



## **Dress for Success® Vancouver – Fast Facts**

*Growing, Reaching and Inspiring our clients and the Lower Mainland community*

### **Dress for Success Vancouver: At a Glance**

- Over the past 11 years, Dress for Success® Vancouver has become a **significant resource** in helping Lower Mainland women get and keep a job.
- Dress for Success Vancouver is devoted to **furthering the economic and social development** of women overcoming obstacles in the Lower Mainland.
- Dress for Success Vancouver is a **leader in the community** providing a variety of support and networking opportunities to women in need. – do we dare say this?
- Dress for Success Vancouver is committed to **empowering and supporting** women so they may take charge of their lives.

### **Mission**

Dress for Success Vancouver's mission is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. The suits we give symbolize our faith in every woman's ability to succeed. By providing mentors, workshops and educational opportunities we acknowledge that every woman, regardless of background, deserves the opportunity to grow and develop.

### **History**

Dress for Success Vancouver is the local, not-for-profit affiliate of Dress for Success® Worldwide. Dress for Success® Worldwide started in New York in 1996. In 1999 Astrid Levelt and a group of dedicated volunteers launched Dress for Success Vancouver in a church rectory on the east side of Vancouver. This was the first Canadian, and first international affiliate of Dress for Success® Worldwide. Currently, there are over 90 affiliates around the world.

### **Our Clients & Referring Non Profit Member Agencies**

Dress for Success Vancouver accepts clients by referral from over 90 member agencies. Member agencies are diverse non-profit social service agencies in the Lower Mainland that provide employment training and job entry and re-entry programs to women facing difficult circumstances, often with multiple barriers to employment.

### **Dress for Success® Vancouver – Fast Facts**

- Dress for Success Vancouver opened its doors on February 2, 1999.
- Dress for Success operates out of space donated by the Royal Bank at Hastings and Granville Street.
- Dress for Success Vancouver is the first international agency of Dress for Success Worldwide, which was started in 1996 in New York City. There are currently 105 locations, 7 of which are in Canada.
- Dress for Success Vancouver began its first *Professional Women's Group* program in 2001 – offering employment support to clients successful in obtaining employment. Over 40 women are currently enrolled in this 18 month program – which provides education, mentoring and professional guidance.
- Dress for Success Vancouver has provided almost 15,000 suitings, and impacted over 1,900 women during this past year (2010).
- Volunteers, with the help of three staff operate Dress for Success Vancouver. Today there are more than 200 volunteers.