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Perspective

Newsletter

for RCD Donors

Classes and activities resumed on-line and in-person!

After two long years, the RCD is thrilled to finally be able to welcome participants back into the Centre for in person activities. The latest term began on April 25, 2022. Examples of one of the classes that are now in-person are "English Reading & Writing" and "Social Games Club". "Public Speaking" is hybrid (in-person with some people still joining through Zoom). For some, Zoom remains a convenient tool to remove the barrier of needing to commute from other cities to participate. It's great that something good can come out of our need to adapt during the pandemic. Lastly, the IM&M+ course for pre-employment skills training is an example of a class still being offered entirely through Zoom. Thank you for your support of RCD by your participation in our programs and services during this interesting time in world history.



Please see our monthly Calendar on-line on the RCD website.
<https://www.rcdrichmond.org/pdfs/ActivityCalendar.pdf>

In Motion and Momentum+ news

JOIN RCD FOR IN MOTION & MOMENTUM +



December 13, 2021, concluded the second running of the In Motion and Momentum+ (IM&M+) course recently held at the Richmond Centre for Disability. For those of you who may not recall, this is a pre-employment program created by the Canadian Career Development Foundation. The Centre received funding via the Foundation to facilitate two training sessions. We first offered IM & M+ beginning in February of 2021. An initial group of 6 students graduated in June and the second cohort, now completed, had 5 students.

Participants in the course set out on a voyage of self-discovery. They identify interests, skills and values and are given the opportunity to envision their preferred future. The students then learn to identify and set the goals needed to take them to where they want to go. The analogies of a maze and steppingstones in a river are used. Participants' preferred futures may include employment, but this does not have to be the case. A person may wish to learn a new language or take up a hobby instead.

Having said this, we are pleased to be able to report that 2 of the first group of six are now working. One gentleman is now at Fairchild TV and the other with London Drugs in Vancouver. Two of the graduates from the second cohort have decided to return to school to increase their employability.

During IM&M+ participants are asked to work together

on a Community Project. The second cohort of 5 persons (September to December 2021) did an amazing job reaching out to federal politicians to express their support for the government's continued work to bring forward the Canada Disability Benefit. The group drafted a letter, created a group logo and a backgrounder video. You can view these items on YouTube. Their letter has been included at the end of the video.

https://youtu.be/v93xd_he2do

IM&M+ April 2022 term

As of April 27th 2022, the RCD is offering an abbreviated version of IM&M+. Six participants have registered to begin their journey of self-discovery. The group will meet on a weekly basis. IM&M+ is being offered along with RCD's on-going pre-employment and employment services called Supports for Independent Living (SIL) and is funded in part by your generous support.

Employment & Empowerment Project strengthens our RCD's vocational offerings:

In October of 2021, Vincent Kwok joined the RCD's office staff, as the coordinator of our new Employment & Empowerment Project (EEP). The EEP Project specifically serves those with barriers to employment who are aged 30 and under. In addition to helping with resume, cover letter and job search skills, the project offers 12-week work experiences with wage subsidies to job seekers hoping to get their foot in the door with a company. Participants are given the opportunity to work 20 to 30 hours a week during their 12-week work experience. After this, it is hoped that the employer will keep the new employee on.

As RCD's SIL Coordinator, I can tell you that it has been fantastic to be able to work collaboratively with Vincent. It has been my pleasure to be able to refer job seekers within the EEP target age group so that they and their potential employer can benefit from the opportunity to access a wage subsidy. Additionally, Vincent has graciously referred participants to SIL who are over the age of 30 or who are interested in part time employment below 30 hours a week.

If you know anyone age 30 or under who is experiencing barriers to securing employment, I strongly urge you to connect with Vincent. He has a long history with the RCD and is particularly experienced in working with those living with Autism. The Employment & Empowerment Project is presently scheduled to run until March of 2023; but the last work experience intake, must start in November 2022. Funding for this project comes from the Government of Canada's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy.

Fundraising efforts:

RCD's second on-line fundraiser a huge success!



You no-doubt will recall that on November 19, 2021, RCD staff, members and supporters gathered around their computer screens for an enjoyable evening of music that ranged in its variety. Some examples of this included: A Symphony performance from the BC Philharmonic Orchestra. The Orchestra was conducted by RCD's Tom Tang's (IL Program Director), Uncle Ray Zhuo. English language and Chinese cultural songs were sung by RCD long-time supporter Elsa Wong. She was accompanied by Richmond City Mayor Malcom Brodie on the keyboard. The Vancouver Formosa Singers performed, and RCD member/singer Billy Lin joined our very own Ian Yeung as his guitarist.

