



Rudolf Steiner Centre
Toronto

Now a Recognized Private Career College



Annual Report 2019-2020

From the Board of Directors

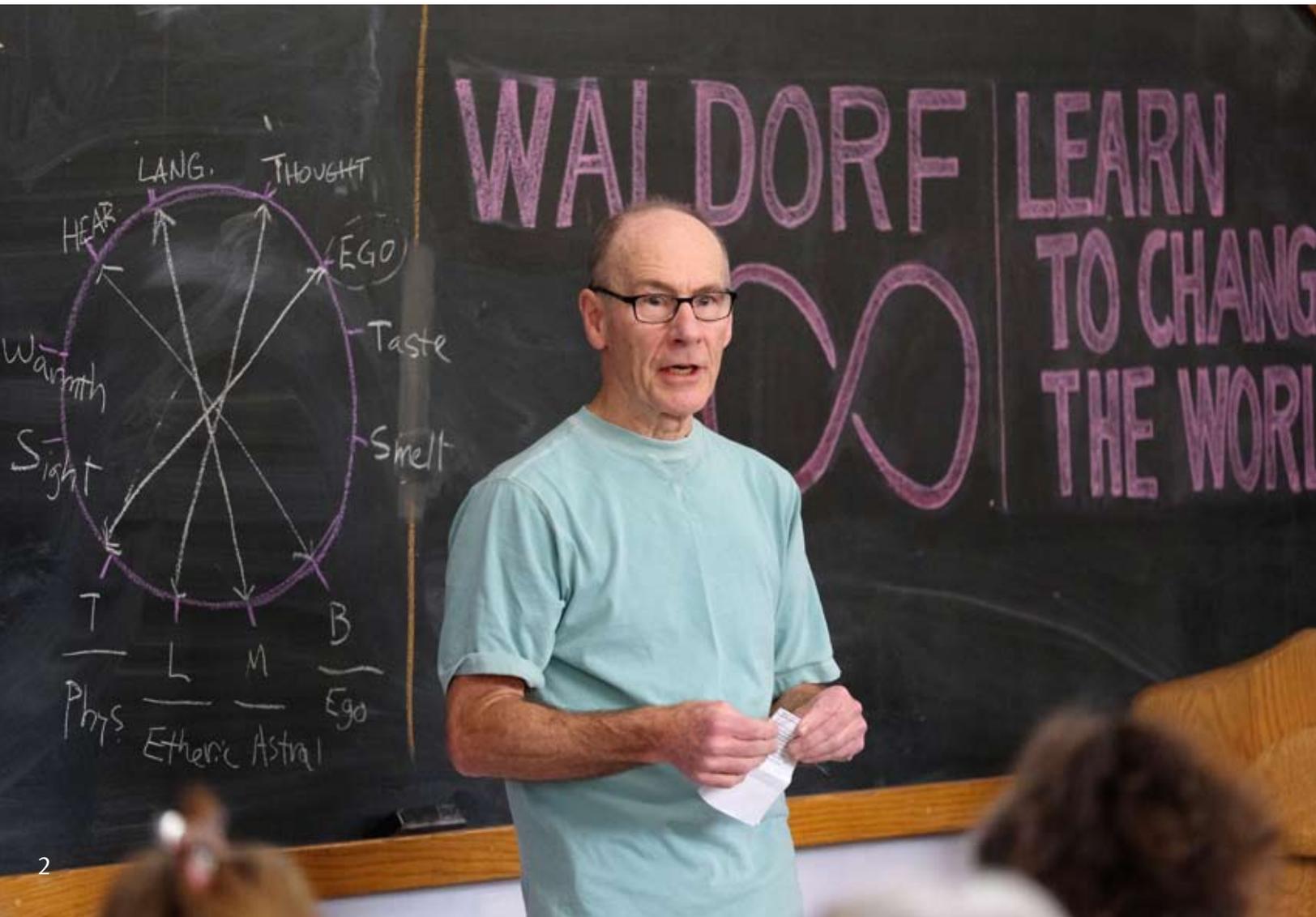
The 2019/20 academic year – the 2nd year of our current 3 year strategic plan – did not go exactly as expected. It started well. In the summer of 2019 we had an excellent Summer Festival. We had decent program enrollment and our first childcare centre was doing well. We had a successful fall gift campaign with many new donors supporting the Rudolf Steiner Centre Toronto (RSCT). Then, like many organizations, Covid 19 pandemic regulations hit us hard. For a while we had to close down and scramble to move our courses online. We had to close the new childcare centre for several months and re-open it under a strict new public health

protection regimen. We have carried on. On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to celebrate and thank the Centre's staff, volunteers, and our wonderfully resilient students for pulling together through these challenging times. We'll get there!

