

Investment Readiness Program Cycle 2 Investees

The Investment Readiness Program (IRP) is an initiative by the Government of Canada to distribute funding to build the capacity of social purpose organizations (charities, non-profits, social enterprises, for-profits with a social purpose, and co-operatives) to participate in Canada's growing social finance market.

Through the IRP, the Canadian Women's Foundation aims to boost sector participation of women and gender-diverse people in social innovation and social finance. We believe that promoting entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as the growth of social enterprises led by and serving women and gender-diverse people helps them develop greater access to economic prosperity.

To view a list of the 28 Cycle 1 Investees, visit [our website](#).

IMPACT STREAM ALBERTA

Cerebral Palsy Association in Alberta & ImaginAble Solutions
\$75,000
Calgary, AB

Bridging the gap between disability innovation and gender equity in healthcare

ImaginAble Solutions, a women-led social enterprise, is partnering with the Cerebral Palsy Association in Alberta to expand the reach of Guided Hands - a device for people with limited hand mobility. Guided Hands facilitates writing, painting, drawing, and access to technology through touch-screen devices and keyboards. This project will train occupational therapists and health professionals on Guided Hands, as well as in engineering design-thinking processes and 3D printing technologies. The project aims to promote disability awareness and social innovation and improve gender equity in healthcare and technology across Canada.

Place2Give Foundation & Fresh Routes
\$70,300
Calgary, AB

Mobile grocery store program

Fresh Routes, a social enterprise, makes healthy and affordable food more accessible by transforming buses and trucks into mobile grocery stores. Currently operating across Southern Alberta, they sell fruits and vegetables at 24-45% below market price, and offer weekly food boxes at Indigenous community locations. This project allows Fresh Routes to partner with Place2Give Foundation to expand into underserved and historically marginalized communities in Edmonton and Medicine Hat.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Helping Out People Exploited (HOPE) Outreach
\$75,000
West Kelowna, BC

Jewels of HOPE

HOPE Outreach supports women in their journeys toward a safe and healthy life. It works to: improve access to basic needs and services, such as housing; reduce the stigma surrounding sex work; and facilitate safer streets at night. Jewels of HOPE is a social enterprise that trains women to become jewelry makers, and pairs them with mentors for training and support. Their project aims to scale the enterprise and explore franchise opportunities.

MANITOBA

SEED Winnipeg Inc. & Eadha Bakery Worker Co-operative

\$72,625

Winnipeg, MB

Scaling the Impact and Success of Eadha Co-op

The Eadha Co-op operates a bakery that works from a queer, anti-racist, decolonial lens, and collaborates with other businesses and groups engaged in this work. Eadha Bakery has been working with SEED Winnipeg to complete the bakery's transition to a worker cooperative. This project aims to build the business through marketing and assistance from a Certified Co-op Developer to implement a business plan, optimize operations, develop a strategic plan, and access loans.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Autism Resources Miramichi & Sensory Friendly Solutions

\$64,040

Miramichi, NB

Sensory Friendly Certification

Sensory Friendly Solutions is a woman-owned, disability-owned, B-Corp Certified social enterprise working to make communities and workplaces more sensory-friendly, accessible, and inclusive. They are partnering with Autism Resources Miramichi to advance an online certification program that enables businesses and organizations throughout Canada to become more sensory-friendly for autistic women and autistic gender-diverse people.

NUNAVUT

SeeChange Initiative

\$75,000

Iqaluit, NU (and Montreal, QC)

A Community-First Approach to Alternative Finance & Women Leadership in Inuit Communities

SeeChange Initiative supports Northern communities to address health crises caused by inequity. This project focuses on exploring collaborative, strengths-based, and trauma-

informed approaches that enable Northern communities to co-create solutions to the health crises they face, such as tuberculosis. They aim to explore how [Community-Driven Outcomes Contracts](#) can be used in a public health crisis setting. With this model, the social return on investment outcomes will be determined by the community.

ONTARIO

519 Church Street Community Centre **\$75,000** **Toronto, ON**

The 519 - Social Enterprise Catering

For nearly 50 years, The 519 has provided supports and services for diverse 2SLGBTQ+ communities. This project aims to relaunch and reimagine its successful catering social enterprise, the Fabranak Café and Catering. While Fabranak shuttered their doors during the pandemic, The 519 plans to expand and relaunch their catering services. Revenues from the catering business will support the organization, while providing more employment opportunities and support to trans, non-binary, and Two-Spirit community members who continue to face marginalization and discrimination in the culinary industry.

Blue Door Support Services **\$75,000** **East Gwillimbury, ON**

Construct Women: Growing Construct's Business and Preparing for Investment by Empowering Women into Careers in the Skilled Trades

Blue Door's social enterprise, Construct, provides training, job experience, and wraparound supports to help people access careers in the trades. Construct services include home and office renovations, landscaping, site clean-up, demolition, and general labour. This project aims to launch Construct Women, which will support and train women and people from the 2SLGBTQI+ community to jumpstart their trades career.

The New Mom Project & Mayana Genevière **\$75,000** **Toronto, ON**

Mayana Genevière is a social enterprise working to support women's health through knowledge, innovative products, and experiences. Their undergarments are ethically made in Toronto using custom sustainable fabrics. This project aims to launch a website redesign and marketing campaign to engage women who may be postpartum, menopausal, or experiencing pelvic floor dysfunction. This project also aims to de-stigmatize women's health transitions.

Salaheddin Islamic Centre & Sitti Social Enterprise **\$75,000** **Mississauga, ON**

The Sitti Corporate Impact Initiative

Sitti is a lifestyle brand that supports the empowerment of refugee and displaced communities through long-term employment opportunities and skill development training. In partnership with Salaheddin Islamic Centre Inc., Sitti aims to pilot the Sitti Corporate Impact Initiative, a scalable business model to connect early-stage, high-growth businesses founded and led by refugee women in Canada to large corporate brands searching for long-term revenue-generating impact opportunities.

