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Perspective

Newsletter

for RCD Donors

RCD's Ruby Red 40th Anniversary Gala



On Dec 3, 2024, RCD's annual fundraising gala took place at the Continental Seafood Restaurant to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Passionate speeches and musical performances lit up the night as always, but one thing made this year's gala different from the rest. It was the eve of RCD's 40th anniversary in 2025! With RCD directors, staff, and supporters present at the gala, 40 years of passion and devotion personified truly made the night shine ruby red.

The night began with Jonalen Gamis singing the national anthem while Caroline Ng accompanied on the pipes. From there, city representatives Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Kelly Green MLA Richmond-Steveston, and Teresa Wat MLA Richmond-Bridgeport commemorated the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities with the BC Government and City of Richmond Proclamations. Afterwards, RCD Directors, Penny Chan and Renee Leung led inspiring speeches celebrating RCD's successful year of service and advocacy for the community.

After the speeches, lively musical performances brought cheers from the audience. From individual performances by Winnie Kwok, Jonalen Gamis, Wilson Tam, and RCD Staff Sunny Leung and Carmen Lee, to a duet by Elsa Wong and Mayor Malcolm Brodie and a group performance led by Gail Liao (Deyi Dance School), the night sparkled with wondrous artistry.

Afterward, the guests were treated to plates of seafood delicacies from the Continental Seafood Restaurant chefs, with the Sauteed Scallop & Cuttlefish with Vegetables in Bird Nest and Beef with Mushroom in Black Pepper Sauce being the favourite dishes.



As always, the silent auction and 50/50 draw drew great enthusiasm, and gala-goers fiercely cheered during the raffle and Passion in Action bingo afterward.

All in all, this year's gala raised \$18,690.00 from sponsorships, donations, and raffle tickets towards offering services for people with disabilities. This certainly would not have been possible without the support of the community, so thank you all. Each RCD service, program, and event is only made possible through the generosity and dedication of individuals across the community, and we are ever grateful to you. We look forward to another 40+ years of partnership and mutual support.

2024 Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

We are thrilled to share the success of our 2024 Christmas Gift Wrapping Fundraiser, held in partnership with Lansdowne Shopping Mall. Their invaluable support and collaboration, along with the incredible generosity of our shoppers and the dedication of our amazing volunteers, made this event possible. This year, we achieved a record-breaking total of \$5,542.50 from Dec 2-24, 2024.



Thank you all for making this event a remarkable success that resulted in such a significant impact. We are looking forward to continuing this journey with your support next year.

Thank You Louise!

Did you notice that the author of this newsletter has changed? If you did, great job! Louise Gaudry, former Support for Independent Living (SIL) Coordinator and writer of the Perspective Newsletter has retired! Thank you to Louise for her 14 years of dedicated service at RCD. Her incredible passion and caring heart have greatly benefited many SIL and RCD participants, and we wish her the best in this new chapter of life!

Following her retirement, Jhun (formerly in charge of Information & Referral Services) is now in the Support for IL (SIL) Coordinator & Employment Support position.



Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle: A Sustainable Spring



Happy Spring! Spring showers always signal a season of renewal—washing out the old and bringing in the new. However, as the changing tides call for more renewable practices, you might be wondering, “How can I do this when I constantly need new things?” Whether it’s struggling to find a place that sells the items you want second-hand or battling with thrift stores that mark up the prices of their old clothing, attempting to be eco-friendly is hard.

However, RCD has a wonderful solution to your problem. Our thrift store, located right next door to us, boasts a variety of secondhand items. From beautiful plates and silverware to jackets of all sizes and colors, come to our thrift store to give these pre-loved items new homes!

Our hardworking volunteers run the thrift store Monday to Friday from 10 am to 3 pm, and all profits go towards RCD programming.



Don’t miss this chance! Drop by our thrift store (located right next to RCD) to shop sustainably while contributing to RCD!

Executive Director Transition

After 24 years of dedicated leadership, Ella Huang will be stepping down as the Executive Director of RCD at the end of March 2025. Ella’s unwavering commitment and passion have been instrumental in shaping RCD into the vibrant and inclusive organization it is today. Under her guidance, RCD has grown its programs, strengthened its community connections, and championed accessibility and empowerment for persons with disabilities.

A Message from Ella Huang

"It has been an incredible journey leading RCD, and I am deeply grateful for the support and collaboration of our staff, volunteers, board members, and community partners.



Together, we have made a lasting impact, and I have every confidence that RCD will continue to thrive. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this amazing organization—I look forward to seeing it flourish in the years to come."

As Ella moves on to enjoying her retirement, RCD is pleased to welcome Nancy Pagani as the new Executive Director. Nancy brings extensive experience in community service and leadership within the disability sector. With her dedication and fresh perspective, she is poised to build on RCD’s strong foundation and lead the organization into an exciting new chapter. A huge thank you to Ella for her many years of service, and a warm welcome to Nancy!

Run 4 Hope, Obi-Wan Kenobi!

May the 4th be with you! This year, May 4th is not just a popular date for Star Wars enthusiasts but athletes and marathon runners alike! After the success of last year’s BMO Vancouver Marathon Run 4 Hope, RCD has decided to continue the tradition. This year, RCD has a large team of 10+ participants running the 8 KM trek through Stanley Park on Sunday, May 4.

How to Participate:



1. Join the RCD marathon team & help collect individual sponsorships to support the RCD through your running!
2. Sponsor a participant(s) on the RCD team!
3. Make a general donation to the RCD team on our website!

Race Details

Time: 9:30 am

Gear Check: Downtown - Burrard & W Hastings St

Start Line: Stanley Park - Lagoon Drive

Finish Line: W Pender St between Bute & Thurlow St

Course Time Limit: 1.5 hours

Age: 11+

Map



The 2025 BMO Vancouver Marathon Run 4 Hope will happen on Sunday, May 4. At 9:30 am, our runners will begin the 8 KM journey through Stanley Park with the goal of making it to the finish line downtown around 11:00 am.

Want to motivate our runners? Make a monetary donation to sponsor the RCD team, or show up in person to cheer on the participants!

May the 4th be with our athletes!

For more information about the RCD team, visit

<https://raceroster.com/events/2025/86408/2025-bmo-vancouver-marathon/fundraising-organization/54627>.