



Rudolf Steiner College Canada

for Anthroposophy • Waldorf Education • Arts



Annual Report 2020-2021

From the Board of Directors

This year – 2020/21 – the third in our three-year strategic plan reminds me of a Yiddish proverb: ‘If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans.’ We did not plan for ever-changing Covid-19 protocols, temporary closures, moving entire programs online and then back to in-person, albeit with social distancing. Yet as you will see in the report on our objectives, despite all the commotion we got a lot done. Ironically, what we are farthest behind on is launching online courses. In addition to making solid progress on most goals, we were able to develop our next strategic plan which now stretches over five years and focuses mostly on

maturing our current initiatives. I continue to be impressed by the drive, resourcefulness and creativity of the college faculty, staff and volunteers. What an amazing team!

Robert McKay
Chair, Board of Directors

Front cover photo: Waldorf Teacher and Early Childhood Teacher Education full-time students consult with one another during handwork class with Patti Wolfe, autumn 2020.

Thomas Dannenberg installs a new sign that reflects the new name of Rudolf Steiner College Canada.





Class of 2021 – the Dream Team – who put up with so much and never complained. Two of the six students in the Waldorf Teacher and Early Childhood Teacher Education Full-Time Class of 2021 are missing in this photo. That’s Waldorf Early Childhood program director Jan Patterson in the middle.

From the Executive Director

Rudolf Steiner said, “For each step we take down into technology, we need to take one step upward in developing our humanity and spiritual capacity.” Our students really stepped up through engaging in online courses with patience, humour, and compassion, knowing of course, that being in-person would be so much more fulfilling. Of the many developments this year, I am very pleased that our full-time teacher education, which is now recognized as a private career college program, graduated its first cohort of six teachers last June. I wish to thank the program directors, the men-

tors for Foundation Studies, the instructors for part-time grades and early childhood programs, as well as the teachers in the full-time program for their dedication and caring. I am also grateful for the work of the board members for their strong support of the growth of the college. Without this support, we could not have achieved all that was accomplished in the past year.

James Brian
Executive Director

Our Guiding Vision

Over the next decade, RSCC will strive to realize its full potential as an organization dedicated to fostering cultural renewal across Canada through the transformative resources of anthroposophy. RSCC 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

Three years ago, in collaboration with our community of support, RSCC set out ten objectives in our first strategic plan. The COVID pandemic posed many challenges including temporarily closing our childcare centre and moving all our programs online. Despite all this we have continued to grow. Our finances have stabilized, our childcare centre reopened, and our Early Childhood Education was approved as a private career college program. In addition, we are making progress toward launching two new vocation programs in the fall of 2022: Biodynamic Farming Education and Mentoring (in partnership with Demeter Canada and provincial biodynamic societies) and Leading Social Initiatives which will help develop progressive leaders informed with anthroposophical insights.

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.	10	6
Part-Time Waldorf Teacher Ed.	20	17
Part-Time W. Early Childhood	15	13

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

The full-time program has been revised and improved to reflect the growing demand for Waldorf teachers to be able to act out of their own resourcefulness. It now consists of three parts:

1. The journey of the child to adulthood: phases of development from birth to 21
2. The teacher as artist: Waldorf educational methodology
3. The teacher as autonomous colleague

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

Done

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

Not only have we assessed feasibility, we are now building the two new programs mentioned above. Both the biodynamic and the leadership courses are in the process of securing PCC approval. We expect to begin recruiting students in the winter with the first classes starting in the fall of 2022.



Some of the students in the RSCC Waldorf Teacher Education Full-Time Class of 2021

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

The Foundation Studies Distance program grew to 128 participants. It expanded its pool of mentors to include those mentoring in French and those with an ECE focus. The Encounter program was only held in Thornhill due to the pandemic but was well attended.

We are continuing to work on developing online courses but are far behind our original timeline. We are building four courses that we aim to launch in 2022/23.

We decided to abandon this objective for the time being. A bridge too far.....

We remain committed to this initiative but were not able to offer it in the summer of 2021 due to 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

The pilot site in Guelph is now a mature operation with a long waiting list. The hunt is on for our second site.

We have decided not to proceed with other service work enterprises until we have a network of childcare centres up and running.

RSCC Financial Snapshot for 2020-21

The following financial snapshot shows the profit/loss for each RSCC 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	-\$39,762	
Teacher Education Part-Time	\$45,444	
Early Childhood Part-Time	\$27,722	
Foundation Studies Distance	\$42,166	
Foundation Studies Encounter	\$3,959	Thornhill only, one class
HEART	\$6,787	
Summer Festival	-\$2,785	Revenue from part-time students not included
Waldorf Development Conference	\$10,844	
Other Revenues	\$161,475	Mulock Foundation, fundraising, COVID support
Administration	-\$171,971	Rent, utilities, office, etc.
Star Seedlings Family and Childcare Centre	-\$46,462	Star Seedlings re-opened post-Covid-shutdown in August 2020 and enrolment gradually recovered from then.
Total Balance	\$37,417	

“I was so lucky to be able to attend this program, I learned a lot from all my teachers and classmates. In particular, James’s weekly reading and Jan’s asking us to write the homework about imitation for the first time were great learning boosts for me.” – Chenfei Li, Waldorf Teacher Education Full-Time, Class of 2021

“The 2020-2021 Foundations Studies in Anthroposophy at Rudolf Steiner College Canada was one of the most enriching experiences of my life.” – Jacqueline Kutt, PhD candidate

Veil painting with Jef Saunders was the one in-person class at the 2021 Summer Festival.



“Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives. The need for imagination, a sense of truth, and a feeling of responsibility—these three forces are the very nerve of education.” – Rudolf Steiner



Childcare Enterprise Director Karen Weyler with children at the RSCC's Star Seedlings childcare in Guelph.

“When I try to put into words how I feel about the time my children have spent at Star Seedlings, I find myself falling short of explanations, but rather am filled with gratitude and warmth in my heart. It has been wonderful to witness how each of them have blossomed! Even my in-laws notice positive shifts and benefits. My family came to Star Seedlings looking for a safe, nurturing place where my children could be while I was at work, and we found so much more. This is truly a wonderful place for children and families alike.” – Dr. Alyssa Shepherd, DC, MSc





Vadim Guitman from TWS installs a new fence along the east side of the Rudolf Steiner College Canada courtyard.

“I really enjoyed the course this year. It covered anthroposophy, the practical skills, inner development and the arts. The course not only prepared me to be a Waldorf educator but also guided me to be a better person.” – Li-Shan Chu, Waldorf Teacher Education Full-Time, Class of 2021