Robert McKay
Chair, Board of Directors

Front cover photo: 2019 Summer Festival Games and Movement class in the Toronto Waldorf School gym. Photos and graphic design by Richard Chomko, except for photo on back page by Emily Watson.

The 2019 RSCT November Waldorf Development Conference attracted a record crowd including visitors from New York state who came to hear teacher Jeff Tunkey speak about integrating spacial dynamics into the classroom.





Through the initiative of Richard Chomko, the RSCT was able to bring author and activist Nicanor Perlas to Toronto in late June of 2019 for two packed evening lectures on Rudolf Steiner's threefold social organism and the challenge of artificial intelligence.

From the Executive Director

One of the qualities a student of the anthroposophical path of knowledge has to develop is perseverance. At RSCT we have made some progress in this regard this year as, after many hours of work, RSCT was finally awarded Private Career College status. This new official status as an educational institution in Ontario will allow us to accept a wider range of students and opens the door for RSCT to launch new anthroposophical vocational programs. A second quality the student must develop is positivity—to trust that one's best efforts will bear fruit. We have developed in this regard

too, as we worked to move our courses online and deal with the shifting Covid 19 restrictions imposed on us. This included moving our Summer Festival online which worked out surprisingly well. On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank the board for its steady support, all my colleagues for their remarkable efforts, and our students, whose determination to keep learning bodes well for their futures.

James Brian
Executive Director

Our Guiding Vision

Over the next decade, RSCT will strive to realize its full potential as an organization dedicated to fostering cultural renewal across Canada through the transformative resources of anthroposophy. RSCT will strive to become an effective, national charity that provides 1) anthroposophical vocational programs, 2) cultural outreach programs, and 3) anthroposophically-informed social services.

Progress on Our Objectives

In general, we are on track with all 10 objectives. Some, are ahead of schedule, such as “Objective 4: assess the feasibility of offering other anthroposophical vocational diplomas in future”. We have already landed on the next two vocational programs - biodynamic farming and social initiative leadership. Both are already in development. Others objectives are delayed but still moving forward, such as “Objective 10: assess the feasibility of other anthroposophical service work enterprises in future.”

Vocational Programs

Strategic Objectives

Status

OBJECTIVE 1 – Increase enrolment in the Waldorf Teacher Education and Early Childhood Education programs to ensure our financial viability.

Program	Enrollment Target	Actual Enrolment
Full-Time Waldorf Teacher Ed.	6	7
Part-Time Waldorf Teacher Ed.	13	11
Part-Time W. Early Childhood	17	14

OBJECTIVE 2 – Continuously improve the quality of the Waldorf Teacher Education and Early Childhood Education programs to ensure our graduates thrive in their careers.

Among the many tasks that had to be accomplished to become a private career college, RSCT produced a comprehensive student handbook with enhanced policies on a wide range of issues, including student progress assessment. This led us to reconsider and improve important aspects of how we evaluate and support student progress. We also carried out a survey of past graduates and initiated two meetings of all Ontario Waldorf schools with the purpose of receiving critical feedback and improving our programs.

OBJECTIVE 3 – Register RSCT as a Private Career College in Ontario that can grant vocational diplomas in Waldorf Teacher Education and Waldorf Early Childhood Education

RSCT has been granted Private Career College status and has been approved to provide the Waldorf Teacher Education as a vocational program. Approval for the Waldorf ECE program is underway. Two other vocational programs are also in development.

OBJECTIVE 4 – Assess the feasibility of offering other anthroposophical vocational diplomas in future.

RSCT is developing two new vocational programs: a biodynamic farming education and mentoring program and a social initiatives leadership and mentoring program. These exciting developments are progressing quickly due to donor support and partnerships with other organizations such as Demeter Canada.



RSCT full-time Professional Development for Waldorf Teachers Class of 2020

Cultural Outreach

Strategic Objectives

OBJECTIVE 5 – Strengthen and expand the existing Foundation Studies programs.

OBJECTIVE 6 – Launch an online adult and continuing learning platform to support present programs such as Foundation Studies and HEART, with an initial focus on teacher mentoring.

