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in People

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY



Spring 2018

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WELCOME!

HANH DAO

Our new Team Members

Please welcome Hanh Dao to our East End team. Hanh started working as the new Community Connections Program Assistant at the end of August 2017. She is assisting Sladjana Lazevski with a range of programs but primarily facilitating Youth Employment Sessions, Seniors Group and the Women's Arts and Crafts Group. Hanh creates lessons and activities, coordinates workshops and organizes field trips. Hanh is Vietnamese but was born in the Philippines. At age 2, her family moved to Windsor. She is the oldest of 6 children, which she says has developed her patience and organizational skills. Hanh completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Windsor and her Primary - Junior teaching degree at the University of Western Ontario. She also has a certificate for working with children with autism from St. Clair College. She says, "My favourite thing about working at MCC is connecting clients to community resources."



PAM MADY

Pam Mady has joined the MCC team as Manager of Communications and Community Engagement. Pam is a University of Windsor graduate with decades of event and marketing experience. Pam has many years of senior level experience, holding numerous director and management level positions. Her most recent position was in Events and Communication for the Mayor's office - City of Windsor. Pam has helped to lead a number of high profile community wide events including the FINA World Swimming Championships held in Windsor, as well as the City's part in SuperBowl XL. Pam is the former Marketing Manager for Rafih Automotive Group and the former General Manager of the Rotary Club of Windsor (1918). Pam has worked with the MCC on many community partnerships, and is a former MCC Board Member. Pam is married with two children and is very much looking forward to sharing the many success stories of the MCC.



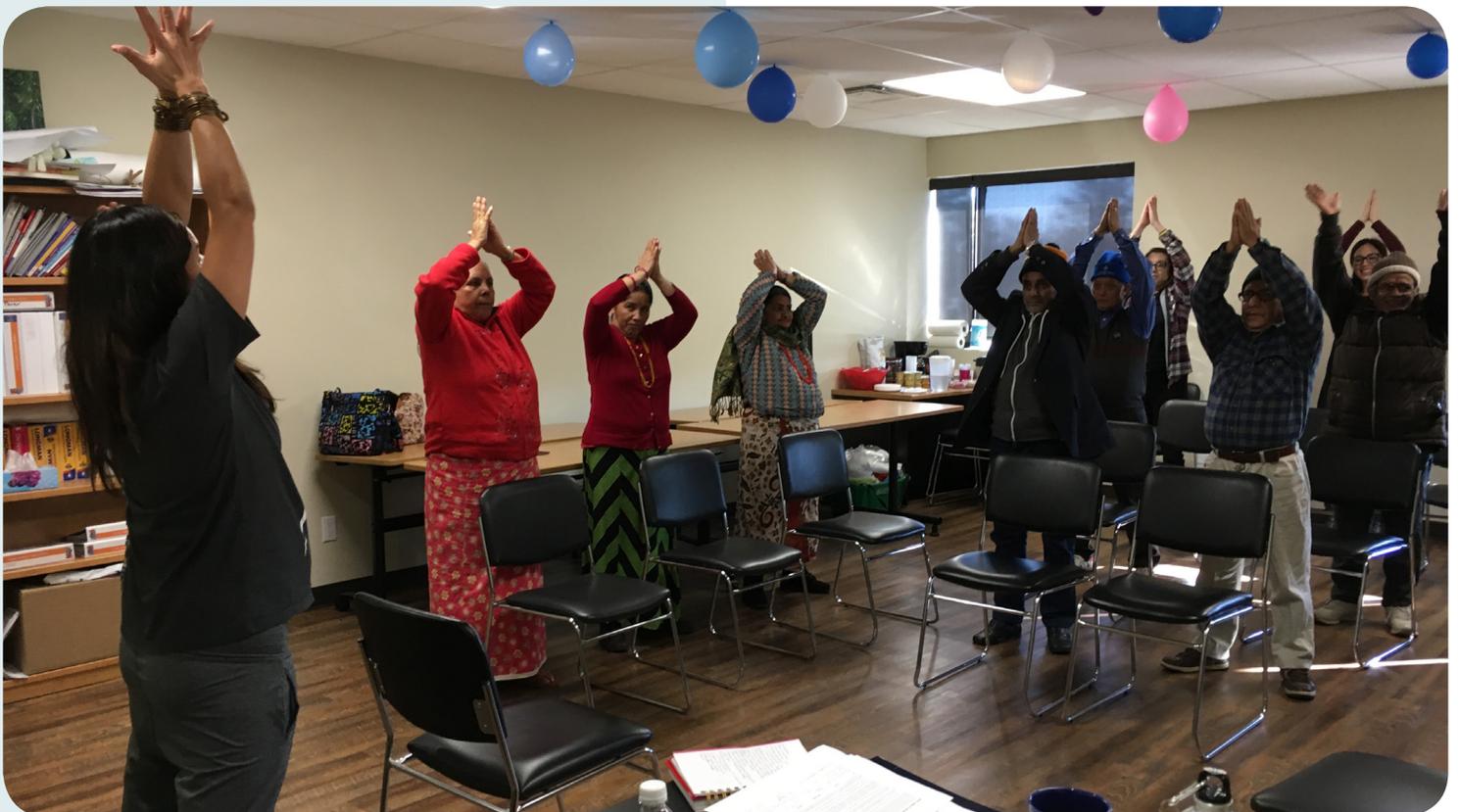
Seniors find a welcoming place at the Multicultural Council

