



Investing
in People

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY



January 2019

g a z e t t e

Settlement and Integration • Language and Skills Training • Welcoming Community



Happy
New
Year
from
the MCC



MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY

Investing in People

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with heartfelt thanks and pride that I recognize the close of another successful year for the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County. In celebrating our 45th year, the MCC was able to both continue our role as valuable partners in the settlement and integration sectors, and enhance our standing as innovative leaders in making Windsor-Essex a welcoming community.

2018 saw a continued commitment to client services, as we coordinated the resettlement of over 400 newcomers to the city, and managed the ongoing integration of those who arrived in our region in 2017. Our Language Instruction for Newcomers (LINC) program provided English language classes at eight levels for over 350 students this year, easing transitions to Canada and empowering men and women with education and employment opportunities.

We expanded our reach into the community, partnering with agencies from across the client care spectrum to ensure that timely and appropriate services are accessible for referral. These efforts were visible at the 2018 Health Access day – where 900 clients were able to meet with 50+ service-providing partners. These relationships also allowed the MCC to provide cultural competency training to organizations and companies across the region. Together, our network encompasses all facets of social, educational, and vocational engagement, helping to create a more accepting, more understanding, and more welcoming area in which to live.

Public celebrations of diversity and multiculturalism have become a hallmark of the MCC, and 2018 offered many opportunities for us to engage, educate, and entertain. Our award-winning Carrousel of the Nations is now in its 43rd year of offering festival-goers a taste of the cultures and traditions that make our region so vibrant. Open Streets 2018 featured the MCC Harmony Hub, a chance for participants to celebrate the City's diversity and to say what harmony means to them. And speaking of harmony, in 2018 we held the first annual Harmony Action Day, engaging with 45 community partners to share and spread our message of inclusion.

This year, the Multicultural Council was once again honoured to play a prominent role in events such as the annual Mayor's Walk, United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racism, Bright Lights Windsor, and the inauguration of the new Windsor City Council. Through these events we are able to showcase the qualities that exemplify our work at the MCC; leadership, passion, and innovation.

At this year's Herb Gray Harmony Gala, Harmony Award winner Casino Windsor Cares, and the Champion Award Winner Jasmine Reyes Tjong were joined by recipients of a new tribute- the Inspire award, which was presented to brothers Ali and Hussein Mohammed.

We are truly excited about all that 2019 has to offer in terms of new initiatives, opportunities, programs, and partnerships designed to engage our clients and community. I invite our members, sponsors, volunteers, community partners, and staff to join us in 2019 for what promises to be yet another rewarding year. On behalf of The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County, I would like to thank all of those who made 2018 a resounding success. It is because of your talents, your generosity, and your spirit that the MCC is able to continue to create a welcoming community for all.

Happy New Year!

Kathleen Thomas



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, February 20

Multicultural Night at the Windsor Express Game-Express Your Culture

Thursday, March 21

Harmony Day - A recognition of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Wednesday, April 10

MCC's Health Access Day at the Fogolar Furlan Club

Thursday, May 2

**Herb Gray Harmony Awards Gala at the Ciociaro Club.
Call us for tickets!**

June 14-16 and June 21-23

Carrousel of the Nations - 44th year!

2019

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
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et Citoyenneté Canada

MCC *Holiday Celebration in December*

Staff, Board members and guests enjoyed a fun holiday celebration at Roseland Golf Club.

Silly games and a Holiday VIP table made for a memorable evening to close out the anniversary year.



MCC Staff hosted a holiday party in December for clients. Newcomers in Canada for less than a month were treated to Canadian holiday traditions which included a sing-along, a visit from Santa, and of course some gifts. Welcome to Canada!



Traditional Canadian Christmas ALL Level – Multi-Program Lesson

Language Training students wrapped up 2018 with an exciting week of activities as students participated in a multi-program, traditional Canadian Christmas Lesson. Our Computer Lab was transformed into a Winter Wonderland as students from every class learned about and then worked together to make handmade decorations for the Christmas tree and construct a building in Santa's village.

Our students had fun with their visit to "the North Pole" as each class went to get pictures with Santa and the decorated room.



Canadian dreams come true



Ban Sako (mother) – Mario (age 12) – Yousif (age 16) – Peter (age 14)

Ban Sako has been taking English classes at MCC for the past 2 years. She moved to Canada from Iraq on December 4th, 2013 with her 3 young sons. Ban came alone with her sons because her husband was killed in car accident just months before they were granted permission to leave. It was the dream of her and her husband to start a new life in Canada that would be safe for their 3 boys.

