



Canada

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



NEWNESS



Dear Friend,

There is something intrinsically different about the words change and new. While we often use them interchangeably, the word “change” invokes adapting and anxiousness, whereas the word “new” captures a feeling of hope and excitement. The time of COVID can be described as constant change, not knowing what would be coming next. As we begin to move into a time that is not dominated by COVID, there is a sense of newness that is bringing hope.

The 2021-22 year at The Dam has seen the transition from living in the constant change of adjusting programs around lockdowns, to the welcoming of new youth. The years of isolation highlighted the importance of social connectivity for all of us. For our youth, the opening of our spaces to more than 10 people was quickly celebrated. Youth sought out our drop-ins to connect with peers and with caring adults. The foundation of The Dam is built on the importance of this social support. While the attendance numbers in March 2022 quickly returned to pre-pandemic levels in our programs, it will take time to rebuild a drop-in culture that is conducive for youth transformation and hopeful futures. Thankfully, The Dam has the expert staff who know the theory and are trained at creating an atmosphere where youth can excel, getting the support that they need.

In addition to working with all the new youth coming into programs, The Dam is laying a foundation for exciting new opportunities in the future. The initial steps for the redevelopment of the land of our Cooksville Drop-in is underway. There will be a thriving youth hub along the new LRT in Mississauga, providing a place for youth for years to come. The Dam is continuing to develop new partnerships and actively seeking new funding for doing work in other neighbourhoods.

The Board of Directors is actively engaged in furthering the mission of The Dam, ensuring that the Governance of the organization is in line with the new ONCA. The Dam is intentionally committed to the journey of dismantling all forms of racism and systemic discrimination fostering a new community of hope built around equity for all.

The work of The Dam is only possible because of the many stakeholders, funders, and donors like you. The commitment of our Board, volunteers and the staff create a team that is a pleasure to be a part of. We are thankful for the privilege of getting to journey alongside youth each day.



Carol Reist

CAROL REIST
Executive Director

CONTENTS

02 Letter from the Executive Director

03 Table of Contents

04 Youth Demographic

05 Facing Adversity

06 Programs

07 Summer Jobs

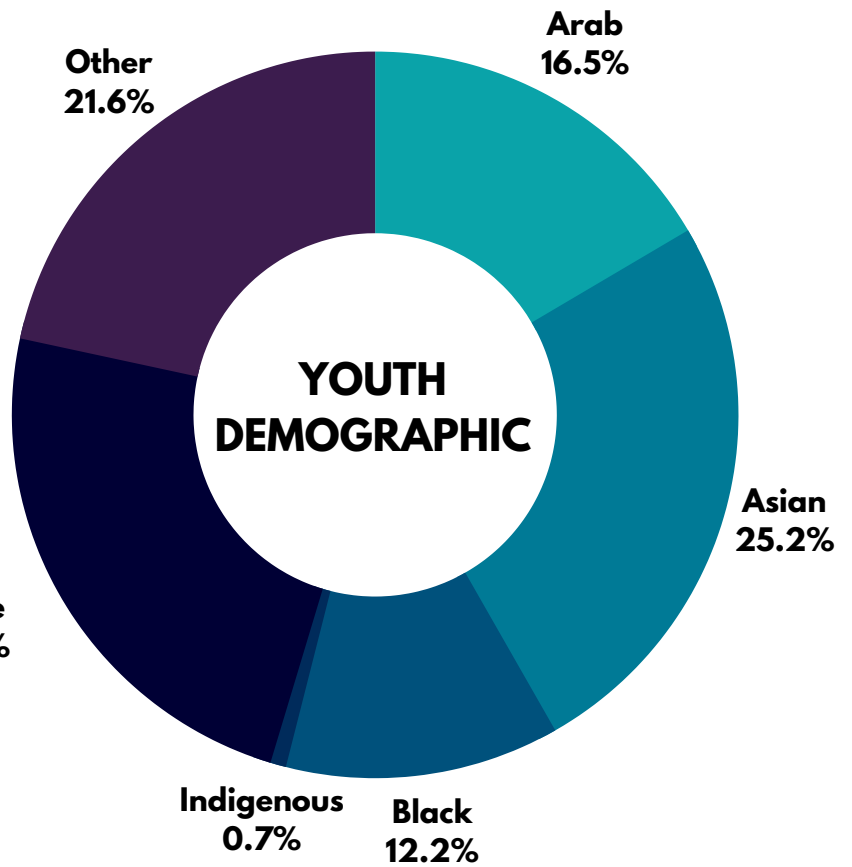
08 Financial Results

09 Donor Contributions



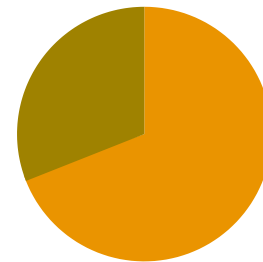
48%

Youth diagnosed with or believe they suffer from mental health issues.



