



Investing  
in People  
**MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL**  
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY



g a z e t t e

Fall 2016

Settlement and Integration • Language and Skills Training • Welcoming Community



Investing  
in People  
**MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL**  
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY

## Save the Date!

We cordially invite you to our  
Annual General Meeting  
&  
Volunteer/ Sponsor Appreciation Party

**Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
Annual General Meeting (AGM)  
5:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Volunteer/Community Partners/Sponsors  
Appreciation Party  
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

This event will celebrate our  
dedicated volunteers and  
generous sponsors for their  
valuable contributions and  
highlight the success of the  
Multicultural Council of  
Windsor & Essex throughout  
the year

All Saints Church  
330 City Hall Square E.



Complimentary food and non-alcoholic beverages

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# MCC SUMMER events



Downtown session



East End session

## Driving to success

The Driving in Ontario is a five session workshop designed to provide newcomers to Canada with opportunities to gain or improve their knowledge of the rules of the road in Ontario, learn about the Graduate Licensing System and prepare for the G1 test.

This summer Orientation staff delivered two Driving in Ontario series. One was held in English at our East End office, 7651 Tecumseh Road East weekly from July 12th to August 9th. The other session was delivered in Arabic at our Downtown office at 245 Janette.

“There are many jobs that ask for driving license, and this course will help me”. - said course participant Saudatou

Barry - “I would also drive my family. Bus can not take you everywhere. It will help me and my family doing shopping and to get to know city. I am definitely happy with this course. Facilitators did very well and I also have few friends that I would recommend this course to them.”

We would like to thank MCC Driving in Ontario facilitators, Luz Elena Ramos and Raghida Feghali for a wonderful job and wish all participants success in passing of G1 test.



On Sunday, July the 31st. 2016, Community Engagement and Training Program Manager Camila Alves and Community Engagement Coordinator Lubna Barakat gave a presentation at Harrow United Church to promote the MCC's services helping Privately Sponsored Refugees -PSRs with settlement and integration issues.

Last October, Harrow United & Mennonite Church decided to pursue the sponsorship of a Syrian refugee family, who is expected to arrive this fall. Lubna, who recently has joined the Newcomers

Settlement Program -NSP to support sponsoring groups shared a presentation about the benefits of sponsorship and long term impact on sponsored families.

The presentation was well received. The audience appreciated the efforts in spreading awareness of the PSR program and how community groups can help.

The MCC also shared a video that told a story of a long time client that arrived as a young refugee boy. Today, he is a proud Canadian citizen and is attending a post-secondary education.

## Presentation to Private Refugee Sponsors





## MCC @ Open Streets Windsor



July 17, 2016

Open Streets was a rousing good time here at the MCC's portion of the route. We were adjacent to the Aquatic Centre Hub in beautiful downtown Windsor. We were ready to go first thing in the morning with the Polish Taty Dancers, who brought along their accordion player to provide fun and exciting cultural backup music.

MCC Nurse practitioner Christine along with VON Coordinator Antoinette were onsite distributing information about healthy diet and various ailments that may affect people's ability to get out and have fun. The large crowd enjoyed our festive music and dances from several cultures,

with the dancing being led by the MCC's own Camila, Sladjana and Mira, along with their families. Fahim and Danish, also from the MCC, set up their own little test match of cricket. People had a great time trying to hit the bouncing ball thrown by Fahim. Danish gave instruction on how to properly bat at the wicket. A small impromptu game broke out, with a great time being had by all, including a resounding hit by our Executive Director Kathleen Thomas who joined in the fun.

The MCC staff on site had a great time sharing all of the cultural events with passers by during this extremely successful event put on by the City of Windsor.

*by Mike Trudell*



**Youth program**



Summer is a time for youth to play, run, get outside and have fun with friends. The MCC youth had a lot of fun playing soccer this summer. Soccer is a team sport and requires all players to work together to achieve common goals. The MCC youth displayed a great team spirit!

