

Urji Women Support Association of Edmonton

Annual Community Report

2023

2024

Urji Women Support Association of Edmonton team acknowledges that we are in Treaty six territory, the traditional meeting grounds and ancestral land of the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux and Nakota Sioux.

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About Our Organization



A Brief Story About Urji Association

The story of our organization began in 2013 when our President, Iftu Abdalla was living in Saskatoon. Iftu got connected with Bridget who worked for an organization called Global Gathering Place. Bridget reached out to Iftu because she needed help with managing the excessive donations that her organization was receiving, by being involved in this task Iftu helped to coordinate sending donations to those who needed them in Ethiopia. In 2018 when Iftu moved to Edmonton, she realized how important it was for her to continue doing this work, as she had seen firsthand the impact that those donations have made in people's lives and in the community. She got connected to the Edmonton Mennonite Center for Newcomers where she was encouraged to find others from her community with similar interests in supporting her idea. By founding other members of the community and through a set of meetings, it was found that many other women in the community were in need of receiving support through donations both in Edmonton and back in Ethiopia.

Urji Women's Support Association of Edmonton registered as Non-profit organization under the Alberta Society Act in 2019.

Vision

A prosperous and progressive society to help one another thrive.

Mission

Support Canadian newcomers to integrate and succeed in Canadian society, by providing resourceful settlement programs and services designed to each individual needs.

We also support the education of children and the development of women overseas.

To accomplish our mission we partner with individuals, communities, and organizations to mobilize the support needed to meet the settlement needs of Canadian newcomers.



Core Values



01 Compassion

02 Confidentiality

03 Non-judgmental

04 Inclusive

Board of Directors& Officers

Iftu Abdishakur Abdalla	President
Qabale Liban Guyo	Secretary
Hawi Ganamo	Secretary
Balkisa Garane Shil	Treasurer
Leyla Anfote Gelcha	Treasurer
Yusra Abdulrazak Mohamed	Treasurer
Kieneni Muktar Mohammed	Communications
Darmi Liban Guyo	Auditor
Karu Abbagure Bayan	Assistant Auditor



Urji 2024 Programs

Settlement Services

Urji Association has been able to support newcomers in Edmonton in the last year. Families and single individuals have been able to access the Settlement program were Urji Settlement Practitioner has been able to provide information, orientation and supported referrals to:

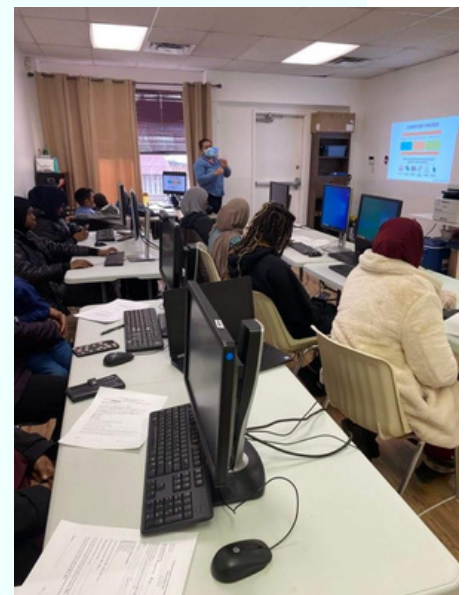
- Affordable and subsidized housing
- Financial services
- Transportation
- How to access healthcare services
- Children's education and language training for adults
- Mental Health programs
- Cultural activities
- Summer Camp 2024
- NurtureWell



Immigrants youth girls and single mothers health initiative

Computer Classes

Improve the knowledge and skills using computers from the basics to, using and browsing the internet. In addition of learning common office software, and file management. By providing this program Urji women participants have gain confidence and the skills to perform activities in a computer.



English Circle Practice

Coming to a new country with zero knowledge of one or two of the national languages can be a huge disadvantage for newcomers. For such a reason at Urji Association we promote the learning and practicing of the English skills in a group setting. These classes also aid in supporting women to feel confident when speaking the language and feel integrated in a community and do not feel isolated in their new home and country.



