



Investing
in People
MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY



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Fall 2017

Settlement and Integration • Language and Skills Training • Welcoming Community

Save the Date

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

**Tuesday,
26 September 2017**

All Saints Church
330 City Hall Square East

5:30 pm Annual General Meeting-AGM

6:00 pm Volunteer/Sponsor Appreciation Event

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



Complimentary food and non-alcoholic beverages

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Pre-Employment
Mentorship Program**
Page 3

**Community Building with
Syrian Newcomer Families**
Page 4

DiverseCity onBoard Launch
Page 5

MCC Partnerships
Page 10-11

Summer Orientation Workshops
Page 2

Summer Camp
Page 8-9

MCC C6 Program
Page 6-7

Summer English Classes
Page 7

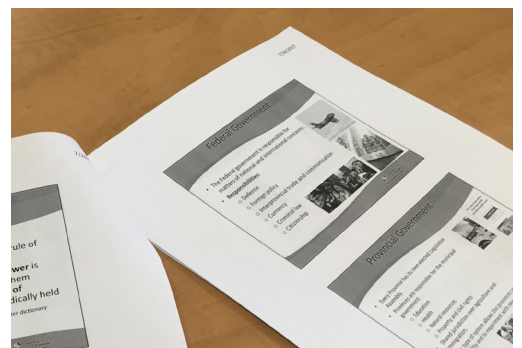
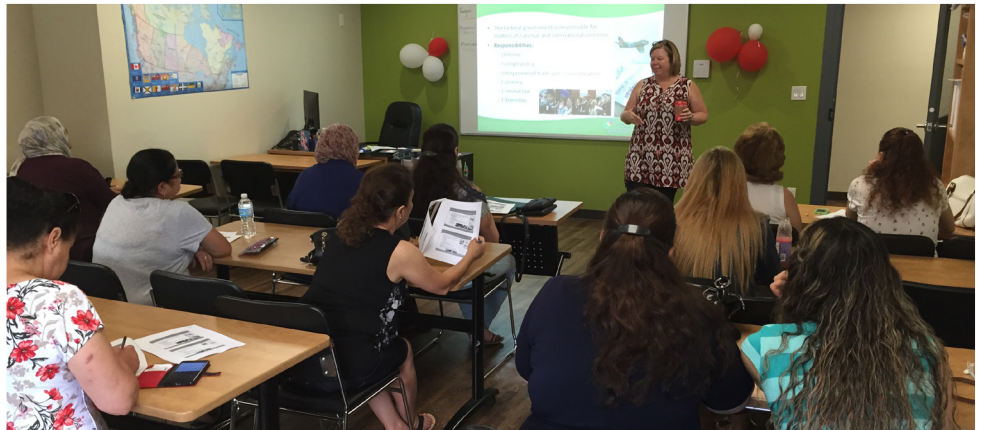
**Welcome back!
After School Program**
Page 9

SUMMER ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS

Our Citizenship Preparation Workshops are designed to assist students in understanding the geography and culture of Canada as described in the Discovery Canada handbook.

The Discovery Canada handbook is the base of the Canadian Citizenship Test. Through powerpoint presentations and practice testing, students begin to prepare themselves to understand the material and questions of the Citizenship Test.

This preparation is to ensure that students have the knowledge and confidence needed to pass the test and become a Canadian Citizen.



Driving in Ontario – English and Arabic Languages. This workshop was created to assist our clients in understanding the rules and regulations of driving in Ontario while preparing them to write and pass their G1 test. The session was delivered in English and Arabic, as we have a population of Arabic speaking clients currently living East Windsor. As people are able to write the G1 test in different languages, this workshop series assists the clients and ensures that they understand all the rules laid out by the Ministry of Transportation. Before the session was completed, one of the clients had passed their G1 test!



