



LOW ENTROPY
FOUNDATION

2024/2025

Annual Report

AT LOW ENTROPY, CHANGE STARTS FROM WITHIN
Low Entropy is a charity that enhances the social and economic wellbeing of vulnerable individuals across all cultures, with a strong commitment to honoring the traditions and perspectives of Indigenous and multicultural communities.

Embracing “All My Relations” for unity and mutual care of each other and Earth.

Annual Review

The year 2024/2025 has been one of remarkable expansion and deepened impact for our charity. Building on the strong foundation of past years, we have continued to grow programs that empower individuals and strengthen our community connections.

This year marked the successful launch of Women Rising, a year-long series dedicated to advancing women's leadership through empowerment, skill-building, and community engagement. Over the course of ten inspiring events—including our launch, sessions on women in politics and economic growth, workshops on assertiveness, networking and communication, building strong communities, personal branding, advocating for social change, launching ventures, and culminating in the Breaking Barriers celebration.

Our social enterprise, Thrift & Fund, entered its second year of operation and has quickly become both a community hub and a steady source of funding for our programs. With the support of 100 dedicated volunteers, the store has flourished as more than just a retail space—it is a living classroom where interns, work experience participants, and volunteers build practical skills in retail, customer service, and cashiering, while finding belonging in a diverse and supportive team.

We also proudly launched Thrift & Thrive, our youth internship program. This initiative has opened doors for young people to gain hands-on work experience, develop leadership skills, and receive mentorship that prepares them for their next steps with confidence.

Reflecting on this year, we are profoundly grateful to our community, volunteers, and supporters who make this work possible. Looking ahead, we are filled with excitement for what's next. With compassion, collaboration, and a shared vision, we will continue to expand our impact and build a future where every person has the tools and community they need to thrive.

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THANK YOU

An expression of our gratitude

IMPACT *highlights*

WOMEN RISING

In its first year, Women Rising brought together women and allies across ten inspiring events designed to advance women's leadership. From the launch celebration to the finale Breaking Barriers, each gathering created space for learning, dialogue, and connection.



"WOMEN RISING HAS NOT ONLY PROVED HOW WOMEN CAN SUPPORT WOMEN, IT HAS HELPED ME BUILD A COMMUNITY OF LIKE MINDED WOMEN." - PARTICIPANT



Workshops explored practical skills such as assertiveness, networking, and personal branding, while seminars highlighted women's roles in politics, economic growth, and social change. Each event was designed not only to provide tools and knowledge, but also to spark confidence and solidarity among participants.

Participants shared stories, built networks, and left feeling empowered to take their next steps. Women Rising is more than a series of events: it is a movement to equip women with the skills, voice, and community they need to thrive as leaders.

IMPACT *highlights*

THRIFT & FUND

Now in its second year of operation, Thrift & Fund has blossomed into more than just a store—it is a vibrant hub for community connection and a steady source of funding for Low Entropy programs. The store is made possible by the dedication of 100 volunteers who give their time, skills, and heart to this work.



"A FANTASTIC NONPROFIT THRIFT STORE! THE STAFF ARE SO FRIENDLY, THE PRICES ARE LOWER THAN MANY OTHERS, AND THE STORE IS EXCEPTIONALLY CLEAN AND WELL-ORGANISED. I HAD THE PLEASURE OF BEING ASSISTED BY A KIND VOLUNTEER WHO SHARED THAT THEY ARE ALSO USING THEIR TIME AT THE STORE TO IMPROVE THEIR ENGLISH SKILLS!" - CUSTOMER



Each day, volunteers, interns, and work experience participants learn about retail, customer service, and cashiering, gaining valuable skills that prepare them for future opportunities. For many, Thrift & Fund is their first introduction to the workforce, and the supportive environment makes it a place where confidence and capacity grow.

Our diverse team reflects the richness of our community—people of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences working side by side. Together, they keep the store thriving and welcoming to every customer who walks through the doors. With each sale, Thrift & Fund directly supports our programs, proving that every purchase has a purpose.

IMPACT *highlights*

THRIFT & THRIVE

This year, we proudly launched Thrift & Thrive, our youth internship program designed to empower young people through hands-on learning and mentorship. Participants engaged in retail training, leadership workshops, and mentorship sessions that prepared them for both employment and personal growth.



"I LEARNED SO MANY VALUABLE SKILLS THAT I KNOW I WILL BE APPLYING IN HIGH SCHOOL AND MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER. I'M REALLY GRATEFUL THAT I GOT TO WORK ON MY GOALS." - PARTICIPANT



The program built practical skills such as cashiering, customer service, and teamwork, while also fostering leadership qualities like communication, confidence, and collaboration. By combining real-world experience with reflective learning, Thrift & Thrive gave youth a unique pathway to success.

Participants expressed that the program not only strengthened their resumes but also gave them a sense of community and belonging. As Thrift & Thrive grows, it will continue to open doors for youth to step into their futures with readiness and resilience.

