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THE MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY

GAZETTE



Autumn
2019

MCC STUDENT SUCCESS STORY: SARAH ALKASEM

"To me, harmony means people from different places learning about each other and sharing what makes them different," says Sarah Alkaseem, "Unless they know about one another, how can they ever know what to think or how to feel?"

Sarah is 14 years old and attends the MCC Newcomer Youth Program at our East End Office, and previously attended English language classes as well. Her family arrived in Windsor in December of 2016 as Government Assisted Refugees from Syria.

"When we arrived I knew no English, nothing. I learned only from my classes and from studying at home. I worked very hard so that I could attend school and get my education. I hope to be a heart doctor one day and help many many people."

In addition to working on her language skills, Sarah reports that she has also developed socially.



"I have always been very easy going, and very quiet. I usually like to do my own thing and be by myself. Since arriving in Windsor I have been trying to get to know new people."

Sarah has expressed her hope and willingness to be a source of encouragement for other newcomers to Canada.

MCC Community Connections Supervisor Sladjana Lazevski recognizes and appreciates Sarah's efforts. "She's so open and so so helpful. Anytime she sees someone in need of a friend she's the first to offer a hand. She draws other newcomer students, especially girls, into the mix. It's been wonderful to see her grow."

"If someone new is overwhelmed or having trouble I tell them 'No one can stop you from doing your best. Don't ever give up.'"

When asked her impressions of her new home and new experiences Sarah smiles; "I love the MCC because its so much fun. I love my community because everyone is so helpful. I love Windsor because there are so many nice people here, and I love Canada because I feel safe."

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MCC President



Allison Johnson

The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County is pleased to announce the election of new MCC President Mrs. Allison Johnson.

"The MCC Board of Directors is a dedicated group of volunteers with diverse backgrounds, skills and experiences. All are committed to supporting the work of the MCC in building an all-encompassing, community-wide system that makes both newcomers and residents feel at home.

The MCC creates a welcoming community for all. As members of the MCC family, that is the commitment we have all made and it is a responsibility not to be taken lightly in a world that can seem increasingly divided by differences.

Looking forward, I see tremendous opportunities to build on the organizations rich history of creating a welcoming community for all, in one of Canada's most diverse regions. I look forward to working with my fellow board members and the MCC team to continue delivering on the promise of the MCC's mission."

We would of course also like to thank the outgoing president Mrs. Patricia Reid-Crichton for her dedication and leadership for the past two years.



MCC World of Flavour Campaign

This Summer the MCC and the Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers proudly presented World of Flavour; a celebration of food and culture.

Each week we shared videos and recipes which captured unique tastes and combinations from around the globe – using locally-grown vegetables.

Local greenhouse growers and Carrousel of the Nations representatives prepared delicious traditional meals and shared their histories and stories.

We also shared recipes from the staff and friends of the MCC which utilize many local ingredients.

Videos and recipes can be found on the MCC website.



MCC Annual Flu Shot Clinic

MCC Clients, staff, and student are invited to take part and receive their seasonal flu shots through our Immigrant Health Clinic. No appointments are necessary, contact the MCC for more details.

MCC Youth Work Ready

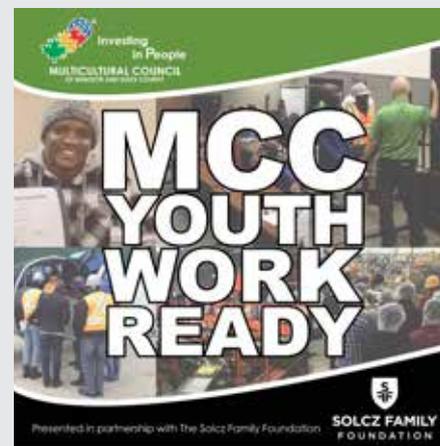
We are extremely excited to announce an innovative and unique program developed right here at the MCC.

In partnership with the Solcz Family Foundation, the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County has created a program dedicated to providing training, certification, and on-the-job experience for those facing barriers to employment, aged 18-24.

Over the course of three years, we plan to enroll 120 eligible candidates.

The program specifically targets long-term careers in manufacturing, agriculture, and warehousing, and offers industry-standard licensing.

Interested candidates should contact MCC Leadership and Employment Supervisor Daniel Beliciu for more information.