Ban's family has struggled through many challenges

besides the death of her husband. Her oldest son, Yousif, has undergone multiple eye surgeries to maintain his vision. Her youngest son, Mario, as a child suffered burns to his face and arm and has required multiple skin treatments to repair the damage. Ban herself suffers from severe migraine headaches. Despite all of these adversities, Ban and her sons are so happy and grateful to have started a new life in Canada. She says "the best part of living in Canada is knowing my boys are safe and that they will get a good education." She says that the boys dream is to finish school, become citizens and get good jobs.

On October 22nd of this year, all 3 boys were given Canadian citizenship. It was a very emotional experience for the whole family. Ban says, "I am so proud of my boys, I just wish their father was here to see it."

Note: The opportunity for Ban's sons to get citizenship before her is a direct result of the Federal law that came in to effect October of 2017. It allows for children under 18 years of age to apply for citizenship independent of their parents if they meet the residency requirements and have been in Canada for at least 195 days.

MCC Cultural Competence Training

The MCC is proud to offer comprehensive cultural competency training to our community partners and agencies.

Our trained and experienced staff can guide your organization through a number of essential topics and modules including;

- Diversity in the Workplace
- Fostering Awareness
- Perspectives and Culture
- Harmony as Practice
- Encouraging a Welcoming Environment
- Communicating Across Cultures

Session curriculum can be tailored to fit your needs, and can address both general interests and specific concerns, and both large and small groups can be accommodated for full or half day sessions.



onBoard Canada

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

OnBoard Canada 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**

MCC in the community



Thank you Grand Knights Council 13335 for a very generous coats donation that will be distributed to children in need .



Big thanks to Ed DeSchutter, recruitment officer for St. Clair College for dropping by our Lunch & Learn Conversation Circle to share some valuable information on the College.



The MCC youth created amazing paintings - with help from the staff of the Metis Nation of Ontario. Métis dot art is a contemporary art form that is inspired by the traditional beadwork of the Métis people.



The MCC supported partnership of Place Du Partage and the Centre communautaire francophone Windsor Essex Chatham Kent (CCFWECK) to raise funds through purchased lunch for a literacy centre at Place Du Portage.



United Way Centraide had chosen our After School Program for the Media launch of "WESTEAM" Program at our Tecumseh location.



Random Act of Kindness Day was an opportunity for our youth to show generosity and put smile on faces of many residents in our community.

Language students work hard in class and on the job



From left: Moundah Zlik, Anna Prykhodchenko, Joseph Hantoosh and Maryam Banyameen

At MCC, we're proud of the effort our clients make in trying to improve their English.

While they all have different goals for their new life in Canada, many are working towards finding employment. Whether they find jobs in their chosen field or not, they are motivated to get working and build their Canadian experience.

We chatted with four of our students to hear about their employment journeys.

Anna Prykhodchenko

Ana has been working at Food Basics part-time for about 4 months. Registered in both morning and afternoon Language classes, Anna's shifts tend to be very early morning. According to Anna, improving her English is important, "I want to complete my education. In a perfect way, I want to be an engineer." Back in Ukraine, she finished a Bachelor's Degree in Civil and Industrial Engineering and would like to enter the field in Canada. In order to follow this educational path, Anna knows the first step is enhancing her English, "If you can't speak or you can't understand, you can't learn."

Moundah Zlik

Moundah worked at a couple places for a short time before a friend at Ambassador Cleaning referred her to the company. Having been there just over a year, Moundah continues to attend English classes full time to improve her language. Her goal is to get back in to a field related to her university degree in chemistry. In Iraq, she worked in a cement factory for about 20 years doing chemical analysis, but would be happy to use her education in another industry.

Maryam Banyameen

Maryam has been working for about a month at Burger King. Working part-time on evenings and weekends gives her time to focus on her English studies and improve her language to one day become a paralegal.

Her job search was "hard at first because I don't have Canadian experience. But if someone want it they will find it. MCC helped with English. When I came here, I was Level 3, now I'm Level 6. And with my cover letter. Three places called after I found job ... that means the cover letter helped."

Joseph Hantoosh

In Iraq, Joseph completed accounting and banking degrees and was teaching in college. Upon arriving in Canada, he wanted to find a job to support his family. The job search was hard at first, so he joined a job search agency, which helped with the process. In March, friends referred Joseph to a supervisor at Precision Stamping Group and he was hired as a press operator.

After a few months of working there through the agency, the company brought him on full-time. Joseph is registered in MCC's Language classes with hopes of some day applying to work with Canadian Border Services or Windsor Police.

Student Perspectives

With the holidays behind us, we wanted to see what our students think about gift giving.



