



Investing
in People
MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY



Fall 2018

g a z e t t e

Settlement and Integration • Language and Skills Training • Welcoming Community

CAESARS WINDSOR CARES, recipient of the 2018 Harmony Award



In this issue:

Community partners come through for kids
Summer orientation workshops
O'Neil grant opens up opportunities
Community Connections program
The Chance Program

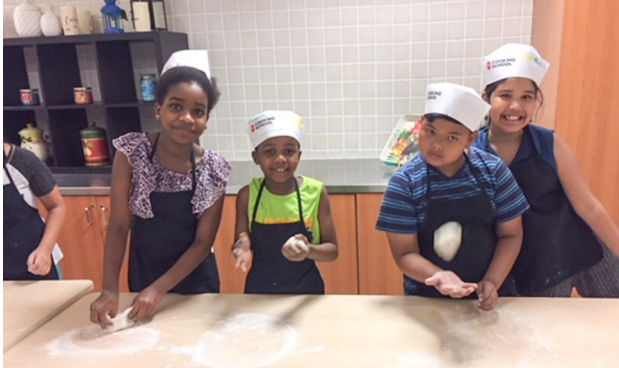
2
3
4
5
6

Canada Connects
MCC in the community
Crockpot cooking session
Annual General Meeting
Summer Students

8
9
10
12
14

NEWS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS COME THROUGH FOR KIDS



MCC's Summer Camp for school-aged children (7-12) featured some fun field trips, engaging activities and, most importantly, big smiles.

In June, the team learned there wouldn't be funding for this year's camp, so they were faced with two choices: cancel summer activities altogether or look for ways to provide some meaningful programming.

With the help of the Windsor-Essex Community Foundation (WECF), Rotary Club of Windsor (1918), and amazing volunteers, our youth were kept busy a couple days a week throughout the summer.

Utilizing a Fast-Track Grant from the WECF, some creative planning, and the campers' own fundraising efforts, there were trips to: Adventure Bay, Sky Zone, Hidden Trail Escape Room and President's Choice Cooking School at Zehrs Parkway Plaza. Special thanks to Zehrs for providing a special rate, and then further discounting the session. Rotary (1918) was a big help in the success of the youth fundraising effort, which saw the campers partnering with the Interact Club of the MCC to sell handmade cards.

Funds raised supported camper excursions as well as supplies for drop-in gaming days, painting sessions, and much more. The painting days were led by a volunteer, who taught art to children from Iraq for inclusion in a Children's Art Exchange with City of Windsor Sister Cities.

As a team, we are already thinking of new opportunities for community partners to get involved in next year's Summer Camp.

Special recognition to Jackie Campeau, After School Program Assistant, who volunteered her time this summer to help on many of the program days.

Thank you to all those who helped to keep our youth active this summer!



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ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS

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This summer, our Orientation staff delivered workshop sessions on two high-demand topics: Citizenship Test Preparation, and Driving in Ontario (English and Arabic).

Citizenship Test Preparation

Participants learned about Canada's geography, history, freedoms and much more. After completing the six-week workshop, our clients felt better prepared for their citizenship test and the responsibilities that come with citizenship.

Driving in Ontario

This summer featured two Driving in Ontario sessions, one in English and one in Arabic. For five weeks, participants were led through the information needed to succeed on the written G1 Licensing test. Interactive workshops helped participants understand the rules of the road, signs and symbols, safety and more. We're looking forward to seeing many new, educated drivers in the near future.

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Funded by:



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

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O'NEIL GRANT OPENS UP OPPORTUNITIES



In 2017, MCC received special funding through the O'Neil Foundation Community Grants Program - to promote and prepare MCC youth for post-secondary education.

Throughout the year, the MCC organized trips to the University of Windsor and St. Clair College for campus tours and information about local post-secondary options.

The MCC was also able to offer ongoing homework assistance, registration help, and guidance in navigating OSAP requirements. In addition, mentorships were developed for the youth to help peers and/or younger children with homework.

Just before summer, the group also participated in a MAPP Career Test. This assessment goes beyond most career navigators, analyzing a person's traits as well as motivations.

Two field trips were organized to improve teamwork, problem solving skills, self-reflection and leadership. The first outing was to Gesstwood Camp's Ropes Course, the second to Hidden Trail Escape Room.

The program resulted in our youth feeling more confident about their post-secondary choices, and better equipped to continue their education. For those returning to high school, the program provided solid direction to focus their path and know what to expect when they have to make decisions about their scholastic future.

THE O'NEIL FOUNDATION
community grants program

It was a packed summer for the Community Connections team with a variety of group sessions, guest speakers and field trips.