PRE-EMPLOYMENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

NEW

The Multicultural Council is excited to launch a new Mentorship program funded by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The aim of this program is to increase networking and future employment opportunities that are commensurate with the skills and qualifications of recently-arrived newcomers residing in Windsor and Essex County.

Program goals are accomplished through matching newcomers with established Internationally-trained professionals. The mentors provide assistance and guidance towards integration into the local job/labour market.

The Multicultural Council's mentorship program is a unique initiative since it is working with lower English language communication skills clients.

The program was launched officially at a social 'meet & greet' event on Wednesday, August 2nd with eight participants including both potential mentors and mentees. Following this, we had our first matching event on Friday, August 18th.

The goal of this session included the sharing of cultural background and professional employment history, a constructive review of mentee's resume, the discussion of job search activities and successful strategies, and setting realistic weekly activity targets.

We had the following three successful matches including Mentor, Ilham Rizk with Mentee, Shahir Tello, both have professional experience within the Insurance Brokerage industry; Also, Mentor Imad Alame, who is enrolled in the LLB program at the University of Windsor, with Mentee, Emad Al

Samhan, who has previous legal professional experience outside Canada; and finally, Mentor, Samar Al-Hamami, who has Canadian professional experience as a Settlement Worker and international experience as a Teacher with Mentee, Nadia Haydaw, who also has international experience as a Teacher.

All participants have expressed enthusiasm with both being a part of the Mentorship Project & with the appropriateness of their matches!

The Mentorship Project will have an additional 2 - 4 matches for the month of August and another 6 matches for next October.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please call 519-255-1127, and ask for Colin Grimmond or Haifa Maghnieh.

VOTE FOR CARROUSEL!



ONTARIO'S
CHOICE
AWARDS

Finalist ~ Top Festival & Event



Carrousel of the Nations is a FINALIST in Ontario's Choice Award in 'Top Festival and Event' Category.

To vote go to:

<http://www.attractionsontario.ca/ontarioschoice>

Voting closes October 5, 2017.

One vote per category per day (24hrs)

COMMUNITY BUILDING WITH SYRIAN NEWCOMER FAMILIES

Innovative approaches break down barriers to seeking mental health support.

In July 2016, Dr. Annette Dufresne, (Ph.D., C. Psych), a Clinical Psychologist and Riham Al-Saadi, (MSW, RSW, PhD Candidate), a Client Support Services Case Manager at the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (MCC) held an engaging and successful nationwide webinar on a creative Arts and Music program delivered to eight Windsor newcomer families.

The 8-week program addressed barriers towards seeking support for mental health needs among newcomers. It also provided an opportunity for the group to enhance their family cohesion through spending time doing various arts and music activities. Riham Al-Saadi stated, "This was an innovative approach such that it utilized alternate means to relief stress and encourage to overcome barriers and address mental health needs".

Clients shared that they benefitted greatly from the program in multiple ways: learning about the Canadian culture, engaging and socializing with some members of the larger society, feeling well-appreciated and respected, having an opportunity for insightful family time, stress relief, happiness, and excitement around the arts and music activities. At the program completion, every participant contributed a small piece of art to create a collective larger piece, as shown on the picture (right).

Riham also mentioned, "This was a joint effort and showed true collaboration and social engagement between newcomer families and the larger society".

This webinar – the first of its kind for the MCC – resulted in some reflective questions surrounding the program, and best measuring practices for the programs' success and clients' feedback, and other sites have expressed considerable interest in replicating the program in their own communities.



Dr. Annette Dufresne



Riham Al-Saadi

To view the webinar, visit Community building with Syrian refugee families: Coping, art & music.

<https://www.porticonetwork.ca/web/rmhp/webinars/past-webinars/successful-or-promising-practices>



Group art work by newcomer families

DIVERSECITY ONBOARD LAUNCH IN WINDSOR



DiverseCity
onBoard

The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County held the launching event for DiverseCity onBoard Windsor-Essex on July 11. The event hosted participants from corporate, not-for-profit, and public sectors as well as representatives from local ethno-cultural communities.