MCC Cultural Competency Training



The staff of the MCC is pleased to continue our mission of creating a welcoming community by offering cultural competency training workshops around the city and county.

Our custom-designed and comprehensive sessions have been delivered to both public organizations and private businesses, and to community partners and service providers.

Please contact our office if you or your organization would like to know more or would like to schedule a training session.

Heritage Canada Grant

On August 28, our Downtown office played host to a visit from The Honourable Ahmed D. Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship.

Minister Hussen announced our receipt of a Heritage Canada Grant to support Carrousel of the Nations activities for 2020.

Minister Hussen, his family, and his staff were invited to join us for the 45th Anniversary of Carrousel next Summer.



Bright Lights Windsor at Jackson Park

6

Windsor's own festival of lights returns for its 3rd year from December 6 to January 7. The MCC will once again coordinate ethnic and cultural performances throughout the event.



Multicultural Night with the Windsor Express

17

Join the Multicultural Council as we once again partner with two-time Canadian Basketball League Champions the Windsor Express for Multicultural Night. The MCC will provide pregame and haltime celebrations of culture and community.

MCC Leadership

Placing an emphasis on community networking, volunteer experience, and developing marketable skills, the MCC Leadership program offers amazing opportunities to learn and grow.

Developed and presented by the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County, our experience-based program exposes participants to industry-standard practises and expectations through workshops led by business leaders and experts in our community.

The MCC Leadership program is open to newcomer adults over 18 years of age, and consists of ten workshops over five months.

MCC Leadership provides training and experience, as well as program material and equipment completely free of charge thanks to our funding partners the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Registration for the first session is taking place now, please contact program supervisor Daniel Beliciu for addition information or to sign up.

MCC Leadership

Develop the skills and experience required to be active in your community.

MCC Leadership provides newcomers with opportunities to acquire the professional tools necessary to be active and effective.

- ✓ Leadership Skill Development
- ✓ Community Engagement
- ✓ Volunteer Opportunities
- ✓ Real-life experiences
- ✓ Information Sharing
- ✓ Training Activities
- ✓ Network Building
- ✓ Social Events

Industry experts and business leaders will provide personal guidance and supervision.

Newcomer adults over 18 years of age are invited to take part in the 10 workshop, 5 Month program. There are 20 spaces available each session, with participants eligible to earn more than 50 hours of hands-on experience.

All materials are provided free of charge, and graduates will receive an MCC Leadership Certificate.

Funding provided by the Government of Ontario.

Ontario Trillium Foundation

Summer of Harmony

Summer 2019 offered the MCC a wide array of opportunities to celebrate unity, diversity, and harmony across Windsor and Essex County.



In June the award-winning Carrousel of the Nations was back for its 44th year, and expanded to welcome new villages and new communities to our festival of culture.

In Windsor, the African village celebrated their first forray into Carrousel, as did Leamington villages representing Caldwell First Nation, Italian, Lebanese, and Mexican communities.

As always, Carrousel was a rousing success, and offered thousands of residents and visitors the opportunity to celebrate the culture and treasure the tradition of the people of our region.



August brought with it the Third Annual Community Diversity BBQ. The MCC is proud to take part in organizing this event, offering visitors a glimpse of the variety of ethnicities and cultures that make Windsor such an amazing place to live.

This year Wigle park came alive with the sights and sounds of our city, including cultural dance presentations, exciting musical performances, and colourful demonstrations from community partners.



The Summer festival season wound down in September as we once again presented the Harmony Hub as part of the city-wide Open Streets Windsor celebration. Walkers, joggers, and cyclists took part in the event intended to encourage physical activity and community building, and promote community initiatives.

The MCC was joined by our friends from the Windsor/Essex County Humane Society, and treated visitors to music, dance, and a welcoming event experience.



MCC Annual General Meeting

At the 2018-2019 AGM in September, the MCC Board and members took the opportunity to celebrate the past year.

Sponsors and supporters were recognized for their generosity and dedication, as were the long-serving members of the MCC Gala Committee.

Awards were also presented for the Carrousel of the Nations Villages, with the Slovak Village taking home top honours for the second year in a row.

Grateful Thanks to our Partners

The Multicultural Council is honoured by the support of our many community partners.

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