



Centre for Community  
Learning & Development  
Strong Communities Together

# 2015 - 2016 Annual Report

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To Donors and Supporters



Fall in  with Regent Park Event



Wow! Another year has come and gone and it is once again time to reflect on the past year. And, once again, I believe, it goes without saying, that CCL&D's diverse range of programs has continued to provide opportunities to educate the members of the Regent Park community, whether young or old, newcomer or not, minority or not, to develop knowledge and skills to enable them to engage in leadership roles in the community and empower them to partake in influential activities and decision-making to improve their well-being and the well-being of their family and community.

The Board is committed to providing access to innovative academic and skills training that addresses specific challenges and provides long term success in the areas of academic learning and in leadership and civic engagement. And also to providing a hub that connects all members of the Regent Park community to help remove the barriers of low literacy levels that contribute to a cycle of disengagement and poverty. Our 2016 graduates are a prime example of those efforts.

But the Board is proud of the accomplishments of more than this year's graduates. We are proud of all those who have ever walked through CCL&D's doors – to each and every one of the students and participants of our many programs, and, the instructors, staff and volunteers who provide the programming and/or support the organization in any way. Keep up the good work!

And we are, of course, forever thankful to you, our donors, funders, partners and supporters. Without your generous support, CCL&D would not be able to provide our services which are educating the members of our community and building their capacity to become engaged and empowered to make their community a better place to live. Thank you again.

Val Lesko  
Chair of The Board



2015 Holiday Celebration



# Education Engaged Empowered



Almost 37 years ago, a nurturing of ideas, vision and perseverance gave birth to an organization known as the Toronto East End Literacy Project. The force giving rise to this new organization was the vision of a group of people who believed that education is the cornerstone of an engaged and empowered citizenry. They chose to focus efforts of the new organization on literacy upgrading - from a critical perspective. This decision was significant because it went straight to the heart of the matter: many people in our society experience challenges and barriers due to low literacy levels. Statistics on the direct impact of low literacy levels among adults is very revealing:

“Four in ten Ontarians aged 15 and over do not have the literacy skills they need to meet the demands of modern life. 1.3 million people (16.2%) struggle with very serious literacy challenges. They have difficulty with even the most basic written materials. Another 2.1 million people (26%) can work with print information but not well. A further 1.8 million (21.3%) working-age Ontarians struggle with very serious numeracy challenges, and they have difficulty with even the most basic math. Another 2.4 million people (29.1%) can work with numeracy but not well. Despite the need, less than 5% participate in adult literacy programs.” [Ontario Literacy Coalition]

However, what statistics conceal is vital: a cycle of poverty, lack of financial literacy, health and safety concerns; both at home and in the workplace. Parents with low literacy levels tend not to read to their children. People with low literacy are often marginalized and disenfranchised; excluded from decision-making. Low literacy levels affect their ability to participate in politics and other activities that influence the well-being of their families and communities. That is why, even in a climate of underfunding and unnecessary administrative hurdles, we are still doing it! We have continued on the path to building the capacity of individuals through education, so they can feel empowered and be more engaged.

The disparities in education, health, economic opportunity, and access to justice continue to increase, and the resources available to confront those challenges have not kept pace with growing needs. That is why, since the formation of our organization, we have consistently adopted an approach that promotes empowerment. We believe that just like organizations, program participants and residents can take ownership of outcomes and solutions for some issues and that others require residents and organizations working in partnership.

As you read through our 2015-16 Annual Report, we encourage you to keep this as your frame of reference.

Alfred Jean-Baptiste  
Executive Director

CCL&D creates a strong culture of community engagement through capacity-building, progressive learning and innovative training in Toronto’s most vulnerable neighbourhoods. Through our adult education, digital storytelling, leadership development, partnerships, and community engagement activities, we contribute to healthier neighbourhoods and increased sense of belonging for many.

We respond to changing community needs, including the growing demand for solution-focused initiatives that promote active learning and community engagement. Our programs intentionally leverage resources and collaborative strengths of residents, private sector organizations, educational institutions, community agencies and government, to increase social capital and build the capacity of individuals and communities.

For example, participants in our leadership training develop skills and capacities, which they, in turn, use to add value to their communities. They conduct needs assessments, learning circles, workshops, and serve as sources of information and referral for their families, friends and neighbours--activities that also help to increase their employability.

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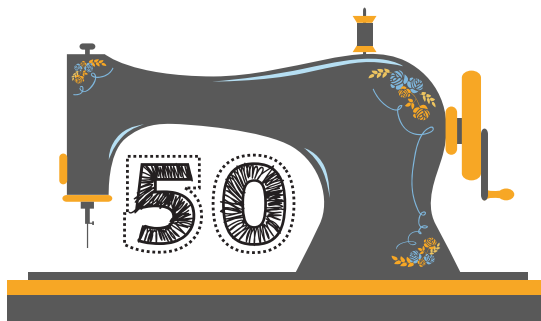
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# Neighbourhood Impact at The TD Centre of Learning

Our TD Centre of Learning is a partnership hub comprised of academic institutions (GBC, U of T, Ryerson), residents, and local agencies and it committed to bringing a mix of programming and activities to Regent Park residents. Activities offer opportunities for residents to build their social, academic, community engagement, and personal development skills. Activities range from Women's Yoga classes, and an "A-list of motivational speakers, to Global Citizenship courses.