Our Women's Group continued working on their artistic projects and enjoyed a field trip to Michaels. The Seniors' Group appreciated informative visits from Windsor Police Services, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and our social worker, Lillian. Finally, our Youth Group stayed engaged through World Cup days and several fun field trips.

Lunch & Learn conversations are now back in session with field trips, guest speakers, and engaging activities planned for the fall!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

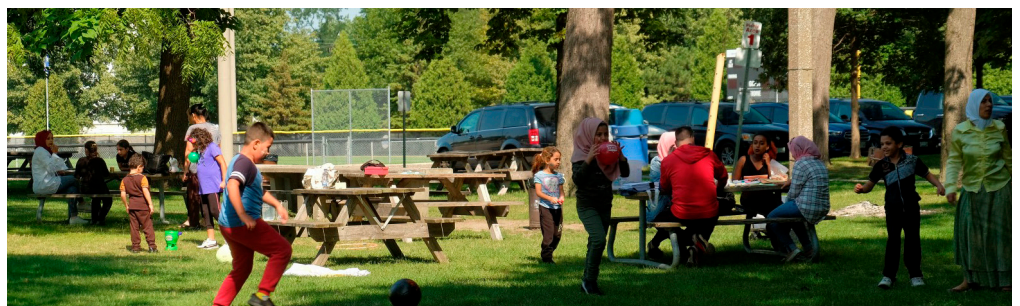


MIC MAC PARK OUTING

An outing to Mic Mac Park was enjoyed by our clients with planned activities for both parents and children.

Parents received information regarding Canada's Food Guide as well as the importance of physical activities - from the MCC Family Wellness Coordinator. Children participated in face painting, slime making, soccer and hula hoop games.

After lunch, children had the chance to cool down from the summer heat by playing in the splash pad.



THE CHANCE PROGRAM

NEW EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT FOR NEWCOMERS



STARTS OCTOBER 15

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CALL JEHAN HELOU NOW AT 519-255-1127 EXT. # 185 FOR YOUR CHANCE !

EAST END READY FOR ANOTHER FANTASTIC FALL



Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) Classes

School is back in session, with over 250 students benefitting from our team of instructors as they learn through real world tasks in a skill-based curriculum.

Care for Newcomer Children (CNC)

The CNC staff have an amazing year lined up for the little ones (6 months to 5 years). These dedicated professionals provide a fun and educational atmosphere for the children while parents focus on their English learning.

Orientation

Tackling topics such as the education system, volunteering and preparing for winter, these sessions provide valuable insight into life in Canada.

Youth Groups

Our Homework Club is back in session with a whole new semester of engaging activities and educational support. We are looking forward to a recruitment drive to welcome even more youth to the group. Our Youth Employment series continues with monthly workshops on various job-related topics from job search to workplace expectations.

After School Program

The After School Program is also back to engage youth ages 7-12. This group, open to Canadians and Newcomers, fosters cross-cultural friendships while providing critical educational support. The sessions include time for homework - with help if needed, followed by a fun activity designed to supplement learning. Activities incorporate elements of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering, Math) curriculum, physical education or social sciences.

Conversation Circles

The Women's Arts & Crafts Group picks up for a season of creative projects and field trips to the Art Gallery, a pottery store, and a craft show. An exhibition day is planned, for the group to bring their creations and share their talents. Our Seniors' Group continues to provide the social connections so many senior newcomers are missing. Activities, friendship and of course, a little English practice on Fridays are a great way to start the weekend.

Finally, our Lunch & Learn sessions are back to provide our LINC students even more language practice. Participants engage in a variety of discussions, interact with Canadian guests and "find their English voice" as they improve their language skills in a more relaxed setting.

Canada Connects

This new one-to-one (or family) match program is well underway and still taking applications for the fall/holiday season. If you are interested in helping someone settle in Windsor by showing them around, introducing them to Canadian culture and practicing English, this program is for you.

A little of your time makes a **BIG IMPACT**

Canada Connects



- **Volunteers** are Canadian citizens / settled immigrants like **you**
- **One-to-One, Couple or Family Matches** with **Newcomer(s)** to Canada
- Get together once a week and help a newcomer **practice English or French**
- **Meetings are informal**, such as cooking together, going shopping, relaxing by the River, visiting a museum or historical site, taking in a movie or hitting a festival
- Be part of our welcoming community through this **unique volunteer opportunity**

For more information: Ian Sandie
519-255-1127 x224 / isandie@themcc.com

Funded by:



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

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MCC AT ST. CLAIR COLLEGE BOLLYWOOD NIGHT

Timpy Aulakh, the MCC's Newcomer Settlement Program's Orientation Specialist attended the St. Clair College Bollywood night on July 27th. Timpy has been providing settlement information and support to international students studying in our community.