Every Friday afternoon, shortly before 1:00pm, a group of elderly Nepali men and women carefully make their way to the entrance of the East End location of Multicultural Council. Where are they going? The Seniors Group at MCC.

It is often difficult for the elderly relatives and friends of new immigrants to find a welcoming place for them to learn basic English conversation skills in a location that they can easily access. Recognizing this need in the community MCC secured funding from IRCC - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to start a Seniors Conversation Circle. The group began meeting in April of 2017 and is celebrating a very successful 1st Anniversary.

Every Friday, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, seniors are welcome to participate in theme-based activities guided by one of our newest staff members Hanh Dao. Hanh incorporates Canadian culture with conversation activities. Lessons are often based around Canadian holidays (eg. Christmas tree decorating), health issues (eg. healthy eating/shopping) or current concerns (eg. flu shots). Many of the seniors are friends or relative of clients attending the Language Skills Program at MCC.

Good Luck seniors for another successful year at MCC!





DiverseCity onBoard

On February 22nd the Multicultural Council of Windsor Essex hosted the second DiverseCity onBoard session at the Windsor Aquatics Centre. Lyn Bain, MCC Volunteer Coordinator led the presentation providing a detailed overview of the program.

DiverseCity onBoard equips all leaders to become competent directors representing a new standard of modern, effective governance.

The program provides governance training through online courses and webinars. The 'Smart' online database then matches candidates with organizations. These include under-represented groups in governance: Visible minorities, under-represented immigrants, women, Indigenous People, LGBT+ communities, and persons with disabilities. Finally, the program also includes in person networking opportunities.

This evening of information and networking included a personal overview from Colin Grimmond who recently completed the training and is already matched with a provincial board. Colin highlighted the importance of detailed training on board essentials, risk management, legal roles and responsibilities as well as financial fundamentals. He also noted the confidence this training has given him as he moves forward in his career and volunteer board opportunities.

Contact North was onsite to describe their role in facilitating this inclusive leadership training.

For more information on how you can enroll in DiverseCity onBoard. Visit www.themcc.com



Nurse Practitioner puts the focus on newcomer health



Anticipating the needs of the newcomer community and developing programs to meet them are key to the Multicultural Council maintaining a high standard of service delivery. Unique in Windsor's settlement agency sector, our Nurse Practitioner (NP) Clinic is a good example of this practice. Working from both the Downtown and East End locations, the NP offers free primary health care services to individuals who are new to the Windsor area with no primary care provider.

In addition to being a family doctor for dozens of clients, the Nurse Practitioner works with a variety of community partners to provide targeted health services. Through a partnership with Family Services Windsor/Essex, onsite counselling and mental health services are available by self-referral at both MCC locations. Services are offered at no charge.