**sewn with the  
Sewing Circle**



**8** completed  
Summer  
Global  
Citizenship  
course



**15+** a week  
practiced yoga  
together



**273** youth  
volunteered  
**5,000** hours  
empowering adults



**obtained food handling  
certificates**

# Core Programs

## Academic Upgrading

We are funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development to deliver this program that helps adults develop and apply communication, numeracy, language arts and digital skills to achieve their goals. As part of the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework, we deliver task-based programming that helps learners make clear connections between literacy and real-life tasks, including budgeting, money management and civic engagement. We offer full-time and part-time classes that serve over 66 adult learners every year. Successful graduates transition into one of five goal paths after 9-24 months of training: enhanced independence, secondary school credits, employment, apprenticeships, and post-secondary.



**79,200** class contact hours  
**20** volunteers provide **1-1** support  
**3,200** volunteer tutoring hours  
**43** learners on employment goal path  
**15** on post-secondary path  
**10** on apprenticeship goal path

## IWIP

The Immigrant Women Integration Program (IWIP) is a full-time training program for newcomer women living in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas. IWIP develops newcomer women to become community leaders who are engaged in their communities; promoting engagement, fostering a sense of belonging, facilitating access to programs and services, contributing to building community.

Every year, IWIP trainees conduct Community Resources and Needs Assessments in their respective neighbourhoods. Their research includes a mix of online questionnaires, key informant interviews, face-to-face interviews, and focus groups. Each year, approximately 500 to 700+ residents from various neighbourhoods participate, and express opinions about their neighbourhoods, services, social relationships, health, general well-being, and sense of belonging.

Based on the research findings, trainees engage in the delivery of workshops, information sessions, and other activities designed to tackle some of the issues identified. We support some of this by providing small grants (\$500 to \$1,000) through our Elizabeth Cooke Endowment Fund.



Up to **15** trainees per year  
**2,700** internship hours  
**8** placement organizations  
**2,329** people participated in IWIP trainee-led community activities  
**40** workshops delivered by trainees in 9 neighbourhoods





Since Winnie joined the IWIP program, other residents and agencies in Parkdale-High Park identify her as a community leader and a channel to express their concerns and ideas. Winnie outreached to politicians at City Hall and residents in her neighbourhood to take part in her Community Needs Assessment (CNA) presentation. This created the space for ongoing dialogue around issues of housing and integration in Parkdale and the role of various

stakeholders in finding solutions. As a result of the various dialogues, Winnie's MPP attended to her housing concerns, providing Winnie with alternatives to her situation and for other women in the same position.

Winnie's neighbour who also attended her CRNA Presentation felt inspired by the skills and confidence that Winnie developed in IWIP and decided to take action herself in creating an integration/recreation program for refugees in her seniors' building.

Winnie continues to be the voice and inspiration of her community and has presented before the Prime Minister, Premier and Mayor.

In 2015, Winnie Muchuba helped raise \$65,000 to aid Syrian refugees.

## Youth Empowering Parents (YEP)

Youth, ranging in age from 12 to 19, are trained to tutor adults from the same language background in English, computer skills and financial literacy. Newcomer adults receive free one-on-one tutoring, while the youth develop and gain life-skills around civic engagement, professionalism, and leadership. This tutoring is currently offered to low-income adults in six neighbourhoods in Toronto (in partnership with Toronto District School Board) and is a unique opportunity for youth to volunteer in their communities and develop leadership skills. The goal is youth empowerment, to become leaders within their communities, and to provide newcomer adults with supports to build foundation skills to access further opportunities, e.g., community engagement, increased sense of belonging, and to pursue employment or further upgrading.

*According to a Statistics Canada Special Edition on Canadian Social Trends, learning a new culture and a new language are among the top five difficulties newcomers face within 4 years of arriving in Canada.*

**90%** of YEP adults are homemakers

For **80%** of them, YEP is the first program they attend regularly

**30%** of YEP youth teach their parents

YEP has served individuals from more than

**25** countries, speaking over **30** different languages

**272** adults

**273** youth volunteers

**5,000** hours contributed by YEP youth

**\$12** of societal benefit is generated for

every **\$1** invested into YEP

The average investment required is only

**\$225** per person

In a YEP classroom instructors train groups of teenagers to provide one-on-one tutoring to adults. Jabad Ismail (14), was tasked to tutor English, financial literacy and computers to Ifrah, a 45-year old newcomer woman. Initially, he was disinterested. But, by the end of the semester, Jabad's attitude shifted immensely. "At first I didn't care, but eventually it stuck in my head. After class, I would go home and think about ways to help Ifrah." He became attentive to the life challenges she was facing and went beyond the YEP curriculum. He helped her fill job applications, and find study materials for her Citizenship test.

