

OPEN DOOR GROUP ANNUAL REPORT



SCAN ME



OPENDOORGROUP

WWW.OPENDOORGROUP.ORG

**open
door
group** INSPIRATION
AT WORK



2021 2022



WE OPEN DOORS

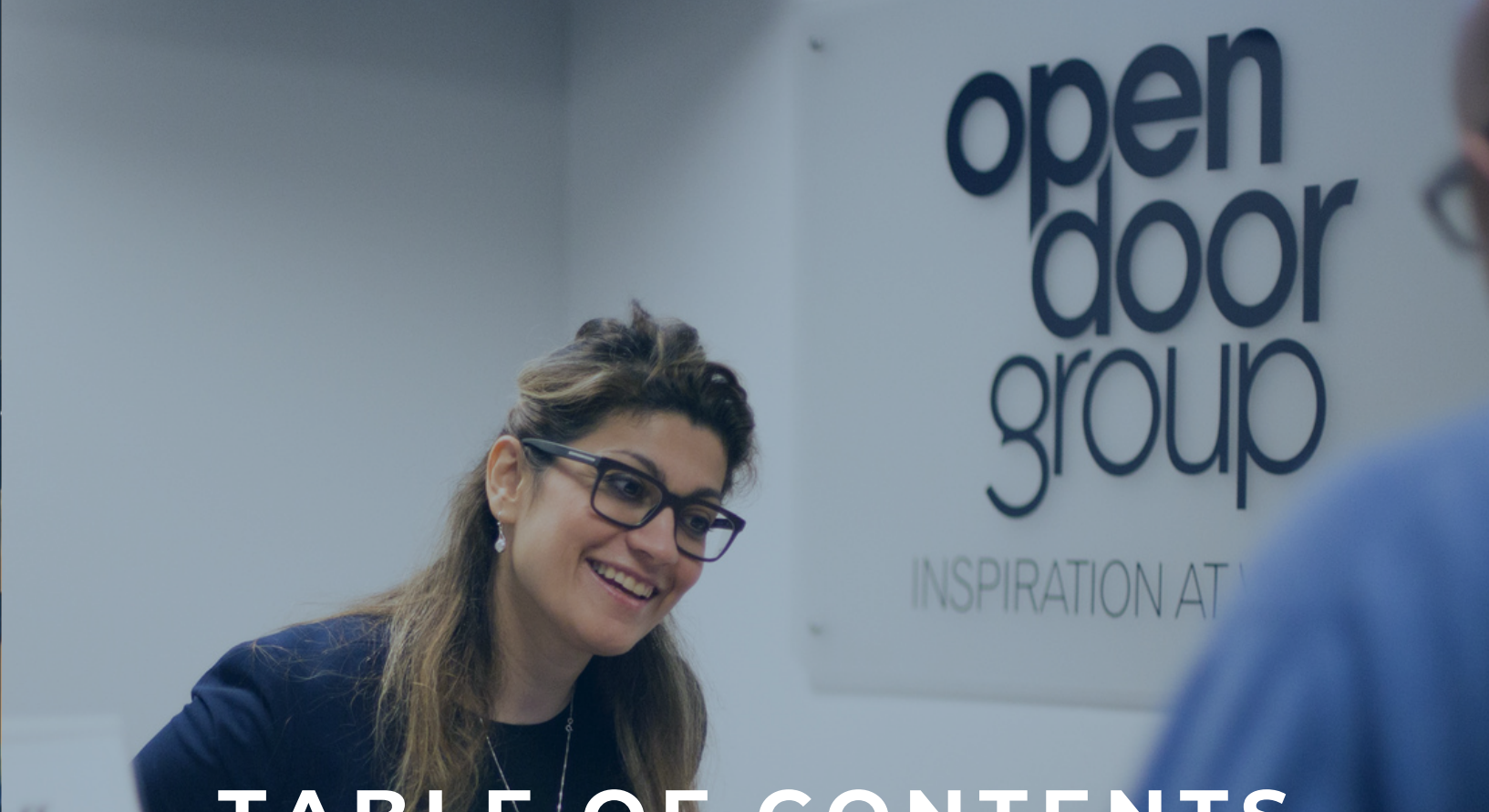


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MISSION

Meaningful skills and careers for everyone.

To achieve its mission, Open Door Group assists people to prepare for, obtain, and sustain meaningful careers and to support people in the pursuit of lifelong learning.

VISION

Opening doors to lifelong learning and career success.