The event was held at the United Way/ Centraide Windsor-Essex office, the local partner for the project. United Way/ Centraide Chief Executive Officer, Lorraine Goddard, expressed the positive aspects of the partnership as well as how DiverseCity OnBoard comes to address a long standing gap in Windsor-Essex. Also, Lisa Kolody, Executive Director of the Windsor Essex Community Foundation addressed the room as a champion of the initiative. She highlighted the importance of civic engagement at all levels, as well as the

long term impact of inclusive leadership. Many of the attendees expressed interest in joining the program and asked several questions during the networking portion of the event. The event had good media exposure with the presence of the local CBC radio and TV, and CTV. The positive publicity has generated some momentum with over 200 shares of the CBCNews – Windsor story online.

The MCC is working towards the success of DiverseCity onBoard and is excited to play a part not only in the growth of the program, but also to be a part of the DiverseCity OnBoard Network. Windsor is the 8th City in Canada to provide the training and matching opportunities for organizations looking to diversify their governance board.



<http://windsor.diversecityonboard.ca/>

C6 Youth Activities

The C6 Youth program held concurrent events on July 22nd. The first event was a cooking lesson led by a chef and Iraqi newcomer, Ali Mohamed, and held in the kitchen of the Riverside Sports Centre. Ali led a group of 22 male and female newcomer youth in the preparation, cooking, and presentation of a traditional meal. Together, the group hand-made chicken shawarma, Mediterranean salad, and biryani. The amazing food was then used to feed the cooks themselves, the volunteers, and the C6 youth taking part in another event on the opposite side of the building.



INTERESTED to be part of C6 Program?

**Contact: Lyn Bain
lbain@themcc.com
519.255.1127 ext. 146**

C6

Also on July 22nd, C6 Youth held a futsal tournament, courtesy of Shane Topalovic, owner of Next Level Athletics, and former head coach of the Windsor Stars soccer team. Boys and girls took part in indoor soccer, playing 10min games, rotating on and off the court, and cheering for each other. Newcomer youth, volunteers, and even staff joined in to keep the intensity high all afternoon. Perhaps the best part was joining the other C6 Youth, and enjoying a fresh and homemade meal. We would like to recognize Riverside Minor Baseball Association, Riverside Sports Centre, and Shane Topalovic of Next Level Athletics for hosting us and for helping with these amazing events. Special thanks to the Red Cross for their continued support of the C6 and C6 Youth programs.



C6 Youth Activities



On June 29, 2017 both the C6 and the C6 Youth programs were invited by the Windsor Pickleball Association to learn and experience a new sport.

Hosted at the Riverside Sports Centre, the event included lessons and games in the "fastest growing sport in Canada"—pickleball. Described as 'a combination of ping-pong, tennis, and badminton', pickleball is played on a small court with a wiffleball and a wooden paddle. The game is quick and easy to pick up, and a lot of fun to play with friends. 43 Newcomers and volunteers took part in the event, which was a rousing success.

Special thanks go out to Dave Fields and his volunteers from the Windsor Pickleball Association for their time, their knowledge, and their patience.



SUMMER ENGLISH CLASSES



This summer, over 50 clients participated in a new Orientation 4-week session to help improve their English. Clients in Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) Levels ranging from 1-8 enjoyed practicing their English in a more relaxed format than the standard Language Training classes.

These CLB Tutoring sessions have been very successful, and have been a great opportunity for registered and waitlisted clients to keep up their English skills and be more prepared for September when regular Language Training classes resume.



MCC SUMMER



Welcome back to all our youth ages 7-12 who are currently participating in our Summer Camp, funded through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Our staff, Kelly Pukay and Jackie Campeau, have planned many exciting, educational and hands-on activities for our students to experience throughout the summer weeks.

Our camp runs Monday-Friday 9am-12pm and will have in-class, as well as field trips, so our students will have one of their greatest summers with the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County.

