

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

A YEAR OF
GROWTH & RESILIENCE



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Building Bridges, Creating Impact

As we reflect on 2024, we celebrate another remarkable year of empowering newcomers and fostering cross-cultural connections. Guided by our mission to *accelerate newcomers' ability to thrive within the Canadian community* and our vision of *a Canada where every newcomer has access to the support and community they need to succeed*, SCF continues to champion the pillars that define our work: **Language, Skill Building, and Well-Being.**

This year, we were deeply affected by the tragedies that unfolded around the world—in the Middle East, Ukraine, and beyond. These heartbreaking events reminded us of the importance of our mission and strengthened our determination to continue our vital work. Even in the face of such challenges, *we found inspiration in the resilience of the refugee families we serve* and were reminded of **the beauty and hope that emerge when communities come together to support one another.**

Through innovative programs, strategic partnerships, and the unwavering support of our funders, donors, and volunteers, **we have helped newcomers strengthen their linguistic proficiency, develop essential skills, start their own businesses, and prioritize their mental health**—all of which are key elements in building successful and fulfilling lives in Canada.

This year's annual report highlights the impact our programs made, success stories, collaborations, and community events that shaped our journey. Together, we're not just building connections, we're creating lasting change. Thank you for being a part of our mission. Let's continue this journey of hope, empowerment, and inclusion.

Leading with Vision, Inspiring Success

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Members,

As I reflect on this past year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the collective resilience, compassion, and commitment of our community. The Syrian Canadian Foundation has always been driven by the mission to empower newcomers and build bridges between cultures, and in 2024, we saw these values come to life in incredible ways.

In 2024, we navigated a year filled with profound challenges—crises in the Middle East deeply impacted us on both personal and professional levels. As many of us and our staff come from war-torn regions, these events took a significant mental toll, making it difficult to balance our work with the heavy burden of grief for our brothers and sisters back home. Yet, even as our hearts ached, we found strength in our mission and purpose. We were able to refocus, channeling our sorrow into action, and drawing inspiration from the resilience of the individuals and families we serve. In this work, we are fortunate to find a sense of purpose and reward, reminding us that even in the face of hardship, we can make a meaningful difference in our community.

The numbers speak volumes about the impact we've made together. From supporting over 300 families through wraparound services, to empowering youth through programs like Canada Summer Jobs, to fostering belonging through community events such as our Summer Picnic and Toronto Newcomer Day—every initiative has contributed to creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for newcomers in Canada.

Our programs have been transformative. Whether through skill-building initiatives like N.E.W. Venture, mental health education through SAWA, or leadership development with Women in Civic Engagement (WICE), we have equipped hundreds of individuals with the tools they need to thrive. These successes were only possible thanks to our funders, partners, and tireless team members, whose contributions have made a tangible difference in the lives of so many.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are filled with hope and excitement. We plan to expand our reach, strengthen our partnerships, and introduce new initiatives that further our mission nationally. With your continued support, we will build on the momentum of 2024 to create even greater impact.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our mission, and for being part of this journey. Together, we are not just building connections; we are creating lasting change. Here's to another year of hope, resilience, and community.

With gratitude,



Marwa Khobieh
Executive Director

Our Team



Meet our dedicated team of professionals who have contributed their expertise, passion, and collaboration to drive our success.

Impact

Discover the impact of our work this year through key metrics, including the number of clients served, programs provided, volunteers engaged, and the women and youth supported.

934+

Clients served

329

Clients served
through programs



Clients served were
women



Clients served
were youth



Cultures served



5

High-Impact Programs



7

Community Events



18

Interns & Volunteers

Programs Empowering Newcomers



N.E.W Venture Program

N.E.W Venture is a 6-month entrepreneurial training program for newcomer and refugee women in Ontario who are interested in launching a business in Canada. The program aims to **build** economic independence and foster social inclusion through weekly, virtual training sessions, in-person events, networking opportunities and mentorship.

Through our outreach strategy, N.E.W Venture connected with over 80 settlement agencies and those serving newcomers. We delivered 14 information sessions including in-person and virtual sessions to newcomer and refugee women interested in starting a business. Among the organizations where we hosted sessions were the Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT), Halton Multicultural Council (HMC), Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS), The Centre for Learning & Development, and the Afghan Women's Organization (AWO).