The event was a beautiful presentation of décor, traditional dress, food and dance – a wonderful celebration of the Bollywood theme.



MCC IN THE COMMUNITY



MCC was excited to participate in this year's in Open Streets. We had a ton of fun promoting #HarmonyMCC with ribbons, chalk, colour blasts and selfies - so many selfies!



The MCC was invited to present a Cultural Competency Workshop at the Ford-Unifor Employment Equity Conference in September. We always appreciate companies and organizations that look to make our community a more welcoming one. Thank you Ford and Unifor!



In an effort to show their appreciation to their new communities, government-assisted refugees from Syria and Iraq took part in a blood drive for Canadian Blood Services. The initiative was led by the Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County (MCC) and Canadian Blood Services. Thank you to all partners that made this a success.



The MCC helped to embrace all the great qualities of our diverse city at the 2nd Annual Community Diversity BBQ in August. Always a wonderful event with incredible partners!



The MCC Summer Camp students were proud to participate in the City of Windsor Twin City Art Exhibit. (that's their artwork behind the Mayor and Councillors!)

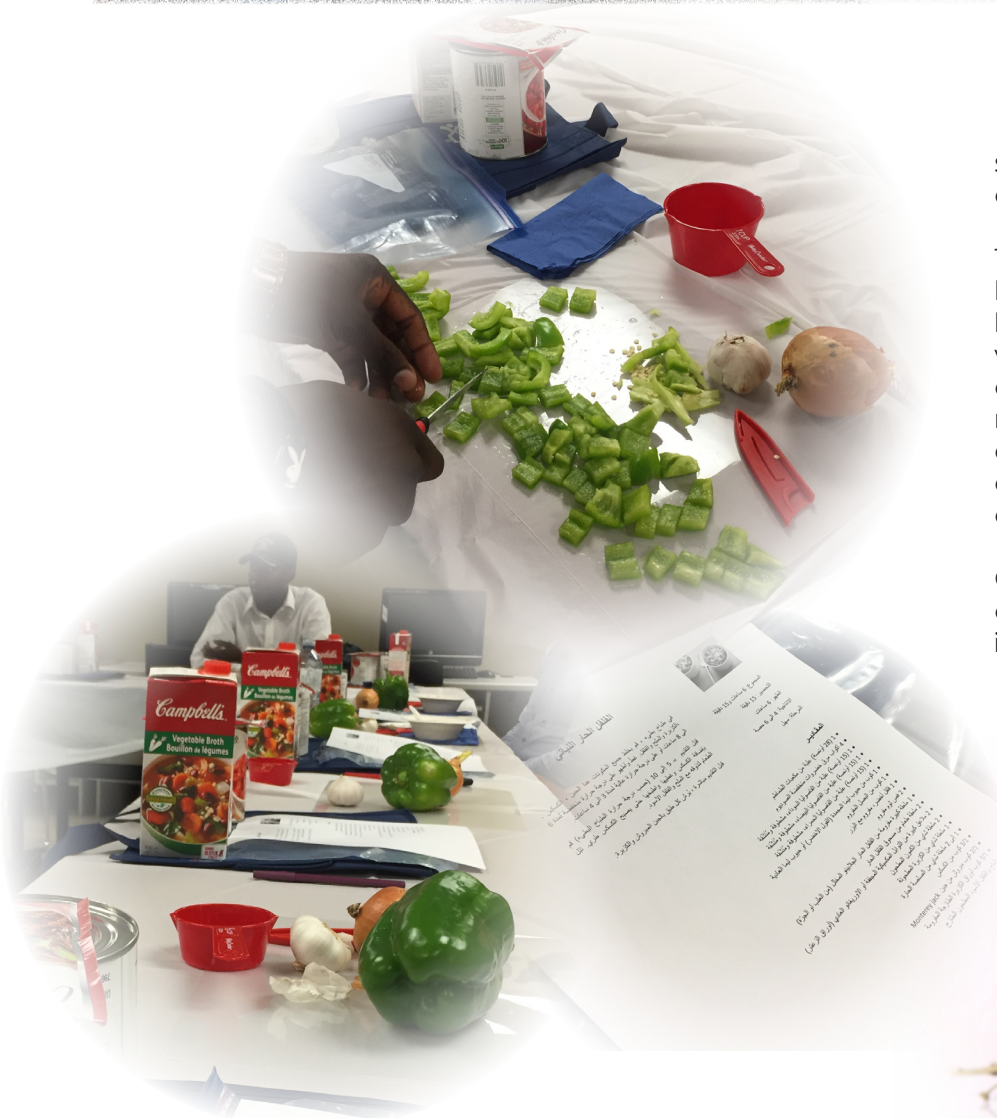
CROCKPOT COOKING SESSION



In partnership with the Metis Nation of Ontario, the MCC hosted a cooking session to introduce some of our male clients to crockpot cooking.