So far, our students have gone to Adventure Bay, Bowling, Windsor Circus School, Zehrs Cooking Class and Point Pelee. We will be welcoming Pottery and Palettes, Mad Science, Robotics, Zap Zone and many, many, many arts and crafts activities!

The MCC staff sincerely hope that our students enjoyed their summer.

See you all in September.



CAMP 2017



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WELCOME BACK AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Proud Funded Partner of



Welcome back After School Program, funded by United Way! This year, our After School Program will begin on **September 11, 2017**.

The program will run from 3:30pm-5:30pm Monday-Thursday and 3:30pm-4:30pm on Friday. We would like to welcome back both Kelly Pukay and Jackie Campeau who will once again resume their roles as Youth Program Coordinator and Youth Program Assistant.

This year, we have many hands-on activities that have been planned to ensure that our students thrive in their educational environments. After School Program staff are excited to see our students from last year, as well as welcoming in some new faces.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact **Kelly Pukay, Youth Program Coordinator**
kpukay@themcc.com or call 519-255-1127 ext. 224

MCC partnerships

MCC and ElderCollege

By Lloyd Brown-John, Director, Canterbury ElderCollege

ElderCollege and its community of volunteers and course participants have been significantly enriched by our working partnership with Windsor's Multi-Cultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (MCC).

ElderCollege has offered a platform for many cultural communities to engage their talented members to provide insights into their history, traditions in food, music, arts, dance and costumes inherent in Windsor's rich multi-cultural fabric.

ElderCollege's constituency of "aged 55 and better" has had several opportunities to learn, explore and to leap with sheer delight into distant places, peoples and their cultures.

From Poland to Serbia to The Phillippines, Mexico, Hungary, Italy our ElderCollege course participants have traveled the world and learned of unique histories and foods and music and languages.

ElderCollege's course participants, and it follows, residents of Windsor and Essex County, have been enriched by our partnership with the MCC. And arguably, we are all much better citizens in consequence of the experience.

For the MCC, we sense that ElderCollege is assisting with communicating values critical to the purposes of the MCC such as the richness of diversity and cultural understanding. ElderCollege is a unique opportunity for the MCC to engage a broad range of local citizens in the life-learning experience of respect and understanding of diverse cultures and communities. ElderCollege looks forward to a continued rich and healthy partnership with the MCC.



Lunch followed by a presentation at the Hungarian Club in Windsor

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Celebration of **DIVERSITY**



On August 26, 2017 the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County-MCC partnered with Windsor Police Service, Windsor Fire & Rescue Services, and New Beginnings in organizing the first Community Diversity Day in order to promote diversity of Windsor-Essex.

People were brought together to learn about services available, enjoy free barbeque, fruits and vegetables, and a wonderful summer day. The event was held at Lanspeary Park at the corner of Ottawa and Langloise Streets. The MCC was present with an outreach information table. We were also excited to bring various ethnic groups to showcase their cultures through music and dance. Congolese, Bavarian and Indian -Nupur Jhankar dancers brought to the stage rhythms from a three different continents. Attendance was great, with many newcomers stopping by and enjoying a day in the park. MCC staff was happy to provide answers to questions about organization services and possible volunteer opportunities. MCC also had a world map where people could point out countries of their origin. We had people from 16 different countries.

We hope to have this event again next year, filled with activities for all ages. We are looking forward to invite other community servicing organizations to join us.

THANK YOU

2017 Harmony & Champion Award Gala Sponsors

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University of Windsor - Office of President

2017 Carrousel Sponsors



BECOME AN MCC MEMBER **TODAY!**

By becoming a member, individual(s) and/ or organization(s) engage in our efforts and support the MCC's mission and vision towards creating an equitable Windsor-Essex.

To learn more visit: www.themcc.com or contact Mira at:
mgordic@themcc.com • 519.255.1127 ext. 220