



Unisphere Canada

Annual Report 2020





INTRODUCTION

Unisphere Canada (UC) is a not-for-profit organization. Our primary goal is to facilitate economic opportunities and promote income generation through entrepreneurship and innovation. Our efforts will be focused on vulnerable groups of Ontario residents who are in proportionately excluded from the mainstream economy. UC strongly believes in action and seeks to transform communities across Ontario and Canada, making them more self-sufficient through sustainable entrepreneurship and innovative programs.

UC is determined to empower the community members to bring about change by providing support to their future entrepreneurs enabling them to make an impact on the oppressive cycle of poverty in which they currently reside. UC find practical and innovative ways to empower these low-income people to lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty, then the payback to themselves, their communities and society as a whole will be significant.

We know that if we continue to strive to support the base of people who are struggling to earn enough money and often have to decide between keeping the lights on or feeding their kids, that with all of the resources we have at our disposal we will be able to make the change we see as so critical to our communities- again, with all of this benefiting the individual, their community and society. UC works with partner organizations.

We believe that together we can bring a positive impact and contribute to creating a world closer to breaking the cycle of poverty and economic inequality. Our work will help create a more fair world that truly respects the basic rights of all human beings, not just those considered to be higher economic status.



MISSION, VISSION & VALUES

MISSION

Unisphere Canada reduces poverty and promotes well-being through innovative economic development programs by providing support to entrepreneurs in low-income communities.

VISION

Creating economically vibrant, empowered and prosperous communities where everyone can thrive.

VALUES

- **Respect:** We value every individual.
- **Integrity:** We always act Ethically, and commit to conducting our activities with honesty, transparency and accountability.
- **Professionalism:** We care for and support each other and act professionally.
- **Diversity:** We believe everyone deserves a chance to prosper.
- **Equality:** We believe everyone should equality opportunity for economic independence.
- **Team work:** We believe in cooperation, coordination and collaborative partnerships.
- **Community Development:** the strongest voice in Unisphere Canada is the voice of the low-income people we work with.



MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are working with our dedicated team to bring even more opportunities to expand our services and connect with more low-income communities and families, where we can have the most impact. The pandemic has drastically increased inequality among racialized communities, newcomers, women, and low-wage earners. Our mission at Unisphere Canada has always been to create economic opportunity, with a goal that has moved even further out of reach for countless Canadians. There is a huge need to target our support to the marginalized communities who face inequality in our society.

We are still facing many unknown challenges, but one thing is certain: financing with no interests and new upcoming programs saving box models, will continue to be in high demand. Our team has in the process to providing services remotely, such as developing online coaching and webinars on topics such as business planning, business development, marketing, and business registration. Throughout this difficult period, we have kept in contact with clients, providing extra support and flexibility to help them with the unprecedented challenges.





We will work together as a dedicated and strong team to bring positive change in the communities by creating opportunities for better-paying jobs and self-employment for those most affected by income inequality: Visible minorities, new Canadians, women, and youth. We believe in changes in the months ahead, we remain optimistic that we can help make a difference by providing opportunities through no interest loans, business development, coaching and support.

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hayatullah Haleemi



Program Statistics

Our programs have supported newcomer entrepreneurs on sales, marketing, communication, leadership, budgeting, financial literacy and computer literacy training.

18+

NEWCOMER WOMEN

have been introduced to small micro-lending programs

48+

WOMEN

have been supported in business planning and development

35+

NEWCOMER ENTREPRENEURS

have been facilitated to micro lending, and financial statement sessions



50+

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

have been supported on social and digital marketing and business registrations

88+

CLIENTS

have been referred to youth, settlement, employment and housing services provided by partner organizations



PROGRAMS

An impact report is a way for organizations to communicate the issues they are trying to improve. Our aim is to enhance the economic well-being of communities, through increased income generation opportunities and the creation of employment and to also increase capacity development opportunities, for individuals and entrepreneurs to support them to develop businesses in low-income communities. We are currently working with individuals and groups who are seeking advice and technical support to start or develop a small business. We are also working with partner organizations to connect these entrepreneurs with small/low-interest business loans, as well as basic training and food handling certifications, as well as help them strategize on how they facilitate change.

Our main strategic focus areas:



Organizational
Development

Community
Development

Saving Box
Community-Led
Development

Skills &
Leadership
Development for
Entrepreneurs

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We will continue to develop our own organization in terms of infrastructure development and governance. Institutional strengthening includes a set of measures that improve the capability and performance of our organization, in order to attain our mission and strategic goals. We aim to engage with and coordinate with stakeholders involved in community development, establish synergies and advocate for the well-being of low-income communities so that community development is more efficiently and cohesively delivered.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We facilitate financing for entrepreneurs, which is made possible through our collaboration with Access Community Capital Fund.

Mini Micro Loans are available from \$100 - \$1000 (no interest)
Micro Loans are available from \$1000 - \$5,000

These loans enable individuals, entrepreneurs and newcomers with no credit history to gain access to knowledge, skills, support, outreach activities and grants. These loans will also help create income generation and increase the number of local businesses in the most vulnerable communities.