South Asian Women's Centre & Aangen: A Community Service Organization
\$74,732
Toronto, ON

Building the plan to Empower More Women with Supportive Employment

Aangen, a social enterprise focused on ending the cycle of poverty, is partnering with the South Asian Women's Centre to scale up the Chance for Change employment program. Chance for Change is a supportive employment program for people facing barriers to finding work. Program participants are involved in Aangen's [All Dried Up](#) enterprise, which produces nutrient-dense dehydrated meals for seniors. This funding will enable additional staff supports and an increased number of program participants.

CATALYST STREAM

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Cowichan Women Against Violence Society
\$15,000
Duncan, BC

Cowichan Commercial Cleaning & Property Management

Cowichan Women Against Violence Society supports approximately 4,000 women and children in the Cowichan Valley every year, in the areas of crisis intervention, violence prevention, safe housing, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, individual and group counselling, and pre-employment counselling. Their project aims to undertake market research, a feasibility study, and draft a business plan for an eco-friendly commercial cleaning and property management social enterprise, run by and for women and gender-diverse people.

MANITOBA

The Excel Empowerment Centre Inc. (TEEC)
\$15,000
Winnipeg, MB

Women In Skilled Trade Project

The Excel Empowerment Centre Inc.'s vision is for all newcomers, refugee women and girls, to have the skills, confidence, and emotional wellness to succeed in Canada. They will

conduct a feasibility study, market research, and bring on a painting consultant to gain insight into the commercial painting business. The aim of this project is to support newcomers, immigrants and refugee women and girls with training to gain financial independence through skilled trades.

NEW BRUNSWICK

YWCA of Moncton
\$15,000
Moncton, NB

The Veg Mobile

YWCA Moncton works to support and empower all women and their families through advocacy, education, and other services. This project will grow and adapt existing plant-based menu offerings at an Early Learning Centre and afterschool programs to include a meal service, cookbook, and food truck. They will explore, assess, and identify various point of sale methods; develop and launch a marketing strategy; and secure the products and supplies required to launch the Veg Mobile social enterprise.

NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR

Quadrangle Community Centre
\$15,000
St. John's, NL

The Quad Café and Community Space

Quadrangle Community Centre is the only registered charity in the province with the sole mandate to serve the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. This project aims to conduct a feasibility study, create business and marketing plans for a space that would support the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. The Quad Café will employ 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and be both a café and an event space, with the possibility of adding catering to their services.

ONTARIO

Community Alliance for Support and Empowerment
\$15,000
Brampton, ON

Feasibility Study to Support At-Home Aging

Community Alliance for Support and Empowerment (CASE)'s mandate is to build socially stable communities by providing support and services to people who face multiple barriers. It focuses on serving seniors, youth, and single-parent families of Black-African and Caribbean descent. This project aims to deliver cleaning services to local businesses and to seniors at a subsidized rate. To do this, CASE will conduct a market study, receive management coaching, and create a business plan for this social enterprise.

Fourth Ave. Baptist Church & Maama Watali
\$15,000
Ottawa, ON

Second Stage and Permanent Housing for Black / Racialized Women

Maama Watali meaning “in the absence of a Mother” is an Ottawa-based, Black-led, women-focused, non-profit organization. They believe that everyone deserves to live a life free from partner violence, physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological assault. Their goal is to develop a second stage and permanent housing co-op for Black and racialized women who are survivors of violence. In partnership with Fourth Ave. Baptist Church, they will bring on an urban planner to help plan for the building of co-op space.

Lady Ballers Camp
\$15,000
Brampton, ON

LBC Green Foodies (Clean Food Catering + Green Event Planning)

Lady Ballers Camp develops programs encouraging non-competitive physical, emotional, and educational development. They will conduct a market study, feasibility study and create a business plan for a catering and event-planning social enterprise that will mentor, train, and employ Black women and gender-diverse youth. Youth will receive 8 weeks of training and work experience to develop culinary, service and skills.

SYSTEMS-CHANGE STREAM **NATIONAL**

Canvas Social Value Foundation
\$59,975
National

Advancing Social Enterprise Within Women- and Gender Diverse-Led Charities and Non-Profits

Working in partnership, Canvas Social Value Foundation and Propel Impact will deliver investment readiness support to women- and gender diverse-led non-profits and charities that are developing social enterprises. Organizations will be provided with assistance in market research, feasibility assessment, financial modeling, impact measurement and workshops to help identify social finance and impact investing opportunities.

Equal Voice Foundation & Equal Voice
\$59,600
National

Equal Voice / Women's Democracy Action Fund: Exploring Social Financing Solutions to Create Access to Capital for Women and Gender Diverse Electoral Candidates

Equal Voice is a national, bilingual, multi-partisan organization dedicated to electing more women to all levels of political office in Canada. This project will explore how a new mix of

social finance tools could give women electoral candidates the financial resources they need. The project will also map legal parameters around campaign financing, conduct a sector scan on political financing funds and barriers, review practices from other countries, and review the social finance landscape for potential partners.

Elder Abuse Prevention Muskoka

\$60,000

National

Housing Options for Senior Women in Small and Rural Communities

Elder Abuse Prevention Muskoka raises community awareness about elder abuse and provides referrals to other services. This project will draw on the experiences of the Senior Women Living Together network and conduct case studies of other social housing options. The goal is to develop a resource for individuals and policy-makers that supports older women in small and rural communities to come together to live independently, without relying on the social housing system.