

# THE LOOP

The Foundation's Quarterly Update



Fall 2025



Article courtesy of **Dr. Paula Rochon**

## Thank you ... but not goodbye

The RTOERO Chair in Geriatric Medicine is an important faculty position created in 2015 through a unique partnership between RTOERO and the University of Toronto. I was extremely honoured to have been selected as the inaugural Chair for a five-year term and have now completed two consecutive terms spanning a full decade.

As my term as the RTOERO Chair in Geriatric Medicine comes to a close, I want to extend my thanks to RTOERO and the RTOERO Foundation for their support over these past ten years and for being such inspirational partners.

I have been tremendously impressed with the work of the Foundation, particularly its granting program that funds academic research and community-based projects to support our aging population.

It has been my privilege, in turn, to support the Foundation by presenting several webinars for the RTOERO membership, providing content for the Embrace Aging newsletter, and serving on the academic review panel for the Foundation's annual granting program. I will miss the monthly meetings that my team and I have had with Foundation staff to share updates on our respective programs and explore ways to coordinate our efforts.

Despite my tenure as the RTOERO Chair in Geriatric Medicine coming to an end, this is by no means goodbye as I eagerly anticipate ongoing cooperation between myself,

the RTOERO Foundation and my team at Women's College Hospital. Thank you once again to RTOERO and the RTOERO Foundation for being such incredible partners over the last 10 years. I look forward to staying in touch with RTOERO members for many years to come.

---

## RTOERO Foundation Board new member announcement



It's with great pleasure that we welcome three new members to our Board of Directors: Pamela Baker, Gary Fick, and Louise Guerin. Pamela, Gary and Louise are all members of RTOERO and bring a myriad of experience, ideas and passion that will undoubtedly benefit the Foundation and enhance our work.

**Pamela Baker** served as a Director for RTOERO Board from 2022 until 2025, and sat on the Benefits, Community Grants/Scholarships and Audit Committees. With several like-minded enthusiastic RTOERO members, she organized the founding of District 50 Atlantic (N.S., N.B., P.E.I and Nfld/Lab.) in 2018 and was its first President. As Director on the Twin Oaks/Birches Foundation Board in Nova Scotia, Pamela started a dedicated Trivia Night in 2015, which raised approximately \$20,000 over seven years. She strongly believes that giving back is vital!

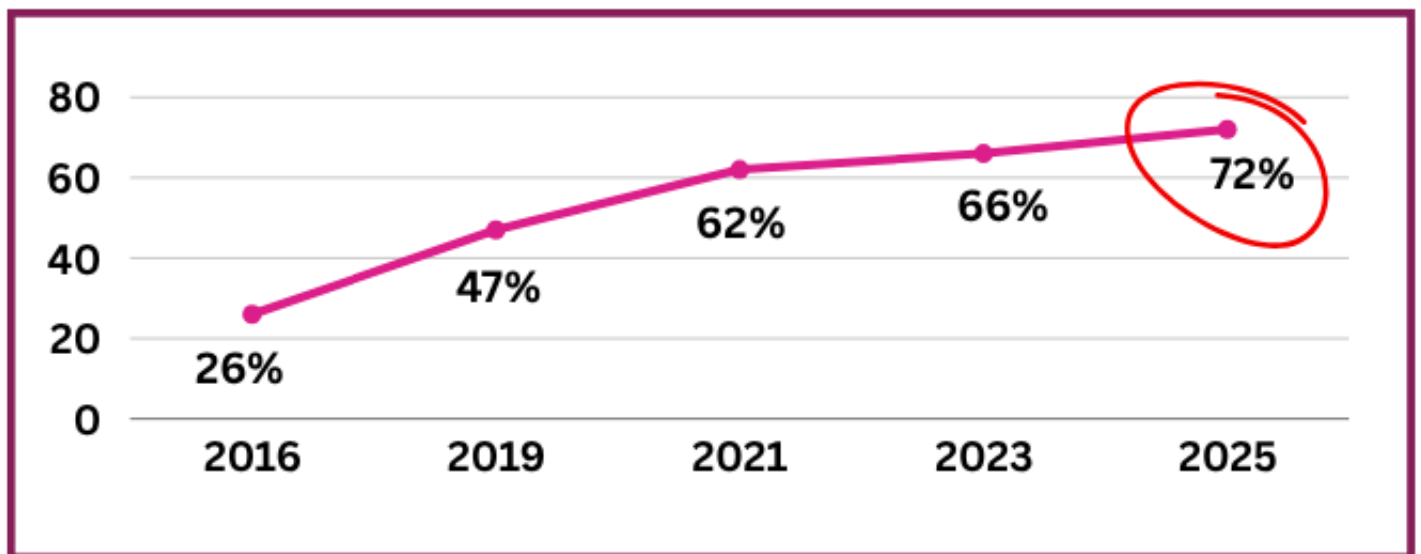
**Gary Fick** joined RTOERO in 2000 and has been an extremely active member, serving on District 24's executive in various roles, including RTOERO Foundation representative, Second Vice President, First Vice President, and twice as President. Gary has experience presenting retirement planning workshops around the province and is currently the Past President of District 24. Gary was recently awarded the Distinguished Member Award and donated his gift to the RTOERO Foundation.

