



ANNUAL REPORT 2022





BETTER TOGETHER
BECAUSE WE ALL
BELONG

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MESSAGE FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear friends and supporters,

In 2022, Redleaf Cultural Integration (RCI) progressed and accomplished much despite the pandemic. We helped people stay connected, reduce social isolation, maintain active lifestyles, promote cultural diversity, and build connections between newcomers and Canadian communities. We are proud of our following achievements.

- Implemented various cultural programs tailored for Chinese seniors, aiming to mitigate social isolation and promote social connection.
- Expanded our programs to cater to all age groups, with the objective of fostering a sense of belonging and increasing social interaction.
- Fostered intergenerational friendships by providing opportunities for youth to assist seniors.
- Conducted a pilot project, Anti-hate Antiracism, to raise awareness about racism and educate individuals on how to take action.

- Devised and executed RCI's strategic plan, setting goals for the upcoming years.
- Orchestrated a Lunar New Year celebration gala held at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre.
- Extended our services to a broader client base beyond Halton and the surrounding areas.

We are grateful to our funding partners and community sponsors for their support, which made our programs and positive impact on the community possible. Our team members and volunteers are also greatly appreciated for their hard work and dedication. As we grow, RCI is committed to building connections between newcomers Canadian communities through promoting understanding and acceptance across cultural differences. We look forward to continuing to support our community in 2023 with excitement and strength. Thank you for your ongoing support.

> Sincerely, Lily Hudson **RCI Executive Director**

VISION AND MISSION



VISION

To be the leading organization in Halton providing people of Chinese heritage with a social platform where they belong, connect, and integrate to the broader community.



MISSION

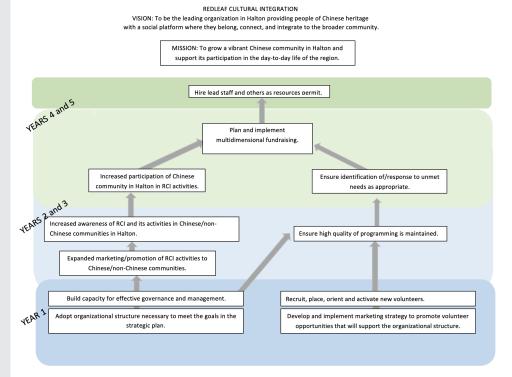
To grow a vibrant Chinese community in Halton and support its participation in the day-to-day life of the region.



VALUES

Mutual respect; Awareness of cultural diversity; Build a welcoming and inclusive community.

Redleaf Cultural Integration is committed to providing support for newcomers to Canada to integrate into the local community. Our different themed projects focus on promoting multiculturalism, the physical and mental health of people of all ages, and enhancing community inclusiveness.



Mandate

Provide customized programs to help newcomers build a connection with the local community.

Provide stimulating & recreational programs to strengthen physical and mental wellbeing.

Organize cultural themed events to promote multiculturalism and inclusiveness.



GOVERNANCE

RCI is governed by a board of directors, which is responsible for making major decisions related to the organization's mission, strategy, and finances. The board is composed of 9 individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise who are committed to the RCI's mission.



MARY REN Chair



SEAN HUANG Marketing



CYNTHIA ZHAO Secretary & Youth Program



AMY LIN Treasurer & Youth Program



FENGWU TIAN Seniors Program



TINGHUI LIU Seniors Program



ZHIGUANG QIAN Community Program



PENNY PAN Seniors Program



YANMIN WANG **Community Program**

With the support from Government of Canada NHSP funding, RCI successfully delivered a project entitled "Embracing Changes Actively" from March 2022 to March 2023. This project has created an online and onsite hybrid platform keeping our seniors socially connected during the pandemic, reducing isolation and loneliness, and staying active and fit.





- A RCI organized four senior outings. Social interaction is one of the most important factors in healthy aging and longevity.
- RCI also have an outreach initiative called friendly visit and "Check and Chat" program to reach seniors living in isolation.
- 150 Seniors participated
- 194 virtual classes
 - 4 Outings
 - 20 Lectures



Health Forum

RCI offered monthly health seminars on topics related to safe, healthy and independent aging at home. These seminars were very popular and had a 100% satisfaction rate during the year end survey.



Gardening Club



Photography Lectures

RCI organized a series of lectures for seniors' hobby groups, such as photography and gardening clubs.



Testimonials

Thank you RCI for organizing the Health Forum lectures. We have learned a lot from Ms. Yvonne Yuan on heathy eating, nutrition and diabetes and reading food labels. Please keep up the good work!

Testimonials

The RCI Health Forum lectures are very helpful for us seniors. The topics are practical, such as swallowing difficulties and choking, fall prevention, senior foot care, band exercise and chair yoga, and senior lung care. We can practise the skills learned in our daily lives. It will help us aging at home healthily and safely.











Senior's weekly classes



English Class

Language is a tool of communication. Many Chinese seniors immigrated to Canada and learning English has become their top priority. RCI learned the needs and hired experienced English teacher to compile concise and practical textbooks based on the actual situation of immigration life in Canada, and offer the class once a week, which is well received by the seniors.



