



OCLF  FECO

OTTAWA COMMUNITY LOAN FUND

2023

ANNUAL
REPORT

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IN LOVING MEMORY

of

Timothy Daum



2023 was a milestone year for OCLF in many ways, with the most meaningful being the unexpected passing of our Board Chair, Timothy Daum in October.

Timothy was one of the longest-standing Board members, with over 11 years of volunteer service and commitment to OCLF: our strategy, our clients, our programs, and our team. He was a role model in supporting those who may need a helping hand, no matter how big or small. He demonstrated this regularly through the work he did with the Board and the OCLF leadership team as well as in his day-to-day business life –

making an impact to struggling businesses needing financial support. Timothy will be most fondly remembered for:

- His smile and genuine interest in whomever he was talking to. Timothy had a keen interest in getting to know what mattered most to those he met and interacted with, often spending time getting to know them personally, before engaging on the business/professional side. Timothy was all about finding ways to help others achieve their goals, and asking how he could assist in making it happen.
- His willingness to let the OCLF team “run the business” with little intervention other than advice from the Board. He thought outside the box, often suggesting new avenues for OCLF to explore, while also realizing at times, that we were well positioned in our lane, letting us do what we do best. He was always highly supportive of the team and very proud of all the accomplishments that he was a part of over the years.
- Additionally, Timothy asked great questions on “why” we did something, or wanted to pursue something new for OCLF, always asking what the added value would be to the client, or alignment to our purpose. This has allowed us to expand our offering, help more individuals and make a broader impact – for this we are grateful.

As you read this years’ Annual Report, we ask that you join us in reflecting on and celebrating the many contributions of Timothy over the years. We are better for having had him at the table for the past 11 years – he will be missed.

IMPACT 2023

1,954

unique lives impacted



68

OCLFs Net
Promoter Score*

*Source:

<https://www.retently.com/blog/good-net-promoter-score/>

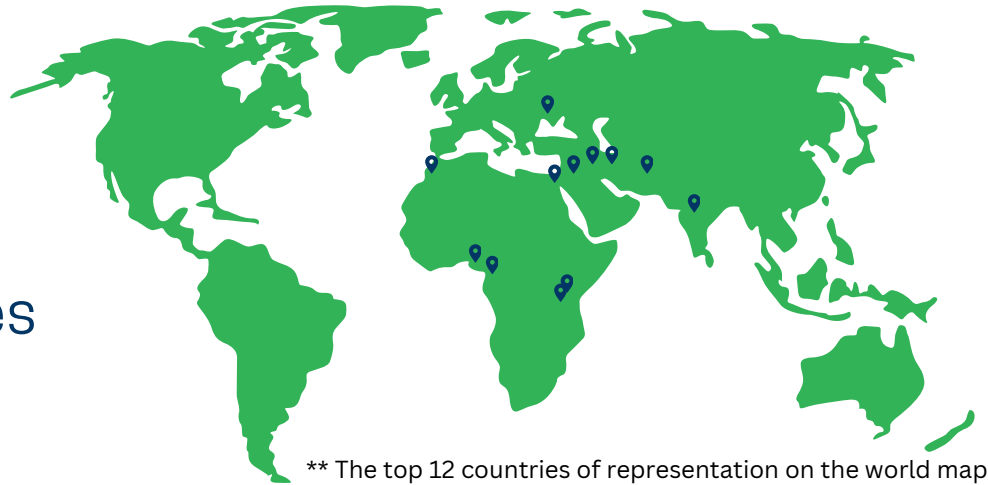


2,261

Client
Interactions



OCLF clients
represented
80
distinct countries
of origin



Launched **TWO** new
successful
entrepreneurship
pilot programs for
REFUGEE WOMEN
and **YOUTH**

100%



of HBB graduates
intend to start a business
4 new business were started this year

Helped individuals
access a total of
\$208K
in funds



SUCCESS STORIES



When Rolando Finol immigrated from Venezuela to Canada two years ago with his wife and two children, it did not take long for him to realize that he needed to update his professional certifications to the Canadian standard.

With his positivity and perseverance, Rolando started looking for ways to get his foreign credentials recognized and resume his career here in Canada. The process was very challenging and expensive. During this time that his wife heard about OCLF in one of her 'English as a Second Language' classes. She encouraged Rolando to reach out to OCLF.

In Rolando's words, "OCLF has been a game changer for me... As a newcomer you are concerned to start working as soon as possible, at the end of the day you need to put together all the pieces of the puzzle, being ready to work is paramount for this process." We are pleased to say that Rolando Finol currently works as a financial advisor in one of the leading financial services companies.

“

I would like every new immigrant to get all the things this country has given me so far, one of the better things I got was the support of OCLF.

- Rolando Finol, Credential Recognition Client

”

Bibi Batool Jazayeri is originally from Iran with 20 years of teaching experience. She has been in Canada for over two years.

Bibi was a part of the 20-week Home-Based Business Program offered by OCLF in partnership with OCSB.

After taking the skills learned in the HBB Program, Bibi has successfully opened her home daycare business with her daughter. Their daycare is running at maximum capacity of children already.



“

It was very useful to learn the issues related to marketing, insurance, dealing with customers, and competition.

- Bibi Batool Jazayeri

”

WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY

“The most useful thing I have learned in this class is to do business plans, it brings me lots of business thoughts about how to start a business like market research and loan.”



