



Empowering people  
Launching ideas

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY MENTOR NEW ENTREPRENEURS IN TRAINING

### ABOUT US

#### **Empowering people. Launching ideas.**

Rise is a national organization dedicated to empowering people with mental health and addiction challenges to achieve greater social and economic inclusion through entrepreneurship. Rise provides training, mentorship, micro-financing and other customs supports to help individuals build the skills and access the capital they need to build small businesses that can create meaningful employment and improve quality of life.

Since 2010, Rise has disbursed more than \$3.1 million via 750+ low-interest loans and, with the support of 800+ volunteers nationwide, has helped empower more than 2,000 Canadians from coast to coast as entrepreneurs.

**At the heart of Rise's impact is the invaluable contribution of volunteers who work in varying capacities across all programs to help guide Rise clients on their entrepreneurial journeys.**

### YOUR OPPORTUNITY

Volunteering as a group mentor with one of Rise's Entrepreneurship Training Programs (training programs) is the opportunity to share your professional knowledge and experience to help empower new and aspiring entrepreneurs of all ages and at all stages of their business journey.

Currently, Rise is looking for volunteers who have extensive skills and knowledge to share in critical business areas, such as e-commerce, digital marketing, online branding and communications, finance and accounting for small business, and/or general expertise in small business and entrepreneurship.

Training programs run for eight (8) to 10 weeks during which you will work with small groups of entrepreneurs with varying levels of experience to help them build the confidence and skills to turn their business idea into a business plan. Whether in-person or virtual, you will create a space to encourage open, constructive peer discussions and give your mentees personalized insight and support. As a volunteer mentor, you will have ongoing support from Rise program facilitators and Volunteer Program staff to help make your experience as productive and fulfilling as possible.

Volunteering with Rise is an opportunity help to empower individuals with mental health and addiction challenges to build small businesses that can improve their lives and help communities across Canada thrive. businesses that can improve their lives and help communities across Canada thrive.

*"I really believe that the one-on-one time that I had with the volunteers who supported me has been such a game changer for me as an independent artist looking for ways to actually make my career something fulfilling and something long-lasting. And believe me when I tell you, it's been super impactful."*

– Rise client

## BENEFITS

Becoming a Rise Mentor is a way for talented professionals across Canada to use their knowledge and skills to benefit others, while fostering personal growth.

As a group mentor to a Rise training program, you will have the opportunity to:

- Support new and aspiring entrepreneurs to develop their ideas, formulate practical business plans, and launch/grow small businesses.
- Put your skills and experience to work to provide impactful, real-life support that will have a tangible impact in individuals lives.
- Learn from a wide range of youth and adult entrepreneurs pursuing businesses in various industries and with a variety of lived experiences to share.
- Develop your communications skills and build your experience as a mentor.
- Join the national Rise community of philanthropists, professionals, volunteers and clients!

“The most rewarding parts of volunteering with Rise ... have been to see how individuals’ businesses have grown from ideas to fruition ... and just to see how the individuals themselves seem to change in terms of their self-confidence and their self-esteem.”

– Rise Mentor

## QUALIFICATIONS

To volunteer as a mentor with one of Rise’s Entrepreneurship Training Programs, candidates must:

- Have a minimum five (5) years of professional working or entrepreneurial experience.
- Be passionate about/interested in working with entrepreneurs who experience mental health or addiction challenges.
- Have relevant skills and professional experience to advise on at least one area critical to building a small business (e.g., accounting, marketing, sales, business operations, general business, e-commerce, etc.).
- Be able to commit to a minimum eight (8) hours of group mentoring sessions during the eight (8) to 10 weeks of the training program cohort. Mentors will participate in at least four (4) two-hour (2) mentoring sessions per program cohort.

## TIME COMMITMENT

- 8- to 10-week commitment per training program cohort
- Mentors participate in a minimum of four (4), 2-hour group mentoring sessions per program (min. 8 hours total)

## HOW TO APPLY

To become a Rise Volunteer:

1. Visit <https://risehelps.ca/volunteers-make-our-impact-possible/>
2. Complete the Volunteer Eligibility questionnaire (1 minute)
3. Complete and submit a Volunteer Application Form
4. Once Rise has reviewed your application, you will be contacted by a member of the team for an interview to explore how best to align your skills and experience with Rise’s volunteer opportunities!

If you have any questions about this opportunity or would simply like to chat before applying, reach out to Laura Pichette at [mentor@risehelps.ca](mailto:mentor@risehelps.ca). We’d be happy to get to know you