



Investing
in People

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY



Spring 2017

g a z e t t e

Settlement and Integration • Language and Skills Training • Welcoming Community



The Multicultural Council of Windsor
& Essex County invites you to the
Herb Gray Harmony Awards

Gala



Harmony Award
Dr. Alan Wildeman

Champion Award
Dr. Godfrey S. Bachevie

Thursday, May 4th, 2017
Ciociaro Club of Windsor
3745 North Talbot Road, Windsor
6:15 PM Cocktail | Dinner | Silent Auction

\$90/Ticket | \$850/Table of Ten
Corporate Tables - \$1200
Sponsorship Opportunities Available
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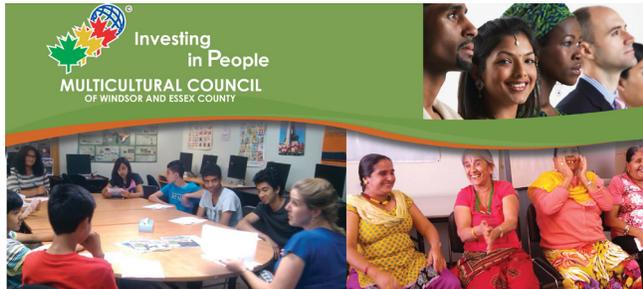
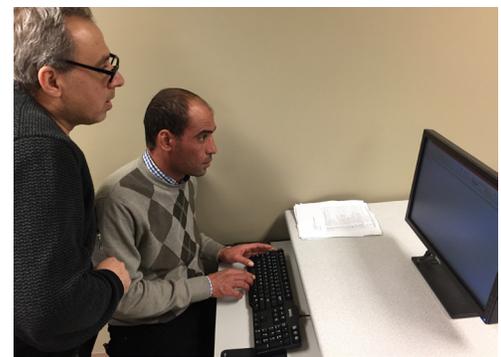
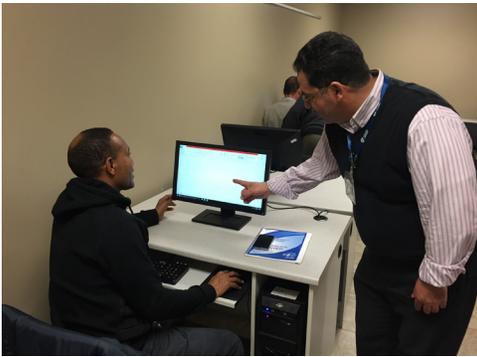
MCC BASIC COMPUTER CLASSES

The Pre-Employment program has started Basic Computer Workshop Sessions covering the following topics: Introduction to Computers, Computer Hardware Fundamentals, Browsing the Internet & Websites, Creating & Using Emails, Introduction to MS Word, How to insert Tables & Pictures in a MS Word document, and Creating & Uploading Resumes.

This knowledge will greatly assist newcomers with entering the job market, and in their abilities to find and retain gainful employment here in Canada. Between November and February, 17 sessions were held, with over 90 newcomers participating and receiving this important training.

In addition to our dedicated staff, there are three Arabic-speaking volunteers, and one language interpreter assisting with both communication and one-to-one tutorial assistance for each participant at individual computer work stations. Client participants have been very appreciating and enthusiastic about the opportunity to develop their computer skills at the Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County.

For more information contact Colin Grimmond at 519-255-1127 ext. 157 or by email cgrimmond@themcc.com



Conversation Circles

Date and Time:

**Tuesday & Thursday
3 - 5 pm**

Location:

7651 Tecumseh Rd. E.

Eligibility:

Permanent Residents,
Convention Refugees
(18+ years old)

*Friendly conversation
and social time while
you practice your
English skills!*

English
practice fun
communication friends
speaking improve
classroom learn
free culture
newcomers

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et Citoyenneté Canada

Conversation Circle: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00-5:00

- ▶ On a waiting list for language classes but not yet in school?
- ▶ In language classes but want to improve faster?
- ▶ Can't attend language classes but still want to opportunities to practice your speaking and listening?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you would be more than welcome to join the bi-weekly conversation circle at the MCC. Topics are chosen by participants, so we're always focusing on what is important to you

EDUCATIONAL TOUR

Recognizing the importance of education in the process of resettlement, the Multicultural Council has been actively investigating opportunities for newcomers.

Many refugees arrived in Canada with College and University educations, and wish to obtain equivalencies or to explore other careers. In order to help make these choices possible, the Multicultural Council sought to provide information to all interested clients.