The evening was a success beyond our wildest dreams. We surpassed our original target of \$30,000 on the concert night itself. With donations coming in following the event, over \$35,000 has been raised. A large influx of funds is always appreciated as it helps us to continue to fund our programs and services to our members and the public. It is also helpful as we begin to make tentative plans toward our eventual move back to our original corner of 3 Road, in the new building to be constructed there.

Re-purposed for a purpose

The Centre's temporary Thrift Shop is another example of us having tried something new with unexpected success. Our little thrift shop first opened its doors in mid 2020 and it has been going strong ever since. Its success is due to the ongoing donations of new and gently used items from you - our faithful donors and the public. The most recent tally of funds raised through the thrift shop is around \$1,000 per month.

Did you know...

The RCD is pleased to continue to have Pacey on staff in our thrift shop, thanks to the BC Work Experience Grant from the Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction. Other Staff either continuing with or joining us, because of this same provincial grant are Argon Dai in the Parking Permit Program and Edmark Lim assisting Ian Yeung with Social Media production for the centre.

Coming together at tax-time



When we think of tax-time we often think of it negatively because we dread the possibility of having to pay the tax man (the government). At the RCD though, tax-time is a time of choosing to give. We are grateful for the time of the volunteers who assist with the completion of tax returns for individuals on low, often fixed incomes.

Many of those receiving the help to file their taxes, chose to say thank-you with a donation to the Centre. Of course, donation receipts are a big part of income-tax time. We are appreciative of your on-going support now and throughout the calendar year; we have changed to issuing annual tax receipts at the beginning of every year for the previous year's donations.



This year nearly 300 people were helped by RCD staff and volunteers to file their taxes.

Turning talent into talents - financial worth

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

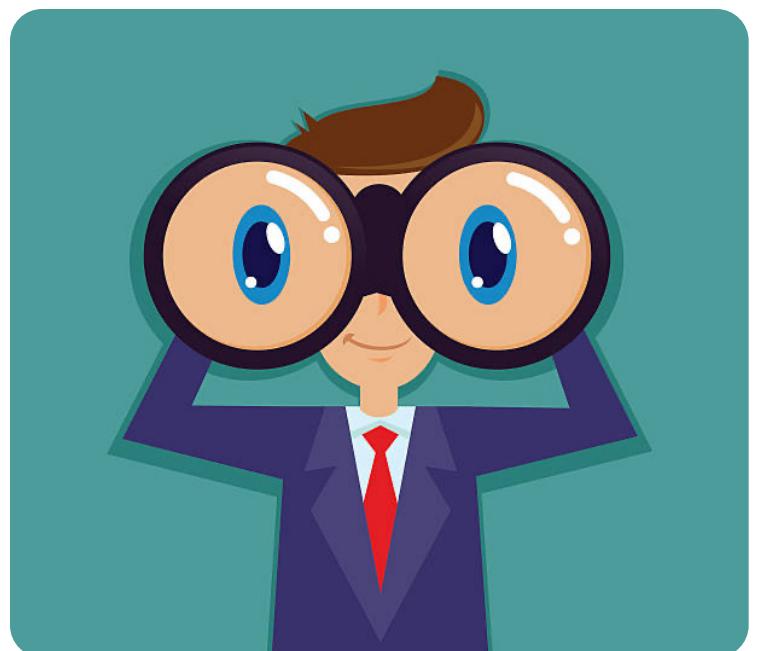


The talent was a unit of weight that was introduced in Mesopotamia at the end of the 4th millennium... In classical antiquity, the talent (Latin: *talentum*, from Ancient Greek: *τάλαντον*, *talanton* "scale, balance, sum") was the heaviest of common weight units for commercial transactions.

Beginning on June 4, 2022, stop by the Centre to purchase some works of art in support of the work of the RCD. The Art Works, to be on display are the creations of the students of renowned Taiwanese artist Su-Chen Wu. Ms. Wu is a long -time supporter of the Centre having previously volunteered to teach drawing classes to members. Now, we are pleased to have the support of her talented protégés.

Some of Ms. Wu's students are already well known to the RCD. They are faithful volunteers Ann Wong, Alice Tam and our member Errol Hui.

Events to watch for ...



May 12, 2022 - Invisible Illness Awareness Day Presentation – Empathy Not Sympathy Please, by Dave Thomson

May 31, 2022 - National Accessibility Awareness Week Event - "Can I Start Tomorrow?" - Topics: Everything you need to know to achieve either personal goals or employment success.

July 1, 2022 & onward - J Squared Ice Cream Fundraiser-A perfect way to cool down this summer. Pre-order forms for redeemable coupons available June 4, 2022.

September 2022 - RCD's Employment & Empowerment Project to host an event in celebration of BC's Employment Month for people with disabilities.

October 21, 2022 - RCD's 3rd annual on-line fundraising concert

December 3, 2022 - RCD's annual fundraising dinner returns! We are pleased to host the return on the United Nations Day in celebration of people with disabilities.