OBJECTIVE 7 – Prepare to launch a three-year pilot project of an anthroposophical hub in one community in Ontario.

OBJECTIVE 8 – Launch an anthroposophical summer retreat for young adults.

Status

Our Foundations Distance is program is thriving. Due to the Covid restrictions we had to complete the three Foundations Encounter Programs online. This was successful but was a compromise compared to the in-person group experience.

The Covid experience has taught RSCT a lot about online education. New online courses have been identified and will be developed in year 3.

Preliminary work has been completed on this potential model. We are on track to have the board review this proposal in year 3.

Due to the pandemic, the program was cancelled for 2019/20. We hope to return to it in the summer of 2021 or the summer of 2022 depending on the public health situation.

Service Work

Strategic Objectives

OBJECTIVE 9 – Launch a national Waldorf childcare enterprise across Canada to meet the needs of parents seeking a high-quality childcare and kindergarten environment for their children.

OBJECTIVE 10 - Assess the feasibility of other anthroposophical service work enterprises in the future.

Status

Our demonstration site in Guelph is up and running again, having adapted to the new public health requirements. We are now seeking a location for a second Star Seedlings site.

Research into several options is well underway and will be presented to the board of directors in year 3 as planned.

RSCT Financial Snapshot for 2019-20

The following financial snapshot shows the profit/loss for each RSCT program. Viewing our financial records in this manner is helping us better understand the viability of each program. Our goal is to ensure that each program is independently viable.

Complete audited financial statements are available for viewing on request.

Teacher Education Full-Time	-\$38,547	
Teacher Education Part-Time	\$41,296	
Early Childhood Part-Time	\$23,163	
Foundation Studies Distance	\$9,650	
Foundation Studies Encounter	\$38,498	Thornhill x2, Halton, Waldorf Academy
HEART	-\$5,260	Program still in restructuring
Summer Festival	\$5,835	
Waldorf Development Conference	\$7,720	
Other Revenues	\$164,111	Mulock Foundation, fundraising, COVID support
Administration	-\$172,764	Rent, utilities, office, etc.
Annual Operating Balance	\$73,699	
Star Seedlings Family and Childcare Centre	-\$89,051	The Centre was shut down due to COVID for 5 months and re-opened with restrictions. The loss reflects this special circumstance.
Total Balance	-\$15,352	
Other RSCT Assets	\$633,000	

Photo below: Hands-on learning at the 2019 Summer Festival nutrition class with Fiona Hughes (left)





2019 Summer Festival Creative Felting students with Kathie Young showing off the gnomes they made in her class.

“There are huge advantages of attending the full-time program – the depth of all courses, being present on a daily basis, being able to dive into a deep understanding of what training can offer. It was a transformative way of becoming a conscious teacher. Experiencing the philosophy and pedagogy of Waldorf education was almost a healing through the daily consistency and rhythm.” – Renate Freibergova (Full-Time Waldorf Teacher class of 2020)



Sara Anderson speaking at a joint RSCT/TWS Waldorf 100 Celebration, Oct. 2019

“Hi Jan, oh I am delighted to hear from you. You were fully dedicated to us, you gave us so much, more than expected, a huge endeavor to create a perfect course during this challenging period of time. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for the magnifique course, the course has all the relevant components, expertise, humanity, spirituality, science, reflections, art, wonderful and knowledgeable teachers.... is like a cosmos everything is perfectly designed and we receive the appropriate influences, messages, impacts. It is difficult to imagine the enormous impact, holistic beauty of this course without experiencing. The course is working deeply in each part of my cells, still absorbing, integrating, the desire to delve into this world more and more, to put into practice.” – Ana Maria Veiras Neira (RSCT Waldorf Early Childhood part-time)



Early Childhood part-time grads, Class of 2020 with teacher Jan Patterson (centre back). Photo by Emily Watson.

“As I immersed as a Waldorf parent looking for ways to support my children in this unconventional education, I found myself on a personal trajectory of my own, reconnecting with Spiritual beliefs that laid dormant for 16 years. It is through this amazing training program and the opportunities to absorb the spiritual reflections of Anthroposophy that I now find myself “coming full circle” to this piece of identity that I lost. Every facet of this training and the depths of spirituality we discussed have transformed me in so many unexpected ways, and reawakened what truly feels a part of me in order to understand and go forth, and it is my hope I carry this knowledge and spiritual consciousness intentionally in my daily life.” – Editha Tendencia (RSCT Waldorf Early Childhood part-time)