Funders

IRCC (*Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada*)
TD Commitment

5
Years

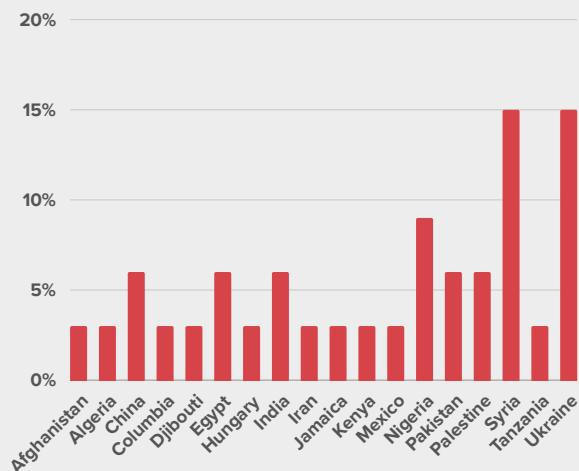
4
Cohorts

110
Participants

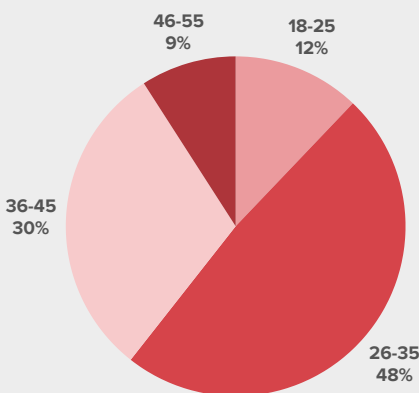
\$635,014
Budget

Demographics

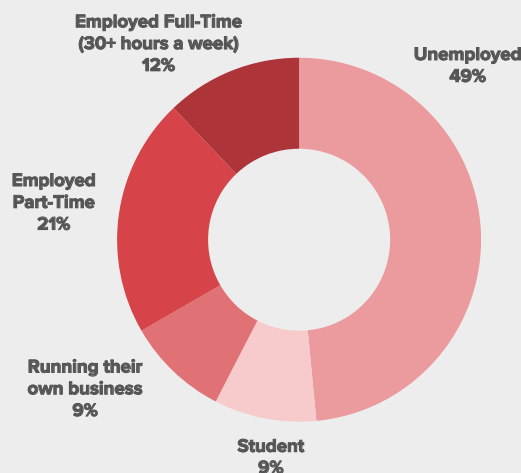
Country of Origin



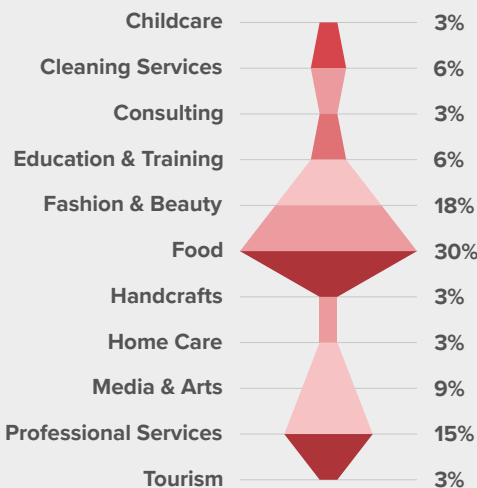
Age Range



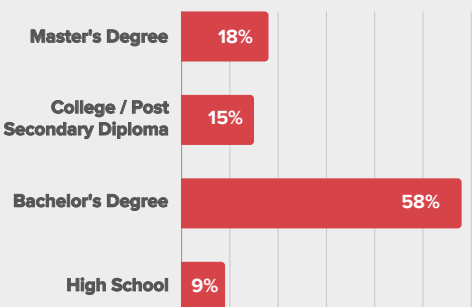
Employment Status



Industry



Level of Education



Program Breakdown

The N.E.W Venture program is designed to address the main barriers facing newcomer and racialized entrepreneurs including limited business knowledge and skills, lack of understanding of the Canadian market and available resources, limited networking opportunities and difficulties with accessing capital.

We address these barriers through a 6-month curriculum that supports participants to:

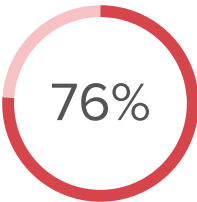
- **Develop their idea into a viable business plan** through weekly sessions, assignments and group work that is largely based on the business model canvas.
- **Expand their personal and professional network** and deepen their understanding of the Canadian business landscape through networking events, conferences and in-person program events.
- **Work with a dedicated mentor** with entrepreneurship experience who is committed to their success.
- **Access funding** by introducing participants to various grant and funding opportunities including the opportunity to win up to \$5k in funding through the NEW Venture Pitch competition.



Impact

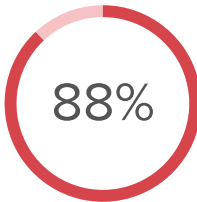
The following are the highlights of the final survey for Cohort 3. Total respondents: 17

Percentage of participants who agreed with the following statements:



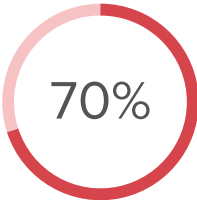
Business Skills

“My business skills have improved as a result of participating in this program”



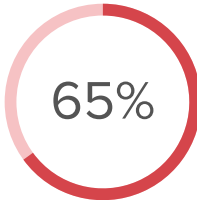
Business Goal

“I have made progress towards my goal of launching a business”



Confidence

“My overall confidence has increased as a result of participating in this program”



Community

“I have an increased sense of belonging and community”

Percentage of participants who rated the program in the following areas



Very Effective

- Developing a business plan
- Pitching their business idea



Very Effective

- Learning how to start a business in Canada
- Improving their confidence when delivering presentations

Percentage of participants who stated the following:

Program exceeded their expectations



Likely or very likely to continue pursuing their business idea following the program completion



Events

Cohort 3: Pitch Competition - 6 March 2024

The pitch competition for Cohort 3 included 15 program participants who were selected to present their business idea to a panel of 5 judges. Participants learned how to effectively structure and deliver a presentation and the judges had the difficult task of selecting the top 3 winners. The top 3 winners were awarded cash prizes totalling \$10k.

Cohort 3: Final Event - 7 March 2024

We celebrated the completion of Cohort 3 with an in-person event in downtown Toronto that included all 23 participants who completed the program, our funder, instructors and mentors. Each participant was presented with a certificate of completion and the top 3 winners of the pitch competition were announced. It was a wonderful opportunity for participants to celebrate their success and deepen their connections.

Cohort 4: Launch Event - 11 September 2024

We celebrated the launch of the most diverse N.E.W. Venture cohort yet. The 33 participants in our 4th cohort hail from 18 different countries, representing various industries, age groups, and education levels. The session opened with a recorded speech from Hon. Minister Rechie Valdes, Minister of Small Business, followed by a speech from Adriana Dela Torre on behalf of our main funder, IRCC. The participants then introduced themselves and their businesses, bonding over dinner to kick off the first of many evenings together over the next six months.