ATTENDANCE

379 Apr-June 2022

117 July-Aug 2022

435 Sep-Dec 2022

192 Jan-March 2023





ATTENDANCE

244 Apr-June 2022

204 July-Aug 2022

386 Sep-Dec 2022

206 Jan-March 2023

Vocal Class

RCI has a group of music lovers and under the guidance of professional music teachers, they gather once a week to practice vocalization and rhythm and singing Chinese classic songs. This group has performed many times at Burlington Lunar New Year Celebration Gala, bringing their wonderful singings to everyone. This class opens to anyone who loves to sing. Let us meet friends and express our love for life with singing!

Senior's weekly classes



Reading Club

The love of literature brought our seniors together to form a Reading Club. This club is led by an excellent teacher who has been teaching Chinese for many years in China. The club meets once a week to read masterpieces and recitation of poetry and essays and share their reflections on the reading. Welcome to join us to wander through the long history of Chinese literature!



ATTENDANCE

250 Apr-June 2022

82 July-Aug 2022

260 Sep-Dec 2022

156 Jan-March 2023

Fitness Class

RCI's Fitness Class offers aerobics courses developed by dance teachers specifically for the needs of the seniors. During the weekly class, the teacher leads the seniors to stretch their bodies, relax their limbs, move the shoulders and necks, and increase flexibility. It can help them exercise and maintain a graceful posture. Besides, the class provides a platform for the seniors to interact with each other to reduce loneliness and isolation.

ATTENDANCE

364 Apr-June 2022

201 July-Aug 2022

474 Sep-Dec 2022

288 Jan-March 2023







COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



RCI received OTF Resilient Communities Fund in May 2022 for a one-year project. The main objective of the project is to develop a strategic plan that will enable RCI to adapt the delivery of its program and services to meet the evolving needs of community and personnel, as they work towards rebuilding and recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the generous support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, RCI has been able to make significant progress towards achieving its goals.

With the funding support, RCI has successfully achieved the following key aspects:

1. Hired an experienced consultant to work with staff and board members to evaluate the current organization vision, mission and mandate, the organization structure, and existing programs. The process has engaged board members to determine organization gaps, challenges and opportunities based on the changing environment.

After two months thorough analysis of RCI situation which involved interviews among executives and board members, focus groups among program participants and volunteers. The strategic plan has been completed in August with the following achievements:



Redefine RCI's vision, mission, and mandates.



Recruited 4 new board members and all the members agreed to be a working board with different operation roles.



Set up the executive plan for next 5 years in 3 phases, e.g., Year I, Year II and III, Year IV and V with specific objective and indicators.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

2. Delivered a diverse range of programs both online and in-person. These programs included Choir, Taichi, Fitness, Dance, and Painting classes, which were conducted on a weekly basis. Through a rigorous third-party evaluation, it has been proven that these innovative programs offered by RCI have had a significantly positive impact on the mental health, social connections, and overall wellbeing of the participants.







Testimonials

- Participating in these programs fills me with positivity, ignites a sense of anticipation for the future, helps me restructure my life, allows me to socialize and attend parties, and facilitates making new friends.
- In the choir class, we share musical and spiritual connections, fostering a sense of equality and comfort among us. In the dance and fitness classes, we feel a friendly and warm atmosphere as we support and care for each other. When preparing for the Spring Festival Gala, we actively practice, remind and help each other to improve, and experience the bond of friendship. Through performances, I gained confidence and pleasure, and I now feel more self-assured and happier.
- During the pandemic, it's natural to feel down and melancholic. Engaging in Tai Chi exercises has been beneficial for both my physical and mental well-being, as it nurtures both the body and the mind. Through the influence of Tai Chi culture. I have learned to cultivate patience and better manage my emotions.

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION





Organized a city-wide community event- Lunar New Year Celebration Gala at Burlington Performing Arts Centre. The event had an impressive turn out of over 800 attendees, including not only individuals with Chinese background, but also people from diverse cultural backgrounds. The event featured captivating cultural displays and high-quality performances, which received rave reviews and positive feedback from the attendees, highlighting its success in promoting cultural exchange and fostering a sense of community cohesion.







LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



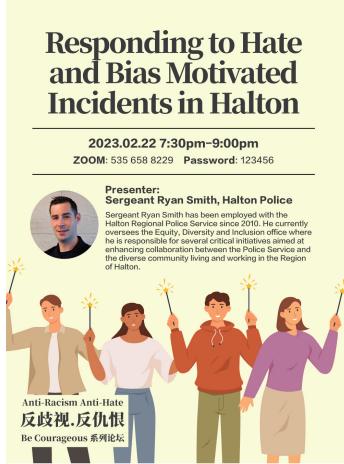
Testimonials

- Attending the Lunar New Year Celebration Gala up close for the first time was a delightful experience. It was enjoyable to savor the essence of the New Year festivities while being overseas. Despite being away from my home country, I felt a strong sense of connection to the traditions and atmosphere of the New Year, which brought a comforting feeling of being close to home.
- As a Chinese person, I value the preservation of Chinese culture. I encouraged my family, including my grandchildren, to attend the gala, as it serves as a window to promote Chinese culture. The children enjoyed the experience, as it was their first time attending such an event. The gala serves as a bridge that connects three generations, fostering a sense of cultural continuity and heritage.
- The remarkable performance at the Gala has exceeded my expectations. This is a rare opportunity indeed. RCI is utilizing the funds effectively to benefit more members of the Chinese community, and their outstanding efforts are truly commendable!
- The Lunar New Year Celebration Gala has been instrumental in promoting Chinese culture, showcasing RCI's growing influence within the community and the city. It serves as a platform for the continuous enhancement of RCI's presence and impact in the local community and city at large.
- RCI's social events are of great importance in helping people overcome social isolation and celebrate resilience.

