



WRITERS COLLECTIVE
OF CANADA

writing
together,
we change
the
world

WRITE here right NOW

Extending accessible community arts
programming across Canada

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Amidst a **crisis** of isolation, loneliness,
polarization, and dehumanization

Writers Collective of Canada (WCC)

brings people together

forges meaningful connection

and builds community

by celebrating writing and storytelling.



**Our impact grows
year over year through**

innovation in arts-health programming

forward-thinking partnerships

generous funding

and the work of volunteer facilitators

across the country





Ottawa Salus and WCC combat isolation with life-saving arts-health programs

Supportive housing provider Ottawa Salus is empowering clients to reclaim their stories through WCC workshop programming.

“WCC workshops have proven to be a uniquely beneficial and empowering experience. It offers something many services don't: a nationwide, creative space where individuals from diverse walks of life can come together, share stories, and find joy in a shared activity that brings purpose, connection, and healing.” – **Erica Pretty, Community Developer at Ottawa Salus**



Older adults reduce isolation and loneliness through WCC workshops

“We support [the WCC program] because it addresses real and pressing community needs, including reducing social isolation, promoting emotional and mental well-being, and fostering creative self-expression among older adults. At Kensington Health, we have witnessed firsthand the positive impact of WCC programming on our clients – creating safe, welcoming spaces where participants feel seen, heard, and connected.” – **Becca Buttigieg, Day Program Manager at The Second Mile Club (Kensington Health)**



**Kensington
Health**



WCC workshops enhance diverse programming at YWCA

“YWCA Toronto participants benefit from the WCC workshops because a safe space is created to explore creativity, self-expression, and find one’s voice in a positive, supportive environment. It is a great opportunity to see another side of the community members who participate in our other programs, to witness their creativity, and to hear the positive and encouraging affirmations they share with one another. We work with many women and gender diverse people who live with mental health challenges, and the WCC workshop model is dependable in structure and flow. This, for folks who struggle with unpredictability in life, is crucial.” – Maggie Campaigne, YWCA Toronto



2025 PARTNERSHIP MILESTONES

75

**Active
partnerships**

39%

**Re-activated
partnerships**

We collaborate with community partners to enhance and support their missions.

Our active partnerships grew more than forty percent in 2025, and more than one third of those had previous program experience with us.

As need escalates, we keep
pace with more

public libraries activated

volunteers trained

workshops delivered

communities reached

research projects launched





Canadian public libraries embrace WCC programming, TD Bank Group supports with funding

WCC *Re/Writing Connection* public libraries program is now offered at twenty-six public library branches across Canada with critical support from branch librarians and TD Bank Group.

“At TD, we believe that strong communities are built through connection. Through the TD Ready Commitment, we’re proud to support initiatives like *Re/writing Connection* that help bring people together, amplify voices, and foster a sense of belonging in local communities.” – **Robyn Small, Senior Manager, Philanthropy, Sustainability & Corporate Citizenship at TD**



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**

2025 EXPANSION MILESTONES

22

New public library branches launched

6,255

Writing experiences delivered

2,275

Writers reached this year

Through scalable innovation, we reached more people in more communities than ever before. We delivered forty-two percent more writing experiences to nearly twice as many writers than in 2024. We reached one-hundred-twenty percent more new writers this year and delivered our largest public workshop.

We ignite the creation of **magnificent art**, amplify artists, and promote the social impact of making art.

15+ **free public workshops** every week

Why We Write **panel events** in key cities

Anthologies that platform underheard voices





WCC hosts fourth *Why We Write* panel: An immersive conversation in Ottawa

On Tuesday, June 10, 2025, Writers Collective of Canada hosted *Why We Write: Ottawa*, the fourth in a multi-city panel event series. Guest panelists included **Mark Frutkin**, award-winning author; **Billie Nell**, award-winning theatre creator and spoken word artist; and WCC writers and facilitators **Sharon Roberts** and **Steven Belanger**.

Why We Write is a compelling, timely and necessary discussion around the social impact of making art amidst an epidemic of isolation and loneliness.

This free event series is generously funded by the Canada Council for the Arts.





WCC publishes *Then, I was a dragon* – writing by women who have served in the Canadian military

This landmark collection of writing from Canadian women veterans is the product of a unique community writing and mentorship program called Her Story, developed by Writers Collective of Canada (WCC) and delivered over nine weeks.

The diversity of these stories and poems is a testament to how the WCC workshop experience creates a wide-open space for self-discovery and expression. These narrators wrestle with trauma, celebrate freedom, and explore life's many seasons through story. Just as powerfully, this collection provides confirmation of the authors' journeys from isolation to community.

2025 AMPLIFICATION MILESTONES

3

Panels hosted, in
Toronto, Montreal
& Ottawa

2

Literary festival
features, in
Mississauga & Toronto

1

Original new
anthology published:
Then, I was a dragon

Through gathering, hosting, platforming, and publishing, we celebrate the power of art to shine light on authentic voice, build deep connection, and transform lives.

