



Supporting Newcomer And immigrant Women And Children  
Since 2010

---

**SCWCA acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 Territory, traditional homelands for many Indigenous peoples including Nehiyaw, Sauteaux, Niitsitapi, Metis, Dene and Nakota.**

**We pay our respects to the Elders past and present who call this land home.**

**With this acknowledgement, we remind ourselves of the responsibilities we have as Treaty people to understand our shared colonial history, hear the stories Indigenous people tell us about the inequities they still live today, and recommit ourselves to working together towards a just future.**





## **Our Mission:**

We provide resources and share knowledge to empower women and families in Alberta. Through community collaborations we create programs, promote opportunities, and build connections to support healthy and vibrant communities.

## **We believe in:**

Empowering immigrant women and families.  
Providing relevant and inclusive frontline services that meets specific needs of immigrant women and families. Always acting with integrity and being transparent and accountable to those we serve.  
A collaborative approach to meeting our clients' needs.

## **Our Vision:**

Immigrant women and families are empowered to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential.

# Message from the Board Chair

Last year was an exceedingly difficult year for SCWCA as we have been impacted by the COVID-19, the biggest global challenge of modern times as well as the impact of the movement for racialized justice. Our Board worked diligently to steer the organization through the ED towards reinforcing and realigning its mandate of empowering women and children with integrity and being transparent and accountable to those we serve.

We have been building new partnerships and collaborated with others to guarantee the successful outcome of our services. This work has been facilitated by the wonderful support of our staff and volunteers.

A new decade of operations ended, we started the new decade with the willingness to strive to solidify our role and diversify our client base as well as our programs.

This was necessary because of the demographic changes brought about by newcomers.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to all new Board Directors for volunteering their time to offer strong governance and ensure SCWCA's success.

I wish to acknowledge and express my sincerest gratitude to those Directors who have left the Board but are still with us in spirit and supporting us in all our endeavours. They are Sahra Kahiye (Past Chair), Trisha Velthuisen (Past Vice Chair), Jama Kodey (Past Treasurer), and Dahir Hashi. Thank you and all the best in the year ahead.

**Aurelia Uarsama**  
***Chair, Board of Directors***



# Message from the Executive Director

The year 2020 had a major impact in the lives of so many due to the unprecedented COVID-19 situation. Our service providing work became particularly challenging as many clients became isolated and lost their jobs. Our organization had to adjust itself to this new reality and figure out what strategies to adapt in terms of guaranteeing the safety of our staff and clients. We managed to digitalize 90% of our services and leaving only 10% to in person and by appointment only. We provided virtual classes to mothers and kids teaching them how to use computers as well as tablets, in order to engage them in the community at large.

Although we succeeded in establishing this new online communication framework, it was incredibly challenging as it brought many difficulties. During this period, the number of clients grew exponentially bringing to the core a lack of staff, resources, and funding. We are blessed to be loved by the clients we serve, and they always request more services from us. Our staff is always on a quest to become more sustainable and find more and more resources to enable us to expand our programs and services.

During this year, our clients became more diverse and now more than ever we provide more services to multiple communities in our city. This led us to initiate a new process of changing our name to reflect our client base and became more diverse and inclusive. We all agreed to choose a name that would mirror and reflect our client needs as well as staff composition.

On behalf of our staff, I would like to thank you all for your continued support to SCWCA.

**Sahra Hashi**  
***Executive Director***

# Board of Directors

- Aurelia Uarsama
- Abbigail Mensah
- Liban Hassan
- Miski Abdihalim
- Sheila Greckol
- Sumiya Musse
- Ahmed Ainab
- Osman Nor
- Mohamoud Shakil
- Asmaa Ali
- Asha Farah

# Staff members

- Sahra Hashi, Executive Director
- Dallas Gumbo, Accountant
- Souleka Mustapha Moussa, Director of Programs and Services
- Fowzia Isse, Women & Family Empowerment Coordinator
- Abdirahman Ibrahim, Youth caseworker
- Bintu Aden, Youth caseworker
- Shukri Othman, Youth Facilitator
- Hussein Abdi Hussein, Youth Facilitator
- Yosef Ali, Youth Facilitator
- Nadira Igal, Youth Facilitator
- Mustafa Elhawi, Hippy Coordinator
- Mirvat Ikar, Hippy Home Visitor
- Florida Kidan, Hippy Home Visitor
- Eman Alshweikh, Hippy Home Visitor
- Nuria Mahmoud, Hippy Home Visitor
- Lula Abdulah, ELL instructor
- Barlin Halane, ELL instructor/Community Outreach Support worker
- Amina Mohamed, Childminding worker
- Safiyi Xoaji, Janitorial staff
- Abdullah Ahmed, Project Coordinator-Community Emergency Management Project

# Our Programs and Services

## Community and family outreach services:

- Information sessions
- Educational workshops
- Kinship Care Program
- Parenting Programs
- Counseling for Families
- Connecting Families to resources
- Food security program
- Women empowerment group

## Employment readiness services :

- Resume and cover letter building
- Interview preparation
- Seminars and networking opportunities
- Computer and job searching skills
- Help understanding hiring practices
- Canadian workplace customs and responsibilities
- Help finding educational or career path
- Entrepreneur

## Settlement and Integration services:

- Cross Cultural Support
- Government document support
- Computer literacy classes
- Financial Literacy
- Collective Kitchen
- Citizenship prep classes
- English Language learning
- Interpretation and Translation services





# Employment Enhancement for New Immigrant Women

Employment Enhancement for New Immigrant Women is a program that focuses on increasing the English language skills, developing skills in the areas of assertiveness, self-efficacy, career planning, information retrieval, community economic development, job searches and job maintenance.

