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in People

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY



Winter 2014

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Settlement and Integration • Language and Skills Training • Welcoming Community

SAVE

THE

DATE

13TH ANNUAL

HERB GRAY

HARMONY AWARDS GALA

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015



CIOCIARO CLUB



Investing
in People

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY

OUR APPRECIATION...

The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (MCC) sincerely appreciates the overwhelming support of our dedicated supporters, volunteers and staff each year that enable us to provide the quality of services to our clients and the community. A very special thank you to our Members, Sponsors and Donors for their ongoing support, and belief in the MCC mission, to all of our volunteers and stakeholders for their commitment to our programs and services, to our dedicated staff for delivering quality programs with limited resources, and to our Board members for providing the sound leadership necessary to steer the organization towards success. It is this profound hard work and dedication from all of you that truly enables the MCC to continue providing invaluable services to residents of Windsor and Essex County, and most importantly, celebrate diversity by investing in the people for the future of our community.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



Wishing you and your families a safe and Happy Holiday season and a Happy New Year!



MCC News

RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

Random Act of Kindness was celebrated at the MCC by engaging all Language and Skills students who had a short instruction on what RAK DAY means, when it is, etc. They brainstormed ideas and wrote them down on sticky notes attaching it to their respective classroom's sheet. The highest level class (LINC 5-6-7) actually put one of their ideas into action by passing out Thank You invites to all of the staff to join them for a quick pot luck celebration during break time. They wanted to thank the people who work at the MCC for making their transition to Canada a little easier. It was a huge success as over 20 staff members from every department enjoyed the students' token of appreciation. "It was the students idea" said their teacher, Ian Sandie. "(The students) appreciate everything the staff does for them day in and day out and just wanted to say thanks."



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

The Multicultural of Windsor and Essex County (MCC) in Partnership with Rotary Club of Windsor (1918) will be establishing the Little Free Library's at both locations as



well as within the Community. The first Little Library was launched on November 6, 2014 at the MCC east end location to provide this service to our clients. We will be a steward for the Little Library and the concept behind this project is to stop and take whatever books that you want, return the books when finished and bring other books as a contribution. The Little Library books are always a gift – never for sale! The movement behind this started in 2010 and has grown to include little libraries in dozens of countries. The mission is to: promote literacy and the love of reading, foster a sense of community and connection and to build more than 2,510 libraries around the world. Please feel to drop by our Little Library located at 7651 Tecumseh Road East, Second Floor, Unit A/B, Windsor to either choose a book (s) or contribute books for all ages (children, youth, fiction, non-fiction).



MCC News

MCIA'S HALLOWEEN EVENT

The most important part of Halloween celebrations is not the specific events associated with the event, but the atmosphere of playfulness it inspires in children and adults alike. More than 200 people attended the Meadowbrook Community in Action's (MCIA) Halloween event on Saturday, October 25, at the Place Concorde. The MCIA is a project led by the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County, a proud founded partner of the United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County.



FLU CLINIC

Influenza (the flu) is a respiratory virus that causes an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs. There are many strains of influenza, and it is a reportable disease.

As part of the newcomer's health initiative of the MCC, the NP Clinic hosted two flu clinics on November 18-19, 2014 at our Downtown and East End offices. A total of 240 MCC clients were given the flu vaccine. It is also important to stay healthy by eating the right kind of food, by being physically active and also to wash your hands, to cover your mouth while coughing and sneezing as well to clean and disinfect items.

Organizing the clinics at the MCC was a convenient and beneficial way for all MCC clients to receive onsite immunization to prevent illness, reduce risk of transmitting influenza, promote overall wellness and protect the whole community from the virus.

Thank you to Grace Lasala and the MCC volunteers Sarka Kebiskova and Janina Teaney for organizing this event in an effort to keep everyone healthy and happy this season.



MCC News

YOUTH AT THE GESSTWOOD CAMP

On October 5, 2014, in partnership with the YMCA of Windsor and Essex County, Windsor Women Working with Immigrant Women, and the Windsor Youth Centre, the MCC youth had the opportunity to attend the Gesstwood Camp's Challenges for Success Ropes Course with youth from partnering organizations. The Challenges for Success Ropes Course is designed for team-building, leadership development, coaching, personal development, problem solving, and cooperation. It provided the MCC youth with an invaluable opportunity to achieve success both as individuals and as part of a group. The MCC would like to thank the YMCA of Windsor and Essex County for covering the cost of admissions. This was an amazing experience for all youth participants.



OSRCF GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

2015-16 Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund

Now open for applications!

