

Great Zimbabwe Cultural Society of BC (ZICUSO BC)



2022 Annual report



Land Acknowledgement

ZICUSO BC recognizes that our work takes place on the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territories of the SEMYOME (Semiahmoo), q̓ic̓əy̓ (Katzie), k̓w̓ik̓w̓əł̓əm (Kwikwetlem), q̓w̓a:n̓ł̓ən̓ (Kwantlen), q̓iq̓éyt (Qayqayt), x̓w̓məθ̓k̓w̓əy̓əm (Musqueam) and s̓c̓əw̓aθ̓ən məsteyəx̓w̓ (Tsawwassen) First Nations. We respect their past, present, and emerging leadership in land stewardship. Their knowledge and traditions provide context to the work we do. ZICUSO BC recognizes the importance of reconciliation in building inclusive and strong communities.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to see people thriving in a society of equal opportunities.

OUR MISSION

ZICUSO BC runs culturally appropriate programs for immediate and ongoing support to uplift individuals and families to their highest potential.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Cultural Support

Financial Sustainability

Volunteer Management

Organizational Integrity

Research

Strong Governance

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Food Security





This program provides culturally appropriate food items to black people in BC. The food items are aligned with the black Africans from Central and Southern Africa. Our dedicated staff and volunteers tirelessly support struggling families to put culturally appropriate meals on their dining room tables. We are all grateful for this wonderful dedication. In December 2021 the average number of individuals served was just over 400. In December 2022 the number of individuals were exceeding 600, a jump of 50% in one year.

Seniors' program



For the first time two seniors were able to meet in person and enjoy some of the activities outdoors. All the activities lined up for the year were successfully held. Seniors chose the topics for virtual sessions on financial literacy and digital literacy. These sessions are still going on until the end of March 2022. The most exciting activity was crop farming. Seniors led this activity by selecting the crops and advising on the planting and tending until harvest. They have requested to continue with this activity as it has many benefits to seniors and the whole community at large. Well done elders. Storytelling to infants will be conducted in 2023-24.



Research Program

This exciting program has opened many opportunities for growth for our community. Research is being carried out in collaboration with Adler University (Vancouver Campus). The research is determining which of the social determinants of health have the biggest impact on black immigrants from Central and Southern Africa.



The research team has achieved important milestones and is expected to complete the ethically reviewed program in the next few months. The research team is made up of community members with doctoral qualifications and experience in research. We are grateful to Vancouver Foundation for making this possible

Refugees Support Program

In collaboration with DIVERSEcity of Surrey, our organization has been supporting refugees from Central and Southern Africa with culturally appropriate food hampers. The food security task is the one that is funded.



However, this program shares information on housing, employment, mental health and well-being with the recently arrived refugees. This has proved very popular as refugees are supported by people who understand their culture and also the Canadian settlement system.

Women's program



Our community women started a women's support group. We want to economically empower women with both skills required in the job market and business operating skills. We have a team of 4 ladies that have already been trained in holding virtual training sessions as facilitators. We are actively seeking financial support for this program. Meanwhile, it is being driven by volunteers, who are holding meetings and canvassing topics of interest from ladies.

Men's Program



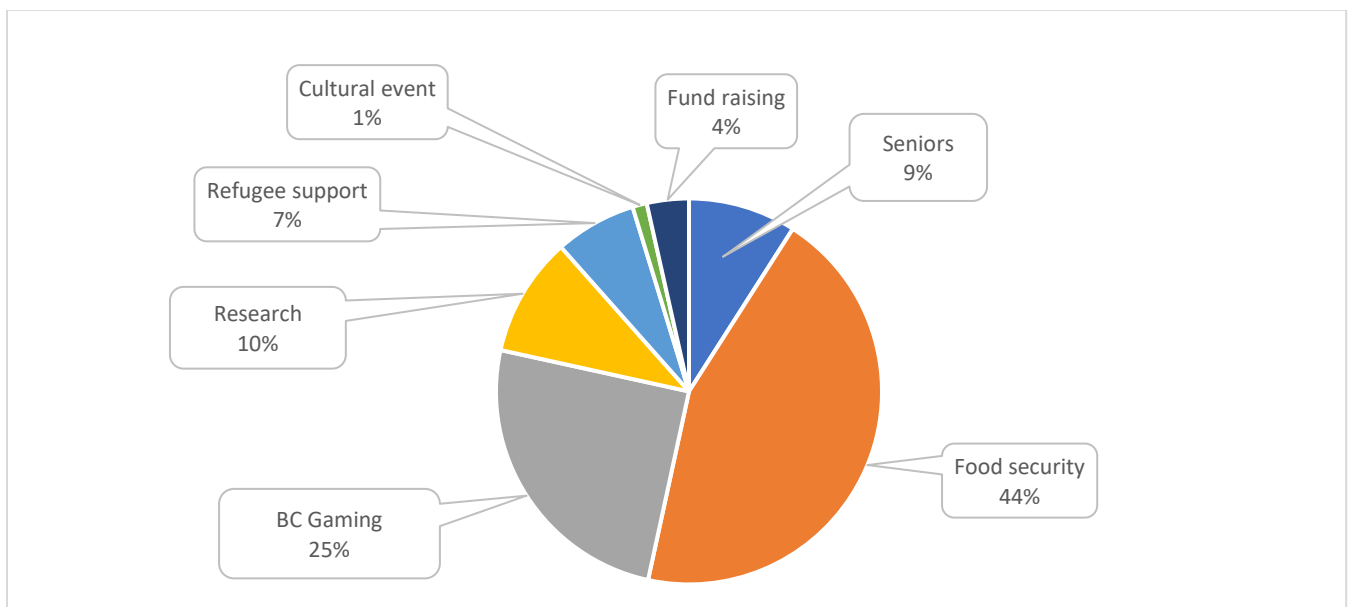
"It is such a relief that I can find a group of men with whom I can discuss the various settling challenges I am going through and get some advice". Many men have struggled to make connections as they settle in Canada. The men's group has provided a safe space to discuss various issues and support each other as men. This was initiated in 2022 and has generated a lot of interest in the community.

Youth Program



The exciting digital library by our youths has commenced. Equipment for our digital library has been acquired and is being used. Lessons on Videography will start in 2023 and are aimed at youth. The Addiction and Mental Health sessions are finalized and will be taking place in 2023.

FUNDING OUTLINE



LIST OF FUNDERS

Federal Sources

Agriculture and Agri Foods Canada (AAFC) Emergency Food Security Fund through Food Banks Canada
Employment and Social Development Canada through the New Horizons for Seniors Program

Provincial sources

BC Community Gaming Grants
Ministry of Municipal Affairs through DIVERSEcity

Municipal sources

City of Surrey

Foundations

Vancouver Foundation