Tours were held for Syrian and non-Syrian refugees at both St. Clair College and the University of Windsor, exploring options available and requirements. Clients, staff, and volunteers visited the St. Clair College Windsor Campus on January 25, and the University of Windsor on February 13. Newcomers heard about various programs and classes, and about what their prior learning may offer in terms of transfer credit.

Many expressed interest in pursuing their career goals by first gaining appropriate education and training, and were glad to know about post-secondary options in Windsor and Essex County.





The After School Program has had a couple busy months! Our students participated in many STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities, which they request on a daily basis. We have four student teacher candidates from the MILE Project, which is a partnership with the University of Windsor, Bachelor of Education Department, that have implemented a reading and phonics program for all of our students to improve on their reading and writing skills. We have started to build our library by allowing our students to choose novels they would love to read. We really are proud of all our students and the amount of books each one has read!



In the upcoming months, we are looking forward to bringing in some guest speakers and trainers to teach our students new techniques and lessons involving art, physical activity and science. We are excited for all our upcoming planned activities and cannot wait to share our work with everybody at Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County and the community.



For more information, please contact Kelly Pukay, Youth Program Coordinator at: 519-255-1127 ext.224 or kpukay@themcc.com

Proud Funded Partner of



YOUTH program



The Newcomer Youth Program participants enjoyed fun games and activities related to Valentine's Day



Youth Program is funded by:



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



First Christmas in Canada

The Multicultural Council embraced the spirit of the season, hosting a holiday celebration for newcomers on December 15th.

The welcoming event, hosted by the Multicultural Council's Newcomer Settlement Program, received such overwhelming support that the location had to be changed to accommodate the size of the group.

Held at the Windsor Public Library's Main Branch, nearly 200 Government Assisted Refugees- well over half of them children, were invited and took part in the festive and cheerful evening of winter merriment.

Welcoming greetings were offered by Multicultural Council Executive Director Kathleen Thomas, as well as Settlement and Integration Manager Marcela Diaz. The staff and volunteers of the MCC committed many hours to the planning and organization of the event, which included dinner, dancing, and even a visit from Santa Claus himself.

In addition to a warm and friendly introduction to Canada on their first Christmas, each child received gifts courtesy of our generous partners at Sparky's Toy Drive.





HEALTHY Families

On the First of February, the Multicultural Council proudly launched our Healthy Families Series. Designed to inform and educate newcomer mothers, the 9-week program features information sessions from medical and community professionals, as well as on-site childminding during the sessions.

“We are very excited to introduce the Healthy Families Series to our clients.” reports Family Wellness Coordinator Timpy Aulakh, “Providing essential information to our newcomer families helps to ensure that their resettlement here in Windsor-Essex includes safe and healthy practices.”

Program presentations will feature weekly topics such as Primary Care, Women’s Health & Hygiene, Mental Health Support, Women Empowerment, Healthy Living, and Nutrition. Thus far, with the support of dedicated staff and volunteers, the program has been an overwhelming success.

Each week the number of attendees has grown, with interest in the program increasing. Because of both the need and the clear success, planning is already underway to continue and expand the program in the future.



Holy Trinity Polish Parish Kicks Off Centennial Celebration

Windsor, Ontario – February 6, 2017

The second oldest active Catholic Church in Windsor is celebrating a big birthday.

Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Polish Parish is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a year-long party.

The Polish Parish – on the corner of Langlois Avenue and Ellis Street – has been the spiritual and cultural home for tens of thousands of Poles over the last century.

"The Church is the foundation of our community and a close-knit family with a proud history" says Rev. Zbigniew Sawicki, the eighth in a line of pastors to watch over the growing community.

It has also been a safe harbour for thousands of refugees fleeing their homeland in times of political strife – seeking refuge and hope for a better life in Canada. "Our family came to Canada 33 years ago as political refugees, and Holy Trinity helped us settle in Windsor," says Richard Kusmierczyk, Chair of the Centennial Committee.

The Centennial Jubilee Year will run from October 16, 2016 to October 22, 2017 and feature numerous monthly cultural events open to the Windsor community including highlights:

- A Windsor Symphony Orchestra concert on March 11, 2017 at Holy Trinity Church <http://www.windsorsymphony.com/community-outreach>
- An exhibit at the Chimczuk Museum titled 100 Years of the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Polish Parish that will run from August 12 – October 15, 2017
- A lecture series titled Poland: The Country of Freedom Fighters, Artists and Saints from January through March 2017

Other events will feature cultural works and productions from local artists, parish and community organizations including Polish Language School students. Exhibits from Poland will also arrive.