<http://www.grants.gov.on.ca/GrantsPortal/en/OntarioGrants/GrantOpportunities/PRDR006918.html>

Please Note: Deadline to apply for 2015-16 OSRCF Local/Regional projects is February 2, 2015 5:00 pm.

Fond ontarien d'action communautaire pour les sports et les loisirs 2015-16

La tranche de demandes est ouverte!

<http://www.grants.gov.on.ca/GrantsPortal/fr/OntarioGrants/PRDR006919.html>

DATE LIMITE D'INSCRIPTION: Lundi 2 février 2015, 17 h, heure normale de l'Est (HNE).

MCC News

YOUTH PROGRAM - HALLOWEEN 2014

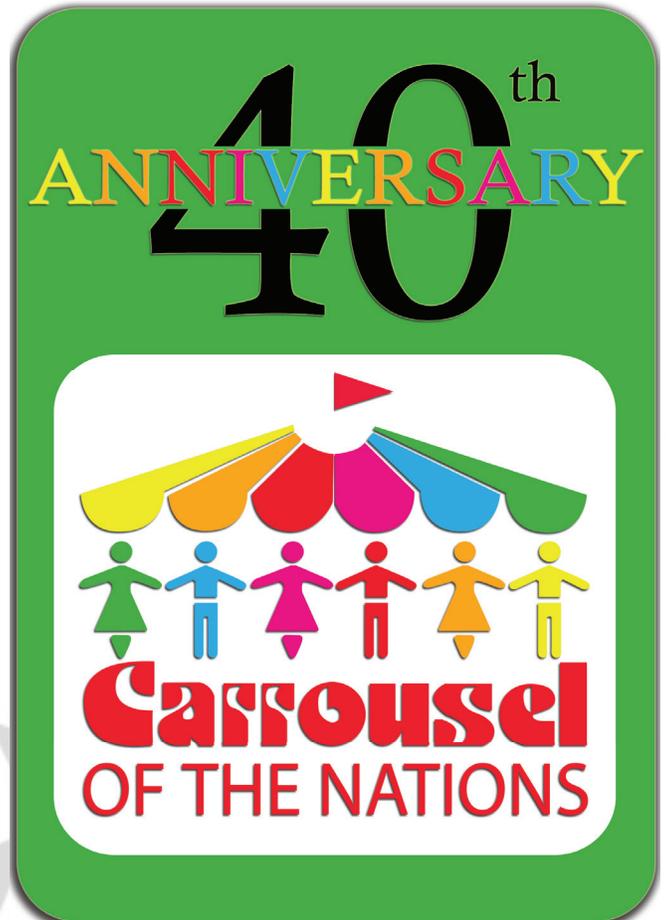
The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County offered a safe, positive event for youth to attend on October 30, 2014; setting an example of good, wholesome educational recreation for youth who were engaged in different group activities.



Congratulations to the winner of the Halloween Art Contest: Babita Basnet!

SAVE THE DATE

Join us as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Carrousel of Nations Festival June 2015. Delight in the tastes, sounds and traditions of an array of cultures at our kick-off weekend “Carrousel by the River” on June 12th – 14th, 2015. Over the next two weekends June 19th -21st & 26th – 28th, 2015, ethno-cultural groups open their cultural centers in celebration of their origins with Cultural Villages around the City of Windsor, Ontario, Canada.



For information regarding Sponsorships or participating as a Cultural Cuisine Vendor or at our World Market, please contact the Special Events Coordinator at 519-255-1127 ext.191 or by email to SpecialEvents@themcc.com

Do not miss out on this exciting opportunity!

MCC News

SPARKY'S TOY DRIVE

The Windsor Firefighters were busy playing Santa during Sparky's Toy Drive registration at St. Andrews Church. Arabic-speaking Interpreters and Language Aids, with the Multicultural Council, volunteered to be Santa's helpers. They assisted many Windsor newcomers who came to register their children's names on Thursday and Friday, November 13 and 14th.

A special 'shout-out' to Joan Carter for the many volunteer hours she spent organizing the volunteer help for both days. A further thank you goes to the interpreters and language aids for their time and expertise. They are:

Baydaa Al-Hamadani
Farah Khalife
Nahi Hatoum
Huda Bouto

Bashar Butrous Yusuf
Sumer Talya
Huda Bouti
Sa'ad Hermez

The toy drive, now in its 29th year, is a seasonal custom for many Windsor families in need. For those who've just arrived in our community, it's a wonderful time to introduce them to this Canadian tradition.



