

Our Fourth Roundtable Discussion: Learning Together - Advancing Philanthropy in 2026

On January 27, 2026, WiP held our fourth nation-wide roundtable discussion online. Women philanthropists who live and work across Canada joined to discuss challenges and opportunities in the sector.

Redefining Philanthropy

Focus on Co-Creation

Expanding Ideas of Collaboration

- Nonprofits may be constrained by business-like operations posing challenges in dispersing assets most effectively
- Reimagining impact: moving from treating symptoms to addressing root causes
- Think differently and do differently; leveraging our education, instincts, experiences, and networks

- Acknowledging and working beyond our individual actions to see opportunities to work together
- Cooperating across and alongside other organizations and sectors on shared priorities
- Exploring role of government in shaping sector and initiatives
- Social enterprises broaden how business can work

Strategic & Data Driven Philanthropy

Intentional Decisions in Giving

Clear Criteria for Support

- Thoughtful merging or consolidation of resources for common issues and solutions
- Need more complete information/data about the wealth locked in charitable sector
- Restrictions in endowment structures and complex taxation can limit wealth (re)distribution

- How do we manage multiple roles and conversations as donors, leaders, and funders?
- How can we articulate our inclusivity and parameters for support effectively?
- Being mindful about approach, strategy, and who we are serving is vital to our success

Educating Girls and Women

Pathways to Philanthropy

Intergenerational Learning

- Consider the foundations for financial literacy for women and girls
- Research is needed on programming that helps develop fiscal self-efficacy
- Trust-based and ethical philanthropy can be augmented through professional learning and accreditation
- Also valuing practical experience and application of this learning

- New generation brings renewed clarity: justice and accountability
- Seasoned philanthropists share leadership, willing to encourage and develop confidence in new generation
- Organizations that promote philanthropy and encourage mentorship play an important role

Your voice
belongs here.

Funding
love as a
generative
force.

How do we learn
along the way?



Suggestions from the Roundtable

Ideas about advancing philanthropy for women and girls:

1. Early exposure to philanthropy through education, community, and paid pathways such as fellowships, internships, and grants for women and girls.
2. Women philanthropists need to tell our stories. Our histories, challenges, and successes around giving allow others to see the impacts they can make.
3. Diverse tools for giving, including donor advised funds, can be used as a tool to promote intergenerational learning and impart the responsibility of giving.
4. Address the education gap. Funding and support for programming delivers a return on learning outcomes because it helps women and girls continue to contribute to the sector long-term.

Roundtable Insights

- Women have been essential in philanthropy historically and today. Understanding the landscape across time is important to measuring our impact. When we have data, we can see how much women have taken part, led, and contributed to the sector.
- Is the standard approach to philanthropy working and who sets the standard? Are there ways to approach philanthropy differently? Can philanthropy be advocacy?
- Teach people that philanthropy is about power, not just generosity. Educate and inform women to navigate and challenge the sector, to not just be at the table to talk but shape the table and the conversation.
- “I am excited to see women shaping philanthropy differently. Less transactional, more relational. Less ego, and more care. Women creating spaces like this one, where learning flows both ways.”

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed with their stories and insights.

**Women in Philanthropy will be hosting online roundtables throughout 2026.
Email WiP@carleton.ca for more information and to join the conversation.**