In addition, the Newcomer Youth Program participated in Open Streets, a city-wide neighbourhood event. Our youth visited different hubs that brought activities and entertainment to be enjoyed, from cultural music and dances, interactive activities, sports, and free snacks and treats.



# MCC SUMMER events

## Citizenship class

This summer, 12 participants took part in a 12 hour (6 session) Citizenship Preparation Workshop.

The workshop was created to assist newcomers in understanding the Discover Canada book, which is what the Citizenship Test is based on. Through interactive presentations, group discussions and practice tests, the participants increase their level of knowledge of Canada's regions, history, politics and judicial system, along with the rights and freedoms of all Canadians.

Some of the students have already applied for Canadian Citizenship and we wish them the best of luck on their tests!



## Raise-A-Reader



The Raise-A Reader is a new Summer volunteer-led program that ran from July 28th to September 8th once a week on both MCC locations.

With funding from the Windsor Star, the program will promote literacy and reading through the interaction of parents with their kids, group reading, healthy snacks and the opportunity for families to take a bag of books home to read after every session. The following week they bring the books back and get new ones.

Thank you to our volunteer Aura Maria Castiblanco who dedicated her time to run this program.





## Minister of Citizenship and Immigration of Ontario Laura Albanese visits the MCC

August 16, 2016

The MCC was very proud and honored to host the newly appointed Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Laura Albanese. Our valued Newcomer Settlement Program (NSP) partners, WEST and YMCA were also invited to attend, along with Collège Boreal.

Minister Albanese took a tour of our facilities, met with staff and heard about all the great accomplishments the NSP has been able to achieve over the years and more recently with the Syrian influx. During the visit, we were able to showcase the commitment and dedication that the MCC, our partners and the community at large have put together to support newcomers and immigrants to our welcoming community.



## EMPLOYMENT AGENCY information session

On July 26, the Pre-Employment Services hosted an information session for new Syrian refugees. Pre-Employment Coordinator Colin Grimmond, organized this workshop, and invited Devine Personnel to present on positions available with their employment agency.

Various jobs from General Labour, Tool and Die Makers, and Robot Technicians were available and ready to be filled.

All participants who attended this workshop will be interviewed in August and September.



## Interview preparation workshop



On August 11th, Pre-Employment Services held an Interview Preparation Session for 17 clients. This Session was a follow-up for the previous MCC sessions, at which employment opportunities were presented to our clients.

This session covered 'Before the Interview', 'Interview Questions during the Interview (from both Interviewer & Interviewee)', and 'After Interview follow-up'.

The MCC Pre-Employment Services is working to assist all interested clients in developing the tools to properly integrate into our local labour job market.



# Government Assisted Refugees

## FIRST Summer in Canada



Polonia Centre

Gala  
of  
Excellence

featuring

**P.C. Academic Awards**

**P.C. Annual Donations**

**Harvest Celebration (Dożynki)**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**DOM POLSKI HALL - 1275 Langlois Ave.**

Tickets: \$50.00 (sold at Dom Polski)

Dinner (with wine) at 7:00 PM

Cash Bar - Music Until 1:00 AM

Performing: Polish Song and Dance Ensemble TATRY

Special Mass at 5:00 PM at Holy Trinity Church

Doors at Dom Polski open at 6:00 PM

For more information, please call (519)735-8382 or email [mrkulesza@hotmail.com](mailto:mrkulesza@hotmail.com)



Sponsored by  
Polonia Centre (Windsor) Inc.  
[www.poloniawindsor.ca](http://www.poloniawindsor.ca)





August 2016

Summers are made for fun and relaxation and most importantly, creating lasting family memories. For refugees, their first year of settlement poses challenges: learning the language, getting to know the community, understanding life in a new country, and meeting new people.

MACC's Client Support Services (CSS) program helps government-assisted refugees with their settlement process throughout their first year in Canada. July and August were filled with Family Fun Days to Mic Mac Park, Ojibway Nature Centre and Holiday Beach Conservation Area organized by the CSS staff. Our summer theme was, "Family Health and Wellness." Our groups consisted of refugees from diverse countries including Syria, Burma, Iraq, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Central African Republic, Liberia and Ivory Coast.