Cohort 4: Mentor/Mentee Dinner - 19 November 2024

All 28 participants of this year's cohort have been paired with a volunteer mentor who has agreed to provide them with mentorship support over the next 5 months. On Nov 19, Women Entrepreneurship Day, we celebrated these mentors and their mentees with a dinner that included a keynote speech by one of our mentors, Nina Kako, who has lived experience as a refugee and entrepreneur. We also hosted a panel discussion with five of our mentors who took the time to share their own journey as entrepreneurs and answer participant's questions. It was a lovely evening of networking, connection and learning.



Testimonials

“Participating in the N.E.W Venture program was transformative, equipping me with essential entrepreneurial skills and an understanding of business fundamentals through hands-on experiences and mentorship. The program's unique blend of personalized guidance and a supportive community of fellow entrepreneurs set it apart from other initiatives I've participated in. I highly recommend N.E.W Venture to any aspiring entrepreneur as it offers great learning, networking, and practical experience.”

Cohort 3 participant: Saima Maheen

“If you have a business idea and don't know yet how to develop, go to N.E.W Venture program they will bring to you all the necessary knowledge that you need to start.

For me, who already had an idea developed, N.E.W Venture directed me to what I needed and where I needed to grow. I learned a lot more about my target market and marketing, also with a great mentor who helps me with all the extra knowledge that I need everyday.”

Cohort 3 participant: Carem Rocha

“My participation in the N.E.W Venture program has significantly broadened my business acumen and empowered me to achieve greater success in any endeavor I pursue. Upon arriving in Canada in 2022, securing employment and stable income proved challenging. Seeking alternative avenues, I discovered this program and decided to apply, hoping to gain insight into entrepreneurship. Initially, I faced difficulties grasping the concepts presented, but I persisted. As the program progressed, clarity emerged, illuminating the necessary steps to embark on my entrepreneurial journey. Cilia's guidance was invaluable, dispelling doubts and providing clarity. I wholeheartedly recommend this program to newcomers navigating life in a new land. Though my business venture has yet to launch, I remain optimistic about the future.”

Cohort 3 participant: Naomi Ibrahim



Women in Civic Engagement Program

Women in Civic Engagement (WICE) is a program aimed at **supporting** newcomer and refugee women in both political and non-political actions, helping them find their voice and become agents of change in their communities and the larger diaspora. The goal is to address public concerns and promote community involvement while allowing participants to build their portfolios through networking, professional and personal growth opportunities and enhancing their skills to guide their success.

In Year 1, participants focus on building knowledge, information, and skills. In Year 2, they complete four components: goal achievement through 1:1 sessions, knowledge transfer via monthly skill practice events, professional-led research and reporting, and storytelling showcased through [blog features](#) and presentations at the WICE Summit.

Partners: Elections Canada, Leonnova, Jump Start Refugee Talent, Toronto Metropolitan University, Equal Voice, Newcomers Students' Associations, COSTI, WES - World Education Services, Newcomers Women's Services, North Pine Foundation, Books, Art, Music (BAM) Collective, RISE, The Dais, Achév, Afghan Women's Organization, Afghan Professionals of Ontario, MAX Scholarships, and elected officials and government representatives from all levels of government.

Funders

Human Concern International
Canadian Race Relation Foundation

2
Years

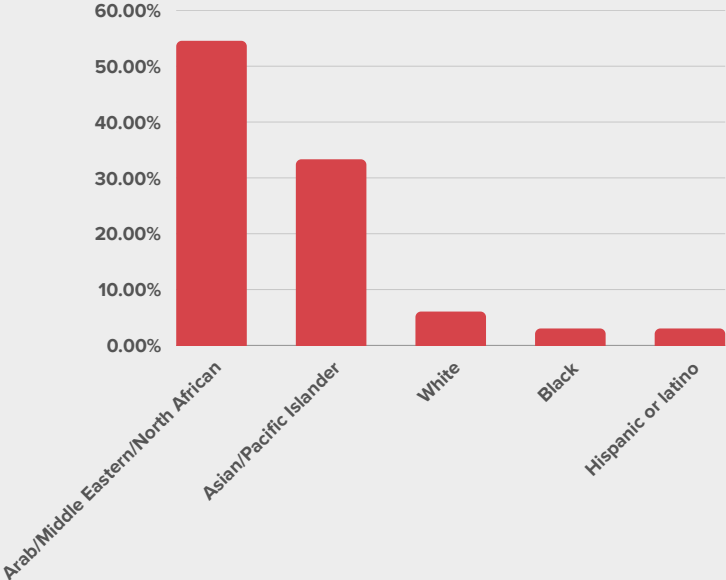
1
Cohorts

25
Participants

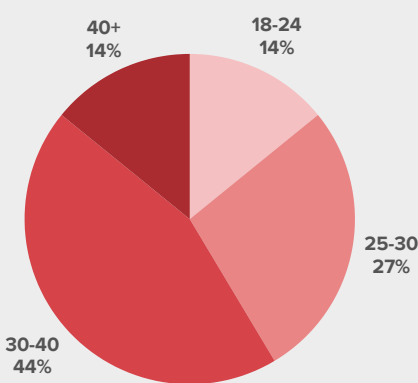
\$284,000
Budget

Demographics

Ethnicity



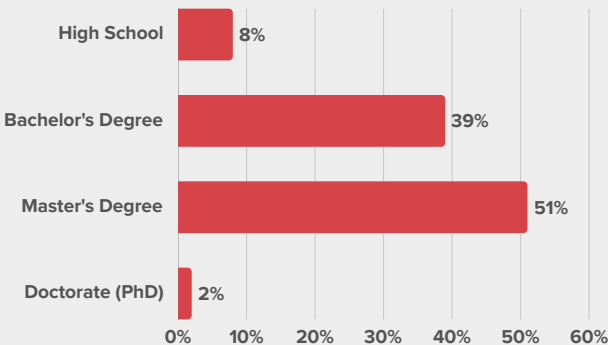
Age Range



Employment Status



Level of Education



Program Breakdown

Women in Civic Engagement is a comprehensive program that integrates educational components with practical experiences, empowering newcomer and refugee women with skills and opportunities for civic and political engagement. Through tailored workshops, networking, and mentorship, participants build leadership, advocacy, and professional portfolios to drive positive change in their communities.

