



 **RCI** 红叶文化协会  
REDLEAF CULTURAL INTEGRATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

*BETTER TOGETHER BECAUSE WE ALL BELONG*



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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lily Hudson



2025 was a remarkable year for Redleaf Cultural Integration (RCI). Our team worked tirelessly, creating a deeper and more meaningful impact in the community than ever before.

First, RCI Senior Association was officially recognized by the Province of Ontario as a registered senior active living center. This recognition not only affirms over a decade of Redleaf's dedicated service to seniors but also lays a strong foundation for the program's long-term, sustainable development.

Second, RCI successfully launched a cognitive health initiative in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Ontario and the University of Waterloo. This initiative will become one of our key focus areas in the coming years.

Meanwhile, RCI's community programs continued to thrive. Our annual Lunar New Year

2025年对红叶来说是意义非凡的一年。我们的团队不懈努力，在社区中创造了前所未有的深远影响。

首先，“康乐之家”被安省正式认证为老年活动中心之一。这不仅是对红叶过去十余年服务长者成果的高度肯定，也为该项目的长期稳健发展奠定了坚实基础。

其次，红叶与安省阿尔茨海默症协会及滑铁卢大学合作开展的认知健康项目已顺利启动，并将在未来几年成为重点发展方向之一。

与此同时，红叶各类社区项目蓬勃发展。年度“红叶

Gala has grown into a well-recognized cultural event in the region, playing an important role in promoting Chinese culture, fostering cross-cultural exchange, enriching community life, and strengthening a sense of belonging.

We also celebrate the successful leadership transition within our Board of Directors. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Mary Ren for her dedication and outstanding contributions over the past decade, and warmly welcome Mr. Sean Huang as the new Board Chair. We are confident that under his leadership, RCI will continue to grow and progress steadily.

Finally, we sincerely thank all our supporters, volunteers, and funding partners—both individuals and organizations. We look forward to achieving even greater progress in the year ahead.

春晚”已逐渐成为本地具有影响力的文化品牌盛会，在传承中华文化、促进多元族裔交流丰富社区生活及增强归属感方面发挥了积极作用。

同时，红叶董事会顺利完成新老主席的交接。衷心感谢刘莉女士在过去十年中的辛勤付出与卓越贡献，并热烈欢迎黄土成先生担任新一任董事会主席。相信在他的带领下，红叶将继续稳步发展、不断进步。

最后，我们衷心感谢所有支持红叶的朋友、义工以及提供资金支持的个人和机构。期待在新的一年里取得更加长足的发展！

# MESSAGE FROM THE FORMER CHAIR

Mary Ren



Serving on the Board of Directors of Redleaf Cultural Integration (RCI) for over a decade has been one of the most meaningful and rewarding chapters of my life. Throughout these years, I have had the privilege of witnessing RCI steady progress in advancing cultural heritage and strengthening community integration, while also participating in significant strategic decisions and long-term planning initiatives.

RCI has consistently provided a vital platform for connection and mutual support among both new and long-established immigrants. At the same time, it has played an important role in promoting Chinese culture and fostering meaningful multicultural engagement within the broader community.

During the most challenging period of the pandemic, RCI responded with agility and compassion, swiftly adapting its services to a virtual format. Through online seminars,

在红叶文化协会董事会服务十余年，是我人生中一段极为珍贵而充实的经历。一路走来，我不仅见证了协会在文化遗产与社区融合方面的稳步成长，也亲身参与了许多重要决策与规划。能够为社区尽一份心力，是我的荣幸，更是难得的学习与成长机会。

协会不仅为新老移民搭建了交流与支持的平台，也为弘扬中华文化、促进多元文化的融合作出了积极贡献。

尤其在疫情最严峻的时期，协会迅速调整服务方式，组织线上讲座、信息分享与互助活动，为长者、

information-sharing initiatives, and community support programs, we continued to serve seniors, students, and families in need. In a time marked by uncertainty and hardship, our collective efforts brought reassurance, solidarity, and strength to the community.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all past and present board members, volunteers, and community partners for their unwavering dedication and generous contributions. It is through our shared commitment and collaboration that RCI has achieved its accomplishments to date. Although I am now stepping down from my role, I look forward to continuing my involvement as a volunteer and supporter, and I am confident that under the leadership of the new Board of Directors, RCI will carry forward its legacy, continue to grow, and make an even greater and more lasting impact on our community.