In partnership with Family Services Windsor-Essex, families enjoyed a presentation on fun ways to keep their family healthy while transitioning to a new community. A unique activity involved each family creating and painting a caterpillar whose sections work together as one unit, just as a family does. Families enjoyed other activities and games with CSS staff. Children delighted in the splash pad, swimming pool, slides, jungle gyms and swings at Mic Mac Park.

Parents and children explored Ojibway Nature Centre's snake and fish exhibits, as well as, birds and bugs native to Ojibway Park. We trekked along its parkland trails with a tour guide. At Holiday Beach Conservation Area, ORCKA (Ontario Recreational Canoeing and Kayaking Association) taught safe canoeing skills while families experienced canoeing for the first time. Other family members explored the conservation area and relaxed in the summer sun.

What an exceptional summer!





# Community Connections

## Thank you **Project Syria**

A sincere THANK YOU to the University of Windsor student-led group who organized Project Syria and through fundraising activities donated \$5000 to the Multicultural Council to help newcomers integrate to Windsor Essex community.

Photo: (from left) University of Windsor Students' Alliance VP for Student Advocacy Matthew Dunlop, Project Syria Coordinator Hussein Zarif, Law Professor Anneke Smit, Executive Director of the Multicultural Council of Windsor-Essex Kathleen Thomas, Project Syria volunteers Ahmad Haidar-Ahmad and Sara Alshoibi along with UWSA VP Student Services Daniel Popaj.



## ElderCollege Travels The World

by Dr. C. Lloyd Brown-John, Director and Founder of Canterbury ElderCollege, SW Ontario

Over the past 55 years my wife and I have visited 116 countries world-wide. We have the joy and sometimes the trepidation of venturing into many places where we neither spoke the host language nor had more than a passing familiarity with a host culture. I suspect it was that love of diversity and cultural experiences which led to the wonderful working partnership with our Windsor Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County-MCC.

Canterbury ElderCollege is a volunteer based educational program designed to encourage those age 55 and better to stay active and keep their minds engaged in a vast array of thinking opportunities. ElderCollege offers numerous short courses at low cost to those persons excited by the opportunity to learn, explore and experience. There is a logic, therefore, to ElderCollege's partnership with the MCC for within that relationship many clear objectives of the Council may be pursued while for ElderCollege's course participants the delightful world of cultural diversity is available.

ElderCollege has pursued several goals since its inception in



the Autumn of 2011. We endeavour to provide experiential and learning opportunities for those age 55 and better seeking to enjoy learning from others. We also try to ensure that our courses are not stressful—no tests, no assignments and no homework!

We also stress the social side of courses where opportunities exist to meet new people and—I must add!—enjoy cookies, coffee and tea. ElderCollege is also intended to be fun.

In the Spring of 2016 our partnership with the MCC bore abundant benefits for everybody. The Council aided in development of course featuring the histories, cultures (and foods—I'm told!) of four, among our many, diverse Windsor communities. Representative members of communities such as Poland, Serbia, The Philippines and Mexico absolutely dazzled ElderCollege course participants with historical backgrounds,

art, music, food and so much more. All ElderCollege courses are evaluated by course participants—the Reviews—if you will!

"Bravo"; "Brilliantly done"; a wonderful sharing experience"; "informed and knowledgeable presentation"; "the food was great"; enjoyed personal stories, photos and maps"; "well planned with good visuals"; and there were more.

"I took all four courses and feel like I've been around the world. What an amazing experience. More seniors should take courses and enjoy visiting the world right here in Windsor".

The MCC and ElderCollege are off to a spectacular start with their partnership. We anticipate even more adventures and fun as we all indulge in our City's fabulous cultural diversity. ElderCollege will have more exciting courses this coming Autumn so join in and enjoy life.





# BACK TO SCHOOL

September is back to school time for many school-age children and youth, but also for our many newcomer adult students attending English Language Instruction classes. Our program includes Canadian Language Benchmark classes from Literacy to Levels 1 through 8, five days a week.