The Nurse Practitioner will be collaborating with VON in March to hold a women's health screening day. The Pap screening clinic will offer women the opportunity to be screened for cervical cancer as part of health promotion and disease prevention. Event date and times will be announced with more information to follow in the near future.

The Nurse Practitioner will also be participating in Health Access Day. The MCC is a lead organizer of this annual event that draws hundreds of clients from agencies across the city. Information on health care services and wellness will be available from over 40 local organizations.

For more information on the MCC Nurse Practitioner Clinic please contact 519-255-1127.



Flu Clinic 2018



Health Access Day 2017

MARCH BREAK PLANS

We asked our clients....



Cristina Rakosi – Canadian Language Benchmark - CLB 4

March Break is a good idea because I have free time. It is my first break from school in March. I'm happy about it now and it's a good time to think how I can spend this time as pleasant as possible. In the morning I will sleep a little bit more. Maybe I will take a short trip if the weather will be nice. I want to go to visit a new country. I have never been to Cuba, so this sounds great. I love the beach and fine sand, and the ocean with sparkling waves and emerald colours. I love all these things and I can go see some wonderful places.



Marija Mihailovic – CLB 6

In human nature, we are looking forward to every vacation. As a student at the MCC, I am very happy to have March Break. No homework, no tests and more free time so I can organize according to my wishes. As a newcomer I consider that beside the knowledge of English language for better assimilation in a new country, you need to get to know the history of the country, sights, natural beauties...Canada is a country with a great potential for tourism. My breaks are dependent on the season. On summer, I visit cities, beaches and parks. I use winter for snow activities.

For this March break, I plan to visit Boler Mountain and try tubing. It will be my first time to try it and I am so excited. Probably the weather will be cold but I expect lots fun. I prepared on time a warm jacket and snow pants. I will go with my husband and a couple of friends. They were there for Christmas and they recommended it to us. I hope that my plan will be realized.



Fedda Al - Hourany – CLB 5

March Break is a rest from the routine of life and a chance to do different things in your life that make you happy. It is a chance to communicate with the family and relatives and make more activities all together. I have decided to go out with my family to make some visits and picnics, and invite my friends to visit us and have a BBQ. Also, we will do some exercises and watch some movies all together. As for myself, it is a chance for me to go shopping alone and spend time drinking coffee with my friends and to do some solitary exercises like yoga and meditation to relieve some tension. I will have more time to walk in the fresh air. Before this March Break will come to its end, we will visit our relatives outside Windsor. We are going to visit the well-known Niagara Falls, especially nowadays when the waters are frozen. I think the view will be beautiful. After that, we will be ready to go back to our normal life routines more active and more vivid.



Sweran Jawro – CLB 4

There are some things I plan to do for March Break this year. My first step is to go visit places I haven't yet visited in Windsor. For example, I want to go to the Chimczuk Museum and watch a movie at the cinema. My second plan is to go to a concert because my favourite singer from my country will be having a party here in Windsor. And my last plan for March Break is to stay home to study English to improve my English language and watch English movies. I like March Break because this vacation gives me time to do a lot of outstanding things that I can't do because of my normal routine.

WHAT IS YOUR TALENT?



Josmeiry Hernandez – CLB 6

I could say a few talents that I have, but the only one that feels positively important is the way I can look for ideas to adapt myself in new places, challenges and new experiences. It's amazing to challenge yourself to find new things to learn.