Children Programs

While mothers participate at Urji Women programs children have also the opportunity to participate in different activities. Some of the activities that children enjoy during those times are painting, crafting, practice math, Arabic, science and more.



Managing Immigration Stress

Urji Women Support Association of Edmonton provided sessions to permanent residents and conventional refugees ages 18+ who are facing difficulties with families, their own health such as depression, anxiety, home sickness and culture shock. During in person sessions participants were provided with various resources and were educated on how to manage stress and how to cope with the new environment in Canada.



Nurturewell Immigrant Youth Girls & Single Mothers Mental Health Initiative



Urji women support empower immigrant youth girls and single mothers by providing them with wraparound mental health support and suicide prevention resources, fostering resilience, and promoting positive mental health outcomes.

NurtureWell aims to provide mental health workshops, counseling services, and community outreach events tailored for immigrant youth girls and single mothers in Edmonton.

Urji women Project 2024

Newcomer Men Support and Employment Training

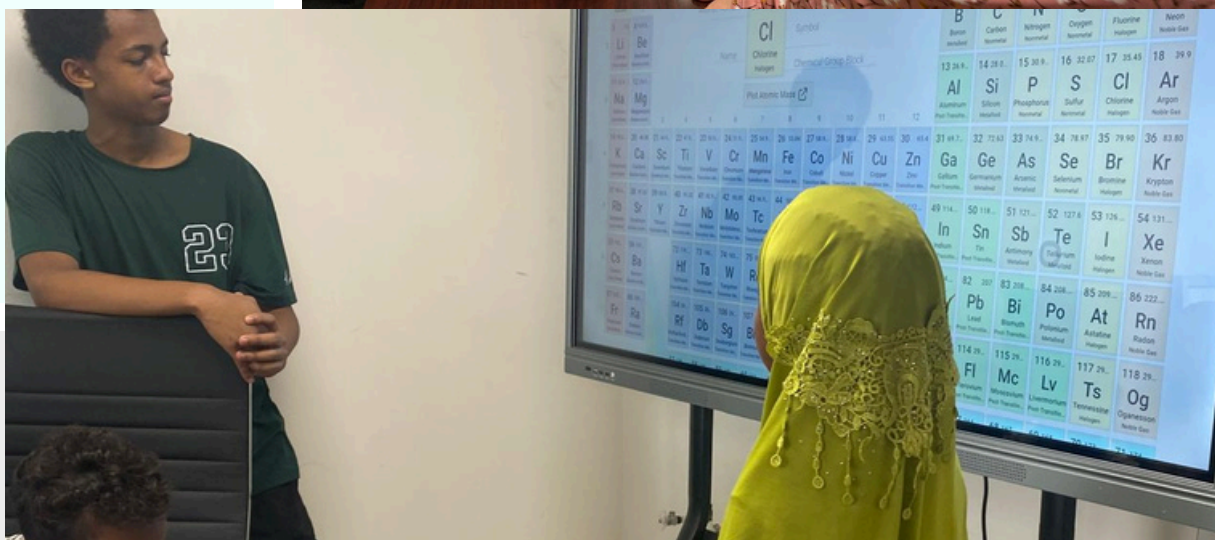


- Support Immigrant and refugee community groups and organizations in creating and delivering projects that address the needs and opportunities identified within their communities.
- Strengthen the feeling of belonging, foster connections, and support communities.
- Increase ethnocultural communities participation in political, social, economic, and cultural life in Edmonton.
- the Urji Women Support Association of Edmonton is extending the impactful Employment Training and Support for Women Project to specifically address the unique challenges faced by new immigrant men. This expansion recognizes that immigrant men encounter distinct hurdles during their settlement journey, necessitating tailored assistance for their successful



Summer camp program 2024

Urji Women Support has begun its Summer Youth program for the summer. Global citizen Summer Program provide participants between the ages of 6–15 years a structured day of activities such as outdoor activities, fundamental movement development skills and crafts.