We understand that newcomers have demanding schedules due to appointments, family needs, and employment. Because of this, our classes are part-time, allowing the students the flexibility they need with morning classes focusing on Reading and Writing, and afternoon classes focusing on Listening and Speaking.

Our long-running program, led by certified instructors, is part of the Portfolio Based Language Assessment Initiative. It applies a blended use of traditional teaching methods with technology to maximize student learning and help them reach their goals. These are a few of the reasons why so many newcomers have chosen to enroll in our classes to acquire the English skills they need to help them lead happy and successful lives in Canada.



**All of the MCC East End is excited to welcome students back to school on Monday, September 12th!**

The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (East End)  
7651 Tecumseh Rd. East  
(519) 948-3443

All classes are Monday through Friday

Reading & Writing (Mornings 9:00am to 11:30am)  
Literacy, CLB 1/2, 2/3, 3/4, 4, 5/6, 6/7/8

Listening & Speaking (Afternoons 12:30pm to 3:00pm)  
Literacy, CLB 1/2, 2/3, 3/4, 4, 5/6, 6/7/8

Support Services available for eligible participants:  
Childcare (6 months to 5 years), Transportation Assistance



## SUCCESS STORY



Lama Tabra arrived in Windsor, Ontario on February 5, 2016. Since arriving she received assistance from Raghida Feghali, Orientation Specialist, and then was referred to Colin Grimmond, Pre-Employment Coordinator for pre-employment assistance. Raghida also referred Lama to the Unemployment Help Centre-UHC for their Hospitality & Tourism program from April 4 - June 10, 2016.

Consequently, Lama was successful in attaining a Hotel Receptionist/Night Auditor position on June 14, 2016 at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel.

Further, Lama is highly motivated to be successful as evidenced in her current enrollment in UHC's Computer and Workplace Skills Training program.

Congratulations to Lama Tabra!



## *Congratulations* **Aruna & Shiva**



We are very proud to announce that two of our own dedicated Board members and volunteers, Aruna and Sadashiv (Shiva) Koushik received a prestigious Award from the Rotary Foundation. This Award is presented to only ten members globally each year.

Aruna and Shiva have travelled to many countries as humanitarians. They have been participating in national immunization days eradicating polio around the world by participating in clinics in India, Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Through each mission the couple learned that more work needs to be done and they would come back to our community determined to lead others, to raise more funds, and to establish future missions. They turned challenges into opportunities to make differences in the lives of those who need it.

Aruna and Shiva are very dedicated MCC supporters for over 20 years and are outstanding choice for Rotary Foundation Award,

On behalf of all MCC staff, Board and members, we congratulate you and wish you many more years of continued success.

## **OUTSTANDING STUDENT STORY**

Nyibol Mangok came to Canada over 10 years ago. Her husband, also from South Sudan, sponsored her. She entered our language training program at the MCC at the literacy level. Economic demands made her leave school in order to work at a mushroom farm in the county. As life went on, she had her first child and she had to leave work. Now a mother of four, she has returned to our school, having improved quite a bit through her work experience, especially in her oral skills.

Nyibol is currently in CLB level 5 for listening/speaking and just finished CLB level 4 for reading/writing. She has beaten the odds by making it further than most students who enter at the literacy level. She is now ready to apply for Canadian citizenship and join the work force, since her youngest child is about to enter kindergarten. Nyibol has been a committed student, and has learned to love Canada. She has blossomed as a student, reaching out to others in many ways as well. She dreams of opening her own hair salon in the future. We wish her well.