Standing: Nahi Hatoum, Bashar Butrous

MY EXPERIENCE WORKING AT THE MCC

The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (MCC) is the first place I felt as though I could actually make a difference. Each staff member I've had the pleasure to work closely with is passionate and proactive about the ultimate mission and vision of the MCC. They understand and hold the rich value of a diverse society and work hard towards ensuring that every Newcomer has a smooth transition and that Canadians are given the opportunity to not only accept but appreciate the greater multicultural world. I first came to MCC as a "New Beginnings" youth student in the summer of 2013. By the end of those few short weeks I remarkably felt like a new individual or at the very least one that had grown. Here is where I discovered my fascination for learning about different cultures, customs, and faiths. Working as a volunteer with the youth division, I help young people with their homework and encourage new learning and support. This year, I was given another opportunity to work at the MCC through Service Canada and as each week goes by I feel so blessed to have had these experiences. Now, I hope to study and pursue a career in International Relations and I can say without a doubt that this would not have been possible if I hadn't had this chance and I do not know who I would be without the Multicultural Council, it has truly change my life and me.

Jimela Maya Hall



MCC News

LANGUAGE SERVICES IN HIGH DEMAND

Language Services (LS) is one of the busiest programs in our organization. With a 34-year record of providing translation and interpretation services to the Windsor-Essex community, the MCC's LS Program strives to achieve unparalleled excellence. There are numerous organizations and businesses, including government agencies, medical institutions, the private sector and individuals, who require translation and interpretation. A database of over 120 translators and interpreters are fluent in over 50 different languages both oral and written in order to meet the needs of our community.

Canada is one of the most diverse countries in the world. Over 6,000,000 immigrants currently live in Canada or nearly 20% of the total population. The 2011 Census Population sited one-fifth of Canada's population, or nearly 6,630,000 people, spoke a language other than English or French at home. Of this total, 6,390,000 spoke an immigrant language at home .1



Taking into consideration these statistics we understand how important interpretation services are to ensure better access for immigrants to services available in each community.

Since 1998 the MCC is the only agency in Windsor and Essex County, and one of eight agencies across Ontario, that provides free interpretation services to the victims of domestic violence. Funded by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, last year the program expanded to deliver services to the victims of sexual violence and human trafficking.

The MCC, in partnership with St. Clair College, offers the Language Interpreter Training Certificate Program. Participants obtain the training and credentials to become trained interpreters and receive ongoing

training to maintain their professional standing.

While professional training is essential for effective and accurate interpretation, it is important to acknowledge ad hoc interpreting occurs in a variety of situations. Ad hoc interpreting refers to interpreting done by a person who is not trained but speaks the two languages needed for a specific interaction. For example, if any non-English speaking client needs assistance in an emergency room, a trained interpreter is not available, a bilingual receptionist, nurse, settlement worker or family member may be asked to interpret. While this is not the best situation for all concerned, it is one that occurs quite frequently.

Interpretation by an untrained person can be problematic for a variety of reasons and is not recommended in professional settings. An untrained interpreter, with a grasp of one or both languages, might not be fluent in both languages and therefore will not be effective. Furthermore, untrained interpreters attempting to interpret complex terminology put themselves, and those working with them, in potentially dangerous situations.

The error rate of untrained interpreters is sufficiently high and in some circumstances, more dangerous than having no interpreters. Professional interpreters learn terminology specific to the settings they'll work in, and gain a solid grasp on ethical and legal guidelines.

Documented risks of inadequate interpretation include misdiagnosis, mistrials and decreased patient satisfaction. That is why there is an urgent need to promote appropriate language services through the use of interpreters, translated written materials, service provider training.

References:

1. Statistics Canada. 2011 Census in Brief: Population Growth in Canada from 1851 to 2061. Population and Dwelling Counts 2011 Census. Catalogue No. 98-310-X2011003
2. Flores, Glenn. Et al. Errors in Medical Interpretation and Their Potential Clinical Consequences in Pediatric Encounters.

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Thank you to our 2014 Carrousel Sponsors!

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Thank you to our Harmony and Champion Award 2014 Gala Sponsors



BECOME A 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!

- 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!
- Publications and Resources: The Gazette Newsletter: Distributed to over 200 organizations and individuals, with a readership of over 2000. This publication provides you with insider access to multicultural news and events. Organizational Members receive 1 FREE ½ pg. color advertisement a year!
- Voting Rights: Exercise your rights at our Annual General Meeting.
- 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.

Organizational Member annual fee: \$60.00

Individual Member annual fee: \$20.00

Membership is valid for a calendar year

To become a member please visit www.themcc.com or contact Mira at:
mgordic@themcc.com • 519.255.1127 ext. 220

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