Photo: Training Session

SAVING BOX COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT

Our community-led development Saving Box model is geared towards both individuals and groups in low-income communities and provides them with resources and enhances their skills to successfully start-up their businesses. It consists of three streams of program delivery tailored to the size of the small start-up business, along with the specific needs of the entrepreneurs. Participants of the UC Saving Box programs receive comprehensive around services such as mentorship and coaching tailored to their unique objectives to ensure they reach their goals. The Saving Box Model enable individuals and newcomers with no credit history to gain access to knowledge, skills, supports and grants. It will also work to promote relationship between emerging local businesses and support that is available in the community to develop their businesses and markets. It leverages the synergy of participating groups by networking and promoting collaboration. They are then able to share this knowledge and skills with other members of the community, by gaining training and resources developed by UC.



Photo: Practical Session

SKILLS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR ENTREPRENEURS

We offer a range of free training programs in the areas of leadership, business management business planning, entrepreneurial skills, and micro-lending.

Additional programming and support includes:

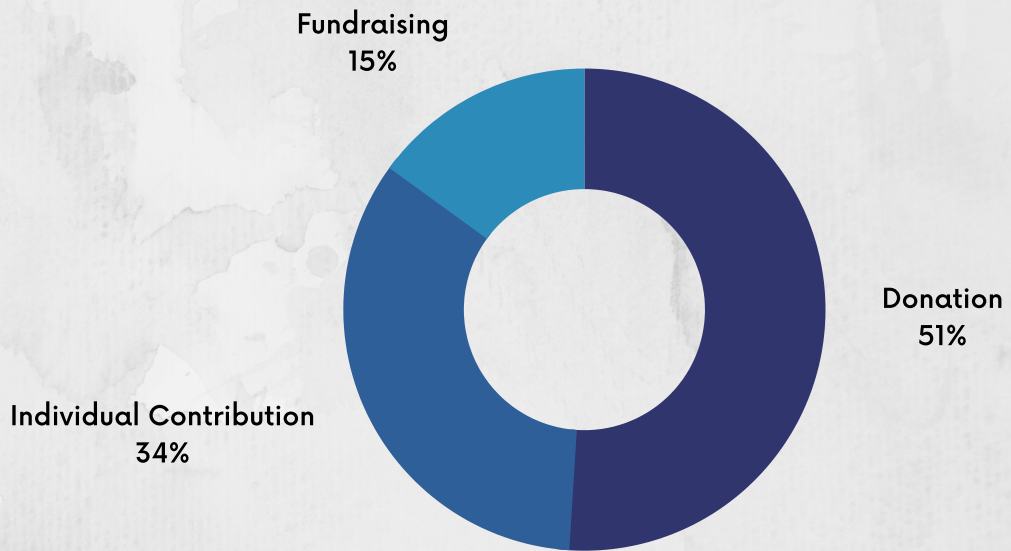
- Business Start-up information
- One-on-One business consulting
- Business plan development
- Entrepreneurial Skills
- Social Media and Marketing
- Micro-Lending and Financial Statements
- Financial Literacy and Budgeting
- Leadership and Communication Skills
- Life Skills and Decision Making
- Food Handling Certificate

We have already supported over 56 entrepreneurs in the areas of business planning, micro-lending, and food handling.

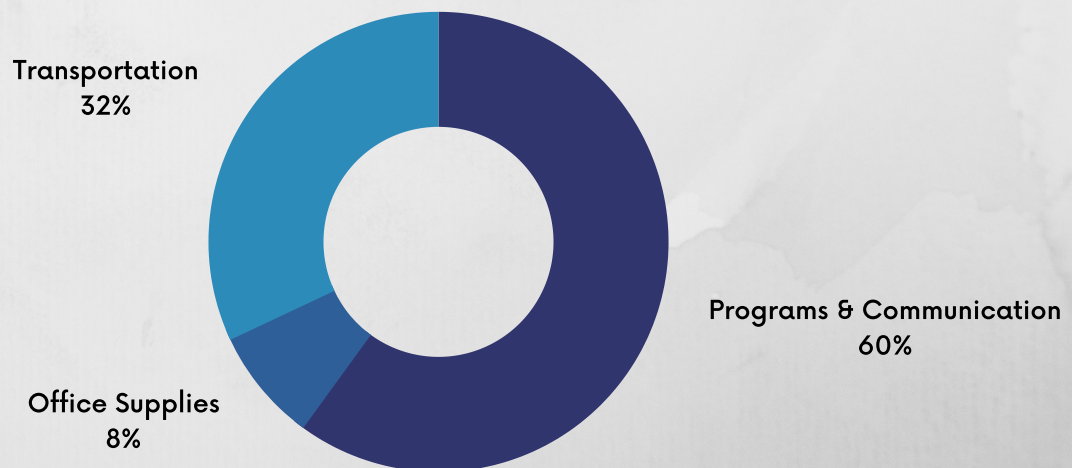


FINANCES

Revenue



Expenses



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Unisphere Canada is grateful to all of our volunteers who give their time and share their skills and help us to achieve our mission through our programs and services.

Laurie Di Brina
Tricia Ramnath
Rangoli Singh

THANKING OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Acting Executive Director:
Hayatullah Haleemi

Board Members:
Ali Aheed
Brendon Wrana
Fawad Nasir
Fazal Rahel
Laheeb Akbarzad
Tariq Ismati



We thank you for your continued support in our programs.

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