Nyibol Mangok (middle) with CLBA Instructors Jenny Harris and Carlos Correa

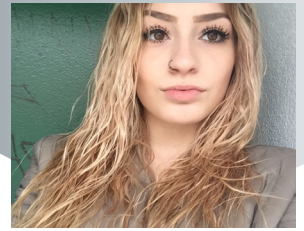


# MCC Volunteers and Summer Students



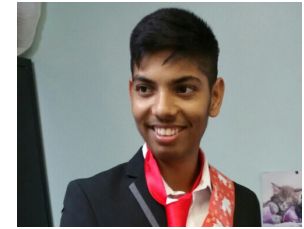
**Imad Alame** is an MA student in Political Science at the University of Windsor. Through their Volunteer Internship Program (VIP) Imad supports both the participants and the Coordinator of the TUNE IN FOR SENIORS program every Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Fatima El-Saghir:** Fatima is one of our Special Events Summer Students. She has been responsible for providing clerical support to our Special Events department by assisting in the recruiting and scheduling of our volunteers for the MCC annual Carrousel of Nations 2016, as well as providing administrative support.



**Madhab Humagain:** Madhab is one of our Administrative Assistant Summer Students. He has been responsible for assisting the MCC Youth Program with summer activities, and well as providing clerical support.

**Tilachan Dhungana:** Tilachan is one of our Clerical Support Assistant Summer Students. He has been responsible for assisting the MCC Youth Program with summer activities, and well as providing clerical support.



**Dalton Minovski:** Dalton is one of our Special Events Assistant Summer Students. He has been responsible for developing promotional material for several program outreach initiatives, proving assistance during the weekly Tune in For Seniors Group Sessions, and providing administrative support.

**Conrad Dippel:** Conrad is a retired Adult Education Teacher, volunteers at the Multicultural Council with Administrative Support for the WRAP and CSS programs. Conrad also assists the Pre-Employment program and contributes to Tune In for Seniors.



**Maram Kayali:** Maram has been a valuable program volunteer within MCC Pre-Employment Services. She provides primary assistance in Arabic language communication with program participants through a variety of media (phone, email, WhatsApp, etc.). She provides additional support at program sessions and events, working in conjunction with Interpreters and language Aids to ensure that participants' communication needs are being met beyond their satisfaction.



**Sufian Muhsen, John Pigeon and Nicholas Kocur**

This past summer the MCC hosted three interns from the Trios College under the ITP program. As recent graduates in the IT field they assisted with the day to day operations of the MCC Help Desk as well as a full IT Audit of resources.

During this time they were introduced to many different technologies and IT companies ranging from our service solutions provider Netmon to assisting with the production of Would Refugee Day at the Capital Theatre. The end of August marks the last days we have with them as they complete their internship and move on towards their future goals.

We would like to congratulate them individually with letting you know their pursuits and goals. Sufian Muhsen will be heading to Concordia University in Montreal to pursue a Masters in Computer Science. John Pigeon will be moving to British Columbia taken a position with an IT Consultant firm. And Nicholas Kocur will be furthering his education in computer development at St.Clair College.

*MCC thanks the volunteers and summer students for their help and wish them the best of luck in thier future endeavour.*



## 2016 Carrousel Sponsors



ONTARIO'S  
CHOICE  
AWARDS



## 2016 Harmony & Champion Award Gala Sponsors



**BECOME AN MCC MEMBER TODAY AND START ENJOYING THE BENEFITS!**

ADVOCATE FOR A HARMONIOUS AND EQUITABLE WINDSOR-ESSEX BY BECOMING AN INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER OF THE MCC TODAY AND REAP MANY BENEFITS!

### ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

**\$60/year**



- Access to Special Events:
  - Discount tickets to the Herb Gray Gala.
  - The Carrousel of Nations by the River: Free passes to one of Windsor and Essex County's most anticipated festivals in Southwestern Ontario; Carrousel of the Nations!
- Organizational Members receive 1 FREE ½ pg. color advertisement a year!
- Voting Rights: Exercise your rights at our Annual General Meeting.

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

**\$20/year**

- Your Community (or Commitment for Change): Do it because you care about your community. Help us continue to create and sustain an inclusive community and support Diversity Programming in our community.
- Publications and Resources: The Gazette Newsletter: Distributed to over 200 organizations and individuals, with a readership of over 2000. This publication provides you with inside access to multicultural news and events.

To become a member please visit [www.themcc.com](http://www.themcc.com) or contact Mira at:  
[mgordic@themcc.com](mailto:mgordic@themcc.com) • 519.255.1127 ext. 220