学生以及社区民众提供支持与关怀。在充满不安与挑战的日子里，我们彼此扶持，让社区感受到温暖与力量。这段经历让我深深体会到团结与服务的真正意义，也更加坚定了我对红叶使命的认同。

感谢历届董事、义工及合作伙伴的无私奉献。正是大家的共同努力，成就了今天的红叶。如今虽将卸任，心中仍满怀感恩与不舍。未来我也将继续以义工或支持者的身份关注与参与协会的发展。相信在新一届董事会的带领下，协会必将薪火相传，稳步前行，为社区创造更深远的影响。

# MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHAIR

Sean Huang



The Redleaf Cultural Integration (RCI) has now journeyed through thirteen remarkable years. Since its founding on Thanksgiving Day in 2013, RCI has remained committed to cultural heritage, community service, and intercultural connection. Through festive celebrations, arts programs, practical workshops, community outreach, and diverse partnerships, RCI has brought lasting vitality and warmth to our community. It has helped Chinese culture take root and flourish in Canada, while supporting newcomers and seniors in building confidence, understanding, and a sense of belonging.

Being elected to the new Chair of the Board is an honour I hold with deep gratitude and full awareness of its responsibility. The previous Board and administrative team laid a strong foundation for RCI's governance and long-term

光阴荏苒，红叶文化协会（RCI）走过十三个春秋。自2013年感恩节成立以来，协会始终秉持文化传承、社会服务与跨文化连接的初心，以节庆活动、艺术课程、实用讲座、社区咨询和多元合作为载体，默默耕耘，为本地社区注入了鲜活而持久的力量。红叶不仅让中华文化在加拿大这片土地上生根发芽结果，也让更多华人，特别是新移民与长者，得以更从容地走进并融入这片崭新的家园。

今年初被推选为新一任董事会主席，我深感荣幸，亦知肩上一之责。上任主席刘莉女士，以多年如一日的热忱，带领董事会成员无私奉献，他们的精神是鞭策，也是传承。

vision. Their dedication is both an inspiration and a legacy. I hope to work in unity with fellow Board members, collaborate closely with the administrative team and President Ms. Lily Hudson, and build consensus through every conversation.

I also extend heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Mary Ren for her steadfast dedication, and to every Board member for their consistent contributions. With the professionalism and tireless commitment of President Lily Hudson and Ms. Yinan Liu, the administrative team and the Board have together provided RCI with resilience, clarity, and enduring strength.

May the Redleaf Cultural Integration—this bridge rooted deeply in our community—continue to carry the resonance of culture with devotion, lighting a path of hope for all who cross it.

愿在未来岁月中，与各位董事同心同行，与行政管理团队及主席张蕾女士密切协作，在每一次沟通中凝聚共识，在每一次活动中倾注心力，共同守护这份属于红叶的温馨与理想。

诚挚感谢刘莉女士的无私坚守，感谢每一位董事在岗位上的默默付出。加上行政团队张蕾主席和刘一楠女士的辛勤敬业，专业管理，正是他们的责任与担当，赋予红叶恒久的韧性与光辉。

愿红叶文化协会，这座扎根于社区的桥梁，继续以爱心与热忱，承载文化的回响，点亮更多人路途。

# VISION MISSION AND GOVERNANCE

Redleaf Cultural Integration is committed to providing support for newcomers to Canada to integrate into the local community. Our different themed projects focus on promoting multiculturalism, the physical and mental health of people of all ages, and enhancing community inclusiveness.



## MISSION

To grow a vibrant Chinese community in Halton and support its participation in the day-to-day life of the region.



## VISION

To be the leading organization in Halton providing people of Chinese heritage with a social platform where they belong, connect, and integrate to the broader community.