VALUES

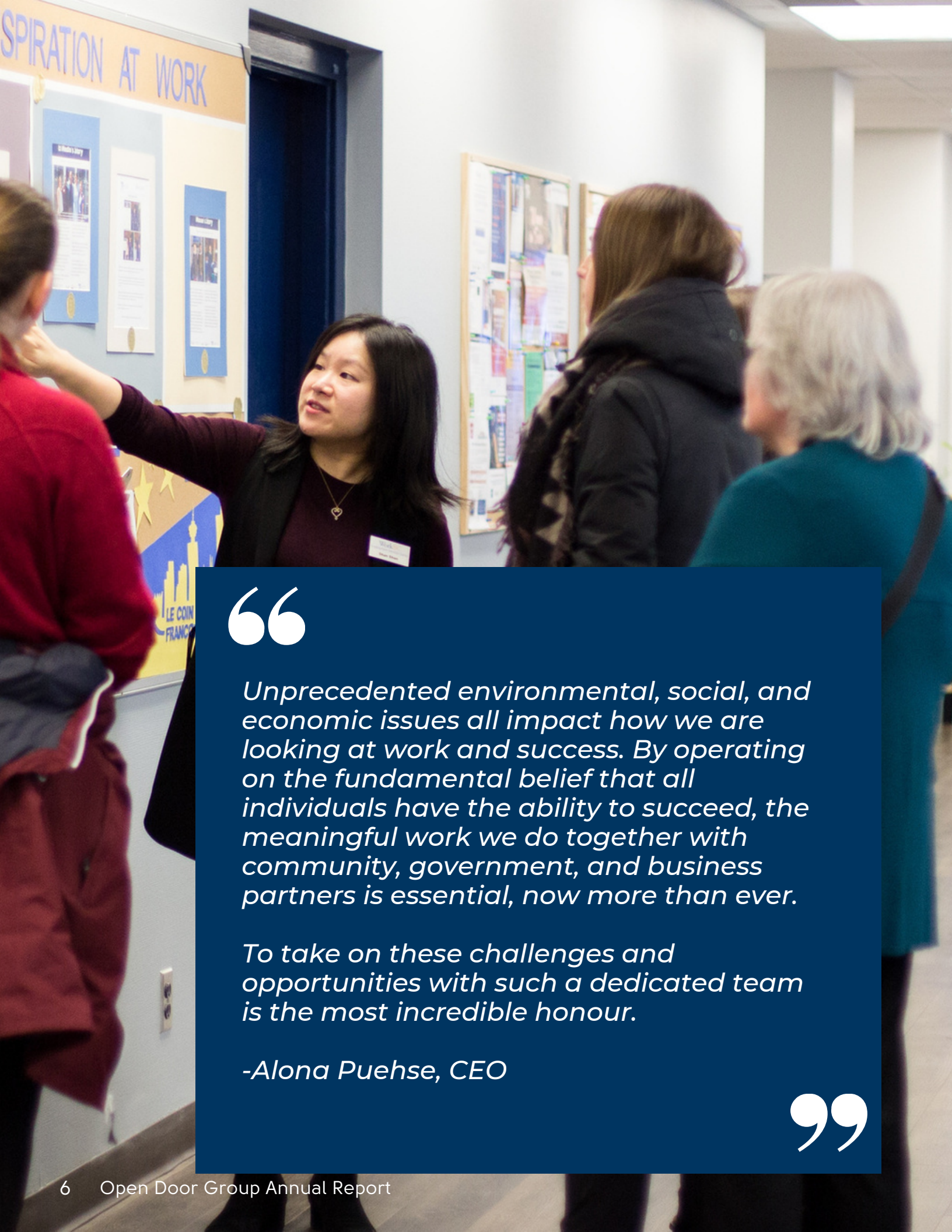
- Achieving success
- Being solutions-focused
- Respecting all people
- Being authentic
- Striving for excellence
- Being a cohesive team

ABOUT US

Open Door Group is a people-centered organization. From the clients and employers we work with to our dedicated staff, from community partners to funders, we are committed to building genuine collaborative relationships that support meaningful work for everyone.

Open Door Group operates and is located on the unceded traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the *xm̓wəθkwəy̓əm* (Musqueam), *Skwxwú7mesh* (Squamish), and *Səlíl̓wətaʔ/Selilwitulh* (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations; the Secwepemc Nation, the traditional and unceded territory of the *Syilx* Okanagan people, and the *Simp̓cw* territory.





“

Unprecedented environmental, social, and economic issues all impact how we are looking at work and success. By operating on the fundamental belief that all individuals have the ability to succeed, the meaningful work we do together with community, government, and business partners is essential, now more than ever.

To take on these challenges and opportunities with such a dedicated team is the most incredible honour.

