



Out of Poverty

The Canadian Women's Foundation invests in Economic Development programs to reduce gendered poverty and build economic strength for those who need it most.* These programs:

- » **provide “wrap-around support”** to help participants break through barriers to access programs in the first place.
- » **help participants break into well-paying fields** where women are traditionally underrepresented: construction, carpentry, electrical, auto mechanics, and technology.
- » **teach entrepreneurship.**
- » **help women learn employment skills and gain work experience in “social purpose” businesses** operated by community-based, non-profit organizations.

Excellence Beyond the Local Program: We support regional and national service providers to coordinate their work, share promising practices, undertake research on new approaches, and influence decision-makers to approach building economic security in the most effective ways.

**Programs are supported for a four or five-year grant cycle.*



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Charitable Registration: 12985-5607-RR0001



In Participants' Words



“It was my dream to have my own business and with this program I have been able to figure out my way.”



“If you don't think you can succeed because you're starting off with nothing, think again. Start your dream and the rest will come. Be resilient and don't give up.”



SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

These programs help participants break into fields where women are traditionally underrepresented. Participants learn skilled trades such as construction, carpentry, electrical, and auto mechanics, and they build skills and competencies for work in technology. Participants may be matched with mentors, and many of the programs help women to pay for workplace essentials, like tools.

CNC Industrial Mechanic Millwright Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Program, Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor (WEST) (Ontario): this 37-week program helps participants enter millwright/machining trades. It includes a placement, training in communication skills and computer literacy, and wrap-around support to reduce barriers to participant success.

TechWomen, Immigrant Services Society of BC (Vancouver): this pre-employment program prepares newcomer women for careers in the technology sector through web development and design training, tech-specific language skills, employment preparation training, and a practicum placement.

Women in Technology Employment Program, Making Changes Association of Alberta (Calgary): this training program for unemployed/underemployed immigrant and Indigenous women in Calgary combines

employability skills upgrading, technical training in web development, and hands-on work experience.

Women Unlimited Program, Women Unlimited (Nova Scotia): helps diverse women build careers in trades and technology through a range of supports from career exploration and college-level training to employment and apprenticeship certification.

Digital Skills, Long Lake 58 at Long Lake 58 First Nation (Ontario): this First Nation-led education program prepares women for the digital economy through hands-on, project-based, and community-focused education in web development, e-commerce, digital marketing, and creative computing.

SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

These programs help women with the nuts and bolts of entrepreneurship. They learn to develop viable ideas, create a business plan, and build a business network. They learn skills like marketing, sales, and product development, as well as essential life skills. Some get help finding a mentor, and some get help accessing loan funds to launch their businesses.

EntrepreNorth, MakeWay (Northwest Territories, Yukon, Nunavut): this 6-month program for community-based and Indigenous entrepreneurs helps them build sustainable businesses and livelihoods in

Northern Canada.

Seizing the opportunity: You and your potential, Microcrédit Montreal (Quebec):

this self-employment program for immigrant women provides start-up training and microcredit loans to enable participants to test their products/services and/or launch their businesses.

Women in Business, SEED Winnipeg (Manitoba):

provides business development support for Indigenous and newcomer women to help them launch a new business or expand an existing one.

Employment My Way, YWCA Moncton (New Brunswick):

trains women to research and write a business plan and offers additional support to help women succeed in starting or building an enterprise.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PROGRAMS

These programs help women learn employment skills and gain work experience in “social purpose” businesses operated by community-based, non-profit organizations. They receive on-the-job training and coaching. Especially in the case of women who have been out of the workforce or who are new to Canada, these programs help them gain experience and confidence to succeed in a permanent job.

Operation Grow, Huronia Transition Homes (Ontario):

this social enterprise, located in a centre that acts as a community

hub, addresses the needs of women who have experienced violence. It is a vertical farm where participants are employed in a flexible, supportive environment. At the same time that participants build their knowledge of and access to good, healthy food, they develop their assets, social networks, and economic resilience.

The Canadian Women’s Foundation

is a national leader in the movement for gender equality in Canada. Through funding, research, advocacy, and knowledge sharing, we work to achieve systemic change. We support women, girls, and gender-diverse people to move out of violence, out of poverty, and into confidence and leadership. Since 1991, the Canadian Women’s Foundation has raised more than \$130 million to fund over 2,500 life-transforming programs throughout the country.

IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

