: Celebrating Our Essence**

A program of Canadian Women of Colour Leadership Network. They delivered empowering workshops exclusively designed for African, Caribbean, Black, and racialized women and femmes.

#### **KEY OUTPUTS**

- Annual soccer tournament successfully conducted engaging over 300 youths
- Eight individuals in the digital art skill group, supporting individual artists on a one-to-one basis
- Around 400 unique residents engaged in activities by In the Wind Art Collective to combat isolation, boost mental wellness, and encourage seeking help
- Art shows and exhibitions took place at various locations including the Bronson Centre, Sandy Hill Community Centre, Strathcona Park, and Ottawa Digital Arts Resource Centre
- Hosted workshops to boost selfconfidence, self-awareness, and selfexpression for personal growth and empowerment
- Connections and rapport building with broader mental health agencies, continues to develop

#### **Emergency Response Including Basic Needs**



#### FOOD AND MEAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

We contribute to improving access to essentials and living standards for marginalized individuals, establishing community infrastructure to address community needs effectively.

#### SPCO's Efforts to Address Food Insecurity

We are enhancing food support programs to address food insecurity in low-income neighbourhoods by offering food vouchers, grocery shopping aid, meal delivery, and a cultural good food box in 2023.

#### **Healthy Aging Pilot Program**

The SPCO in Ottawa is enhancing food support programs to address food insecurity in low-income neighbourhoods by offering food vouchers, grocery shopping aid, meal delivery, and a cultural good food box in 2023.

Starting in August 2023, the SPCO received funding for a 2-year pilot program on healthy aging, offering 150 monthly meals to low-income seniors to address food insecurity, with a total cost of \$86,400.



#### **KEY OUTPUTS**

- At least 120 residents received support with groceries
- Raised \$29,000 for food supports, including food vouchers, grocery shopping, delivery of prepared meals, and development of a cultural good food box
- Seven thematic dashboards prepared to support food insecurity-response decision-making and service delivery
- SPCO sponsored five new grassroots and culturally based food programs to support access to culturally based food for vulnerable residents



# SUPPORTING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR





# Increased Capacity of Voluntary Sector Organizations to Use Research and Evaluation To Support Effective Programming

OTTAWA AND REGION DATA CONSORTIUM, AND NEIGHBOURHOOD EQUITY INDEX

The Ottawa Region Community Data Consortium, under the Social Planning Council of Ottawa, offers Statistics Canada data for social development programs. The Neighbourhood Equity Index addresses disparities with data on priority populations and local issues like digital inequity, hate crime, food insecurity, and racism.



#### **KEY OUTPUTS**

- Delivered 25 new data resources through the Ottawa Community Data Program, Neighbourhood Equity Index, and Data for Purpose website.
   Provided reports on the 2021 Census Highlights, Ottawa Black Community, and Youth Employment
- Addressed over 20 personalized data and insights requests for organizations, including performance metrics visualization, housing data for advocacy, and data for funding proposals

"We value the contribution of your data analysis work and the role of NEI in making a case for this project."

• National Capital Freenet

#### **KEY OUTCOMES**

- Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OVOHT)
   utilizes performance indicator dashboards for
   service planning based on patient data
- National Capital Freenet secured funding for a trial Community WiFi Network
- Demographic data from Orleans-Cumberland CRC & Eastern Ottawa CRC supports an IRCC funding proposal
- Black Community report highlights challenges and economic disparities faced by Ottawa's Black community
- Ottawa Youth Employment report addresses barriers and opportunities for racialized and newcomer youth in the job market
- Findings from the 2022 Youth Mental Health Survey focus on mental wellness needs and service accessibility for racialized young adults.





#### EFFECTIVE MEASURES ENTERPRISE

The Effective Measures enterprise of the Social Planning Council of Ottawa offers research and evaluation services to support community programs in Ottawa, aiding partners in achieving targeted impact by providing credible information for change and capacity building in program evaluation and research integration.

#### **KEY OUTPUTS**

- Evaluated the SPCO's 3-year pilot youth employment program
- Developed evaluation reports for the Ontario
   Trillium Foundation's Resilient Communities
   Mental Wellbeing Project and The Federal
   Internship for Newcomers Youth
   Employment and Skills Strategy (FIN-YESS)
   program involving three implementing
   partners (OCISO, WUSC, WS)
- Conducted an assessment with 76 seniors from the ethnocultural seniors network to identify the status and barriers to healthy aging
- Produced assessment report on newcomer youth's mental health
- Designed Monitoring and Evaluation
   Frameworks and tools for grassroots groups
   and SPCO programs
- Collaborated on a Work Integration Social Enterprise (WISE) Phase II Research with Employment and Social Development Canada

#### KEY OUTCOMES

- Agencies and clients gained insights into program outcomes, aiding informed decision-making
- Agencies are improving their understanding of the needs of racialized and newcomer youth in job search and retention - the Youth Employment report explores the barriers and opportunities for diverse young people in the youth programs
- Agencies in Ottawa have improved their understanding of ethnocultural seniors' needs, leading to updates in service navigation tools and recommendations for long-term program development