This program is for women, particularly those who feel isolated in their homes and are frustrated by the obstacles that hinder them from participating more actively in their new society.

This program is for immigrant women who are seeking changes in their working lives but do not have the knowledge, information, nor confidence to carry them out.

The program is intended to enhance the knowledge of immigrant women and help them gain new skillsets.



# Our Programs and Services

## Youth Outreach services:

- Counseling and mentoring
- In school and after school support
- Court cases support
- Academic assistance on and off site
- Connecting youth to community resources
- Ongoing support for parents and school staff

## Critical hours services:

- Leadership workshops
- Employment and resume building
- Information sessions
- After-school programs such as homework club
- On going support for parents and school staff
- Educational workshop and awareness
- Arts and Crafts
- Sports
- Field trips
- Summer , Winter and Spring break camps

## Mentorship and leadership:

Youth mentorship and leadership initiative is designed as a collaborative project to address the social gap by building the capacity of youth to be champions in the community.

The goal is to help the youth gain valuable experience, take advantage of networking opportunities and develop the skills to become future leaders.

# HORUMAR SUMMMER PROGRAM

The word 'Horumar' means 'to move forward' in Somali. This four week program offer academic, recreational, social, and cultural awareness including math, recreation, English, arts and crafts. In addition, students participate in leadership workshops and attend field trips to many recreational sites in Edmonton.



# COVID -19

---

We all have been affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic. However, the impact of the pandemic and its consequences are felt differently depending on our status as individuals and as members of society. While some try to adapt to working from home and homeschooling their children , others experience complete loss of income, loss of safe space, loss of security.

A year has passed since the onset of the pandemic and the COVID-19 crisis continues to have a significant impact on demand and capacity. While SCWCA has been able to adapt and innovate to continue to offer services and programs to our vulnerable clients since the beginning of the pandemic, the situation remains challenging.

Without the continued support of the Board of Directors, the amazing work from the staff and the trust the communities and clients have for us, we would not have been able to do the amazing work we have done.

# Community Emergency Management Program (CEMP)

The COVID-19 program services were highly valued and improved the lives of vulnerable high at-risk communities which continues to showcase the innovative and effective COVID-19 pandemic support services that SCWCA has been providing in the areas of mental health and psychosocial support, family non-violence counseling, seniors support, food security supports and delivery of medications and healthcare support services.



Engaged 4,531 vulnerable high at-risk community members and provided critical lifesaving COVID-19 pandemic awareness raising about the risk perceptions towards elders and communities with the goal of contributing to an efficient public emergency pandemic preparedness and response plan



Supported seniors and individuals with underlying medical conditions that were affected negatively by COVID-19 Pandemic

Provided psychosocial and psychological support to individuals and families by providing awareness raising sessions on:

- Depression
- Suicides
- Psychosis
- Mood disorders and trauma related disorders
- Panic attacks
- Substance abuse
- Anxiety



Increasing family non-violence counseling, reduced pandemic post-traumatic stress disorders and stigma associated with domestic abuse awareness,



SCWCA has engaged an average of 1,000 clients monthly who may otherwise experienced food insecurities, mental health issues family violence, and seniors abuse due to the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic



# HIPPY

## Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters



HIPPY is an evidence-based program that works in the home to support vulnerable and isolated mothers in their critical role as their child's first and most important teacher. HIPPY strengthens families and communities by empowering mothers to actively participate in Canadian society and prepare their children for success in school and life.

"In the 1st year after I arrived at Canada, I had little knowledge to function in the Canadian Society. With the support of SCWCA, I made some connections and network through HIPPY families and neighborhoods, I became able to function in the Canadian Society. Through the group meetings, I've managed to interact with moms from other cultures which paved the road to learn more about others"

(Mother from HIPPY Edmonton)

# Our Achievements

Practicum Students: 4  
Total practicum hours: 1,200

**Total number of clients served : 7,251**

**Total youth and children served: 6,038**

**Total adults served: 1,056**

**Total seniors served: 157**

Volunteers: 324  
Total volunteer hours: 67,710

# Impact testimonials

*Before my children joined your program, we were very much lost and confused. We didn't know anything about Canadian education system, and we weren't able to communicate with the school". Now the situation is different. I have people to call if my children or I need support or need assistance.*

-Father from John A. McDougall

*"Can you see me now? before I was in a dark place, feeling scared and helpless. Now, I am feeling powerful and beautiful. I am not scared anymore. I feel like I can teach my daughters how to be strong and not let anyone abuse them."*