Rima Ichaya
CLB*- 7

Investing in Experiences is More Profitable

The power of advertising methods forces the habit of buying gifts into our concepts, and makes it as a tradition that everyone has to follow. In fact, we spend too much money, time, and energy to find a gift that ends up in the trash bin after a while. Although buying gifts or getting them may give us pleasure, but this pleasure lasts for a short time.

On the other hand, experiences are way more appreciated, and last longer. For example, we still remember the school trips that we had when we were kids, and all the good memories with our friends, however, we do not remember what gifts we got for our birthday or for Christmas for the same time period. Luckily, most research supports the part of giving experiences, and one to be mention is a recent study by researchers at San Francisco State University which claimed, "People enjoy greater well-being from life experiences and consider them to be a better use of money."

Thus experiences are more meaningful because moments are more memorable. Experiences also introduce us to new things in life, and give us skills that we may need one day, as well as building a good relationship with our friends, and family. Invest in experiences, and avoid throwing the money that you have earned in the trash bin.



Jane Raffi
CLB- 8

Gift giving is a visual symbol of affection that shows others are of value to us. It is an old tradition of exchanging gifts, followed as a holiday ritual by family, friends or communities that strengthen ties between them. Thus, it is a way of celebrating special events such as Christmas and New Year. People show their attention by gifting something that the other person appreciates or needs. Some of the all the time favourite gift ideas are candles, picture frames, bottles of wine, chocolates, gift cards etc. People also prefer to gift handmade crafts as knitted scarves or homemade great eats such as baked cakes and cookies to shows their creative skills, effort and time spent for that person. Some people love to spend meaningful time together and surprise others by experiential gifts like concert tickets, weekend getaways, unique restaurants, boutiques, etc.

For me, giving a gift is a great way to express your love, care and attachment to others but you don't need to wait for an occasion and it doesn't need to be an expensive thing. I believe that the best gifts comes from the heart which makes others happy, regardless of wanting something in return. I also like the idea that people would value most a gift of money to buy whatever they like most rather than a gift purchased for them. Gift giving is also an act of showing people that you are thankful to them and value the role they play in our lives. During times when words are not enough, we can express it with a gift because action speaks louder than words.



Yuju Shih
CLB- 8

You will discover 3 major elements which are well presented during the Christmas season. One is that you will not only see people giving candy away in the church but also see groups of people singing hymns on the street. Second is that you'll see tons of pretty Christmas lights everywhere. The third one is that the department stores play Christmas songs all day and have big sales during the whole season. That's what I remember how people celebrate this holiday in Taiwan. When I was a kid, I was very cheerful on Christmas Day because I got a school day off. Even though I did not get a gift from any one of my family or friends, that still made my day! Until I started to become a full time employee, I realized that I could use "Christmas" as an excuse to make someone surprised or fulfill my own personal desire. In other words, I had more opportunity to spend money on someone or get a present from someone on that day. For example, you could pick a fine restaurant to celebrate with someone you love, buy a thing you want someone to keep, or give a thank you card; they are all very meaningful and welcome. Who does not like to receive a gift, especially if it is from someone special?

WELCOME TO THE MCC!



NEDA MARIN

Neda started working as the new Language Training Instructor Assistant at the beginning of October. Neda was born in Romania and moved to Canada with her parents when she was 3 years old. Neda has an undergraduate degree in English and a Master's degree in Education from the University of Windsor. Neda is also a certified Yoga Instructor. After completing her undergraduate degree, she taught English for 2 years in South Korea. Neda really enjoys working with people from other cultures and especially likes it here at MCC because of the nice working environment. She says, "I really like how friendly everyone is – the staff and the students are all so welcoming."



ZAKIA ABOUZEENI

Zakia started working at the Multicultural Council in November in the Employment Department as a Job Developer/Job Coach. Zakia graduated from the University of Windsor with a Bachelor of Family Social Relations, and also has a diploma in Business Administration. After completing her degree she volunteered for a program for at risk youth called "Kids Alliance". Shortly after she was hired to work with the program and was employed there for 12 years. She has a strong passion to work with people and to help them reach their potential. She is a proud mother of four children and in her spare time enjoys working out, cooking, traveling and taking care of her elderly mother.



SARAH YANG

Sarah Yang started in her role as our new Client Support Service case manager on October 1st. She graduated this past May from her Masters of Social Work at the University of Windsor. As a 2nd generation Chinese immigrant, Sarah has a strong passion for helping newcomer families. She really enjoys providing supportive services for the refugee families who come to the MCC for services. She is very thankful for the supportive team members who have helped her transition into her role.