IMPACT *highlights*

VOICES OF THE MATRIARCHS

This year we advanced several initiatives rooted in cultural revitalization, healing, and housing justice. In January 2025, we launched Voices of the Matriarchs, a project revitalizing traditional practices and celebrating Indigenous matriarchal leadership. Its goals are to strengthen cultural identity, foster intergenerational knowledge transfer, and restore community belonging through ceremonies, mentorship, and the creation of significant cultural belongings. The project is already off to a strong start for the next fiscal year



SACRED CIRCLES



We also began Sacred Circles in November 2024, an Indigenous-led Family Violence Prevention Program. Through seven seminars and workshops on healthy relationships and prevention, healing circles offering safe spaces for sharing, three traditional healing sessions, a cultural camp, three Elder teachings, land-based learning, and a community-wide gathering, Sacred Circles strengthened cultural identity, increased awareness, built skills, and enhanced the well-being and resilience of Indigenous individuals.

IMPACT *highlights*

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES



IN JANUARY 2025, WE EMBARKED ON CREATING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGIC PLAN THROUGH AN INDIGENOUS CULTURAL LENS. THIS AMBITIOUS EFFORT POSITIONS US TO BECOME A NON-PROFIT AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROVIDER DEDICATED TO OFFERING ACCESSIBLE, CULTURALLY INTEGRATED HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE TRI-CITIES. BY ENGAGING PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE, INDIGENOUS LEADERS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS, WE ARE DESIGNING A HOLISTIC MODEL THAT COMBINES HOUSING WITH WRAPAROUND SUPPORTS SUCH AS MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTION RECOVERY, AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES. WE ANTICIPATE SHARING THIS STRATEGIC PLAN WITH COMMUNITIES IN 2026.



FINANCIAL *reports*

LOW ENTROPY FOUNDATIONS STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION MARCH 31, 2025

\$

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	166,879	60,561
Accounts and funding receivable	12,427	64,966
GST refundable	1,101	1,805
Prepaid expenses and deposits	11,598	38,202
	<u>192,005</u>	<u>165,534</u>
EQUIPMENT (Note 4)	<u>10,028</u>	<u>21,665</u>
	<u>202,033</u>	<u>187,199</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts, payable and accrued	26,249	27,984
Government remittance payable	10,730	27,637
Deferred grant funds	63,048	63,737
Deferred contribution – Capital assets	2,865	7,438
Deferred restricted donations	3,000	2,250
	<u>105,892</u>	<u>129,046</u>
NET ASSETS		
NET ASSETS	<u>96,141</u>	<u>58,153</u>
	<u>202,033</u>	<u>187,199</u>

FINANCIAL *reports*

LOW ENTROPY FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025

	\$	2025	2024
REVENUE			
Donations		55,007	100,199
Federal Grants		333,044	15,131
Provincial Grants		69,840	116,311
Thrift store income (Note 5)		118,978	197,794
Other grants and income		197,531	295,823
		<u>774,400</u>	<u>725,258</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Amortization		10,189	19,132
Bank charges		1,604	591
Contractor costs		55,138	106,708
Disposition of asset		2,206	426
Donations		-	30,033
Legal and accounting		44,607	39,783
Insurance		1,768	1,564
Membership and dues		1,188	2,969
Office expenses		37,060	23,249
Phone and internet		2,723	4,214
Program delivery costs		60,835	60,065
Program manager		860	47,550
Rent and occupancy costs		70,397	116,787
Training and education		1,344	3,358
Travel		7,475	2,764
Wages and benefits		439,018	345,359
		<u>736,412</u>	<u>815,096</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES		<u>37,988</u>	<u>(89,838)</u>

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



SANAZ

Sanaz is a volunteer whose presence brings both purpose and creativity to our Thrift & Fund community.

"I came to help but received even more in return."

With a professional background in designing and optimizing commercial spaces, Sanaz found the perfect match in our store. She was drawn to Low Entropy's mission and felt instantly welcomed in an environment that values diversity, flexibility, and meaningful impact.

Thank you, Sanaz, for sharing your time, talents, and heart. Your dedication reminds us of the beauty in giving — and how much we receive in return.



MJ

MJ is a dedicated volunteer whose journey is full of heart, reflection, and growth!

"I still remember the first day I volunteered at the store, even though it was a year ago. I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to volunteer here as a newcomer to Canada... Volunteering at the store has not only taught me how to run a store but also provided a chance to learn more about myself with every shift."

Thank you, MJ, for your presence, your kindness, and your commitment to growth and community care. We're so glad you're here.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



IRYNA

"Volunteering at Thrift & Fund is a very rewarding experience for me. I enjoy helping people and being part of a team that supports the community... I'm proud to be part of something meaningful."

Whether she's organizing donations, supporting customers, or bringing positive energy to the shop, Iryna makes a difference every day. Her passion for learning, sustainability, and connection shines through in everything she does.

Thank you, Iryna, for being such a valued part of the team and for making waves with us!



ROYA

"I really enjoy volunteering at Low Entropy. The managers and supervisors are very patient and calm. They teach everything clearly, work beside volunteers, and help us grow. I feel safe and supported because we can share our ideas in a respectful way, just like in Canadian society."