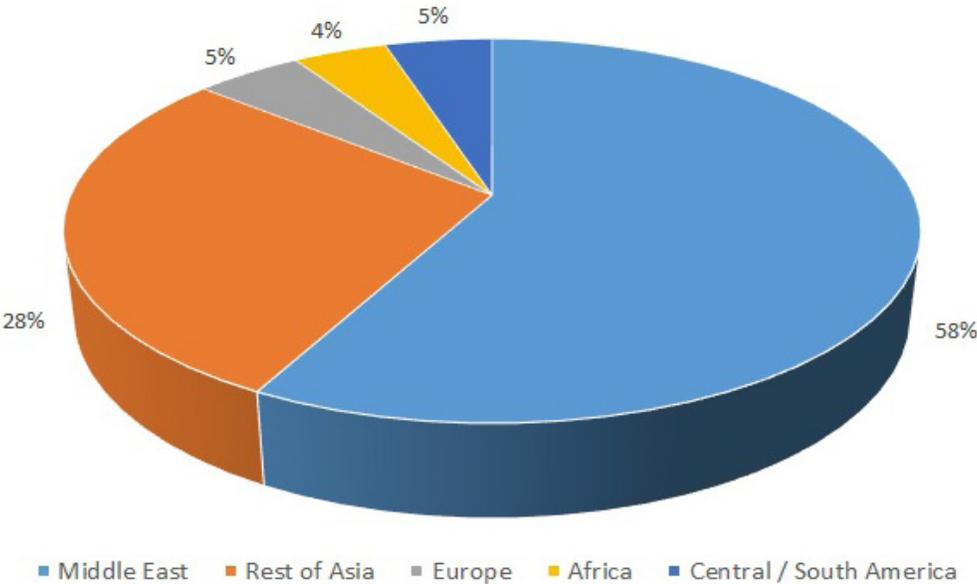
Sifan Trtrian – CLB 5

Hi, my name is Sifan Trtrian. I am from Syria but I am Armenian originally. My talent is singing. I love singing and I can't see my life without music. I listen to it every time and everywhere. It was my dream to study music but unfortunately I did not have the chance to. I love listening to classic songs more than others. When I hear a song the first time and it comes to my heart I write the words and I learn it. I always watch Youtube and learn songs from it.

When I was in my country, I was involved in a church group. I had a lot of songbooks but when I left my village because of the war, I left everything there and when I returned to my village again I found everything burnt.

I know Armenian songs, some Arabic songs and now I am trying to learn some English songs. When I sing I feel happy and I feel that I can be free of sadness. This is me with my love of songs. Thank you.

Where do our students come from?



STUDENT

Anxiety Be gone!

Anxiety & Newcomers and how Joy the Social Worker Helps

By: Josmeiry Hernandez

MCC clients have moved from another country and face many challenges such as: the language barrier, new food, a different culture, finding a job, fewer friends or family; all of this is part of adapting to a new life in Windsor.

According to Joy, a social worker, these can be triggers for anxiety, stress and even trauma in many immigrants when trying to integrate themselves into the community. At the MCC, Joy can help with talk therapy, giving suggestions and creating awareness on how to face challenges newcomers often face. She is available on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, for any MCC client. To make an appointment with her it is as easy as visiting the reception desk and putting your name on the list.

The therapy primarily consists of having a conversation about any topic that has resulted in some type of anxiety. This help is important because it relieves the anxiety of the client, leaving the mind more open for positive and educational thoughts, which are essential for better integration into society.



SUCCESS STORIES

English students continue education in Canada



By: Aubrey Garir, Boonyong Kaepkakhon, Jia Bao Wang, Antonela Donescu, Maysam Albanna, Rima Ichaya

Every semester several MCC clients apply to higher education institutions and we like to acknowledge and celebrate their education journey. Amani Ahmed Hussin, a client in CLB 6/7/8, recently applied to St. Clair College. Her first choice is the Social Worker program although she is also applied for the Early Childhood Education program and Special Education: Autism as fallback options. She found the application process a little difficult and thanks MCC Orientation staff for assisting her. Amani stated, "I am most excited to be accepted to the Social Worker program because I have past experience in this field and I love helping people!" She is currently attending MCC language classes to continue to build her language skills for the challenging road ahead.

A second applicant from the same CLB class is Begard Sinjari. Sinjari applied to the Medical Laboratory Technician program at St. Clair College. It is a one year diploma course, and after successfully completing this program she hopes to study at the university level in Canada. Sinjari said, "I'm so excited to be able to pursue a career in Canada and I wouldn't be here without my inspirational teacher."

R E P O R T E R S

Empowering Women through Arts and Crafts

By: Rand Youssef and Aubrey Garir

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada funded MCC Women's Group is a new program that was launched in the fall 2017 semester. It caters to newcomers to Canada and its main purpose is to provide women an opportunity to learn new skills through arts and crafts and at the same time socialize.