**Louise Guérin** brings governance experience and community involvement to the Foundation Board. Throughout her years in education, Louise led and supported a myriad of programs and innovations that enriched the lives of both students and teachers. Community engagement was central to Louise's professional roles. She was appointed to several key education-focused organizations and contributed her leadership to the Mattawa Hospital Board and the Algonquin Home for the Aged.

---

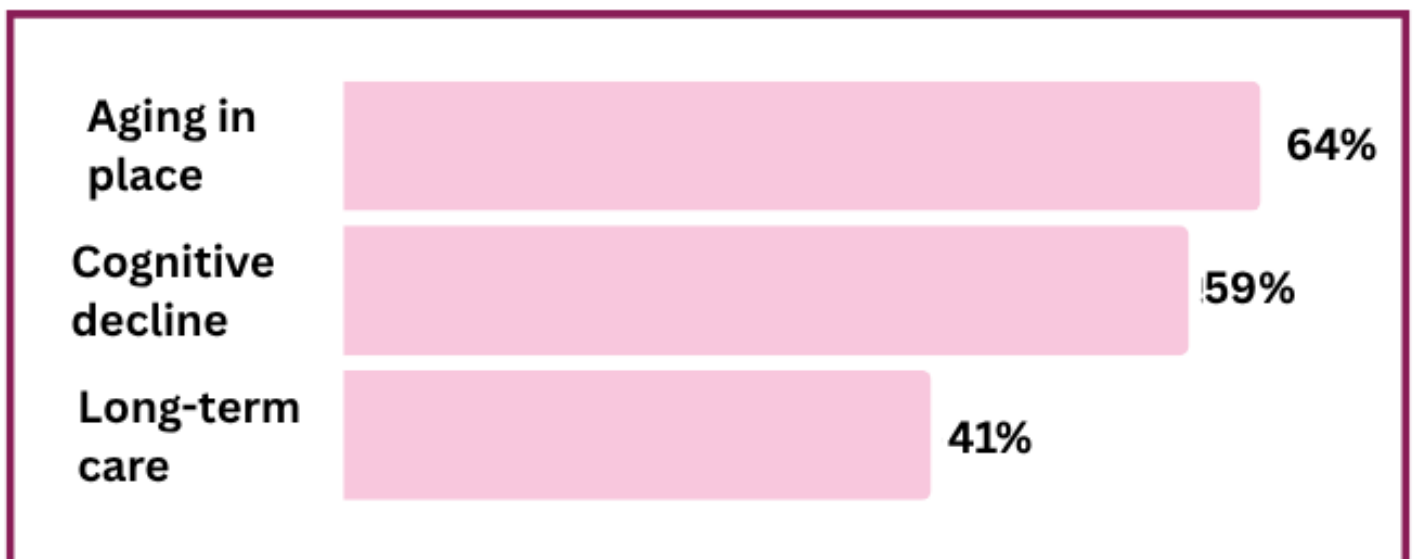
## Your survey responses inform our strategy

Every two years, RTOERO sends out a member survey to find out from you how the organization is doing, what's important to you and how RTOERO can better serve you. The survey focuses mostly on RTOERO's services, but the Foundation also includes a few key questions.



## Prior to this survey, were you aware of the Foundation?

The result of this awareness question tells us that our efforts to communicate to the membership about the work of the foundation are paying off, but we still have some work to do. With 72% of RTOERO members saying they are aware of the foundation, this means that more than a quarter of the membership remains unaware of the foundation, our programs and impact.



**As we think about expanding the Foundation's work related to age and aging, please indicate up to three areas you think are most important for us to consider.**

The insight gained by this question will be used in our approach as we embark on a new three-year strategic plan, set to launch in 2026. This information suggests areas we should focus on as we continue to grow our donor base and raise more money to invest in our granting program.

The member survey has validated what we already knew -- RTOERO members are generous, passionate people who care about the Foundation's work, the power of education and believe that all Canadians, including older adults, should live with the dignity and respect they deserve. Thank you for providing the valuable insights that will shape the future of your foundation.