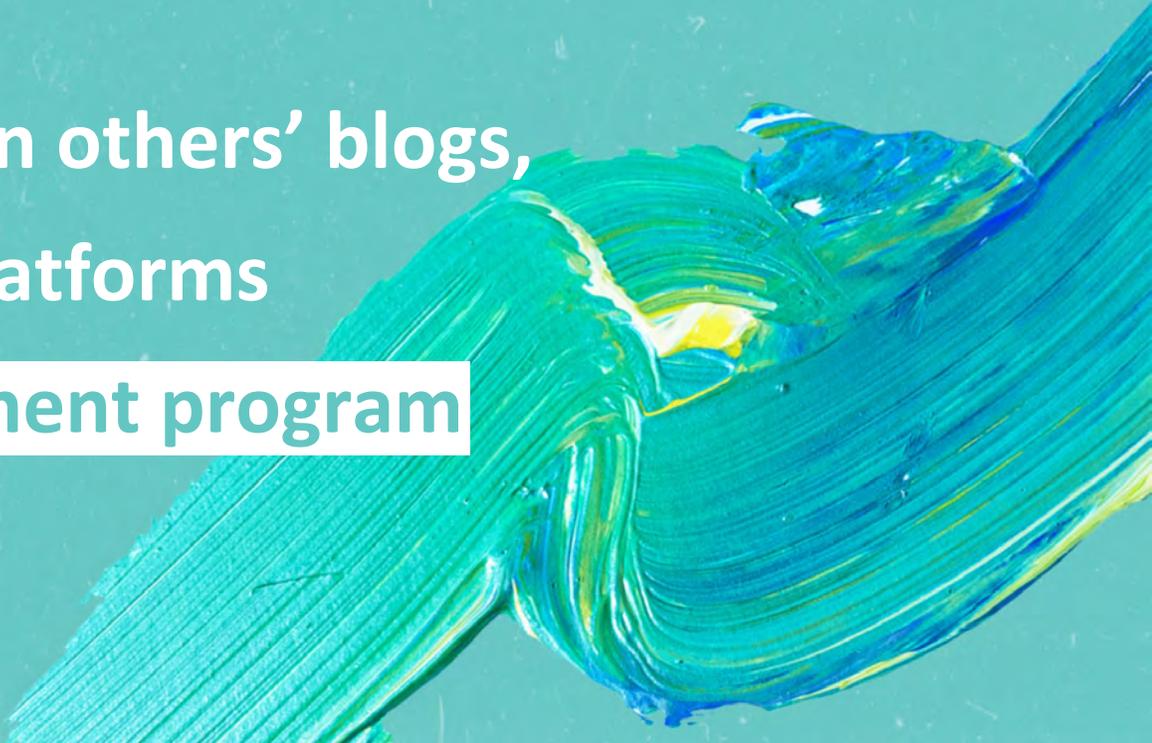
Leaders are taking notice.
In 2025, WCC was invited to

Partner in new **academic research**

Participate in **pilot projects**

Provide **thought leadership** in others' blogs,
conferences, and social platforms

Create a **corporate development program**

An abstract graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of thick, overlapping brushstrokes in various shades of teal, blue, and green, creating a sense of movement and depth.

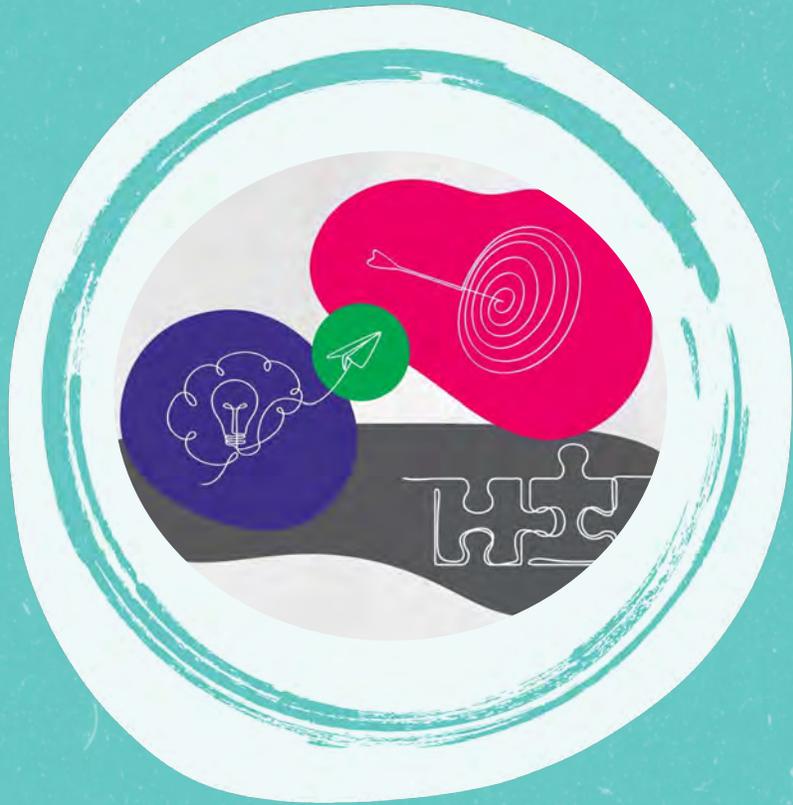


Dr. Nancy Taber awarded SSHRC funding for research project in collaboration with WCC

Employing WCC's creative writing methodology, the study will trace the transformative power of community writing workshops and illuminate the under-represented, gendered experiences of women within military culture.

