

Brampton Entrepreneur's Business Heals Her Community



Michelle McLeod – CEO of Rise Respite Resource Solutions Inc.

Michelle McLeod is the CEO of Rise Respite Resource Solutions Inc. (3R Solutions). It is a community support service program that provides care for individuals with developmental disabilities in the school system, community and home.

For years, Michelle has done work supporting individuals with developmental disabilities at different levels; community, education, and medical. At different points in her career, due to her amazing work and dedication, she was encouraged by people around her to start her own business. While Michelle liked the idea of being an entrepreneur, she had no idea how to start the process. Through her research she found out that the City of Brampton offers services like the Brampton Entrepreneur Centre (BEC) which is dedicated to the careful preparation, launch and long-term sustainability of micro and small businesses across all sectors. Encouraged by the prospect of getting some business guidance, Michelle came to the BEC to get advice on how to turn her vision into a reality. Lisa Rosseti, one of the BEC's talented business associates, provided Michelle with a new business development blueprint. This included information on crucial business processes such as how to register a business, finding a business name, getting funding, amongst many others.

Michelle finally got started on becoming an entrepreneur and started a successful business with a partner. When their visions no longer aligned, she had to leave her hard work behind. Despite the difficulty of having a good thing come to an end, Michelle took the

opportunity to reflect, dust herself off and try again. ***“I am grateful for everything that I went through”, Michelle explains. “It taught me a lot and has brought great people into my circle. I couldn’t be happier”.***

Armed with everything she learned from her first business, advice from the BEC, and the support of her friends and family, Michelle started Rise Respite Resource Solutions and continued on her journey to fulfill her purpose. When she opened for business, Michelle experienced an outpouring of support from her network of industry professionals and even her clients.

Michelle is thrilled by her company’s success and is even more elated by the immense impact her hard work and dedication is having on her community, the families, and clients she serves. She is able to offer programs that equip them with growth, new life skills, and an increase in quality of life. The demand for Rise Respite Resource Solutions continues to grow and has led to interest from investors and an expansion of the services they provide. Michelle is proud to be able to do more for her community and to make a difference. Most recently this has meant the development and collaboration of a dual diagnosis team that supports individuals with clinical depression/mental health and developmental disability.

When she first started on her entrepreneurship journey, Michelle was nowhere as confident as she is today. She has learned to navigate the industry despite her encounters with sexism and other hurdles, because she is passionate about her work and giving her clients the best care possible.

Michelle’s advice for aspiring entrepreneurs: ***“Now that I’m established people want to know how I did it. I always direct them to the BEC because they went above and beyond to help me. They made me feel like I could do it”.***

As demand for Rise Respite Resource Solutions continues to grow, Michelle is determined to grow along with it. “I’m always working on improving and finding a way to help bring awareness to the need of community support programmes”, she explains. Michelle is advocating and networking more to be able to provide a chance for change. Michelle is also learning to delegate tasks and find a work and home balance while she continues to build her network. As she looks to the horizon, Michelle’s goal for 2020 is to enjoy resting as much as she does working.

To find out more about Rise Respite Resource Solutions you can [click here](#) to visit their website.