

2025

How this is achieved:

- PARO remains committed to:**

- # 2025

[illegible]

A photograph of four women standing together in front of a white backdrop featuring the WEDO Canada logo and website. The woman on the far left is wearing a black blazer over a pink top. The woman next to her is wearing a red fur-trimmed coat and a red hat. The woman next to her is wearing a light-colored cardigan over a patterned top. The woman on the far right is wearing a black and white patterned top. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The backdrop also features the text 'wedocanada.ca' and 'WEDO CANADA' with a globe icon.

BIZGrowth Trade Missions

In addition to its national efforts, PARO led two major international trade missions.

- WBENC National Conference (New Orleans): Connected participants with global procurement leaders, helping them showcase products, services, and form partnerships.
- EU Trade Mission (Paris and Madrid): Helped Canadian women entrepreneurs explore European markets, build cross-border collaborations, and attend WEConnect International events.

PARO continues to break barriers and open pathways for women, reflecting its commitment to helping them connect, grow, and thrive.

PARO ConneX

PARO ConneX supports women entrepreneurs in rural communities by:

- Focusing on interprovincial trade, joint ventures, and procurement collaboration
- Connecting entrepreneurs with resources, partners, and growth opportunities through resource-sharing, peer support, and events
- Offering guidance on accessing funding, building alliances, and leveraging PARO Prosper Circles

Self-Made Breakfast Tour

PARO Centre for Women’s Enterprise recently launched the Self-Made Breakfast Tour to:

- Connect, inspire, and empower women coast to coast
- Create opportunities for collaboration with peers
- Provide insights from guest speakers
- Facilitate panel discussions and tradeshow

Events have already been held in Toronto, St. John’s, and Calgary, with plans to continue the tour with stops in Ottawa on February 26, 2026, and Vancouver on March 31, 2026.



Letter from the CEO & President

Letter from the CEO and President
PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise -“Honouring the Past, Empowering the Future”

What an incredible honour it is to reflect on and to celebrate 30 years growing PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise. When I founded PARO back in 1995, in a small rural city, Thunder Bay, Northwestern Ontario, I could not have imagined the powerful ripple effect we would create by 2025—reaching thousands of women across Ontario, across Canada, from urban centres to remote communities, helping them transform their dreams into thriving enterprises and empowered lives. Starting as a Peer Lending Circle Network model, we now support 350+ Prosper Circles, sea to sea!

We started with a simple but strong, radical belief: that women, when given the right tools, resources, and support, can and will change the world. Thirty years later, we have the proof. To date, supporting over 37k women, with over \$23M dollars in grants and loans, and bringing 4,483 jobs to Canada last year. We have witnessed women entrepreneurs grow their businesses, support their families, employ others, and create resilient, inclusive communities.

But this journey hasn’t always been easy. We have faced funding gaps, policy hurdles, economic downturns, and—like so many—unexpected challenges like the global pandemic. And yet, through it all, we’ve stayed true to our mission, because we’ve never walked alone.

To our Team and Board, past and present—you are the heart of PARO. To our partners, funders, and community leaders—you have amplified our impact in ways we could never have done alone. And, most importantly, to the women we serve—you are the reason we exist. You inspire me every single day.

You have shown that entrepreneurship is not just about profit—it's about purpose, resilience, and building a better future. You are innovators, caregivers, leaders, disruptors, and we are proud to stand beside you.

As we look ahead, still, I am filled with excitement. The Board and Team are enthusiastic to move forward, stronger than ever. The next 30 years will demand new ideas, bold collaborations, and continued advocacy to ensure every woman in Canada—no matter where she lives—has access to opportunities, funding, and a seat at every table.

So today, we honour our history—but we are not done. PARO's work is far from finished. In fact, we’re just getting started. Let’s continue to lift as we climb. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for believing in this vision—for building it with me – all of you, and for walking this journey together. Here's to the next 30 years of empowerment, innovation, and unstoppable women.

Warmest of gratitude to all,



Rosalind Lockyer
Founder & CEO



Mary Sabo
President

Board of Directors & PARO Team

President
Mary Sabo

Past President
Levina Collins

Vice President
Anne Parr

Treasurer
Donna Brown

Secretary
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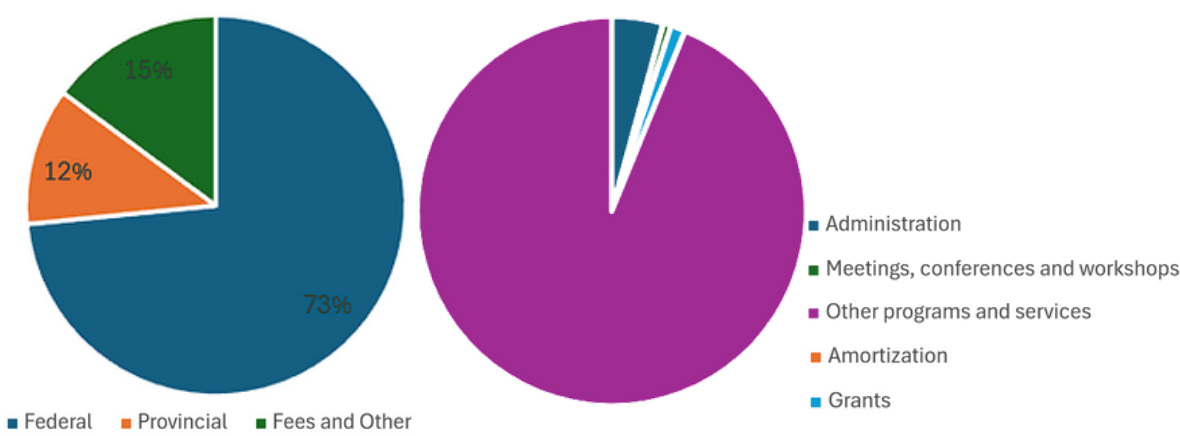
Regional Coordinators - Atlantic, Ontario, Prairies, Pacific

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Natasha Raey, BC

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2025 Financials



Financial Partners



Partners List



1995