- **Goal Achievement:** Personalized roadmaps through mentorship and skill-building workshops to support civic and professional growth.
- **Knowledge Transfer:** Practical applications of civic skills via training, presentations, and active community engagement.
- **Storytelling:** Writing and presenting autobiographies to highlight lived experiences and advocate for women's civic participation.
- **Research:** Participatory action research training to build analytical and collaborative skills.
- **Summit:** Final event connecting participants with leaders, creating pathways for internships, mentorship, and employment.



Impact

The Women in Civic Engagement program is set to end in March 2025. Below is the measurable impact collected for the year 2024.



17+

Number of job and volunteer opportunities shared with participants

35+

Number of resources shared and event opportunities provided to participants

8

Number of in-house events held

Events

July 10, 2024

Nonprofit Community Virtual Career Networking Event in partnership with Jobs Office for employment opportunities

July 13, 2024

Train-the-Trainer in partnership with Elections Canada allowing participants to learn from the trainer about Civic Action: Then and Now, Mapping Voting Districts, Voting Rights Through Time and Digital Skills for Democracy.

July 24, 2024

The Muslim Legal Support Centre Re: Rights of a Muslim Employee Part, in-person event

August 1, 2024

Information Session on Connecting Newcomers to Good Jobs in partnership with Access Employment

August 10, 2024

Government Discussion Panel: Initiating Change through Meaningful Dialogue, an in-person event with politicians like Hon. Minister Charmaine Williams, MPP Andrea Hazell, MP Iqra Khalid, and Hon. Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, along with community leaders and government staffers like Mridul Sharma and Hajra Naeem

August 29, 2024

Balanced Minds - A Work-Life Wellness Discussion held virtually with mental health counsellor, Abrar Mechmechia and counsellor and psychotherapist, Kulsum Khan

September 18, 2024

Set Yourself Up For Election Success in partnership with Equal Voice, featuring Former MP, Maryam Monsef and Councillor Maleeha Shahid

September 27, 2024

SCF sponsored a participant in the pharmaceutical field to attend Women Leaders in Pharma's Shine Bright Awards Gala for networking and employment opportunities

September 28, 2024

Project Confidence in partnership with Leonnova and workshop professors, Dr. Haniyeh Yousofpour and Mr. Sanjay Dhebar



Testimonials

“I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and generosity, and I deeply value being part of your community.” - Participant who met their goal of taking English courses and attending networking events

“The training was not only fun but an eye-opening opportunity to learn about the dedicated efforts of women in Canada who fought tirelessly for equality and representation. Thank you to SCF and Melissa Chan for shedding light on this important history and empowering us with knowledge that's so relevant today.” - Participant who attended the Train-the-Trainer workshop

“I had the pleasure of participating in a training session with Melissa Chan, focused on developing digital skills for democracy resources. During this engaging experience, I gained valuable knowledge on how to effectively utilize sources, evaluate accurate information, and ensure data is up-to-date and correct. We also practiced using materials to enhance our comprehension and applied real-world experiences to our performance. This hands-on approach enabled us to clearly define how to identify credible sources, recognize essential elements of correct sources, and follow a structured approach when researching topics that resonate with our audience. By the end of the training, I felt empowered to critically evaluate information and present it in a way that makes sense for our readers and audience. Melissa's guidance and expertise made this learning experience truly memorable and impactful.” - Participant who attended the Train-the-Trainer workshop

“It was a very amazing experience doing this focus group. To be honest, if we had more, I would very happily join and assist. Thank you, Dr. Alka and Saumya, for your assistance. I did not even feel that this was my first time doing a focus group. Thank you Dr. Alka, without your support and assistance, definitely it wouldn't be this good and successful.” - Participant from the Research team



Sawa Program

The **Sawa** Program **empowers** Arabic-speaking newcomer mothers and their children by fostering a culturally conscious, safe space to learn about positive parenting and children's mental health.

Through online and in-person workshops and one-on-one sessions, participants gain valuable knowledge and coping strategies, empowering them to improve their own well-being and allowing them to better support their children.

Funder

Halton Region Community Investment Fund (HRCIF)