Information and a calendar of events, as well as a brief history of the Parish has been published on the Centennial Jubilee Committee website <http://100holytrinity.com/en/>

For more information, please contact:
Richard Kusmierczyk
Chair, Centennial Jubilee Committee
Telephone: 519.944.4441
Email: jubilee@100holytrinity.com



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Print issue delivered by Canada Post to every registered business in Windsor Essex.

Only Biz X has a print and digital edition (viewed on our website) plus delivery to verified email subscribers.

We will tailor a campaign to fit any budget and requirements in print and digital.

MCC initiatives

The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County has been delivering the Neighbour, Friends and Families Immigrant & Refugee Communities Campaign (NFF IRC). The NFF IRC campaign helps diverse communities identify the signs of woman abuse and equips those closest to a woman with the skills to intervene effectively. It uses accessible and relevant products and activities to reach diverse immigrant and refugee communities such as: relevant and accessible language, images and stories that are reflective of the experiences of immigrant communities, or holding activities that celebrate their cultural heritage.

Under this campaign the Multicultural Council of Windsor Essex County has recruited Peer Educators to teach and to raise awareness in their communities on recognizing the warning signs of abuse and how people can support women and families who are impacted by abuse. The campaign uses a bystander approach. Many people do not know what all the forms of woman abuse look like. As a result, bystanders don't know when and where to act, or what to do about it. The campaign says: Here are ways they can help! It includes a focus on building participants' and community skills, capacity and confidence in their aptitude to intervene in a range of specific scenarios. It tries to equip potential 'bystanders' with the tools and confidence to respond to woman abuse safely and appropriately.

Violence against women is not limited to any one community. It crosses all social economic backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, abilities, sexual orientation, or occupations and all individuals and communities have a role in preventing and responding to violence against women. It a preventable health risk and an issue where everyone in our community SHOULD and CAN play a role in preventing. The slogan of the Campaign is:

- RECOGNIZE THE RISKS
 - TAKE A STANCE
 - MAKE A CHANGE

www.immigrantandrefugeenff.ca

The neighbours, friends and families immigrant and refugee communities campaign - The MCC initiative to prevent violence



Volunteers in Action



The Multicultural Council continues to offer multiple programs with various goals to numerous clients, and relies on its volunteers to help make that happen.

Whether by assisting with administration, physically setting up, or supporting programming, volunteers play an integral role in the delivery of information and activities to newcomer families.

Over the past few months, volunteers have worked hand-in-hand with staff at multiple events, ensuring clients have safe environments in which to learn. Volunteers also assist with child and youth programming, assisting with childminding and care during orientation, assessment, and information sessions.

Volunteering at the Multicultural Council offers benefits not just to our staff and newcomers, but also to the volunteers themselves, who gain experience with diverse populations, conversing in English, working with children and youth, and in event organization.

Opportunities are always being added for interested individuals to join our dedicated group of volunteers. Applications are available on our website and at our office, and can be completed and submitted at your convenience.



In order to volunteer, the following must be received:

- A completed application form
- An up-to-date basic resume
- A Vulnerable Sector Police Clearance – from within one year



Currently, the Multicultural Council is able to offer reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a volunteer-specific Vulnerable Sector Police Clearance. We are also able to provide letters of request for local police department. In addition to providing the documents mentioned above, applicants must take part in orientation and training sessions offered at our downtown location.

Successful applicants will be advised of ongoing and individual events, and will have the opportunity to take part.

For more information or to apply to volunteer, please contact the MCC Volunteer Coordinator Lyn Bain at lbain@themcc.com.

Thank You

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2016 Harmony & Champion Award Gala Sponsors



BECOME AN MCC MEMBER TODAY AND START ENJOYING BENEFITS

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

**INDIVIDUAL
MEMBERSHIP**

\$20/year



**ORGANIZATION
MEMBERSHIP**

\$60/year

- Support the mission and vision of the Multicultural Council
- Access and discount to Special events
- Online edition of quarterly newsletter "Gazette". This publication provides you with inside access to multicultural news and events
- Exclusive voting rights at the Annual General Meeting
- Publication resources
- Education and diversity consult

- Commitment to change
- Organization members receive:
- 1 free advertisement in the Gazette - 4.75 x 7.25
 - 2 free advertisement on the MCC Web site under MCC member news
 - 3 events of your organization to be shared through social media

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