

THE LOOP

The Foundation's Quarterly Update



Fall 2023



Intergenerational classroom model addresses ageism

Article courtesy of Elizabeth Russell, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Psychology, Trent University Director, Trent Centre for Aging & Society

With the support of the RTOERO Foundation, Dr. Elizabeth Russell will be piloting an intergenerational classroom model within her Psychology of Aging course at Trent University in Peterborough, ON, and is anticipated to reduce ageist beliefs among students.

Ageism, or age-based stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination against older people, is pervasive and socially normalized. Canada's aging population has created an urgent need to understand how perceptions of older people can be improved.

Dr. Russell's previous research has shown that a lecture-based Psychology of Aging course stimulated a deeper understanding of the aging process among students. This led to a reduction in, and increased awareness of, ageism and an enhanced personal connection with aging.

To build upon these findings, with the support of the RTOERO Foundation, the course will now include older adults in the classroom. This new model will create a hands-on learning experience for students and an exciting opportunity for older community members in Peterborough. Older adults will be invited to join as regular participants in the classroom, giving them the opportunity to listen to and participate in lectures. They will also be given the opportunity to connect with students, share their personal

experiences with aging and even advise or collaborate on student projects. This will lead to meaningful intergenerational connections and address ageism within younger generations.

This new classroom model can be expanded across Trent as it becomes Canada's first intergenerational university. It will be implemented within Trent's ground-breaking University-Integrated Seniors Village, contributing knowledge that will show how institutions, such as universities, can play an important social role in reducing ageism.

Fast facts about the RTOERO Foundation

- We are the philanthropic partner of RTOERO.
- Registered Canadian charity, established in 2011.
- Inspired by RTOERO members' desire to improve the quality of life for aging adults.
- Our mission is to invest in programs, research and training to support healthy, active aging for all Canadians.
- Our activities aim to improve seniors' health care, end social isolation and combat ageism.

In case you didn't know:

- The Foundation is not funded through membership fees. RTOERO provides in-kind support to the Foundation in the form of office space and shared human resources; a standard arrangement for a parent association with a charity formed under its umbrella.
- We rely on voluntary donations from RTOERO members, as well as financial support from corporate partners and others who care about improving the quality of life for older adults.
- The Foundation issues a tax receipt for every donation of \$20 or more.

Granting History:

- \$2.97 million for geriatric research
 - \$554,000 for community projects addressing social engagement
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October is Social Isolation Awareness Month



RTOERO has the power to make a difference. Through voluntary support from within our network of over 83,000 members, we can help Canadian seniors struggling with loneliness and isolation.

Over the past five years, the Foundation's Social Isolation Awareness Month campaign has raised \$402,900. This year, we are once again asking you to help us raise an additional \$100,000 for initiatives focused on improving social engagement for older adults. Please join the campaign to let isolated seniors know they are not alone.

Here are some ways you can participate in Social Isolation Awareness Month:

[Chime In.](#) Connect with other RTOERO members for weekly online chats.
[Please register here.](#)

Attend a free webinar. October 5, 2023, at 2:00pm ET. This webinar will feature a panel of experts discussing aging-in-place. As they age, the majority of seniors want to live at home and stay connected to their communities. Registration will be open in mid-September.

Support the Foundation. Choose to support the campaign by making a donation. Please donate online, call 1-800-361-9888 ext.271 or mail a cheque to:
The RTOERO Foundation
18 Spadina Rd., Toronto ON M5R 2S7

Inquire. Find out what your district is doing to help the Foundation put an end to social isolation.

RTOERO Foundation Webinar Series: Fall 2023

The Foundation is proud to bring you webinars focused on improving seniors' health care, social engagement and information to support healthy active aging for all Canadians. Please join us for one of these upcoming webinars:

Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 2:00pm ET.

This webinar will feature a panel of experts discussing aging-in-place. As they age, the majority of seniors want to live at home and stay connected to their communities. Join Raza Mirza, PhD Director, National Partnerships and Knowledge Mobilization at HelpAge Canada, Dr. John Puxty Director, Centre for Studies in Aging and Health at Providence Care, and Jen Recknagel Director, Innovation and Design at the NORC Innovation Centre for the University Health Network for this insightful conversation. Registration will begin mid-September. Be sure to watch your email for further information.

Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 2:00pm ET.

This webinar will feature Kevin Maynard, the Vice President of Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE). Mr. Maynard will lead a discussion on how to talk to your children about your legacy plans.

For more information about the work of the RTOERO Foundation, please visit us on the [web](#).

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