“WCC's work begins from the belief that everyone's voice has inherent value. As such, WCC is exceptionally well-situated to support participants of the research study, writing and sharing stories of their service as military women.” – **Dr. Nancy Taber, author, professor, and WCC facilitator**





WCC launches workplace programs to elevate team connection, listening, and feedback

Writers Collective of Canada (WCC) is sharing its expertise in facilitation, deep listening, strength-based feedback, and igniting connection through creativity with workplace teams.

In 2025, WCC reached more than 550 public service employees in Ontario through an International Women's Day workshop.

We also launched *On The Same Page*, a creative workshop for corporate partners that helps teams show up fully, navigate change with confidence, and build cultures rooted in empathy, creativity, and trust.

Volunteer facilitators – the heart of our organization – take us with them to **new communities**

In 2025, WCC facilitators **proactively introduced WCC workshops in **China, Ukraine, the United States,** and many communities throughout Canada**





WCC facilitator provides “a true moment of discovery” and connection to embassy staff in Kyiv, Ukraine

On World Mental Health Day 2025, a WCC facilitator hosted a writing workshop with staff at the Canadian embassy there. She told us:

“The timing of the workshop coincided with one of the biggest attacks on energy infrastructure and nobody slept the night before. Many woke up to electricity and water outages and many were not able to make it to work at all. I still went ahead with the workshop and I am so grateful I did. We connected more deeply as colleagues, we cried together and laughed, we appreciated each other even more.”

– **Maria Habanikova, WCC facilitator**





Artists, academics, and youth credit WCC training with transforming their life paths

“Once someone realizes the value of their voice, they become unstoppable. I speak from experience: I was the first in my family to attend middle school, and it was through writing—and being heard—that I found the courage to tell my story, and later, to support others in telling theirs.” – **Kook Hu, WCC facilitator and Founder, First-Generation Support Network of Canada (FGSNC)**

“After seeing how passionate the WCC team is about their work, I realized that I also want to make a positive impact on my community.” – **Vera Kurmaeva, WCC facilitator and psychology student**



“Through my time and journeys with WCC I’ve realized the importance of creating a safe space for [Black] storytellers to explore and emerge. At this point in the history of the world where our voices are being de-valued, it is even more imperative that we seek spaces such as WCC that are incubators for our words to ensure that the great diaspora of voices is reflected in what comes next.” – **Catherine Lough Haggquist, WCC facilitator, actor, educator, and coach**

“In these [WCC] workshops we break cycles of isolation and erasure by controlling our own narratives. ... When I’ve facilitated 2SLGBTQIA+ community workshops, I feel immense gratitude for the chance to listen to queer peers. We exist, we’ve always existed, we belong in this world, and the world needs our voices!” – **Ro Dineen, WCC facilitator and peer support practitioner**

2025 VOLUNTEERISM MILESTONES

153

**Active
volunteers**

48

**New
volunteers
trained**

100

**Volunteers
re-engaged**

We trained twenty-six percent more volunteer facilitators than ever before, including our largest single training to date, and our first training held in Vancouver.

Our facilitators continue to re-engage with us and proactively introduce our program to their communities and workplaces.



This is what happens when we

WRITE here
right **NOW**

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

2,275

Writers reached, a 91% increase

1,639

NEW writers reached, a 120% increase

6,255

Writing experiences delivered, a 42% increase

158

Active volunteers, 100 of them returning

26

Active library branches

6

Chapters

5

Full-time staff

4

Part-time staff

5

Contractor experts

8

Board members

6

Advisors

TOTAL IMPACT SINCE 2012

12,275

Writers
reached

51,255

Writing
experiences
delivered

400

Volunteers
trained

176

Partner
agencies
engaged

10

Original
publications

3

Multi-year
research
projects

2

Pilot
projects

8

Years
longitudinal
data

2026 FOCUS



CONNECT

Our network of facilitators, partners, funders, and champions



STRENGTHEN

Our existing tools, systems, practices, and knowledge to increase capacity and efficiencies



SUSTAIN

Our program integrity and long-term financial health



EXPAND ACCESS

To our training and to our workshops, through enhanced inclusion practices



AMPLIFY ART

Promote authentic voice, deliver arts-health programming, pursue ongoing social innovation

Join us.

Your **funding, partnership, and volunteerism** provides:



Powerful, authentic new art



**Acclaimed facilitator training
that changes lives**



**An accessible social
prescription**



**Opportunity for writers, facilitators,
partners, students, and researchers**



**Brave spaces where all
voices flourish**



**Evaluation data leveraged by
industry leaders**



Get in touch to ...

Write with us

Partner with us

Support us

wcc-cec.org

info@wcc-cec.org

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writing
together,
we change
the
world.



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