---

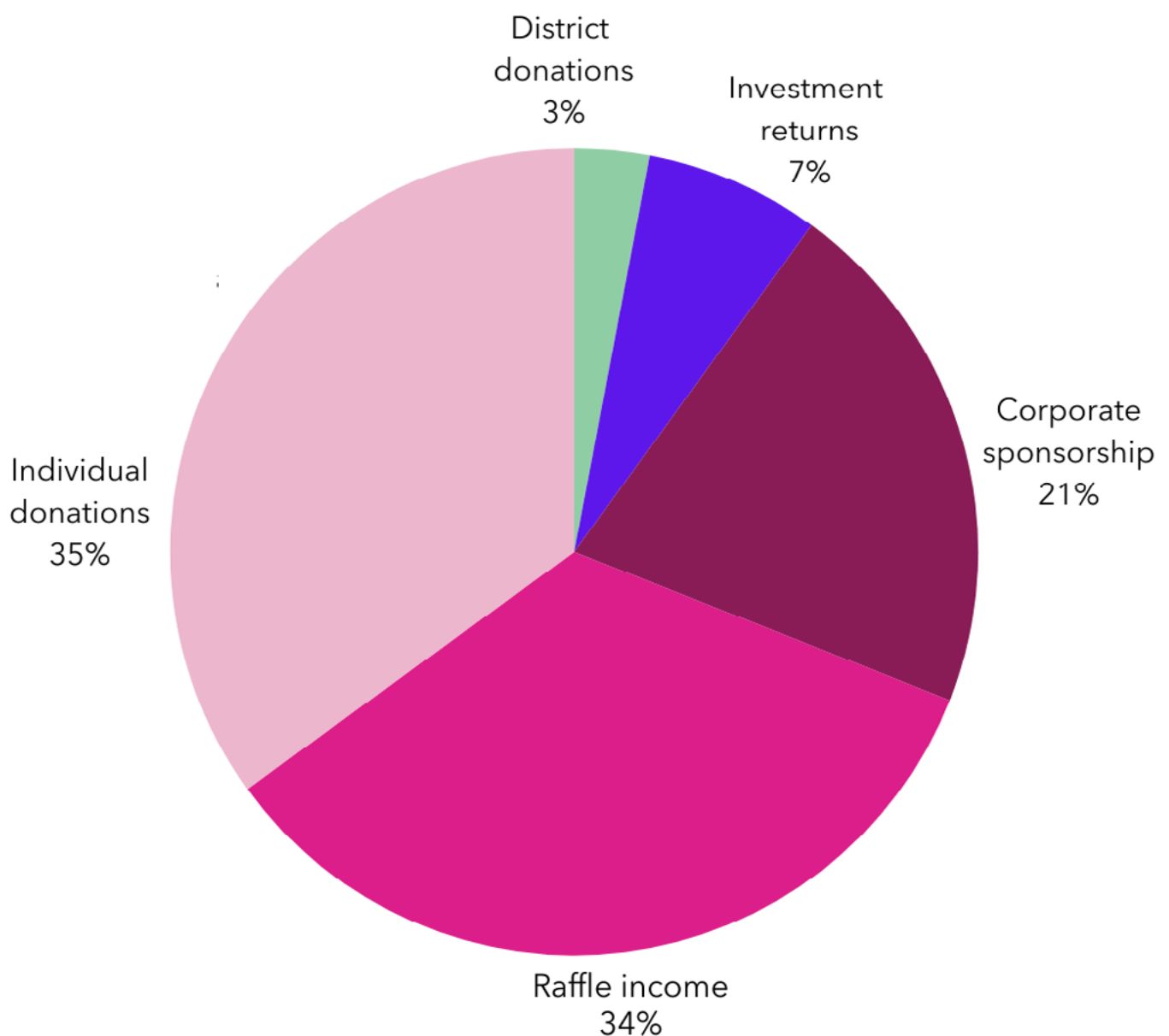
## **Artfull Enrichment: Creative experiences and inspired self-expression funded by the Foundation**

[Artfull Enrichment membership now 20% off for RTOERO members only!](#)

Anyone who is interested in art, even with no prior experience or skill, can enjoy Artfull Enrichment and learn to paint or draw! Art is extremely helpful for relaxation and cognitive health and learning a new skill is extremely satisfying at any age.

## How the RTOERO Foundation is funded

### Based on 2024 audited financial statements



Like all Foundations, charities and not-for-profits, the RTOERO Foundation relies on multiple funding sources to fulfill its mission. In our case, as illustrated in the graphic above, our greatest sources of revenue come from generous individual donors, our raffle program, and philanthropic corporate partners. RTOERO District donations also contribute slightly to total annual revenue.

It is important to clarify that District and individual donations are two distinct and essential revenue streams.

District donations: are submitted by RTOERO districts from their allocated budgets. Districts use their budgets to support many charitable causes, but the most direct way to benefit the aging population across Canada is through a donation to the RTOERO Foundation.

Individual donations: a donation made by a single person who receives a tax receipt for their gift.

A common misconception among many RTOERO members is that the Foundation is supported through a portion of membership fees. It is very important to note that this is NOT the case. The Foundation does not receive any direct financial support from RTOERO and does not receive any portion of membership fees.

[At the heart of the work we do is our donor-funded granting program.](#) The generosity of our donors allows us to fill a funding gap and be recognized as one of the few charities that focuses exclusively on issues that affect our older population. Our program not only tackles today's urgent challenges but also helps build a more age-friendly future for all as we age.

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

---

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

---

**Email:** [foundation@rtoero.ca](mailto:foundation@rtoero.ca) **Web:** [rtoerofoundation.ca](http://rtoerofoundation.ca)

**P** 416-962-9463 **TF** 1-800-361-9888

18 Spadina Rd Toronto, ON M5R 2S7



[www.facebook.com/groups/rtoerofoundation](https://www.facebook.com/groups/rtoerofoundation)



[www.twitter.com/RTO\\_Foundation](https://www.twitter.com/RTO_Foundation)

[www.rtoerofoundation.ca](http://www.rtoerofoundation.ca)