



A welcoming community for all

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022/2023 marked the 50th year of the MCC's commitment to our community. We remain proud of our role in Windsor-Essex, and are excited by what we have accomplished, and what the future will bring. Spanning resettlement and integration, language and education, health and wellness, employment and celebration, our programs and services continue to grow and expand.

We place an emphasis on creating a welcoming community for all, and we include this goal as our organization's overall mission. This year we were able to provide more programming and services throughout Windsor and Essex County. Statistically, we are welcoming more newcomers to the region via our resettlement program than any other time in our history.

2022/2023 saw our organization provide more cultural competency training workshops to community partners than ever before, fostering an awareness of our diverse community and further strengthening a foundation of understanding. Additionally, we were thrilled to partner with both the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board and the United Way Centraide Windsor-Essex County to assist younger students with their transition to Canada through new educational initiatives taking place over the next five years.

The 2023 MCC Awards Gala once again gave us the opportunity to recognize those in our community who embrace diversity, and to publicly thank them for their efforts. This year, our Cuban themed event allowed us to honour Dr. Patti France with the Herb Gray Harmony Award, Mr. Biagio (Bill) Marra with the MCC Champion Award, and Ms. Kobra Safri with the Kathleen Thomas Inspire Award.

Carrousel of the Nations continues to be the crown jewel in the MCC's event calendar. We had record attendance, six new flourishing villages, which further emphasizes the rich diversity throughout our region.

Thank you to all our sponsors and funders for your continued support of the MCC. Your generosity helps us offer impactful and engaging programs and events.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, including those who make up our Board of Directors and Foundation Board of Directors. The work we do here at the MCC would not be possible without your dedication, expertise, and guidance throughout each and every year.

Finally, the amazing staff I get to work with. I am so proud to lead an organization with so many compassionate professionals who go above and beyond for others in our community. Thank you for your drive and commitment to making our city and region a welcoming community for all.



Fred Francis
Executive Director, MCC



**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2022-2023



MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

PRESIDENT - Neil McEachrane
VICE PRESIDENT - Jillian Authier
VICE PRESIDENT - Kimberly King
SECRETARY - Manny Paiva
PAST PRESIDENT - Allison Johnson
DIRECTORS - Dr. Fazle Baki,
Dr. Justine Taylor, Dr. Saad Jasim,
Dr. Sonja Grbevski, Dinesh Singh
Malla

MCC FOUNDATION DIRECTORS 2022-2023

PRESIDENT - David M. Amyot
VICE PRESIDENT - Anthony Mascaro
SECRETARY - Michael Drake
DIRECTOR - Jillian Authier
DIRECTOR - Dr. Saad Jasim

PRESIDENT'S GREETING

My first full year as President of the MCC has been an exciting one. I am extremely proud of the organization's continued commitment to creating a welcoming community for all through education, community engagement, and the promotion of diversity and equality.

In the past 12 months, the MCC has enhanced our partnerships with community leaders, corporate partners, and local organizations to make our services and programming as dynamic and effective as possible. Through the guidance and expertise of our amazing management team, we were able to continue and introduce new programming in the region. As a result, the organization experienced growth like never before.

To all our sponsors, funders, donors, and partners, I offer my thanks and gratitude for supporting our efforts in creating a community that instills both ambition and pride. Your continued support to the MCC is a true sediment of the many success stories and countless families who have made Windsor-Essex their new home.

To our committed volunteers - we cannot thank you enough for your dedication to our clients. Each year we are overwhelmed by your generosity and willingness to helping others.

To all our Agency and Foundation Board of Directors, thank you for your drive, your passion, and your commitment to helping foster new ideas as the organization continues to grow.

Finally, in times of change and transition, I am mindful of the pivotal role our staff continues to play on a daily basis. Your drive and dedication to our clients is unparalleled.

It is my honour to serve as the President of the MCC, and look forward to continued growth and success.



Neil McEachrane
President,
MCC Board
of Directors

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S GREETING

It is with great pride and a tinge of sadness to provide this President's report for 2023.

2023 saw tremendous growth in the Agency's staffing levels from 58 to 109. The MCC has never experienced such significant growth. This growth is testament to the need to meet the increasing programming demands and of the MCC resiliency and ability to meet these challenges. Thank you to all MCC staff for your continued dedication and service to the MCC and our community.

The MCC held its annual Awards Gala on May 4, 2023 with a festive and spectacular Havana Nights theme. The event was very well attended as we honoured our award recipients Dr. Patti France (Herb Gray Harmony Award), Bill Marra (MCC Champion Award), Kobra Safi (Kathleen Thomas Inspire Award). A very special thank you to all of the volunteers and sponsors who made this event such a huge success!

2023 also saw the MCC celebrate its 50th anniversary. This remarkable milestone was celebrated, in part, with a very positive and inspiring article in the Windsor Star on June 13, 2023. It was a pleasure to sit down with staff and other Board members for the interview and to learn each person's perspective and experience with the MCC. It is incredible to look back at our modest beginnings and to see the profoundly positive effect our organization has had on so many individuals and families who made Canada and Windsor-Essex their new homes over the past 50 years.

In 2023, the Foundation Board also continued various building improvement initiatives, which are part of an overarching comprehensive building maintenance and improvement plan. Although this work is not glamorous, it is essential to ensure that our infrastructure remains strong so that we can continue to provide our much needed services for the next 50 years.