8
Weeks

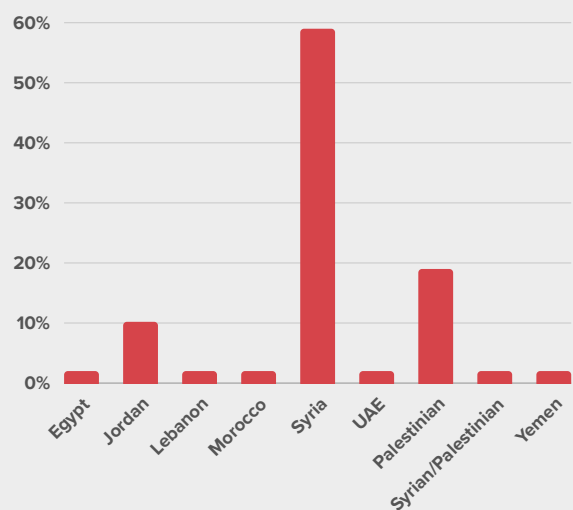
1
Cohort

49
Participants

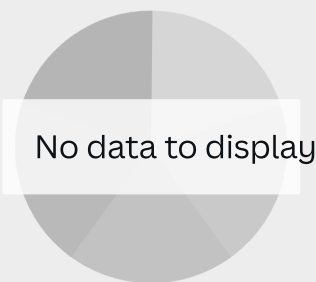
\$28,800
Budget

Demographics

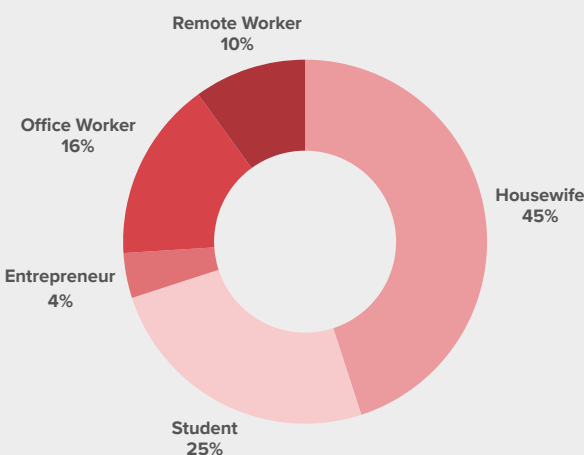
Country of Origin



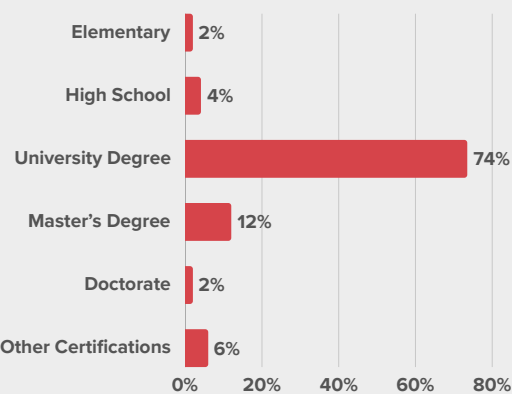
Age Range



Employment Status



Level of Education



Program Breakdown

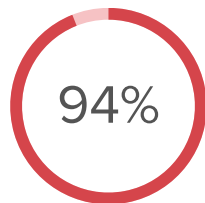
The Sawa Program focused on healthy sex education for Arabic-speaking newcomer mothers, fostering cultural sensitivity and openness. Led by Lamia Tatari, a life and family coach, the program provided a safe space for learning and connection.

- **Interactive Workshop:** A 2-day in-person event with 25 women exploring open communication and answering children's questions confidently.
- **One-on-One Counseling:** 20 personalized sessions for 10 women, offering tailored support.
- **Collaborative Cookbook:** Women shared recipes, creating a keepsake of shared experiences and cultural heritage.
- **Building Connections:** Participants formed bonds through stories, meals, and mutual encouragement, strengthening community ties.



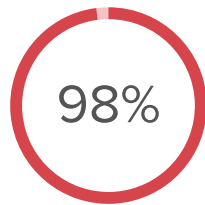
Impact

The program's impact was overwhelmingly positive, as reflected in the feedback from participants who reported significant growth in their confidence, preparedness, and sense of community.



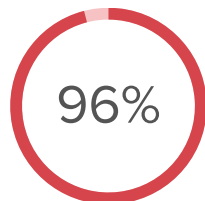
Comfort

Participants reported feeling more comfortable and open when discussing topics related to sex education with their children.



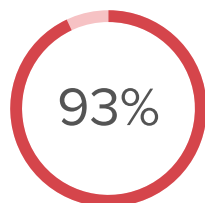
Preparation

Participants strongly agreed that the program helped them better prepare themselves and their families to address the school curriculum on sex education.



Resources

Participants strongly agreed that the program provided them with the necessary resources to support their children during puberty.



Connection

Participants strongly agreed that they felt a strong sense of connection with the other women in the program.

Events

In-Person Workshop on Healthy Sex Education 9 and 10 November 2024

In November, over 25 women came together for an engaging two-day In-Person Workshop on Healthy Sex Education, led by esteemed life coach **Lamia Tatari**.

This workshop served as the culmination of eight weeks of online sessions, providing participants with the tools and confidence to have open and honest conversations with their children about sensitive topics such as sex and puberty.

Through dynamic role-play activities and relatable real-life scenarios, attendees practiced applying the knowledge and techniques gained during the program.

The interactive format allowed for hands-on learning, encouraging women to navigate challenging discussions with empathy and clarity.

This empowering experience not only enhanced their communication skills but also strengthened their relationships with their children, fostering a foundation for healthy and informed growth.



Testimonials

"I was scared to enter the session and didn't know what to expect. But listening and taking in all that was said has changed me. I am now more comfortable to speak with my children because I have the resources and the training and encouragement that this session has given me."

"I want to thank lamia and the Syrian Canadian Foundation for this opportunity. It was the best parenting related workshop I've ever attended . Not only it was informative but also it had hands on tips. The workshop was organized and I think the structure was very convenient based on the age group we build up the knowledge we gained until by the last session I felt that I'm confident and ready for any situation or any conversation with my kids about sex." - **Lama**

"My time, in the "Sawa" program which aims to promote awareness of children's health issues, was truly an enlightening and enriching experience for me. As part of the program, I gained insights and resources on how mothers can support their children's mental well-being. The program underscored the significance of health in childhood development and provided us with useful techniques, for nurturing our children emotionally." - **Heba**

"I started applying the techniques and advice from this course about dealing with my children, and I already feel much more comfortable and confident. I also feel that I have things under my control and I am reassured about my children's safety." - **Rana**

"Very beneficial program. It gave me a clear direction to a topic I considered heavy and uncomfortable and not easy to discuss with my kids." - **Farah**



Engag3D Program

“Engag3D: Digital - Differentiated - Diverse” is a language training program exploring the impact of virtual reality (VR) and artificial intelligence (AI) on English language curriculum for Canadian newcomers. The project uses a mixed-methods participatory design to assess the technology’s effects on English proficiency, engagement, confidence, and motivation in language learning.