Employment Training and Support for women

The association hosts various activities and sessions aimed at personal and professional development. These activities help women and men gain valuable skills, boost self-confidence, and enhance their overall well-being..



Black Women Empowerment Safe Circle

These gatherings provide a safe space for Black women to openly share their experiences, challenges, and triumphs, creating a supportive network that promotes solidarity and mutual understanding.

Urji Women Support
Association of Edmonton



The Urji Women Support Association is a cornerstone in the lives of Black women, offering a platform for discussion, personal growth, cultural celebration, and a supportive community that empowers its members to thrive in all aspects of life.

Overseas Program

Urji Women organization in collaboration with volunteers in Ethiopia were able to purchase and deliver school supplies for children in need. Thanks to the contributions of Urji members and non-members is that this project has been a success in Ethiopia .

We thank you for all the hard work of each volunteer for taking their time to deliver these supplies in the villages of:

- Guji
- Arsi
- Borana
- Bale
- Hararge.



Urji 2024 Activities



- Financially supports for newcomers families with funds to pay for rent, utilities or emergencies.

- Board members attended workshops where they were able to build skills on areas such as; grant writing, financial management and donations management.



- Celebration of Urji Annual family day on August 17, 2024 .

- Work collaboratively and strategically with Edmonton Mennonite Center for Newcomers and the Edmonton Chamber of Volunteers Organization.



- Creation and run of the 2024 Summer Camps with Educational Support for children in Mathematics, Writing, Reading, arabic and craft.

- Donations collected throughout the year and provide those donations of winter clothes, toiletries and furniture to Newcomers families.

Achievements

- Being able to set root foundations at our office location and continue with the support of funders and supporters.
- Be able to create and get fund for new programs and services.
- Expansion of new staff at our location and more participation of volunteers.
- Access computers for the organization and for the use of clients.
- Urji Women Support Association Honored with Women's Newcomer Impact Award
- We are proud to share that the Urji Women Support Association and its President, Iftu Abdishakur Abdalla, have received the Women's Newcomer Impact Award at the Alberta Immigrant Impact Awards. This recognition highlights Urji's outstanding contributions to empowering immigrant women and building a stronger, more inclusive Alberta community. Thank you to everyone who supports our mission!

Achievements

In 2024, the Urji Women Support Association made significant strides in empowering women, promoting inclusivity, and strengthening our community. Here are some of our key achievements for the year:

Mental Health & Immigration Stress Support

Continued providing essential mental health resources and guidance for immigrant women.

NurtureWell Mental Health Initiative

Launched NurtureWell, supporting immigrant youth girls and single mothers with mental health resources and resilience-building.

Black Women Empowerment – Safe Circle

Created a supportive space for Black women to share experiences and celebrate culture.

Global Citizen Summer Program

Engaged youth in fun, educational activities, fostering community participation.

Newcomer Men's Employment Program

Expanded our training program to help newcomer men with job skills and integration.

Leadership Recognition

Our President, Iftu Abdishakur Abdalla, received the Alberta Newcomer Recognition Award for her impact in empowering women and advocating for inclusivity.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year a success!

Here's to more achievements in 2025!

Thank you to Urji Volunteers and Supporters

Mohammedtofik Abdalla
Ahmed Umer
Azima Arabu
Asha Kadir
Xaha
Abdulgafar
Abdi Bahar
Shoba Guyo
EvaGay
Halima Qasim
Obse Aliyi
Aliya Hussein
Sultan

Steffanie Beekman
EunJin Kim
Angelika Matson
Abayomi Karunwi
Caroline Omar
Madihan
Samiya
Hawa
Sadiya Sora
Ubeydi
Fatya
Ayan Abdurahman
Madihan

A special thank you to Karis Nsofor from ECVO, for all their guidance and support during this year.



**Urji Women Support Association of
Edmonton wants to acknowledge and thank
you all partners and funders for all their
support during the 2023– 2024.**

2023 – 2024 Partners & Funders



Edmonton Chamber
of Voluntary Organizations

**Urji Women
Association
Members**