## VALUES

Mutual respect; Awareness of cultural diversity; Build a welcoming and inclusive community.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**SEAN HUANG**  
Chair

**AMY LIN**  
Treasurer

**CYNTHIA ZHAO**  
Secretary

**ZHIGUANG QIAN**  
Board Member

**FENGWU TIAN**  
Board Member

**TINGHUI LIU**  
Board Member

**PENNY PAN**  
Board Member

# CHINESE SENIORS ACTIVE LIVING CENTRE (CHINESE SALC)



The Chinese Seniors Active Living Centre (Chinese SALC) is the only one of its kind in Halton Chinese community and an important initiative of Redleaf Cultural Integration (RCI), designed to address the unique cultural and language needs of Chinese seniors community. The program addressed an underserved need by delivering culturally tailored programming in Chinese at accessible local community hubs and centres, effectively removing language, cultural, and transportation barriers that often limit participation in mainstream municipal programming.

Using a hybrid model that combines online and in-person delivery, Chinese SALC offers a diverse range of weekly programs, including fitness classes, poetry appreciation, vocal training, Tai Chi, yoga, dance, and modeling. The Senior Band and Senior Choir regularly perform at cultural celebration events, showcasing seniors' talents and fostering community pride.

In addition, the program provides health education lectures, chair exercises, dementia

and caregiver support, elder scam prevention education, a knitting circle, a gardening club, and organized field trips. For seniors experiencing greater isolation, the "Friendly Visit" and "Check and Chat" initiatives offer personalized outreach, companionship, and regular wellness check-ins.

Collectively, these initiatives promote social connection, reduce isolation and loneliness, enhance mental and physical well-being, and support independent aging at home.

The integration of technology through virtual programming has further strengthened digital literacy and accessibility among participants.



CHINESE SENIORS ACTIVE LIVING CENTRE

# PROGRAM IMPACT

Through inclusive, culturally responsive programming, the Chinese SALC continues to empower seniors to lead active, connected, and fulfilling lives while strengthening community cohesion across Halton Region.



The project met their needs and interests



This project helped to reduce social isolation in the community



I am satisfied with the project activities I participated in



RCI Senior Program increased my use of technology (Zoom, video)



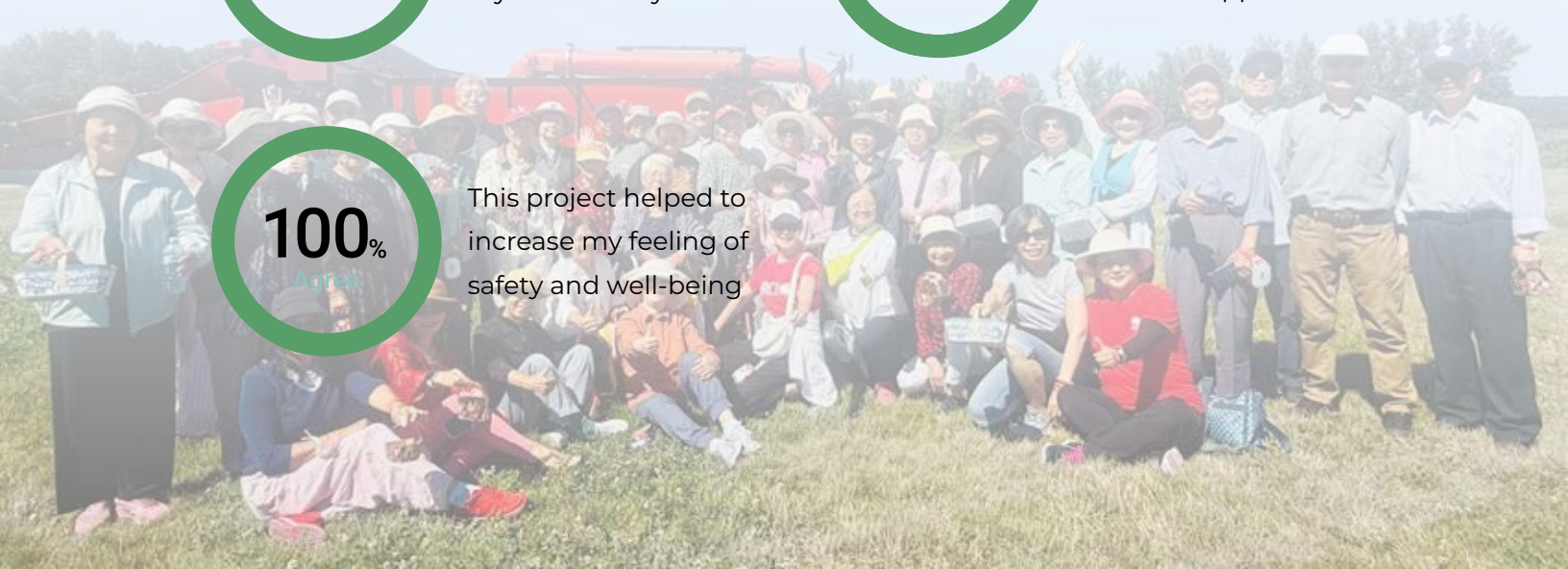
This project helped me feel more engaged in my community