The participants were provided with step-by-step instructions on how to prepare a healthy vegetarian chili. Each participant was provided with the ingredients and completed the preparation work for the meal during the session. Clients then enjoyed a bowl of delicious chili while engaging in some interesting food-related conversation.

Clients were thrilled to receive a free crockpot and recipe, along with all the ingredients to replicate the meal at home.



Vegetarian chili

Ingredients

1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes
4 cups reduced-sodium vegetable broth
1 (15-ounce) can black beans, rinsed and drained
1 (15-ounce) can white (cannellini) beans, rinsed and drained
1 (15-ounce) can red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
1 cup frozen baby lima beans or regular lima beans
1 cup chopped onion
1 green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon minced pickled jalapeno (from can or jar)
2 tablespoons chili powder
2 tablespoons dried Mexican oregano or regular oregano
2 teaspoons ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1 to 2 teaspoons hot sauce
1/3 cup couscous
1/2 cup shredded Monterey jack cheese
1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Directions

In a slow cooker, combine all ingredients but the couscous, shredded cheese, cilantro and salt and pepper. Cover and cook on LOW for 6 to 8 hours or on HIGH for 3 to 4 hours.

Five to 10 minutes before serving (depending on temperature of slow cooker) add couscous, cover and cook, until couscous is tender. Season to taste with salt and black pepper.

Just before serving, top each serving with shredded cheese and cilantro. Enjoy!



DiverseCity onBoard

The MCC is proud to continue our commitment to DiverseCity onBoard.

In partnership with Ryerson University, the Multicultural Council will provide local coordination, support, and management for this dynamic program.

DiverseCity onBoard bridges is an internationally recognized program that provides governance training for everyone and connects qualified candidates from under-represented groups to not-for-profit organizations and public agencies, boards and commissions.

**If you or your organization are interested in learning more about the initiative, please contact
Pam Mady, Manager of Communications & Community Engagement.**

**pmady@themcc.com
519-255-1127 ext. 203**



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

2017-2018



September means Annual General Meeting and Appreciation Celebration season at the MCC. We proudly held these events once again at All Saints' Anglican Church on Tuesday, September 18th.

The evening began with the AGM, which concluded the past year's business, held the elections of new board members, and involved a send-off for outgoing directors Stephanie Cadden and David Amyot.

Following a delicious meal courtesy of our friends at Koolini's, our Appreciation Celebration kicked off with a video tribute to this, our 45th year. The MCC's first Executive Director Ms. Snjezana Gacesa greeted all in attendance and gave a speech recognizing the strides made by our agency. Current Executive Director Ms. Kathie Thomas then made a surprise presentation; to honour Snjezana's decades of service to the MCC, the interview and multipurpose room at the MCC- which is used to greet and receive newcomers- has been named the "Snjezana Gacesa Welcome Room". The event continued with the awarding of the 16th Herb Gray Harmony Award to Caesars Windsor Cares.

Kevin Laforet from Caesars Windsor was on hand to receive the award from sponsor WFCU Credit Union. Caesars Windsor

also announced their support of the MCC's Harmony Ribbon Campaign! A symbol of mutual respect and understanding, the Harmony Ribbon campaign ensures we live in a community free of racism and discrimination.

Our valuable volunteers were also recognized, with six receiving certificates of appreciation for their outstanding service. They were: Danait Tesfamariam, Rebeca Ayala Montenegro, Hala Mon Ali, Wedad Al Ahmad, Ali Rabeeah, and Amani Hussin. Carrousel, Gala, and Health Access Day partners were celebrated for their commitment to our community as well. Windsor Star, AM800 CKLW, WFCU Credit Union, Cogeco, CTV Windsor, TD, CJAM FM, Sirved, Netmon, Union Gas, HUB International, and Koolini Italian Eatery were thanked for their continued support of our events and programs.

2018 was another successful year for Carrousel of the Nations. All villages were thanked for their involvement, and awards were presented to the top three. Congratulations to – 3rd Place Polish Village, 2nd Place Serbian Village Gracanica, and 1st Place Slovak Village.