- Home Based Business Program Client -

“J'ai beaucoup apprécié la réactivité de Vanessa, les précisions qu'elle a apporté à propos du crédit mais surtout les conseils qu'elle nous a prodigué pour ne pas tomber dans les problèmes liés aux finances.”



- Participant à l'atelier, Crédit au Canada -

“Organized and well formatted presentation. Peter and Sara are very knowledgeable and resourceful.”



- Workshop Participant, Credit in Canada -

“Very kind and responsive representative. Very easy to communicate with you guys. Everything has been on time.”



- FCRP Loan Client -

“The Presentation open model and interaction. Students were involved from the start and invited to participate by answering questions and sharing their personal experience. Their questions were promptly addressed with the right links on the chat box.”



- Workshop Participant, Orientation to Entrepreneurship -



EVENTS 2023

Credential Recognition Program Launch



(From Left to Right) Fred Awada (Executive Director, LASSA); Mary Roman (Executive Director, OCISO); Laurie Beckstead (Director of Programs, OCLF); Alexis Domínguez Ochoa (Community Economic Development Manager, OCISO); Mengis Tsegaye (World Skills ED); Jane Duchscher (Executive Director, OCLF); Curtis Gillgillan (Director of Market Development, Desjardins)

On November 2, 2023, OCLF celebrated the renewal of the Credential Recognition Program (CRP). The event, attended by partner organizations, past clients, and community dignitaries, was an evening filled with positivity and inspiration.

OCLF proudly leads this initiative in collaboration with:

- The Lebanese and Arab Social Services Agency
- World Skills
- Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization
- Desjardins

CRP assists skilled newcomers by helping them navigate the foreign credential recognition process. For more detailed information [CLICK HERE](#). OCLF, with our partners, looks forward to assisting internationally trained individuals in their credential recognition and in achieving their career goals.

Welcoming Ottawa Week

As a part of the Welcoming Ottawa Week (WOW) initiated by the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership (OLIP), OCLF organized a fun-filled family-friendly event on 30th June, 2023: Byward Market Historic Wagon Ride. The event was co-hosted with our partner organization, World Skills.

WOW is an annual, week-long series of dialogues, cultural and celebratory events, guided tours, sports activities, and other fun events designed to convey the genuine welcome and hospitality of Ottawa to newcomers. WOW provides opportunities for quality interactions among residents, old and new. Recurring annually since 2013 on the last week of June.

The family-friendly activities for the day included:

- Horse-Drawn Wagon Ride around the Byward Market by Cundell John Stables
- Fun Twisted Balloon Art and Magic by World's Greatest Balloons
- Face-Painting for Kids
- Light Refreshments





ED RECOGNITION AWARD 2023



Nene Columba Ba, the ED Recognition award Recipient 2022, receiving the award from Camelia Barrit and Emma Inns of OCLF



The OCLF-OCSB Home Based Business program has allowed me to dive deeply in the business systems, models and methods that I will need to launch my business.

- Nene Columba Ba, HBB Graduate



Nene's story is a real example of how you can turn every challenge into an opportunity, with perseverance and passion. Nene started following her dream to be involved in the culinary arts by opening her first restaurant, called Maa'na in French Polynesia.

In 2016, her husband received a work opportunity in Canada. On her arrival to Canada, Nene signed up for the culinary management Program at La Cite Collegial, graduating in 2018. After the training, Nene dove head-in to entrepreneurship and opened a small catering business called Coumba's Catering. She began selling her food at sporting events, farmers' markets, and growing her business slowly and steadily.

At the same time, she enrolled in an Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) English class where she then discovered the Home-Based Business (HBB) program. She not only excelled in the HBB program, had perfect attendance and her final pitch presentation was outstanding.

She continued her catering business, building it slowly and eventually attained a large contract of catering an event with over 1,000 people. Since then, in Q1 2024 Nene opened her storefront creperie, called "Les Gateries, Le Petit Paris" located in Kanata, Ottawa.

We feel Nene is a deserving recipient for this nomination with her undying spirit and dedication to her trade. She is the true definition of an entrepreneur. We offer our sincere congratulations and best wishes to Nene - such a role model to other women entrepreneurs!



Financials

SUMMARY OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023

| REVENUE | DECEMBER 31, 2023 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Government Grants | \$1,158,855 |
| Contributed Services | \$82,787 |
| Interest and Other Income | \$12,131 |

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Total Revenue | \$1,253,773 |
|----------------------|--------------------|

| EXPENSES | DECEMBER 31, 2023 |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Staffing | \$626,262 |
| Project Partners | \$458,460 |
| Communications and Marketing | \$18,373 |
| Professional Fees | \$81,678 |
| Operations | \$63,085 |
| Loan Losses | \$260 |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Total Expenses | \$1,248,118 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|

Funders



Funded in part by the Government of Canada under the Foreign Credential Recognition Program



Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Lending Partners



Community Partners

- Algonquin College • Catholic Centre for Immigrants (CCI) • Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO) • Conseil Economique et Social d'Ottawa-Carleton (CESOC) • Financial Literacy Action Network of Ottawa (FLANO) • Immigrant Women Services Ottawa (IWSO) • KEYS, Kingston • La Cité • Lebanese and Arab Social Services Agency (LASSA) • Mauril-Bélanger Social Innovation Workshop • Ontario Professional Hairstylist Association (OPHA) • Ottawa Chinese Community Service Center (OCCSC) • Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) • Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) • Ottawa Community Immigration Services Organization (OCISO) • Ottawa Employment Hub • University of Ottawa • World Skills • YMCA-YWCA; and many others...



More
ABOUT US



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THE TEAM

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