SCF proudly presented the Engag3D Research Project at the **26th Metropolis Canada Conference in Montreal**, showcasing collaborative efforts to enhance immigration outcomes.

With policymakers, settlement providers, and researchers uniting, we’ve identified and bridged gaps in the immigration ecosystem. As questions arise, so do answers, paving the way for a brighter future in settlement and integration in hopes of better supporting newcomers to Canada.

Funder

IRCC (*Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada*)

Partner

Department of Language Studies at the University of Toronto Mississauga

28
Months

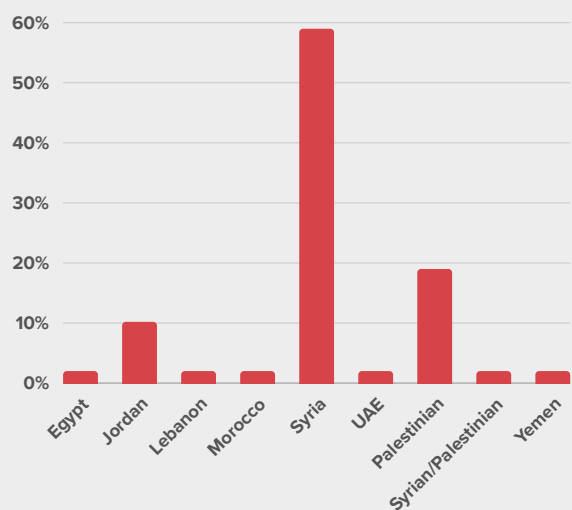
4
Cohorts

145
Participants

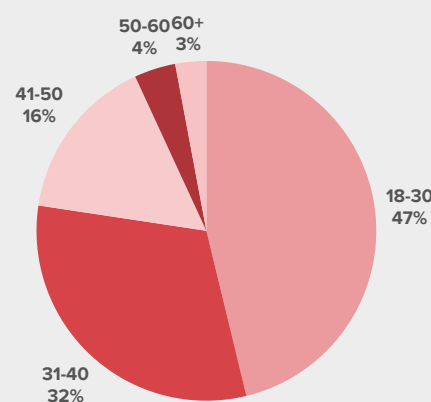
\$603,450
Budget

Demographics

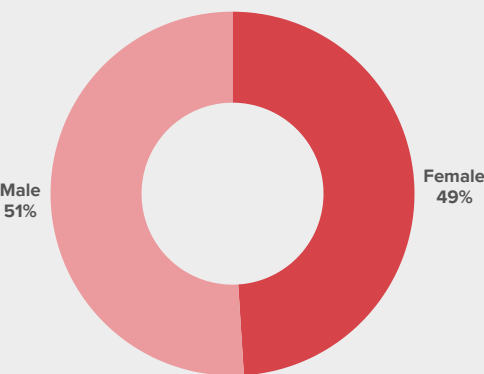
Nationality



Age Range



Gender



Program Breakdown

Key program elements include:

- **Workshops & Activities:** VR-based immersive learning environments (e.g., doctor visits, job interviews) and generative AI tools for personalized feedback.
- **Key Findings:** VR and AI increased engagement, language proficiency, and cultural acclimatization while overcoming early technical and pedagogical challenges.
- **The study showed** AI's flexibility in language learning and VR's immersive, safe learning environments positively impacted newcomers' English proficiency, confidence, and motivation.



Impact

The impact highlights key insights from Engag3D's qualitative research on the role of VR and AI in enhancing language learning for newcomers.



The Use of Virtual Reality (VR)

Immersive Learning Environments

VR can create semi-realistic, immersive spaces that mimic many everyday scenarios newcomers might encounter, such as shopping, visiting a doctor, or conducting a job interview. These virtual contexts can be more relevant and pragmatic for practicing their language skills.

Safe Practice Environments

VR provides a safe, controlled space where newcomers can practice English without the fear of real-world consequences, which can empower those with lower-level proficiency or anxiety about speaking a new language.



The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Accessibility and Flexibility

Generative AI tools such as Chat GPT can easily be accessed via web pages, apps, or plug-ins, providing anytime or anywhere continuous language learning outside the traditional classroom setting, and into their own daily routines or lifestyles.

Language Proficiency

Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT can assist with learners' language self-study in a more natural manner through interactive vocabulary and grammar descriptions, reading and writing tips, and pronunciation exemplar.

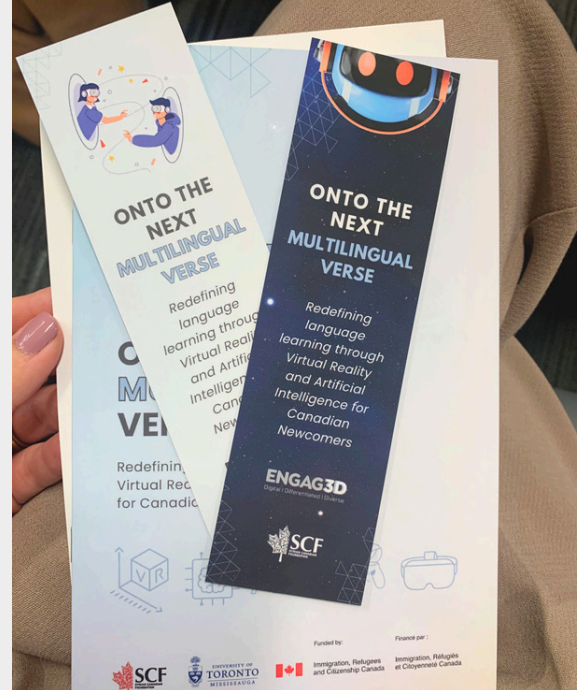
Event

In-Person Research Conference: Onto the Next Multilingual Verse - Redefining Language Learning through Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence for Canadian Newcomers
March 19, 2024

The Onto the Next Multilingual Verse conference brought together experts from diverse fields, including technology, education, language learning, and community organizations.