Sexual Orientation

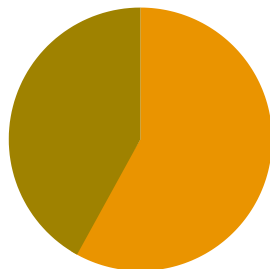
2SLGBTQ+
31%



Heterosexual
69%

Birth Country

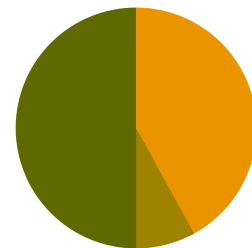
Other
42%



Canada
58%

Gender Identity

Male
50%



Female
42%

Non-binary
8%

The Dam doesn't collect demographic information from youth participants apart from anonymous voluntary youth surveys conducted annually.

FACING ADVERSITY



The pandemic and lockdowns impacted everyone. For some, the impact was greater. In the midst of the disparity, one of our interns was impacted by what she saw from our youth in facing adversity.

As a student studying social work, she learned something different from the youth and The Dam's culture and environment.

After getting stuck in the COVID-19 pandemic lifestyle she found herself in a cycle of the mundane. From work to school, she was living the standard adult life that most young people come to expect. After transitioning from seeing people her own age to being with the youth at The Dam on a regular basis, a spark for more ignited in her heart.

“People my age tend to have a cloud over their heads. We are like sponges, absorbing the tragedy of the world. The youth are full of energy, life and happiness. Youth move forward.” While she is aware of the struggles that youth do face, there is something about their spirit that she desires.

Youth move forward. When youth have the support and opportunities, nothing is permanent. They can learn, adapt, and move on from adversity to new things.

”
Youth
move
forward

Year in Review

PROGRAMS

1. Drop-in
2. Recreation
3. Arts
4. Outreach
5. Mentoring
6. Leadership

13,220

Total Youth Visits

4,342

Total New Youth Visits

1,137

Total Unique Youth

To learn more about our collaborative work and resources created with Erin Mills Connects visit www.erinmillsconnects.org

Statistics

PROGRESS



The Dam partners with youth 13-19 years old to build inclusive community. Our drop-in locations have been operating in Cooksville and Meadowvale of Mississauga since 1995. We provide support for mental health, housing, jobs, food security and much more.

781

Total Programs Offered

43%

Youth consider a staff or volunteer to be a mentor.

91%

Growth in the four impact areas: healthy relationships, life skills, community engagement and self worth.

95%

Youth Report that The Dam had a positive influence in their lives.

SUMMER JOBS



Some choose to be an intern at The Dam to improve on their practical skills, learn from an experienced mentor or simply make an impact in a youth's life.