RCI Senior Program helped me learn about volunteer opportunities



This project helped to increase my feeling of safety and well-being





# BRAIN HEALTH AND COGNITIVE RESILIENCE PROJECT

The Brain Health and Cognitive Resilience Project remains a cornerstone initiative of Redleaf Cultural Integration, addressing a critical service gap within the Halton Chinese community. The program provides culturally responsive support to individuals living with dementia or Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), as well as their caregivers. Guided by the vision “Caring for Memories, Connecting Hearts, Building a Sense of Belonging,” the project fosters dignity, inclusion, and community connection.

Programming integrates social engagement, gentle exercise, brain health games, laughter yoga, and education on healthy eating and lifestyle practices. The overarching goals are to raise public awareness and address stigma, slow cognitive decline, promote independent living, provide caregivers with respite and wellness opportunities, and assist families in navigating health and community care systems.



## TWO COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS OPERATE CONCURRENTLY

### THE SOCIAL PROJECT

Delivered in collaboration with the Alzheimer Society of Brant, Haldimand Norfolk, Hamilton Halton.



### BUILDING BELONGING PROJECT

Implemented in collaboration with the Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging (RIA) and funded through the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program.





# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

RCI's community programs primarily serve individuals under the age of 65, many of whom are immigrants navigating language and cultural barriers. Many participants are balancing careers while raising children and caring for aging parents roles that are both meaningful and demanding, particularly without a strong support network.

To ensure accessibility and inclusion, most programs are offered in the evenings or on Saturdays and delivered in Mandarin, reducing language and cultural barriers while accommodating participants' schedules. Regular

group activities, rehearsals, and exercises foster consistency, active participation, and sustained engagement.

Our programs are designed to enhance physical, mental, and social well-being. Many participants are part of multigenerational families. Through weekly activities such as choir, dance, Tai Chi, yoga, and pickleball, individuals and families find opportunities to connect, reduce isolation, strengthen family bonds, and build a strong sense of belonging—all while having fun and staying active.



## REDLEAF CHOIR

“Two years ago, our family moved to Burlington. Within one week, I joined the Redleaf Choir. As a newcomer, I was timid and lacked confidence. The choir director and members were incredibly patient and supportive. Not only did I learn vocal techniques and sing songs in multiple languages, but I also found friendship and a community where I truly belong. I look forward to rehearsals, performance tours, creating beautiful choral music together, and enjoying social time afterward.”



# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

These testimonials reflect the meaningful impact of RCI's community programs. They demonstrate how connection, group engagement, and cultural expression can enrich everyday life and significantly enhance overall well-being.

## ★ REDLEAF DANCE

“Music began as a mandatory skill when I was growing up. I learned and practiced, but it was simply something I did. I joined the RCI choir to honor my father’s memory and spend more time with my mother. What I discovered was a joyful, supportive community where we learn new songs and dances together. I rediscovered my love for music while deepening my cultural roots. Through it all, I have found kindred friends—sisters and brothers—and a true sense of belonging in the RCI community.”



## ★ REDLEAF PICKLEBALL

“Thank you for organizing Redleaf Pickleball. I’ve developed a new interest. Playing in groups is both fun and a great way to stay active, while building meaningful friendships.”

# SAFE AND VITAL COMMUNITY (SVC) PROJECT



Redleaf Cultural Integration (RCI) successfully completed the Safe and Vital Community (SVC) Project: Community Collaboration and Cultural Celebrations, with support from the Halton Regional Police Service and valued community partners.