-Client

*"Without the support, I do believe families would have a significantly more difficult time with accessing information, seeking help from the school about educational and other supports, and integrating into the school community. They would likely withdraw a bit and be less likely to participate or seek information on their own. Your organization provides that key cultural link....helping us as educators to better understand our families and, likewise, helping families to understand the expectations and experience of schools in Edmonton."*

-Sifton school Administration

*"I've learnt much about Canadian culture, I became able to speak to the public, I've created some contacts with my own people as well as with Canadian and people from other culture". In the beginning of HIPPY program, it was difficult to break cultural barriers. After joining HIPPY, I became able to break out my comfort zone and adapt to the Canadian society."*

--Mother from the Hippy program

# Volunteer Testimonials

*"I started to volunteer for SCWCA to give back to the organization for the support they provided to me and my family throughout the years."*

*-Rahwi*

*"The hours that I spend volunteering for SCWCA are the best part of my week. I always look forward to coming into the office and seeing other volunteers and the delightful staff."*

*-Mohamed*

*"Before I was a volunteer, I was a client. The staff at SCWCA have always been there for me. Now, it's my turn to start giving back to my community in a personal way."*

*-Ayan*

*"I am a volunteer and have been amazed at the efficiency and care the organization shows its volunteers and clients"."*

*-Ifrah*

# Community Building Events

Throughout the year, SCWCA takes part in many community building activities:

Annual Cultural Gala

Heritage Festival

Mother's Day Celebration

Annual Canada & Somalia Day  
Celebration

International Women's day Celebration





Financial statement : revenue vs expense

# Special thanks to our funders and partners



Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

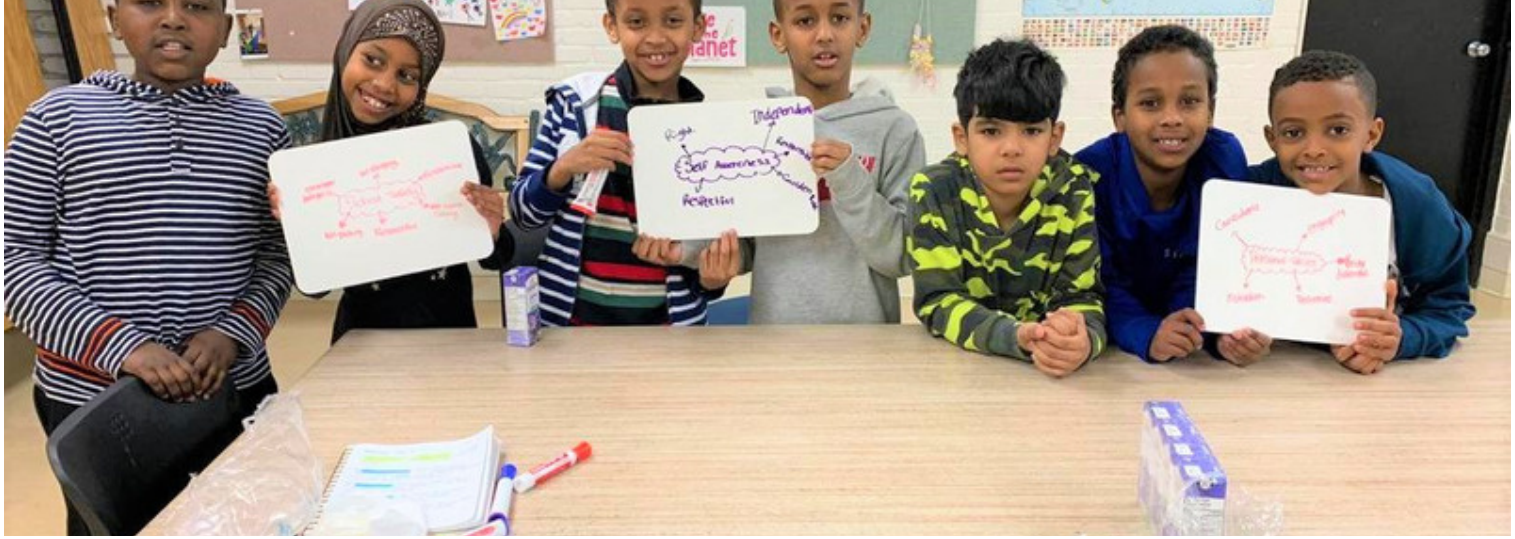
Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada



United Way  
Alberta Capital Region



A special recognition to our amazing local businesses, individuals, organizations and corporations. Through your generous contribution, we have been able to accomplish our goal and continue working towards empowering immigrant women and children.



## Contact

**Address:** 13415C Fort Road NW, Edmonton, AB T5A 1C6

**Phone:** 780-756-1175

**Email:** [info@somalicanadianwomen.ca](mailto:info@somalicanadianwomen.ca)

**Website:** [somalicanadianwomen.ca](http://somalicanadianwomen.ca)

### Hours of operation

Monday to Friday 8:30AM-4:30PM



[SCWCAedmonton](https://www.facebook.com/SCWCAedmonton)



[@scwcayeg](https://www.instagram.com/scwcayeg)



[@scwcayeg](https://www.twitter.com/scwcayeg)