-Alona Puehse, CEO

”

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR & CEO

As with the previous year, 2021-2022 brought profound changes that represented challenges as well as exciting new opportunities.

After 27 years of service, Tom Burnell retired as CEO in March 2022. Since 1998, Tom's leadership has played a critical role in the development and success of Open Door Group (ODG). We offer our heartfelt thanks for his dedicated service, which involved many significant accomplishments; leading ODG's growth from a small, Vancouver-based organization serving people with disabilities to what is now one of the largest non-profit employment organizations in BC, helping thousands of people to build skills and achieve career success. Tom will be dearly missed, and we wish him the best in his well-earned retirement and new ventures.

We were delighted to appoint Alona Puehse to take over the reins as Open Door Group's new CEO. Previously the COO, Alona has served the organization for over a decade and continuously demonstrates her commitment to ODG's mission and impact. Under her leadership, ODG's future is in good hands as we emerge from the pandemic, ready to proactively deepen our service streams and expand our geographic impact.

Respectfully yours,




Bill Rana
Board Chair




Alona Puehse
Chief Executive Officer

At all levels of the organization, unwavering dedication and commitment to supporting client success shone brightly through the leadership transition and the ever-changing public health landscape. Across every community served, our team continued to find innovative ways to support access to services, particularly for those facing complex barriers. By expanding our specialized programs, we increased our capacity to help people through the full journey of preparing for, finding, and keeping work – always with the belief that all individuals can succeed and that every path to work is unique.

We are grateful to our government funders for their continued support and their dedication to the success of British Columbians. Thank you to our volunteer Board of Directors who have contributed their steadfast wisdom and guidance to help us navigate the immense changes of the past two years. And last but not least, to our exceptional staff and partner organizations, both on the front lines and behind the scenes, thank you for your care and excellent service to the people we serve.

IMPACT

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT AND ABILITY TO SUCCEED AND ARE THE AUTHORS OF THEIR OWN JOURNEY.

475

people accessed Opportunities Fund



1,394

Open Door Group clients achieved employment 2021-2022

90%

of clients would recommend our services

623

people accessed the Thrive Program



735+

people completed specialized training to support employment readiness

547+ workshops delivered

21,238

lbs of produce harvested by Gardengate participants



2,601

active BC employers working with Open Door Group



WORKBC EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



1,294
people found employment through
WorkBC-Vancouver City Center,
Sea to Sky, Kamloops Thompson
in 2021-2022

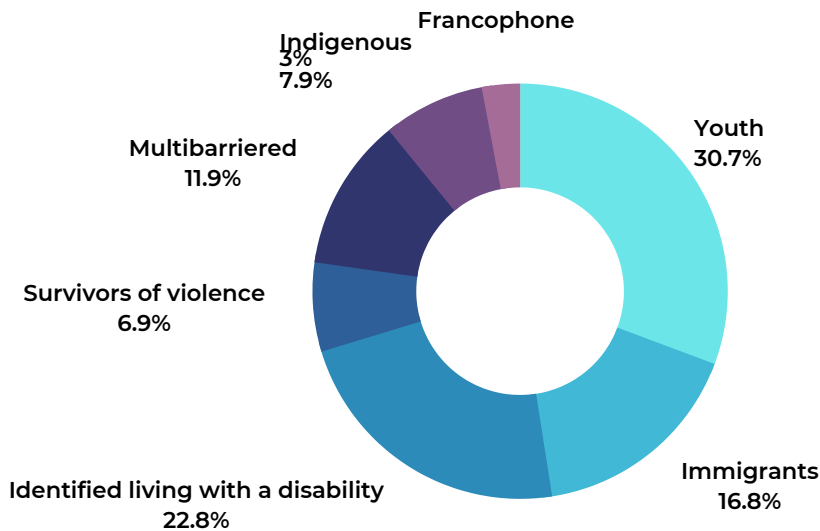
CLIENT STORY

Josh (name changed for privacy) sustained a serious back injury after a car accident. Before the accident, Josh had been a professional pizza-maker for more than 10 years, but the injury had a profound effect on his career. He had to leave his job because he could no longer stand for long hours working in the kitchen.

Josh refused to be discouraged. Within 4 weeks, Josh was hired. He was determined to make his way back into the workforce. In Yaletown. Through a 2021, Josh became a client at a customized position tailored to WorkBC-Vancouver City Center. match his physical conditions, Through this process, Josh was able to continue his job search skills passion for making baked and connect with inclusive employers.