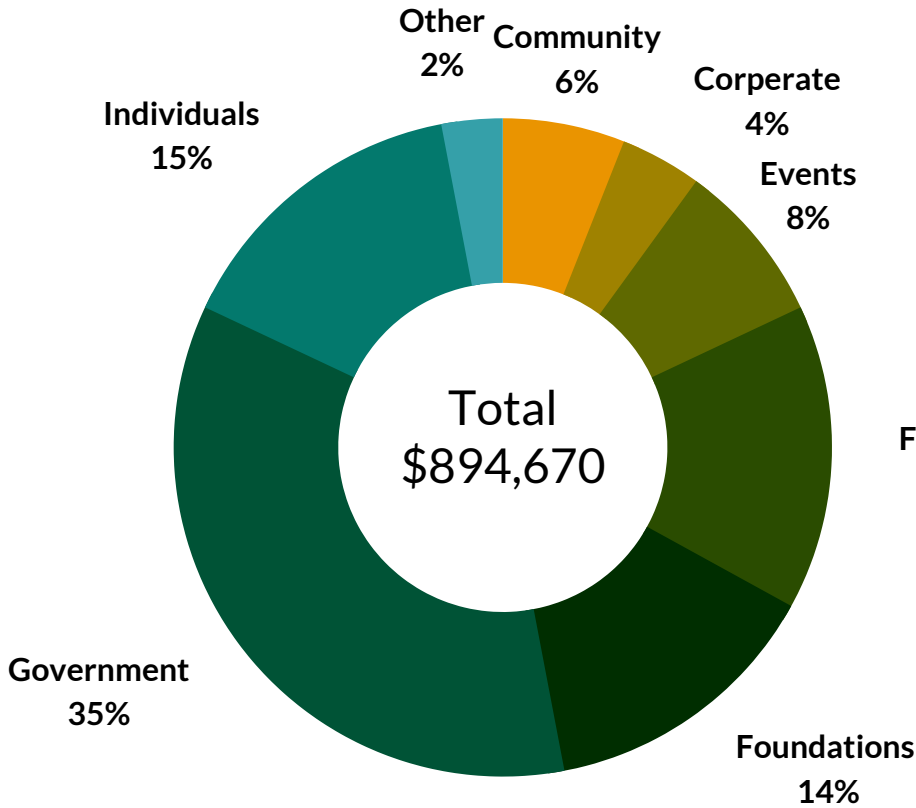
For one of our interns, it was because she started as a youth at The Dam. Through the Canada Summer Jobs Grant, The Dam gets to hire students to work as interns in our drop-ins. It is especially good to be able to hire one of our former youth. To her, being at The Dam as an intern meant maintaining a safe environment for youth to feel the freedom to be themselves and share in the journey that they are walking on. She reflected on moments when she was a youth, and was shy and quiet – reluctant to open up and bond with others. It wasn't until she was met with kindness from an on-site mentor that she began to open-up. She too wanted to provide the same experience for other youth like herself.

Along with her dream to become a high school teacher, she learned many social skills that can only be gained through experience. She appreciated the value of building relationships and empowering the youth. As her time came to an end she reflected, “I realized I truly did make a difference in their lives when the youth said they were going to miss me when I leave”.

”
**I realized I
truly did
make a
difference in
their lives**

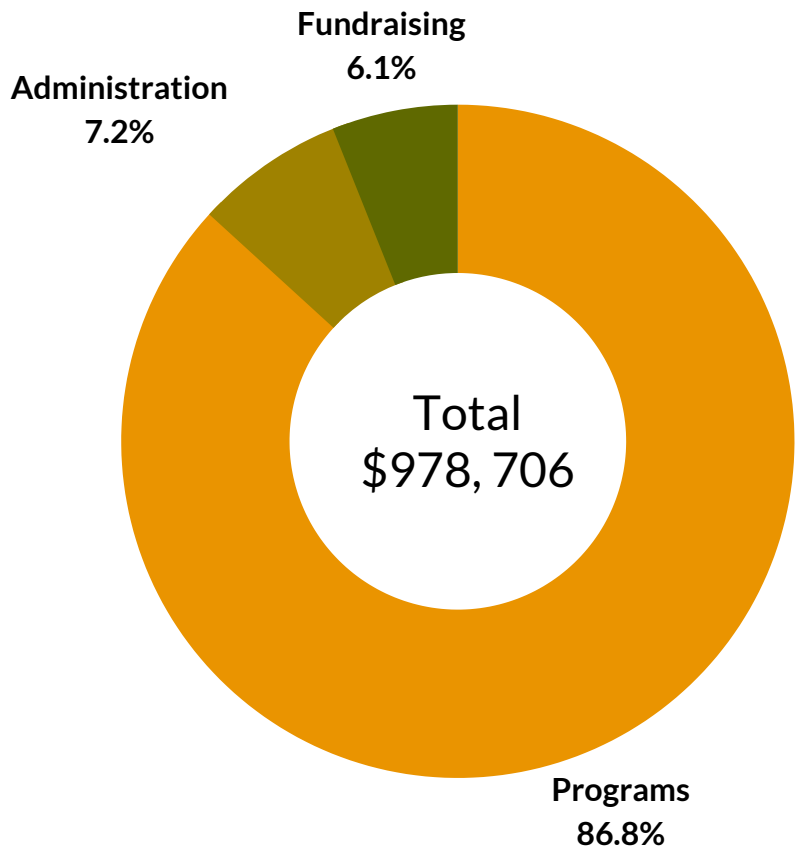
If you're interested in making a difference in youth lives
check out our website at www.thedam.org/volunteer

REVENUE



Fiscal year 2022 brought a reprieve from the pandemic and new energy for serving our youth. The surplus revenue from our previous fiscal year was applied to supporting our programs and ensuring our staff are provided with a living wage. This was accomplished and resulted in the anticipated deficit of this current fiscal year.