## Our Social Enterprises

#### OTTAWA AND REGION DATA CONSORTIUM AND NEIGHBOURHOOD EQUITY INDEX

Enhances data access for evidence-based planning and action through membership in the Community Data Consortium and skilled staff and volunteers.

www.neighbourhoodequity.ca

#### **EFFECTIVE MEASURES**

Provides research and evaluation services to support community programs by offering credible information for change and research integration.

www.effectivemeasures.ca

# TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, MARKETING AND

COMMUNICATIONS

Supports non-profits, small businesses, and community organizations by providing marketing, communications, and market research services to create a positive impact.

www.trac.ca

#### **Our Partnerships Programs**

We value potential collaborations and welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can work together to achieve mutual success. If you are interested in exploring partnership options or have specific proposals in mind, please feel free to reach out to our dedicated strategic partnership team.

#### **Current Partnership Programs**

# System Navigation Program www.spcottawa.on.ca/system-navigation-program-e-manual

Ottawa Community Partnerships for Health Equity

www.ocphe.ca

**G7 Ottawa Initiative** 

#### **Our Data and Research Work**

The SPCO supports non-profits and communities through social research, policy analysis, and community consultation. We aim to enhance local agencies' capacity through community-based research, benefiting from the Community Data Consortium's resources and the expertise of SPCO staff and volunteers.

## **Community and Grassroots Groups**

We are proud to have collaborated with or supported over 45 grassroots and community groups in 2023.



#### Members of the Ottawa Grassroots Ethnocultural Seniors Network

- Network
- **Bulgarian Seniors**
- Cambodian Association of Ottawa-Valley
- Canada Nepal Solidarity for Peace
- Caribbean Ethnocultural Seniors of Ottawa
- Club Case de los Abuelos
- Daryeel: A Youth and Senior Serving Centre
- Deshantari of Ottawa Carleton
- Etio-Canadian Azawent Association
- **Excelsior Cultural and** Spiritual Association

- Afghan Canadian Support
   Family Support and Care Services Center
  - Indo-Canadian Community Center
  - Kanata Chinese Senior Support Center
  - New Beainninas
  - North South Development Roots & Culture
  - Ottawa Francophone-Swahili Seniors Network (OFSSN)
  - Ottawa Korean Evergreen Society
  - Ottawa Valley Filipino Canadia Seniors
  - Polish Canadian Womens Federation

- Regroupement Affaires Femmes
- Rwanda Social Services and Family Counselling
- Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Seniors Association
- Sikh Community Services Ottawa
- South Nepean Muslim Community
- Sri Lankan Canadian Association of Ottawa
- Swahili (East Africa) **Speaking Seniors**
- Vietnamese Canadian Community of Ottawa
- South Sudanese Seniors

#### ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- **ACB Wellness Centre**
- **Active Newcomer** Youth Ottawa
- Advocacy as Education
- Afro Black Cultural and Media Centre
- A.R.T. in Action
- Association of South Sudanese Languages Institute
- Canadian Women of Colour Leadership Network

- Debaser
- Gotta Go!
- Hit the Streets
- IGen Ottawa
- In Our Tongues
- In the Wind Collective
- Lockdown Basketball Tournament
- NutritionBlocs
- Clementine Food
- Community for Better **Immunity**

- Ottawa 613 Black Hub
- Ottawa Black Diaspora Coalition
- Pass The Feather
- Surad Way Parent Association
- Synapcity
- Youth Action Now
- Youth Engagement and Community
- Outreach
- YouVoice
- Tyson Dream Foundation



# **Supported Programs**

#### **ARTS AND CULTURE**

Supporting arts and culture as a means for residents to live healthy, connected lives, to nurture social and economic well-being, to increase belonging and understanding and to explore new or challenging issues.

#### **ACTIVE NEWCOMER YOUTH OTTAWA**

ANYO tackles mental health, wellness, employment and the issues that matter - with activities by and for immigrant youth.

#### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Self-organized group of youth from low-income, immigrant and racialized communities, established in January 2021 as a dialogue forum for issues related to gun violence. Most members have lost close relatives or friends to homicide and understand the trauma of gun violence infused into the community. YECO is resolved to help Black, racialized and newcomer youth integrate into safe and healthy communities.

#### YOUTH ACTION NOW

A diverse group of young people in Youth Action Now are committed to justice and creating a fair, inclusive, and sustainable world. Inspired by Paul Dewar, they collaborate with allies, friends, mentors, and supporters.

#### **SYNAPCITY**

Synapcity is a community in Ottawa focused on fostering dialogue and collaboration for positive change. Inspired by a visit to Citizens Academy in Syracuse, New York, the founders aim to create a healthy, happy city where people work together to improve their community.

## **Supported Programs**

#### THE CANADIAN WOMEN OF COLOUR LEADERSHIP NETWORK

CWCLN offers mental health programs, career development, wellness workshops, and other services to empower racialized women and non-binary professionals for future leadership roles.

#### **NUTRITION BLOCS**

Nutrition Blocs designs, develops and delivers food programs that directly address food insecurity needs in our communities by increasing access to fresh, nutritious and culturally-appropriate meals to all Ottawans.