They have done a wide variety of activities like sewing and quilting. They are also looking forward with excitement to new and fun projects that they will be working on. Hanh Dao, the Program Coordinator gathers students' suggestions as to what kind of activities they want to work on and do her best to deliver. In addition, she also tries to incorporate craft ideas according to holidays and seasons. By doing so, she introduces newcomers to Canadian holidays and traditions. The groups' learning is also not limited to the four corners of their classroom. They have gone to several field trips which contribute to piquing their interests.

One of the participants, Huda, who has been with the program from the time it was launched, said that she finds the program very helpful. She loves the fact that she gets to learn new skills while having fun. Aside from that she also mentioned how she enjoys meeting new people and interacting outside her class. Rajaa, another participant said that she finds the time quite relaxing and enjoys the time for herself. Moreover, she also finds the program like a trip down memory lane. Before moving to Canada, these were the activities she enjoyed doing with friends and family and being in the group gives her that sense of belonging.

The program's full capacity is twenty participants and anyone interested is encouraged to register at the MCC's front office. Sessions run on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.



MCC Signature Event - Carrousel of the Nations

By: Jennifer DeMaeyer, Orientation Specialist and OS Lead

Immigration has always played a crucial role in Canada's social vitality and economic prosperity. Since Confederation, Canada has welcomed immigrants into communities throughout the country and, in return, immigrants have helped foster growth and build a nation. At a time when xenophobia is rising in some quarters of the globe, multiculturalism remains one of Canada's eminent institutions.

Windsor Ontario is among the largest multicultural city in Canada. With a metropolitan area population of 329,144 as per the 2016 Census, it represents rich cultural mosaic. Windsor is a city built by immigrants of all countries: European, African, Middle Eastern, Asian, South American etc. To show their pride in their cultural background, the immigrants and children of those immigrants, celebrate every year with the Carrousel of Nations festival.

Established by the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County in the mid 70's, the Carrousel of Nations festival runs at multiple locations across the city over the course of two weekends. Windsor-Essex has been host to various cultural groups immigrating and assisting the region both economically and culturally for decades. The coming together in celebration of our diverse cultural communities has helped participants enjoy being a part of these cultural groups for a whole weekend or two while allowing them to showcase their cultures and traditions in dance, music and food. This is the largest ethno-cultural festival in south-west Ontario and a tradition in Windsor going back to 1974. It is voted one of the best festivals in Ontario for the 11th consecutive year by Festival and Events Ontario.

This event, supported by Multicultural Council but driven by generations of immigrants. Villages are able to use this event to fundraise for their clubs, churches or community centres while allowing for continuation of cultural traditions such as youth dance competitions and language instruction to keep their first language. As the festival is widely known and a highlight in the region, it plays a key part in driving the Windsor economy with visitors who will go to the villages, purchase the food, buy from the vendors, ride the transit buses and stay at the hotels.

There are usually around 12-16 villages (cultural groups) that take part in this city wide festival over the two middle weekends of June. With the help of their cultural leader and a vast number of volunteers, they showcase their vibrant dances, music, artwork and delicious cuisines. Visitors are able to travel around the world without leaving Windsor. Villages over the years have included: Bavarian/German, Caribbean, Chinese, Greek, Filipino, Hungarian, Italian, Macedonian, Polish, Serbian "Grachanica", Serbian St. Dimitrije, Slovak, Romanian, Scottish and Ukrainian villages just to name a few. Windsor has such a plethora of tradition and pride and it can be seen in all of the newcomers who came to live in Windsor over the past century. It is a tradition that is now passed down through the grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren – everyone partakes.



Scottish Village



Romanian Village

Serbian "St. Dimitrije"



Caribbean Village



Greek Village



Macedonian Village

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Bavarian Village



Filipino Village



Hungarian Village



Chinese Village



Italian Village



German Village



Hungarian Village



Slovak Village



Ukrainian Village



Serbian "Grachanica" Village



June 15-17 & 22 - 24, 2018

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Newcomer Youth find success after school

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At the East End location, the learning doesn't stop when our adult English Language students go home. Every day, up to two dozen young people, aged 7-12, participate in the After School Program.