Client overview



GARDENGATE

Gardengate is a space of healing and recovery for individuals living with addictions or mental health conditions. Through activities in the garden, the program supports participants to work towards personal goals such as healthy eating, active living, or vocational training. In 2021-2022, the program has successfully assisted 53 individuals living with mental health conditions, 9 of which found and sustained meaningful employment.

"I have learned how to use power tools, how to work as part of a team, cooking skills, communication skills, how to make things grow, cash handling and cash register usage during plant sales, driving a tractor, getting in better physical shape, self-confidence, and how to safely deal with frustration."

G.D- Gardengate Volunteer & Program Participant



(Top) Annual Salsa Challenge, Kamloops. (Bottom left) Pride at Gardengate. (Bottom right) Summer Harvest





THRIVE LEISURE AND RECREATION PROGRAM

Jasmine's Story

**Trigger warning: this story contains content of suicidal thoughts and depression.*

After a head injury, I was experiencing depression, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, and had been isolating for three years. I had tried to connect with other programs in the past that hadn't worked out, so I started thinking there wasn't any help for me anyway.

When I heard about Thrive, it took me three tries before I went in. The first two times I got all the way to the door, but my anxiety made me turn away. The fear, anxiety, the worry about being judged – I was afraid that someone would tell me that it was all my fault. I did make it back though for a third time, and was greeted by the friendliest voice from the receptionist and that made me feel ok about going in.

When I first started, I had no goals, no hope – I was so lost. I just knew that I was so sick and tired and that I needed help. My last hope was giving myself a chance to try with thrive. Each program gave me something that I could put together - like puzzle pieces. When I first started doing the needle felting, I had so much anxiety, but for every poke I did with the needle, I noticed that it helped. Then I got into the clay arts program and it gave me a true picture of myself, that I am creative even though I have never done this before! I feel as though clay was the addiction that I needed – I now wake up in the mornings with creative ideas for what I want to make that day. This was what I was meant to do.



Photos of Jasmine's creative crafting goods through Thrive program

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

Opportunities Fund

Open Door Group- Opportunities Fund program is currently offered at Vancouver, Kamloops, and Kelowna. The Opportunities Fund Program is a financial assistance program designed to help persons with disabilities to gain employment through funding for training, wage subsidies, funding for adaptive equipment, and self-employment training.

In 2021-2022, 475 people accessed the program to gain employment skills to pursue their career goals.



Career Pathways to Success

The focus of Career Pathways to Success (CPS) program is to support people with disabilities to gain confidence, tools, and resources to pursue their career dreams. Since the launch in 2021, CPS has successfully served 102 people, of which 68 of them are persons with disabilities.

"Thank you for helping me . The support I receive gave me the confidence to strive for greatness. I have achieved goals that were impossible for me before the training."

Randa, Career Pathway to Success participant

Jobs in Demand

The Jobs in Demand (JID) program is currently offered in Sechelt and Kamloops. The program supports its participants in developing relevant skills and work experience for in-demand industries.

In 2021-2022, over 160 people completed JID certificate training. 81% of the participants reported that they were able to find employment after the training.



Opportunities Fund Free Culinary Cohort

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VCC

The Culinary Training Cohort (offered through Opportunities Fund & VCC) has provided me with a huge toolkit to developing my skills and thinking about my career path. It has made me more confident!

Ross Brewster, OPPS FUND participant



The UnTapped BC Workplace Inclusion Awards recognizes companies & individuals moving the dial on disability inclusion in the workplace.



In 2022, 61 businesses of all sizes and individuals were nominated for UnTapped Awards. The event attracted more than 260 attendees across BC.