#### **ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH SUDANESE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE**

The Association for South Sudanese Languages Institute (ASSLI) was established in 2017 to preserve South Sudanese Indigenous languages and culture, supporting refugees and recent immigrants. The organization aims to integrate South Sudanese and Canadian curricula and cultural norms to enhance academic success and overall well-being among children through interpreters and translators.

#### **FOOTWEAR 4 KIDS**

The Footwear 4 Kids initiative was established in 2020 by William Foreste Bourgault during the Covid-19 Pandemic to provide free footwear to children and youth in need in Ottawa.

#### **RISE ACADEMY**

Aims to offer quality education focusing on students' strengths, passions, critical awareness, hope, and community engagement to address shortcomings in the education system.

#### **ELLISION STUDIOS**

A video production company led by young entrepreneurs focuses on helping NGOs through creative storytelling and high-quality production to drive social change.



# **Key Contributors**

**Employment and Social Development Canada** 

Canadä

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

invested for good

Ottawa Community Foundation

City of Ottawa

Ontario Trillium Foundation

Canada Service Corps

**United Way** 

Canadian Redcross

Canadian Parks and Recreation Association

The Co-operators Community Fund

Donations- Canada Helps

Membership Fee and Client User Fee 22













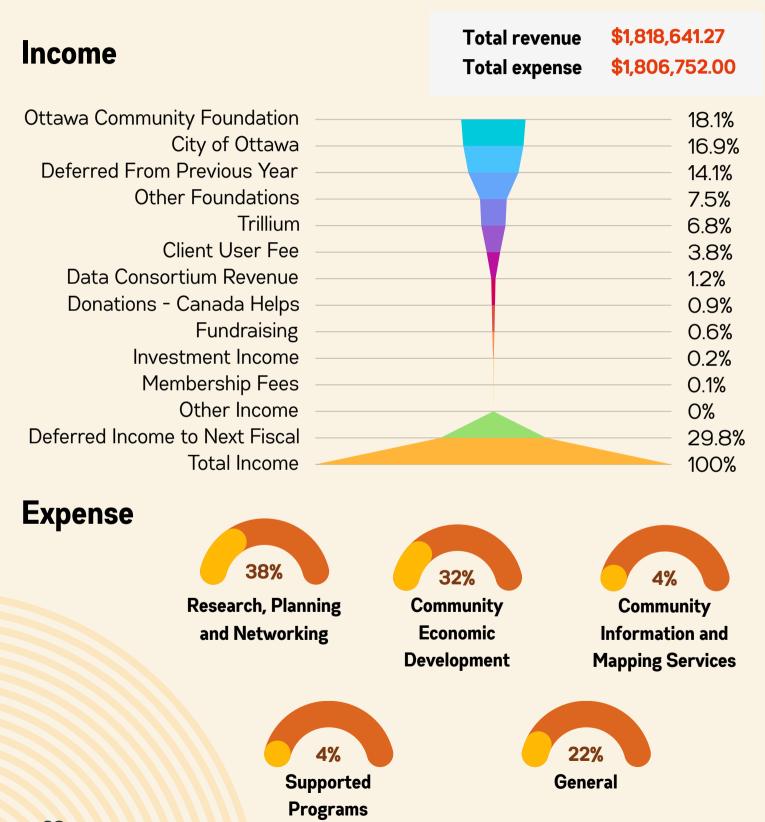




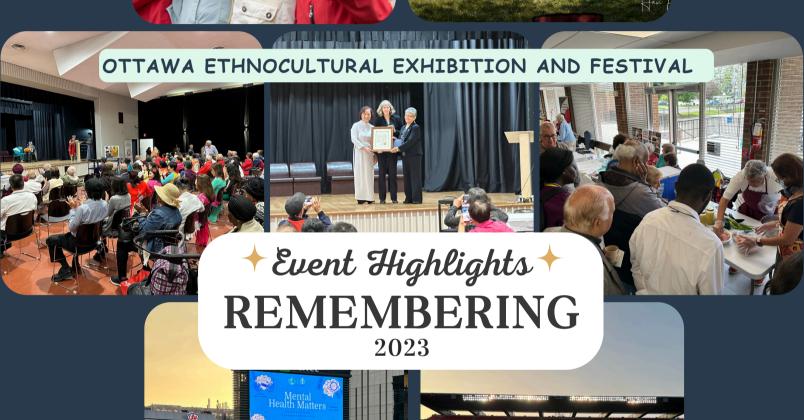


# **Financial Summary 2023**

For details, please visit our website to access the audited financial statements.









#### **WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT**

Please consider making a donation to help sustain and further our efforts.



#### **VOLUNTEER WITH US**

We offer a fun and supportive environment for our volunteers to learn, grow, and contribute to local communities.

Get involved in the community and learn transferrable skills supporting a great cause.

#### **BECOME A MEMBER**

Vote at our Annual General Meetings and receive notices of new publications, upcoming activities, discounts for most SPCO events, and access to the SPCO library.

#### **FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS**

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#### **OUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Le CONSEIL de PLANIFICATION SOCIALE d'Ottawa