FinanceHER

Master investment readiness and access crucial funding to grow your business. FinanceHER helps women entrepreneurs access the funding opportunities — grants, loans and investment programs — their businesses need to grow. Through Circle Up, Prosper Circles, BIZCamp and more, women build their investment readiness, strengthen their financial strategy, and connect directly with funders, investors and funding partners.

ElevateHER

Expand your markets and connect with key industry partners. ElevateHER opens doors beyond a business's home market. Women explore new markets and opportunities, build strategic partnerships and alliances, and join trade missions that connect them to global markets and networks — backed by mentorship and networking with experts and peers who have made the same leap.

InnovateHER

Integrate cutting-edge technology and AI to boost your productivity and competitiveness. InnovateHER helps women entrepreneurs adopt the tools and systems that drive growth. From technology integration to leveraging AI to automate and innovate, women streamline their processes, optimize performance, and build businesses that are adaptable, scalable and future-ready.



How We Made An Impact

1422
Businesses Created

2090
Businesses Maintained or Expanded

PARO HAS SUPPORTED 42,219 WOMEN AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

930
Communities Served

3657
Jobs Created or Maintained



$31,555,478.95
Total Grant and Loan Dollars to Clients

$25,592336.55
Grants and Loans from PARO Programs

$5,987,382
Grants and Loans Leveraged from Other Sources

PAROCanada

AB HUB- Calgary and Canmore
BC HUB- Vancouver and Kelowna
MB HUB - Winnipeg
NS HUB - Bedford
NB HUB - Moncton
NL HUB - St Johns and Carbonear
ON HUB - GTA, Ottawa and Thunder Bay

PAROntario

1. Kenora / Sioux Lookout
2. Fort Frances / Atikokan
3. Dryden / Ignace & North
4. Greenstone
5. Thunder Bay / Superior North
6. Hearst / Timmins and North
7. Sault Ste. Marie/ Sudbury
8. Temiskaming / Bracebridge
9. Renfrew / Ottawa / Belleville
10. Huntsville / Durham
11. Greater Toronto Area

PARO LaunchPad
Building Entrepreneurial Capacity

PARO LaunchPad builds entrepreneurial capacity, giving women entrepreneurs the resources, tools, training and guidance they need to develop their skills, strengthen their businesses and achieve sustainable growth. Through hands-on programming, expert mentorship and practical support, LaunchPad helps women turn ambition into action — whether they are starting out, scaling up, or reaching into new markets across Canada and internationally. The program includes specialized offerings such as the AI Café Series, which helps entrepreneurs explore how artificial intelligence can streamline operations, boost productivity and open new opportunities. LaunchPad meets women where they are and walks with them as they grow, building the confidence and capability that lasting businesses are built on.



PARO ConneX
Building Connections and Expanding Opportunities

Connects women entrepreneurs with networks, resources and strategic partnerships to foster collaboration, explore new markets and create opportunities for business growth with a focus on interprovincial trade.

Collaboration for Transformation
Changing Systems and Structures

Brings together women entrepreneurs and ecosystem partners through research, consultations and collaboration to identify systemic barriers and advance a more inclusive and equitable entrepreneurial ecosystem.



CEO Letter

Dear friends,

As I reflect on this past year at PARO, one word keeps coming to mind: together.

For more than thirty years, PARO has believed that when women entrepreneurs come together — to learn, to lend, to lift one another — extraordinary things happen. This year proved it again. Together, we supported 42,219 women and social entrepreneurs across 930 communities, supported 2,590 businesses, and helped create and sustain 8,128 jobs. Behind every one of those numbers is a woman who took a brave step, and a circle of peers, advisors, and partners who stood beside her.

This year, that spirit of collaboration reached new heights. PARO was honoured to receive the National Impact Award at the inaugural WEOC National Legacy Awards in Ottawa — recognition not just of our work, but of the collective power of the women and partners who make it possible. As Presenting Sponsor of the 2026 Women's Entrepreneurship Day Summit Series, we brought women together across Canada for summits and PAROConneX breakfasts focused on interprovincial trade, supplier diversity, and procurement. And through our Prosper Circles, now more than 400 strong, women continued to do what they have always done best: support one another, share what they know, and build businesses that strengthen their families and communities.

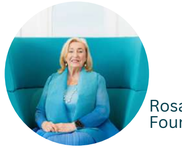
None of this happens alone. It happens because of our dedicated team, our Board of Directors, our funders and government partners, and the ecosystem of organizations across Canada who share our belief that women's entrepreneurship is not a niche — it is the economy. I am deeply grateful to each of you.

Looking ahead, I am filled with hope. We are reaching further — into new communities, into new markets, and into the opportunities that technology and artificial intelligence are opening up for women-led businesses. We will keep building the connections, the capacity, and the capital that women need, and we will keep doing it together.

Thank you for being part of PARO's story. The best is yet to come.

With gratitude,

Rosalind Lockyer
Founder & CEO, PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise



Rosalind Lockyer
Founder & CEO



Juliet Kego Ume-Onyido
President

Board of Directors & PARO Team

President
Juliet Kego Ume-Onyido

Past Chair
Mary Sabo

Vice Chair
Mel Simmonds

Treasurer
Donna Brown

Secretary
Levina Collins

Directors
Anne Parr
Jodi-Rose Richer
Sarah Sekalala
Summer Reilly

Business Growth Advisors
Carol Brazeau-Weisflock
Chantal Fraser
Melissa Maltais
Gabriela Casineanu
Carole Perrin
Karen Van Heyst
Francoise Briet
Suzanne Tighe
Cheryl Himburg
Natalie Robertson
Andrea Welling, BC

Founder & CEO
Rosalind Lockyer

Financial Manager
Judith Tiriwepi

HR & Program Developer
Maria Talarico

Program Manager
Melissa Cook

Lead Business Counsellor-Northern
Karen Lynn Evans

Lead Project Coordinator-Southern
Renee Gendron

HR & Executive Assistant
Brenda McDougall

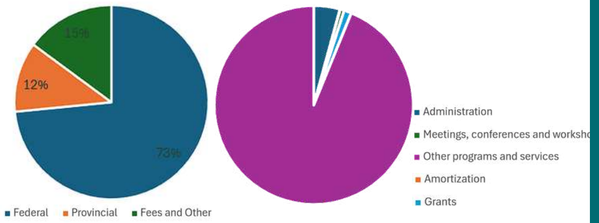
Counsellors/ Coordinators - Ontario
Lori Morin
Oghenetega Okorigba
Mary Margaret Laing
Kayla Soomer
Luciana Palotino
Haley Lidster
Nathalie Plouffe
Boneita Maria Joseph Valentine
Katayon Qahir
Stephanie Desrosiers
Khushi Shah

Regional Coordinators - Atlantic, Ontario, Prairies, Pacific
Jeannine Riant, NS
Rubirose Reyes Ong, AB
Deborah Lampitt, BC
Natasha Raey, BC
Nicole Burchell, QC

AI Innovation & Project Assistant Intern
Deekshitha Pallala

Researcher
Ro Parahoo

2026 Financials



Financial Partners

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada
Canada
Ontario

Partners List

Women's Enterprise Organizations of Canada

2026 National Legacy Awards



NATIONAL IMPACT

PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise - Canada

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
bdc

WITH THE SUPPORT OF
EDC
Scotiabank WOMEN INITIATIVE