MIRA BUTTICE

Mira began her MCC role as a temporary part time receptionist at the end of July and is currently filling the full time reception position since October. Mira was born in Lebanon and moved to Windsor with her family at the age of 3. Mira studied at the University of Windsor and has a B.A in Psychology and Criminology. After completing her degrees Mira volunteered with Teen Health Centre, Victim Witness Program and with the Lebanese community for the Carrousel of Nations. Mira is a mother of 2 and enjoys spending time with family and friends. She was excited for the opportunity to join the MCC team and is enjoying her role helping others.

STUDENT PLACEMENT



TINA NGUYEN

I didn't know what to expect when I was placed at the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County for my 4th year social work field experience, but it definitely was not the whirlwind of emotions and experiences I have had in my short time here.

The opportunity to see people grow and empower themselves in the simplest ways (being able to take the city bus alone, for example) through settlement programming has been a testament to the kind of community driven agency that the Multicultural Council is. From greeting clients at the airport in the middle of the night on a Saturday, to escorting them to appointments at 8:30 in the morning, the staff are dedicated to not only assisting with the settlement of government assisted refugees but to improving their lives. When I re-assess a family's needs even just 5 weeks after their initial arrival, I witness firsthand the practical application of the core social work values that I have been learning about for 4 years: social justice, human dignity and the importance of human relationships. The change in confidence and security in their new life is astounding. As much as the Multicultural Council supports them along the way, witnessing the strength of these families rebuilding themselves from the ground up is what has really made my work here feel worthwhile.

Group and family information and orientation



This fall, the CSS team held an outing to the Ojibway Nature Centre and clients enjoyed quality family time together. Included, was a presentation on Healthy Family Relationships.

During this time, some of our valued volunteers joined the children in an arts and crafts session. It was wonderful to see the close family relationships and group dynamics in action. After lunch, everyone went on a guided hike conducted by an Ojibway guide.



CSS Annual Conference

The Windsor Client Support Services (CSS) team attended their Annual Meeting in Toronto on September 27th and 28th. CSS has become a national program, with six brand new sites – making 14 in total across Canada.

The 2018 Annual Conference theme was Trauma-Informed Care. Trauma-informed approaches are client centered and involve sensitivity to individuals' particular needs, preferences, safety, vulnerabilities and wellbeing, recognize lived experiences and empower clients to participate in decision making.



The Multicultural Council's CSS Team

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THANK YOU

The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County is greatly indebted to the 2017-2018 Members. Their commitment to our organization and community as a whole have helped to support the continued development of our agency as a leader in settlement, integration, and client service. Representing and celebrating our agency in and around Windsor-Essex, our members serve to enlarge our impact, extend our involvement, and expand our influence, and We offer our sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to this dedicated group for their continued involvement.

2018 MCC members

Adelina Trottier • Aisha Nawas • Allison Johnson • Alzheimer Society Windsor Essex County • Ana Milojevic • Aruna Koushik • Association des Camerounais du Sud-Ouest Ontario • Bashar Butrous Yusuf • Betty Lee-Daigle ECCCA • Brain Injury Association of Windsor and Essex County • Carlos Ruiz • David Mady • Donna D'Amore • Emily Taylor • Fred Francis • Filipino Community Centre • Gary McNamara • Georges Abdallah • Grachanica Serbian Orthodox Church • Greek Orthodox Community of Windsor • Haifa Maghnieh • Huda Bouti • Hungarian Cultural Centre-Mindszenty Hall • Jennifer DeMaeyer • Jillian Authier Ciotoli • Jodi Tremblay • Joyce Agbonwaneten • Katherine Vanderhaeghe • Kathleen Thomas • Kimberly King • Lan Pham • Lana Gurbouzov - Mikhailovskaia • Leopold Super • Lubna Barakat • Maram Kayali • Mary Lou Ouellette • Mirjana Gordic • Monica Mihalceanu • Muhammad Ashraf Vohra • Munawwar Ali • Nahi Hatoum • Natasha Feghali • Organization of Part-Time UoW Students-OPUS • Pam Mady • Patricia Reid-Crichton • Polish Village • Rafca Saad • Riham Al-Saadi • Shannon Ciampa • Simona Nahaiciuc • Slovak Domovina Dancers • Snjezana Gacesa • St. Dimitrije Orthodox Church • St. Nicholas Macedonian Orthodox Church • Stephanie Cadden • Teutonia Club • Thao Ly • Vasilis Panousis • Windsor Express Basketball Team • Zuhair Saleh

2018 HARMONY & CHAMPION AWARD PLATINUM GALA SPONSORS