The event focused on presenting the findings of the Engag3D research, exploring the integration of Virtual Reality (VR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in language learning for Canadian newcomers.

A panel discussion on bridging education and technology followed, and attendees had the opportunity to explore the virtual environments developed for the project firsthand.



Testimonials

“It was a great experience for me, I know a lot of words, understanding many places, had good travels with VR had very friendly relationships with classmates and Teachers, actually for me using VR was amazing because it was my first experience and really really had enjoyable time with VR. it was my first class but I think for me best and greatest class is forever this program” - **Arzoo**

“I wasn’t sure about the VR experience in learning a language. After two classes, I can say that VR is a fascinating technology and could boost your speaking abilities. Virtual reality will also take you to unique places and live special moments while improving your speaking skills.” - **Yusra**

“ChatGPT is the best learning tool I ever tried. It is very helpful for learning English. I recommend it to all students and my friends. It’s easy to use ChatGPT. It helps you to be a good listener and speaker and you can find a lot of information there.” - **Sayed**



The Community Shield Program

The Community Shield Program addresses vaccine hesitancy in Ontario's Arabic-speaking communities through education, evidence-based communication, and strategic outreach. It empowers individuals with accurate vaccine information, counters misinformation, and raises awareness through social media, videos, and printed materials distributed in community hubs. Using trusted resources from the Public Health Agency of Canada, the program delivers clear, transparent messaging aligned with public health standards. Collaborating with community organizations, clinics, and schools, it works to overcome barriers, boost vaccine acceptance, and protect public health.

Funder

Public Health Agency Canada

6
Months

\$134,000
Budget

A multi-faceted campaign was launched to increase vaccine awareness and trust. Key activities include:

- **Content Development:** Creation of six social media posts and two informational flyers based on scientific data, covering topics such as vaccine importance, myths vs. facts, FAQs, and seasonal vaccine recommendations.
- **Multilingual Accessibility:** All resources were translated into Arabic to cater to diverse communities.
- **Distribution and Launch:** Flyers were distributed to healthcare providers, schools, and community organizations. Social media posts and a promotional video launched in early January.



2

informational videos created
& shared



6

static posts published across Instagram
& Facebook



5,000

flyers distributed to community
organizations in the GTA

Survey for Arabic-Speaking Community Members: Key Highlights

The survey, completed by 26 Arabic-speaking participants in Ontario, gathered insights into demographics, vaccine knowledge, and health safety practices. Conducted via WhatsApp and virtual platforms, it evaluated engagement with Community Shield Program materials and vaccination attitudes.

- **Program Effectiveness:** Most respondents found the videos effective in achieving their goals, including raising vaccine awareness and providing clear information.
- **COVID-19 vs. Flu Concerns:** Participants showed slightly higher concern for COVID-19 than for the flu, though overall worries were mild.
- **Vaccination Behavior:** While most followed mandated COVID-19 vaccine requirements, voluntary vaccination and flu vaccine uptake were notably low compared to national averages.
- **Health Guidelines:** Half of respondents adhered to public health practices sporadically, with others abandoning them entirely.



Empowering Newcomers Connecting Communities

Our goal is to provide support and services to help newcomers achieve a seamless transition into Canadian society.

(647) 784-2133
scf.foundation.ca





Community Events

Meaningful Connections



Annual Toronto Newcomer Day (May 23)

SCF participated in Toronto Newcomer Day at Nathan Phillips Square, connecting with newcomers through vibrant cultural performances, diverse food, and showcasing essential services and programs.



Arts & Crafts Workshop for Kids (July 21)

Our Arts and Crafts Workshop in Mississauga brought children together for creative fun, with art supplies funded by a grant from Minority2Minority and refreshments generously provided by Highway Karahi.



Career Development Workshop with Academy of Learning Career College (May 16)

We hosted a virtual career development workshop with the Academy of Learning Career College, offering tools for resume building, career growth, and securing scholarships and grants.



Summer Picnic - Oakville (August 28)

The SCF summer picnic at Coronation Park featured lively activities like freeze dance, scavenger hunts, and traditional Arab music, with food sponsored by local businesses and creative booths like henna and face painting.



2024 MAX Scholarship Reception

SCF celebrated the achievements of exceptional students at the 2024 MAX Scholarship Reception and proudly sponsored the SCF Thrive Scholarship, awarded to refugee youth Leen Jundi, excelling in Life Sciences at McMaster University.



DEI Training (October 28)

The SCF team engaged in a transformative DEI training session with Korn Ferry, deepening our commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within the organization and the community.



IRCC Action Day (November)

Our team participated in IRCC Action Day, connecting with peers and the IRCC team to address challenges, explore collaboration, and discuss the digital transformation of the settlement sector.



Home Starter Kit Fundraising Campaign



Home Starter Kit Campaign

The Home Starter Kit Campaign is an annual initiative launched during Ramadan to support newly arrived refugee families and newcomers, helping them navigate their transition into life in Canada. Through this campaign, SCF collaborates with community ambassadors, local partners, and supporters to provide essential items, grocery gift cards, and comfort to families in need. The success of the Home Starter Kit Campaign exemplifies the power of community and compassion. By supporting vulnerable families, we continue to foster a sense of belonging and hope, ensuring that every act of kindness makes a lasting impact.