Funded by the United Way, the program is an amazing opportunity for youngsters to build on what they learn at school, make new friends and feel more at home in their community. Now in its third year, the program's success has caused the team to look at expanding what they offer.

Monday through Thursday, the children get together for homework help and structured activities to help them improve at school. By providing a dynamic and safe learning environment, students feel comfortable to ask questions and challenge themselves to be better.

According to Kelly Pukay, Youth Program Coordinator, this translates into success in their school classroom. "We have had so many of our students jump reading levels and vastly improve their grades," she said. Shannon Ciampa, Program Manager, oversees the Program run by Pukay and Jackie Campeau, Youth Program Assistant. The team engages the students with many activities that mirror their classroom work by following the trend to incorporate STEM-Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. "They love to do hands-on activities. We like to do a lot of science and experiments. Our students are always asking to make slime at any opportunity."





Thursdays are focused more on art, with drama taking centre stage in recent weeks because of a school play that many are participating in. Fridays are a more relaxed day for the program as there are no structured activities, but students are encouraged to drop in for homework help. Recently, on December 5, six employees from RBC joined us for the afternoon to assist the After School Program through the United Way Days of Caring Program. This program allows donors, workplaces and United Way volunteers the opportunity to take part in meaningful, one-day projects that assist local non-profit organizations. It is a chance for them to come together and develop team building skills while making a difference in the community. The RBC employees helped the youth with their homework needs, got to know the youth, and participated in fun activities afterwards. It was also a good chance for our youth to connect with others in the community. The biggest challenge is always helping the youngsters feel more confident in themselves and their abilities. It's clear the After School Program is rising to meet that challenge and exceed it as their participants find success (big or small) in their schools and in their community. The team is particularly proud when the students tell them about their accomplishments. "We had two of our youth leave the ESL program at their school."

Multicultural Council at Windsor Express



Windsor Barvinok Ukrainian Dance School & Ensemble



MCC Connect program had an opportunity to play

For the fourth year in a row, the Multicultural Council partnered with the Windsor Express in presenting "The Multicultural Night" at the WFCU Arena during an Express home game.

This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the diversity of our community through sport and the exciting game of basketball. As it happens, basketball was invented by a Canadian, so what a fitting experience for those new to our city and country!

This year, we were delighted to have clients from both the "C6" and "MCC Connect" programs attend the game and participate in this special night. Thanks to the Windsor Express, the participants - who were all recent newcomers to Canada - had a chance to play basketball for the first time on a professional court at the WFCU Arena. For most, this was their first time playing the sport. The forty-five minutes of play went by so quickly for the delighted participants, who are all now anxious for an opportunity to play again. It was a memorable experience for all.

After half time, rhythmic drums introduced our local African Children's Dance group to entertain fans. Their electric performance was followed by the lively Al Sanabel Dabke dance group. The Windsor Barvinok Ukrainian Dance School and Ensemble performed a colourful, upbeat and exciting finale. The combination of the three groups left fans marveling at the magnitude of

the community's diversity and the beauty of the cultural presentation.

The evening of multiculturalism was further highlighted with greeters from our local Polish, Filipino, Nigerian and Cameroonian communities. Their impressive traditional costumes and big smiles greeted surprised Express fans before and after the game. The Multicultural Council was on hand to promote the many programs and services that they provide to the community.

We would like to thank the welcoming cultural groups, the performers, the Windsor Express, Bob Bellacicco from CTV news, Pat Reid-MCC Board Director and all of the staff from the Multicultural Council - Lyn Bain, Nahi Hatoum, Lubna Barakat, and Mira Gordic for their time in planning this event.

A special thank you goes out to Windsor Regional Hospital - Diversity Committee for their generous donation which enabled us to bring MCC Connect and C6 Program clients to the game.

Having the opportunity to showcase community events to those new to the city is such an important part of the settlement process. Feeling welcome, feeling informed, and feeling engaged is so important to feeling included. Thank you to all of those that made this possible.