RCI received funding from the Government of Ontario for a two-year project entitled "Be Courageous" The project focused on issues related to increased anti-Asian racism and hate motivated incidents during the pandemic. RCI partnered with WCCYC Counselling Center and Halton Regional Police to lead a series of training sessions and educational seminars on the topic in the Chinese community in Halton.

Cedartree Counselling Center was contracted to conduct midterm and final evaluations reports. The project has successfully educated the community about root causes and negative impacts of racism and hate incidents, raised awareness of the issues in schools, workplaces and our daily lives, and advocated resources and strategies to deal with such incidents safely. During the year-end survey, 91% respondents found these sessions very useful.





Project evaluation is an important process that involves assessing the outcomes of a project to determine its success or failure. RCI realized the importance of project evaluation cannot be overstated. By evaluating a project, RCI can determine whether it has achieved its intended objectives, identified areas of improvement, and made informed decisions about future projects. Project evaluation also helps to ensure accountability and transparency and can help to build trust and credibility with stakeholders.

This year, RCI has hired a thirty-party consulting company to conduct the evaluation of RCI's projects. The company has adopted different methods to evaluate our projects which include qualitative online polls, check-in survey as well as focus group discussions.

ANTI-RACISM ANTI-HATE

The following are some of the findings of the evaluation of Anti-Racism, Anti-Hate Project



Raising Awareness of the Matter of Racism

After comparing the survey data before the educational seminar and after, we can see the positive feedback has increased by 22%.

There are some examples of the participants statements quoted below:

- I hope that I could have had these seminars earlier as I had never noticed the micro-discrimination (a subtle form of racism) happening in my previous workplace. If...
- I learned that I should control my emotions while encountering racism.
- I am now able to discern different forms of racism...



Increasing Awareness of the **Consequences of** Racism

The participants who engaged in the interviews noted the psychological stresses and health issues caused by the racial discrimination that they had ever encountered.

- If I could be able to recognize it (implicit discrimination or racism in the workplace), I wouldn't have had to sacrifice my time and health by overly working or taking over weekend shifts from those who might believe that the Chinese would like to take more workloads.
- I felt sulky and repressed after being treated discriminately.
- I was fearful and helpless when I found no way out.



Anticipating for Learning Practical Knowledge and Skills

Participants expressed their appreciation for this learning opportunity, as well as its helpfulness and importance.

- I more benefited from the second seminar, I learned how to adjust my own emotions while facing racial discrimination.
- I acknowledged how to make myself safe while encountering harmful racial discrimination, and not to make the situation escalate.
- I am aware of the importance of anti-racism in the multicultural environment in Canada.





Minsong Sun



Fengwu Tian



Luping Xing



Penny Pan



Haisheng Li



Xiner Wang



Ruzhu Song



Xiaotian Ma



Yaling Huang



Jiaming Deng



Zhiguang Qian



Yang Cong



Jiyang Wang



Lu Han



Cuijiao Ma



Yuzhu Wang



Jie Sun



Xiangqun Mou



Yanmin Wang



Zhongning Yan



Jinhua Bai



Jing Cai



Manu (Joshua) Li



WELCOME TO JOIN RCI VOLUNTEERS GROUP

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

UNAUDITED

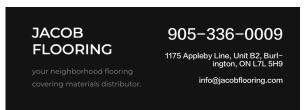
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2022

	CAD\$	CAD\$
INCOME STATEMENT	2021/2022	2020/2021
REVENUES	180,494	111,315
Expenditures Program Expenses Other Operating Expenses	165,062 12,439	125,864 7,148
EXPENDITURES	177,501	133,012
NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	2,993	(21,697)
BALANCE SHEET	2021/2022	2020/2021
ASSETS		
Current Assets	189,798	95,830
TOTAL ASSETS	189,798	95,830
Liabilities Current Liabilities Deferred Grants	3,300 88,373	698 0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	91,673	698
FUND BALANCE	98,125	95,132
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	189,798	95,830

EVENT SPONSORSHIP















Managing your finances can be complex. Our RBC advisors can help keep it simple. Lily Wang Jason Jiang Investment Specialist 905-923-1827 Mortgage Specialist 289-683-7574 lilyli.wang@rbc.com jason.jiang@rbc.com Let's make your Someday happen."







Don G Levy

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RCI IS PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING FUNDERS









COMMUNITY PARTNERS

















BETTER TOGETHER BECAUSE WE ALL BELONG