Campaign Components

1. **Community Ambassadors:** Ambassadors led their own fundraising efforts, leveraging their networks to support the campaign and help SCF reach its goals.
2. **Cultural Night Iftar Fundraiser:** The "Cultural Night Iftar Fundraiser" brought the community together for an evening of connection and giving. Guests enjoyed delicious food, live music, beautifully curated decor, vendors, and performers.
3. **Online LaunchGood Campaign:** A dedicated page on LaunchGood enabled supporters to contribute online, expanding the campaign's reach and impact.

\$61,000
Funds Raised

89
Families Served

200+
Gift Cards Distributed

9
Community
Ambassadors

Events

Distributing Grocery Gift Cards with Partners

Penny Appeal Collaboration: Distributed **100 grocery gift cards** to local families.

PolyCultural Partnership: Supported **23 newcomer families** (67 individuals) with **44 gift cards** valued at \$100 each, art supplies for children, and an introduction to SCF's programs.

MAC Ansar Community Market: Shared gift cards and SCF resources with newly arrived refugee families, fostering connections and guidance.

World Kindness Day Initiative: Partnered with the National Zakat Foundation to welcome **50 families** from Gaza and Sudan with grocery gift cards, providing warmth and comfort.

Providing Home Starter Kits

SCF partnered with Polycultural to deliver kits to families from Nigeria, Libya, Afghanistan, and Syria. Each kit, valued at up to **\$450**, included home essentials, medical supplies, and grocery cards, offering immediate relief for families awaiting permanent housing.





Wraparound Services

The Service Navigator provides essential wraparound services to clients, assisting them in navigating complex systems and accessing vital resources.

Types of Services Offered

- **Government Services Applications:** Clients are assisted with completing applications for various government services, including the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP), Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), Healthy Smile Ontario, birth certificate registration, OSAP, and English language courses.
- **Navigating Websites and Online Applications:** Clients receive guidance in navigating websites and completing online applications.
- **Referrals:** Clients are referred to partner organizations for employment services, legal support, and financial assistance.
- **Skills Workshops and Information Sessions:** Clients are supported in finding and registering for relevant workshops and information sessions to enhance their skills and knowledge.
- **Financial Education:** Resources are provided to assist clients in budgeting, saving, and planning their expenses to improve their financial well-being.

5
Daily calls

320
Clients Served

2
Workshops

Free Workshops Offered

1. **Resume Building Workshop** (September 18)
2. **Job Search Workshop** (September 19)

Canada Summer Job Program

In the summer of 2024, we hired interns who contributed to a variety of important functions within our organization. Their roles were essential to the smooth operation of multiple programs and events. This program is funded by the Government of Canada.

Key Areas of Contribution

- **Event Support:** The interns played an instrumental role in assisting with the execution of summer events and fundraising initiatives.
- **Home Starter Kit Delivery:** They helped with the distribution of Home Starter Kits, ensuring that newly arrived families received timely support.
- **Program Assistance:** Interns provided valuable support in the implementation and coordination of ongoing programs.
- **Social Media and Administrative Support:** They assisted in managing our social media presence and took on various administrative tasks that supported day-to-day operations.

Professional Development

We are dedicated to the growth and development of our interns. Throughout their time at SCF, they participated in professional development workshops designed to build their skills and enhance their career readiness. Our commitment to supporting interns extends beyond the program's end. We offer ongoing assistance, including providing letters of reference to help interns in their academic pursuits and employment opportunities.

Funder

Government of Canada

4
Months

18
Interns

\$96,362
Budget

Testimonial

“Interning at the Syrian Canadian Foundation has been an incredibly enriching experience. I began with the goal of gaining experience in the nonprofit sector and connecting with new people in my community. Reflecting on my time there, I realize I accomplished more than just those goals. I had the opportunity to give back to my community in meaningful ways. This included working closely with refugee families to provide essential items like food, water, and home appliances, organizing events that brought our diverse community together for a good cause, and serving as an Ambassador to raise funds for SCF's Home Starter Kits Campaign.

During my time at the Syrian Canadian Foundation, I developed valuable skills in areas such as data organization, event planning, administrative work, communication, facilitating professional development workshops, outreach, and Microsoft Excel, among others. These skills have not only equipped me with the practical tools to succeed but also boosted my confidence in pursuing future career opportunities. SCF has played a key role in preparing me for the next steps in my professional journey, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity. The experience has empowered me and helped me stand out in the job market. I will always be thankful to SCF for giving me the chance to start my career on such a strong foundation.” - **Mahmoud Sultan**



Grants

N.E.W Venture	IRCC	\$635,014	(ends March 2025)
N.E.W Venture	TD Bank	\$75,000	(ends March 2025)
Women in Civic Engagement	HCI	\$238,190	(ends March 2025)
Youth in Skilled Trades	YESS	\$217,844	(ends March 2027)
SAWA	Halton Region	\$28,800	(ends January 2025)
SAWA	Halton Region	\$57,148	(ends July 2025)
SAWA	Kassam Foundation	\$50,000	(ends March 2025)

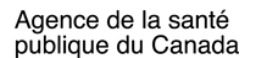
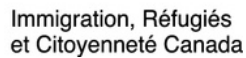
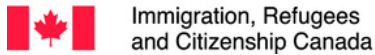
Summer Job Program	\$96,362	(ends Sept 2024)
Home Starter Kit Campaign	\$61,000	
CRRF	\$9,000	(ends March 2025)



\$1,468,358

Total Budget

Funders




Partners





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