Members of Filipino, Nigerian, Cameroonian and Polish community were greeting visitors at the game



Al Sanabel Dabke group



African Children's dance group



Mrs. Funke Sabageh (left) and Mrs. Abiola Afolabi from Nigerian Canadians for Cultural Educational and Economic Progress

MCC Ojibway Park outing with newcomer families

This February, our newcomer families enjoyed a natural experience at Ojibway Nature Centre and Reserve.

This is one of the MCC Client Support Services team's regular client outings where families have the opportunity to enjoy family time, participate in a family activity and learn further about the importance of healthy family relationships. Plus, they discovered a venue in Windsor-Essex where they can spend some quality time together as a family in the future.

The MCC partnered with Family Services Windsor to deliver an informative presentation and facilitate the fun activity. As captured in the photos, each family gets to draw a caterpillar representing all family members and decorate it however they choose. The families expressed great enjoyment in the activity as well as the information received. Everyone enjoyed a walk around the park and all communicated that it will definitely be a place to visit again, especially with the warm weather approaching.





Leadership program for newcomer youth

In partnership with Women Enterprise Skills Training (WEST), the Client Support Services (CSS) Youth are participating in a Leadership and Community Development Program that upon completion at the end of March 2018 will grant each youth certification.

The youth will also work in groups to complete projects in the area of their choice from the following topics: Entrepreneurship, Education, Healthy Living/Wellness, Social Impact, and Technology. A multitude of guest speakers and key informative leaders in this area are participating in the program. From the MCC, the CSS case manager dedicated for youth initiatives will participate in facilitating presentations/workshops on mental health and settlement-related stress and the use of technology with awareness on Internet Safety and Cyberbullying.



Orientation to Ontario (O2O)



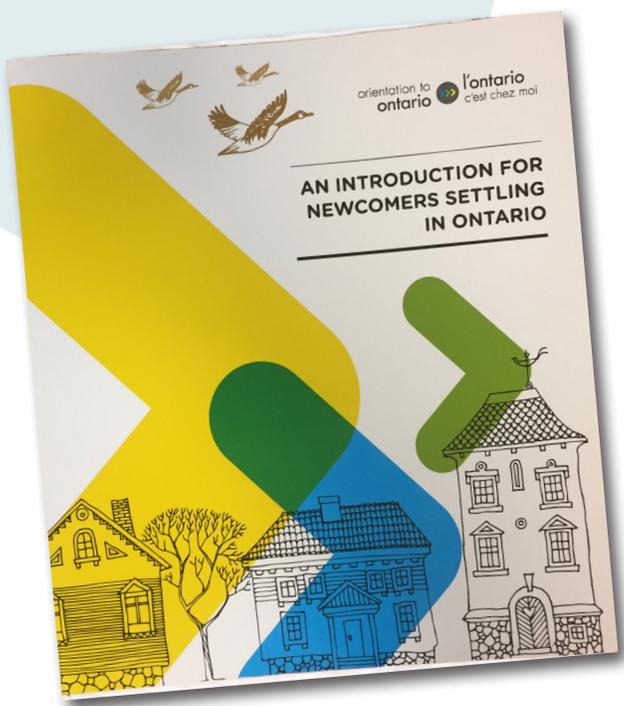
One important initiative that the provincial government has provided is the Orientation to Ontario (O2O) program. The program is designed from a holistic approach where it covers integral elements of settlement and resettlement; all newcomers are eligible to attend the workshops.

The program is delivered via two models: Fast Track, a one-day workshop, and Standard, a two-day workshop. It covers a multitude of topics including understanding governing structures, health services, employment and volunteering, social support and places of interest such as parks, stores, shopping centres and other places where they can spend family quality time.

The O2O program has been adopted at the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County and is delivered by two primary facilitators. Guest speakers are also invited on a regular basis to tackle integral topics such as types of abuse, domestic violence and preventions thereof, as well stress and anxiety related to settlement and existent formal and informal supports.

The O2O program is delivered to clientele from diverse backgrounds and who have come to Canada through different immigration routes. It has thus far gained great positive feedback among participants and it had encouraged questions where clients were able to gain great knowledge from.

For more information, registration and dates of workshops, please go to: www.orientationtoontario.com





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