It was truly a wonderful evening of celebration, recognition, and appreciation.



SUMMER STUDENTS

AHMED DAWOOD

My MCC Adventure



Working for the summer at the MCC was fun and definitely an adventure. There was constant learning happening and many awesome people taught me a lot. I feel like I've learned more about life and how to deal with many situations. Of course there were some times which were more difficult and challenging, but my co-workers continually motivated me to keep me going. I really enjoyed coming to work every day, and my wish would be to keep on showing up every day because of the people that I have come to know and the things I have learned during this amazing experience. But...I have to go back to school.

SHARA KAFLEY

Since the day we came to Canada, Multicultural Council has been great support for me and my family. Resettling in a new country is extremely difficult however, the help of the MCC made the settlement process much easier. Moreover, I have been associated with this organization for long time, volunteering throughout the high school in different MCC events and now with Seniors' Group. I am so glad that whenever I needed help MCC staff always helped me, especially Sladjana. Sladjana has been a great mentor and support in my life, I will never forget all the things you have done for me and I love you. Lastly, I would like to thank all MCC staff for helping me throughout my journey. As a summer student worker, I am very grateful to be part of an organization that is very close to my heart.



DANAIT TEFAMARIAM



Danait would never submit her own write-up for the Gazette. In fact, the existence of this post will likely cause her great embarrassment. Unfortunately for Danait, the Communications Team wanted to acknowledge her time and dedication to the MCC this summer.

This incredibly intelligent young lady, passionate about science, mathematics and physics - started with us as volunteer. She travelled daily by bus to volunteer at the MCC after school, putting in nearly 200 hours. Danait was then brought on as an MCC Summer Jobs Canada student to help our team survive an intense summer calendar of community events and activities.

We were consistently amazed by Danait's commitment to the MCC and her passion to become the best version of herself.

St. Clair College is very fortunate to have her as a first year student. We'll be keeping an eye on her as she pursues the merging of engineering and biology to develop new and supportive technologies like robotic prosthetics. We miss you Danait!

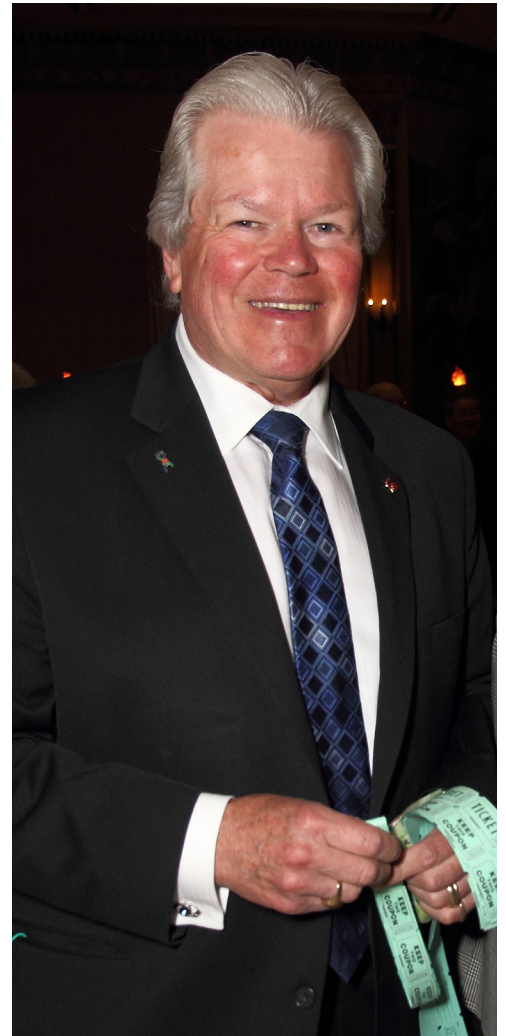
IN MEMORIAM

Doug Topliffe

The MCC lost a dear friend and devoted volunteer this past August. Doug Topliffe's decades of community service included contributions to Hospice, AKO football, Special Olympics and of course, the Multicultural Council.

As a Past Vice President and Board Member of the MCC, Doug played an important part in making our community a welcoming one. He was part of the Carrousel of the Nations Committee and was one of the founding members of our Gala committee. His humour, kindness and friendship will be greatly missed by all.

Our deepest condolences to Annette and family. We will never forget him.



Congratulations!



Our former client, Emad Al Samhan received the St. Clair College Student Leadership Award for the English for Academic Purposes Program. The award recognizes leadership and academic achievement. Emad was honored at the College's 2018 Spring Academic Excellence Awards Banquet on June 5, 2018.

Congratulations Emad!

THANK YOU

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