Roya describes her time with us as a golden opportunity to learn about her new community, and we are so lucky to have her thoughtful presence and insight. Thank you, Roya, for the warmth, strength, and heart you bring to our space!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

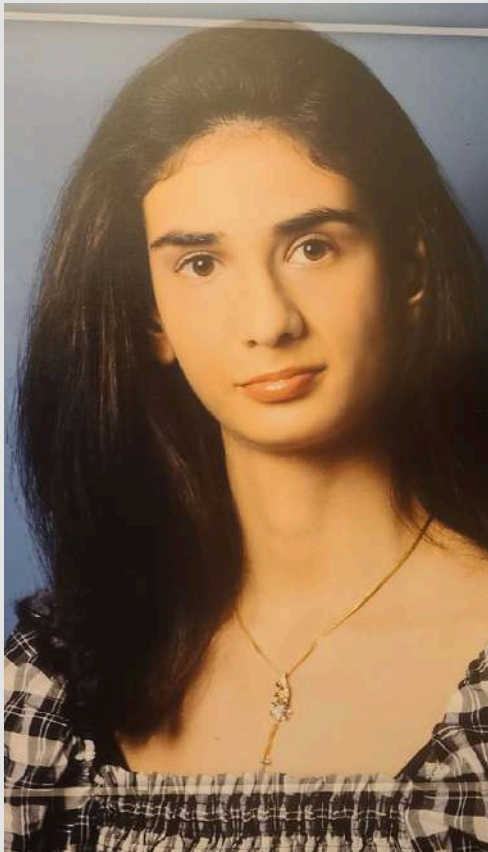


EDITH

"I very much enjoy volunteering at Thrift and Fund. I meet new people and interact with younger ones close to home because I live in Port Moody. Life is expensive, so to be able to buy clothes and stuff at a small price is important for me. Plus, the donations help avoid polluting the land — it's perfect. Better environment and less poverty are my goals at this moment.

To be a volunteer is rewarding for many reasons: social life, better self-esteem, helping the community. I want also to be an example for my two daughters."

Thank you, Edith, for your inspiring commitment to building a stronger, more sustainable community — and for leading by example for your daughters and all of us!



HEBA

"I like to help customers and love the welcoming, positive community at Low Entropy. I'm a hard worker, and I enjoy the teamwork with the staff."

Thank you, Heba, for your energy, dedication, and bright spirit! We're so grateful to have you making waves with us.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



NEDA

"Nine months ago, my husband, our child, and I left our home country to pursue a better future for our son. Though it was a choice we made, it came with deep sacrifices. I left behind 22 years of experience and arrived in a new world with only two suitcases.

The first months were filled with uncertainty, loneliness, and the heavy pressure of immigration.

Near our new home was a place called Thrift & Fund. I often visited it for basic needs, but each visit left me feeling uplifted—proud to be part of a place that gave back. One day, I met Roya, a fellow Iranian volunteer whose warm smile encouraged me to apply. After a month of follow-ups, Taylor welcomed me with kindness and gave me my first chance to contribute."

LOOKING *ahead*

FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

As we look to the year ahead, we are excited to build on the strong momentum of 2024/2025. Women Rising will continue to create spaces for women and gender-diverse leaders to connect and grow. Thrift & Fund will keep thriving as both a community hub and a vital source of program funding. And Thrift & Thrive will expand its reach, supporting even more youth in gaining confidence, work experience, and mentorship. With every step forward, our focus remains the same: empowering people, strengthening community, and fostering lasting change.

DONOR RECOGNITION

CATEGORY OR GIFT LEVEL: \$10,000+

Royal Bank of Canada

CATEGORY OR GIFT LEVEL: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Gobi Heat
Prospera Credit Union
Department of Canadian Heritage
Anonymous Donor

CATEGORY OR GIFT LEVEL: \$1,000 - \$4,999

Sarah Artico Photography
Granville Flea Market
Nando's PeriPeri
Payworks
Anonymous Donor

THANK YOU

Thank you to all our incredible supporters! Your generosity and dedication have once again empowered us to grow, innovate, and create meaningful impact in our community.

Because of you, this year we were able to launch Women Rising—a powerful series of ten events that advanced women's leadership through empowerment, skill-building, and community connection. We also expanded the reach of our social enterprise, Thrift & Fund, which in just its second year has become a thriving hub supported by 100 volunteers and a steady source of funding for our programs. And with your support, we proudly introduced Thrift & Thrive, our youth internship program, opening doors for young people to gain work experience, mentorship, and leadership skills.

Together, these milestones reflect more than programs—they represent lives touched, skills developed, and communities strengthened. Your trust and belief in our mission are the foundation of all we do, and we are deeply grateful.

As we look ahead, we are filled with excitement and determination. With your continued support, we will keep building opportunities that empower individuals, foster connection, and create lasting positive change. Let's continue shaping a brighter, more compassionate future—together.

CONTACT US

info@lowentropy.org

www.lowentropy.org

(604) 469-0226