## Social Enterprise Incubator (Regent Park Catering Collective)

Our focus in the SEI program includes financial literacy training and the development of incubators that leverage existing community skills and resources to provide social entrepreneurship opportunities. A key component of our strategy is to prevent and reduce poverty for youth, seniors, women, single parents, visible minorities, and newcomers, who have incomes too low to provide for an adequate standard of living, and who face barriers accessing the job market.

The Regent Park Catering Collective (RPCC) was the first to be incubated. Residents receive Food Handlers Certification through a partnership with Toronto Public Health, and three community partners: Artscape – Daniels Spectrum, PaintBox Bistro, and Yonge Street Mission, who provide access to their commercial kitchens to carry out parts of the training. The RPCC provides catering services to local organizations and businesses, generating, on average, \$80,000 worth of business.

Similar to the RPCC, we are nurturing the development of a Sewing & Fashion Collective. With donated materials and supplies, this Collective aims to provide employable skills at no cost to the members. Already, it is promoting confidence, socialization, community awareness and generating some income opportunities from selling articles designed and created by its members.

Eight of the city's neighbourhoods with the highest concentrations of child poverty are in the city's north-west and five are downtown, including Regent Park, which has the highest rate at 63 per cent.

**85** residents of Regent Park obtained food handling certificates

**\$80,000** worth of business

**25** active catering clients

**20** items on the menu

## Program Evaluation Certificate School for Residents

In Fall 2015, we launched the first free Program Evaluation Certificate School, in collaboration with Innis College, University of Toronto, and the Centre for Research on Inner City Health - St. Michael's Hospital. "The course teaches students how to evaluate social and recreation programs and how to improve them" [Globe and Mail, March 18, 2016]. Fifty residents and front-line workers took the first training, with over 100 people on the waiting list. Another training cycle took place last spring, and a level-2 course will take place in Winter 2016-17.

As part of the course, community residents and front-line workers get beginner-level hands-on evaluation experience, and access to the expertise of CRICH's faculty, researchers, and their SurveyResearch Unit.

**50** residents registered in the first course

**100** on first waiting list for training

**300** residents surveyed



When the Regent Park Aquatic Centre opened, everyone was very excited. But now many say they don't have access to the facility they expected. Not everyone in Regent Park has home computers, English language skills or high-speed Internet connections to sign up for swim lessons or other programs online. So they line up at 4 a.m. to register.

The first cohort of trainees in the Program Evaluation School selected the Regent Park Aquatic Centre for a community-based evaluation. With evaluation data and resident feedback in hand, one of our staff (also a resident), worked alongside the students and Councillor/Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell to successfully press for changes to the registration process. Following those efforts, the Mayor announced registration improvements for the entire city by fall, and a completely new system by the end of 2017.

## Ongoing Programs

### Summer Global Citizenship Course

This 5 week summer course which runs three mornings a week is offered to Academic Upgrading Students. The Global Citizenship course is meant to engage students in a wide range of local and global social justice and human rights issues. This course allows students to actively participate in unlearning and relearning, while enhancing leadership and self-awareness development, civic engagement, social justice activism, and the forming of alliances with other local organizations.



### Motivational Learning Series

A series of motivational speakers, creative thinkers and social change makers who have ties to the Regent Park and St. Jamestown communities sharing their personal journeys through story and career practice to students and residents with a different theme each month.



# Board of Directors 2015-16

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**Alfred Jean-Baptiste** (ex-officio, Executive Director)

\* as of April 1st, 2015

## Statement of Operations: Year-Ending March 2016

Revenue	2016	2015
Government & Foundation Grants	\$536,337.00	\$537,311.00
Corporate Donations	\$77,069.00	\$113,480.00
Individual Donations	\$10,956.00	\$10,524.00
Productive Enterprise Revenue	\$76,288.00	\$51,408.00
Other Income	\$12,484.00	\$10,567.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$713,134.00</b>	<b>\$723,290.00</b>
Expenses	2016	2015
Salaries & Benefits	\$500,523.00	\$466,012.00
Program & Project Expenses	\$80,994.00	\$39,977.00
Administrative Expenses	\$96,106.00	\$141,346.00
Occupancy Costs	\$51,411.00	\$58,515.00
Fundraising & Promotion	\$2,775.00	\$2,409.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$731,809.00</b>	<b>\$708,259.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$18,675.00</b>	<b>\$15,031.00</b>

# Thank You For Your Support!

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## Our Partners





# Strong Communities Together

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*“Creating a strong culture of community engagement through capacity-building, progressive learning and innovative training.”*

## **Toronto Centre for Community Learning & Development**

The TD Centre of Learning

540 Dundas Street East.

Toronto, ON

M5A 2B3

[info@tcclld.org](mailto:info@tcclld.org)

Phone: (647) 349-2244

Charitable Registration: # 1192 6427 RR0001