EXPENDITURES

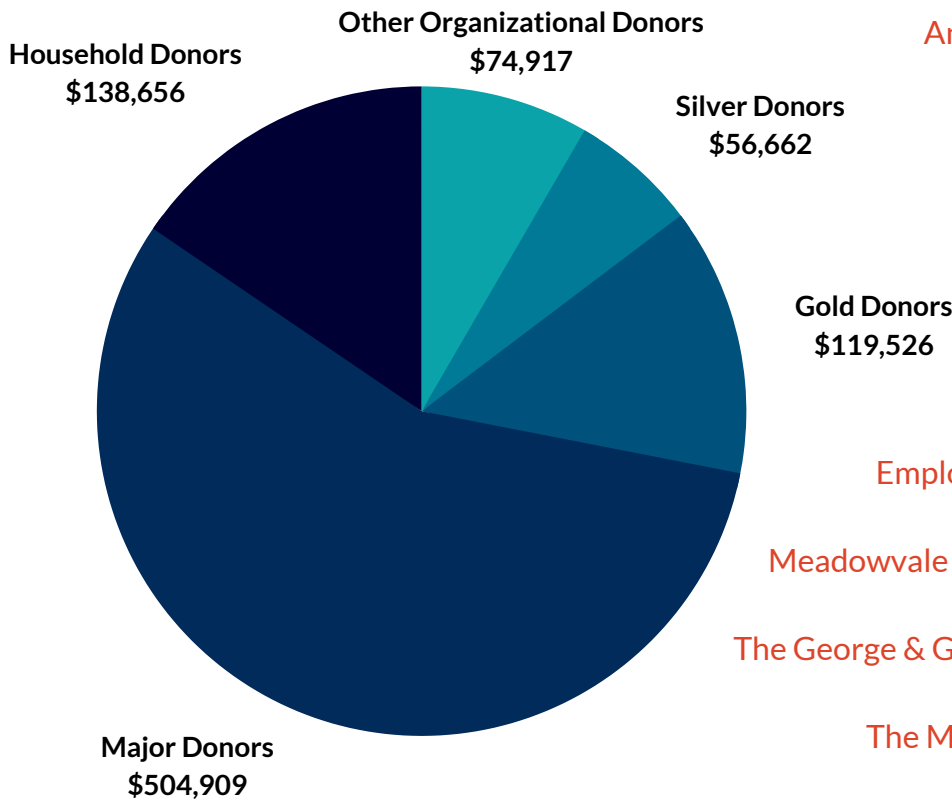


If you're interested in making a difference in youth lives donate at www.thedam.org/donate-now



Thank you for
partnering with us!

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS



MAJOR DONORS

Anglican Diocese of Toronto - FaithWorks
Blue Sea Philanthropy (CNOY)
Community Foundations of Canada
Department of Canadian Heritage
Government of Ontario
Regional Municipality of Peel
United Way of Greater Toronto

GOLD DONORS

Clearbrook Developments
Employment and Social Development Canada
Food Banks Canada
Meadowvale Community Christian Reformed Church
The City of Mississauga
The George & Georgette Tabet Family Foundation Fund
The Meeting House
The Mississauga Firefighters Benevolent Fund

SILVER DONORS

Hazel McCallion fund for Arts, Culture & Heritage at The
Community Foundation of Mississauga
Inasmuch
John Brooks Company Ltd.
Maranatha Foundation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Realtors Care Foundation
The Johansen Larsen Foundation
Wordham Family Fund



Because of your help The Dam raised **\$89,427** through the February 2022 Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY).

Thank you to our additional 49 organizational partners who contributed \$74,917 and 431 household partners who contributed \$138,656 last year.

the Dam

DEVELOP • ASSIST • MENTOR



THANK YOU!

WITH YOUR HELP 1,137 UNIQUE YOUTH
WERE SUPPORTED THIS YEAR!

For more information, please visit TheDam.org

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The Dam is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as a charitable organization, registration number 889327466 RR0001

