



Empowering Entrepreneurs Towards Confidence, Resilience & Success

2023 Rise Social Impact Results



RISE CLIENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE IS IMPROVING IN MEANINGFUL WAYS

Since the onset of the pandemic, demand for Rise programs has continued to grow. For example, Rise received record applications to its Small Business Lending Program last year*. We responded by disbursing \$450,000—our highest annual loan total to date. But the truest indicator of our success is not measured by the sheer number of people seeking our support or the whole of whom we reach. **It's measured by the depth of our impact on clients' lives.**

In 2023, we conducted our third Social Inclusion Survey to better understand how Rise-supported entrepreneurs are faring in three areas of well-being: personal, professional and financial. The results[†] show us that, no matter how small the steps or incremental the increases, individuals with mental health and addiction challenges who access Rise supports are building the confidence, learning the skills and developing the resilience to improve their lives through entrepreneurship.

Personal well-being: Clients have a greater sense of purpose and potential and belong to meaningful social networks.

Professional well-being: Clients feel deeply connected to their work and business prospects.

Financial well-being: Clients' socioeconomic needs are being met.



Above all, our clients are optimistic about the future.

Despite ongoing social and economic instability in Canada and globally, our clients are optimistic about the future. Empowered by the tools, knowledge and resources they've accessed and acquired through Rise, many clients feel more positive about their prospects for personal, professional and financial growth in 2023 than they did pre-pandemic (2019).

70% feel that they have more personal and professional growth opportunities.

1 in 2 perceive greater opportunities for financial growth.

PERSONAL WELL-BEING

Our clients believe in themselves and recognize their value.

Despite the challenges that our clients have faced in their personal lives, they've shown that they are resilient and have a positive attitude towards their well-being.

"Rise has primarily helped with my business growth, although in turn, it has also helped with my personal growth in areas such as self-confidence."
Small Business Lending Program client



84%

of clients say they take steps to learn from every experience, regardless of success or failure.



75%

of clients say they are more confident about taking on new challenges.



74%

of clients feel that what they do is valued by others.

"Rise has provided me with access to a wide range of resources that have helped me develop new skills and gain knowledge"

Peer Supported Startup Program client

PROFESSIONAL WELL-BEING

Our clients are confident, knowledgeable decision-makers unafraid to seek support.

Regardless of where a client is on their entrepreneurial journey, Rise empowers them with the skills, knowledge and support to take the next step.

More than half of Rise clients say that our volunteer mentors have specifically helped them to develop resilience in the face of business challenges or setbacks.

75%

of clients say they are **more confident** in making business decisions.

70%

of clients say they are **more knowledgeable** about business.

67%

of clients say they are **better at asking for input and advice** when needed.

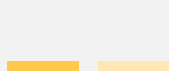
FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

Our clients are building businesses to improve their finances and strengthen their communities.

Rise clients are proving that even in times of economic uncertainty, with dedication and the right resources, they can increase income and reduce their dependence on social supports.

"Without Rise, I would not have been able to scale as fast as I have ... I have big dreams for [my business], and I attribute much of my success to the support that Rise has given me."

Small Business Lending Program client



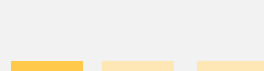
1 in 2

clients say their credit scores have improved.



28%

of clients say they've required less provincial income support over the last 12 months.



1 in 3

clients say they increased their business income.

CHARTING A PATH FORWARD

Despite having to navigate the effects of the pandemic and countless economic, social, environmental, and political disruptions, clients are doing better in many areas of their well-being now than in previous years.

When compared to our 2021 survey results, we can celebrate that:



19%

more clients agree that their ability to **handle stress** has improved.



12%

more clients say they have enough money each month to **cover necessary expenses**.



11%

more clients say they are **more confident** as a leader.



9%

more clients believe that their **business has helped them overcome** some of others' biases around mental illness.



7%

more clients say they have **stronger business networks**.

*We received 1,200 Small Business Lending Program applications during the 2023 fiscal year (May 1, 2022-April 30, 2023)

[†]2023 Social Inclusion Survey results are based on the data of 92 respondents.