The project adopted a proactive and collaborative approach, leveraging cultural celebrations and community engagement to foster intercultural understanding, strengthen mutual respect, and address the root causes of hate — including

ignorance, bias, and discrimination. Through education and relationship-building, the initiative enhanced trust between community members and local law enforcement while promoting a safer, more inclusive environment.

Collectively, these educational and celebratory initiatives strengthened protective factors, empowered residents with knowledge and confidence, and contributed to a safer and more cohesive community.



## ANTI-FRAUD EDUCATION EVENTS

Led by the Halton Police Mobilization Unit, these educational sessions focused on scam prevention and elder abuse awareness, equipping Chinese seniors with practical knowledge to recognize, prevent, and report fraud.

## CRIME PREVENTION RESOURCES

RCI distributed anti-fraud, anti-spam, and reporting brochures provided by Halton Regional Police and translated into Chinese. These culturally and linguistically appropriate materials enhanced access to critical safety information, particularly for Chinese-speaking seniors and newcomers.

## MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

Redleaf's Seniors Choir, Redleaf Dance Group, and Redleaf Choir performed alongside the Halton Regional Police Chorus. The joint performances symbolized unity, strengthened police–community relationships, and celebrated cultural pride and harmony.



## THE YEAR OF THE HORSE LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The Halton Regional Police Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and Police Recruitment teams participated in community outreach and engagement activities, fostering dialogue, increasing awareness of policing services, and encouraging greater representation and trust within the Chinese community.



**PROGRAM IMPACT** **1,300** Total direct participants served



Redleaf Cultural Integration (RCI) proudly hosted the 12th Lunar New Year Celebration Gala in Halton at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre, welcoming more than 1000 attendees from Chinese and diverse cultural communities. Guests enjoyed vibrant cultural exhibitions in the atrium before experiencing an afternoon of high-quality performances in the main theatre. Over the past decade, the gala has grown into one of the most prominent cultural events for Chinese communities in Halton and surrounding areas.

# LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION EVENT



The Lunar New Year Celebration Gala has become a dynamic arts and cultural hub for community connection in Burlington. The event showcases the richness of Chinese arts and heritage, highlights local artists and production teams, and celebrates diverse cultural expressions. It also creates meaningful opportunities for outreach and collaboration among regional organizations. By fostering mutual respect and community harmony, the gala helps newcomers develop a sense of belonging and provides an inclusive space where people of all ages, cultures, and abilities can come together for festivities and joy of life.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

<b>Description</b>	<b>2025 (\$)</b>	<b>2024 (\$)</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Grants income	306,034	150,824
Program income	50,847	40,077
Contribution and donation	11,100	13,300
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>367,981</b>	<b>204,201</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Grants expenses	310,317	151,307
Program expenses	25,277	11,869
Accounting fees	3,960	9,080
Bank charges	224	186
GST/HST expense	8,886	2,785
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>348,664</b>	<b>175,227</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>19,317</b>	<b>28,974</b>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>161,495</b>	<b>132,521</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>180,812</b>	<b>161,495</b>

# VOLUNTEERS

## OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS



Zhiguang Qian



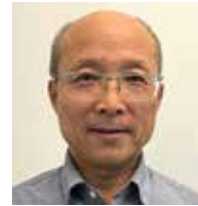
Kristina Han



Wenya Guo



Cuijiao Ma



Jingfang Zhang



David Li



Ying Yu



Emma Zhang



Julia Zhang



Ruby Liu



Zhongning Yan



Carrie Liang

## OUTSTANDING SENIOR PROGRAMS VOLUNTEERS



Fengwu Tian



Chunyan Fan



Minsong Sun



Penny Pan



Xiaoling Zhang



Fengqin Gao



Fengqin Xu



Cuiling Li



Jiaming Deng



Musheng Wang



Xinghua Zhang



Ruzhu Song



Songxin Ning



Yaling Huang



Rongjie Hu



Luping Xing

## OUTSTANDING YOUTH VOLUNTEER



Zach Li

**RCI IS PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE  
THE FOLLOWING FUNDERS**

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**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

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**BETTER TOGETHER BECAUSE WE ALL BELONG**