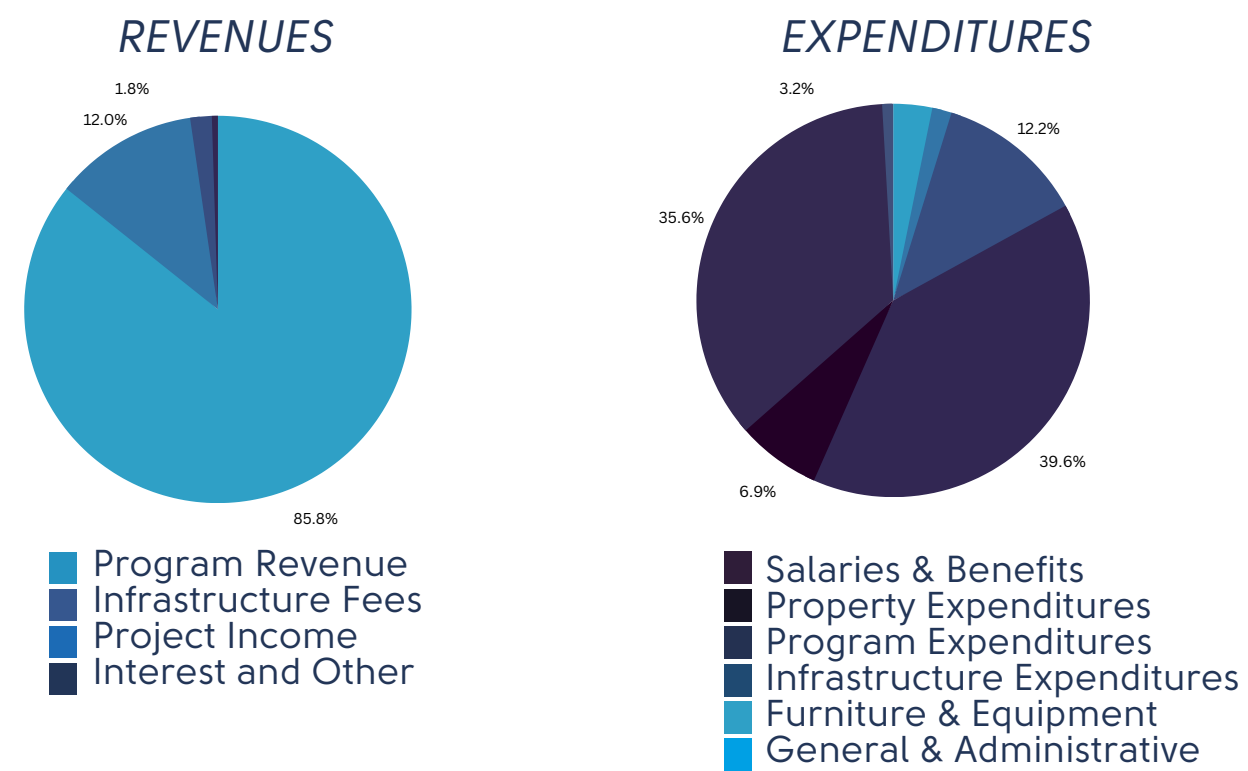
www.untappedseries.ca

FINANCIAL REVIEW

REVENUE	20/21		21/22	
Program Revenue	\$19,900,168	83.3%	\$23,780,408	85.8%
Infrastructure Fees	3,067,818	12.8%	3,318,004	12.0%
Project Income	441,954	1.8%	486,099	1.8%
Interest and Other	479,585	2.0%	146,207	0.5%
TOTAL INCOME	\$23,889,525	100%	\$27,730,718	100%

EXPENDITURES	20/21		21/22	
General and Administrative	\$ 623,086	2.8%	\$817,760	3.2%
Furniture and Equipment	540,950	2.4%	401,216	1.6%
Infrastructure Expenditures	2,871,491	12.9%	3,095,620	12.2%
Program Expenditures	8,493,112	38.3%	10,049,012	39.6%
Property Expenditures	1,696,078	7.6%	1,740,274	6.9%
Salaries and Benefits	7,836,376	35.3%	9,036,572	35.6%
Staff Expenditures	130,642	0.6%	217,638	0.9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$22,191,735	100.0%	\$25,358,092	100.0%

Note: The majority of expenditures are directly related to program delivery



LOCATIONS

Head Office

900 - 1200 Burrard St.
Vancouver, BC
V6Z 2C7

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F: 604-873-1758
E: info@opendoorgroup.org

Vancouver & Sea to Sky

Vancouver East Hastings

134 East Hastings St.
Vancouver, BC
T: 604-334-6372

Vancouver Burrard

900 - 1200 Burrard St.
Vancouver, BC
T: 604-334-6372

Vancouver VCC

200- 250 West Pender St.
Vancouver, BC
T: 604-873-1758

Thrive

200- 250 West Pender St.
Vancouver, BC
T: 604- 872-0770

Sechelt

5674 Cowrie St.
Sechelt, BC
T: 604-885-3351

Sea to Sky

302 - 37989 Cleveland Ave.
Squamish
T: 604- 639-1743

Kamloops - Thompson

Kamloops North

795 Tranquille Rd.
Kamloops, BC
T: 250-377-3670

Kamloops South

210 - 450 Lansdowne St.
Kamloops, BC
T: 250-377-3670

Gardengate

915 Southill St.
Kamloops, BC
T: 250-554-9453

Chase

822 Shuswap Ave
Chase, BC
T: 1-800-763-1681

Clearwater

#100-240 Park Drive
Clearwater, BC
T: 250-674-2928

Barriere

#5 - 4480 Barriere Town
Road Barriere, BC
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Kelowna

Kelowna
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Visit our website
www.opendoorgroup.org