2023 also saw the continued successful transition with our new Executive Director Fred Francis after Kathy Thomas' much deserved retirement. Kathy continues to be a tremendous part of the MCC family and has generously given her time and experience to ensure a very smooth transition. Fred has hit the ground running and has done a tremendous job in handling the challenges that the MCC has faced over the past year, while moving the organization forward into this new and exciting chapter. Thank you to both Kathy and Fred for their tireless efforts and leadership.

Finally, I have decided to step down from the MCC Foundation Board after over 12 years with the Agency and the Foundation Boards. It has been a great pleasure being a part of the MCC family and I am very proud of the incredibly important work of the MCC.



David Amyot
President,
MCC Foundation



2023 MCC AWARDS GALA

For over 20 years, the MCC has held an annual evening of appreciation celebrating those who have made an outstanding contribution to building a community that is more welcoming for all.

Three awards are presented: The Herb Gray Harmony Award recognizes an individual, business, or organization that has actively worked towards building a more harmonious community.

The MCC Champion Award celebrates significant contributions made to our community by first-generation Canadians.

The Kathleen Thomas Inspire Award recognizes a newcomer for their perseverance, optimism, and positive example provided to our community.



Kobra Safi

2023
KATHLEEN THOMAS
INSPIRE AWARD
RECIPIENT

Biagio (Bill) Marra

2023
MCC CHAMPION
AWARD RECIPIENT

Dr. Patti France

2023
HERB GRAY
HARMONY AWARD
RECIPIENT

A welcoming community for all



ATTRACTIONS
ON
ATTRACTIONS ONTARIO



CARROUSEL OF THE NATIONS

The award-winning Carrousel of the Nations is an integral part of the region's summer festival season. As the only ethnic and multicultural festival in the region, Carrousel provides residents and visitors with exposure to a wide array of cultures and traditions which they may otherwise never experience. The MCC is proud to coordinate the efforts of individual ethnic communities, and to assist in educating and entertaining countless attendees as we celebrate the diversity that makes Windsor-Essex so amazing. Thank you to all the villages, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners.





Health & Wellness

HEALTH CLINIC

Our Nurse Practitioner provides care to clients of the MCC who do not have a family physician. The service is free and does not require an Ontario Health Card. Our Nurse Practitioner also serves as the MCC representative on numerous committees advocating for health services and guiding the community on newcomer health needs.



MCC HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO

Led by the MCC, the expo is a joint venture of Community Partners for Multicultural Health (CPMH). Since 2002, the CPMH has presented this event to promote healthy choices and increase awareness and access to local health services for newcomers.

BRIDGE TO RECOVERY

The Bridge to Recovery program is a mental health program that is funded by United Way Centraide Windsor-Essex County to help raise awareness of the effects of COVID-19 on mental health in the community. The program navigator consults with many individuals from the community such as seniors, youth, newcomers, refugees, and more, to shed the light on Mental Health. The program is exceeding its expectations by helping refer clients to local mental health service providers.

VACCINE FOR ALL

This program aims to enhance COVID-19 vaccine knowledge among vulnerable and newcomer populations. Our team also provides assistance and support to all clients throughout the vaccination process.

Job Support

EMPLOYMENT

The MCC Employment Department provides dedicated job-based support which includes successful and dynamic initiatives designed to prepare individuals for the Canadian workplace. Employment programs consist of the MCC Youth Work Ready and Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program (YESS). These programs are delivered in partnership with Majors McGuire and Mainstream Marketing to offer free training and industry-specific certification. This training provides participants with the professional tools needed to become employed in Canada. Thank you to the Government of Canada and the Solcz Family Foundation for their support of these important programs.



Programs

TUTORING PROGRAM

The MCC Tutoring Program is in collaboration with the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board (WECDSB), to establish and offer support to students from junior kindergarten to grade eight. The program was successfully implemented in 14 schools in the Windsor and Essex County Region.

IGNITE ACADEMY

The Ignite Academy is an after-school program that is funded by United Way Centraide Windsor-Essex County as a solution for the Cradle to Career initiative. The MCC hosts this program at four schools: St. James Catholic Elementary School, Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School, Frank W. Begley Public School, and General Brock Public School. The Ignite Academy provides participants with academic support as well as providing wrap around services for their families.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our team engages youth in structured activities that include English literacy, math, science, arts and crafts, and LOTS of fun.

ARTS AND CRAFTS GROUP

Our creative clients socialize, learn new skills, and practice their English language.

SENIORS GROUP

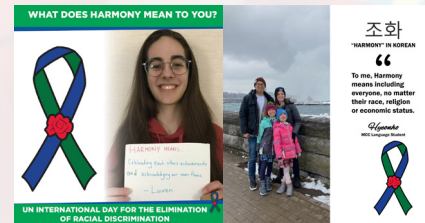
Our seniors meet weekly for an hour to practice their English, make friends, and learn about Canadian culture.



Harmony

HARMONY CAMPAIGN

The Harmony Ribbon, created in 1995 by the MCC, is a visible symbol of mutual respect and understanding. It is a sign of our desire to live in a community that is free from racism and discrimination. The Harmony Ribbon Campaign is comprised of outreach and promotional materials, and includes dedicated projects featuring the MCC's Harmony Ribbon.



FOLLOW THE FLAVOURS

The "Follow the Flavours" project is a digital culinary discovery aimed at increasing awareness for culinary experiences that highlights the cultural diversity of the region. In partnership with Tourism Windsor-Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI) and the Culinary Tourism Alliance, the multicultural food trail showcases 25 restaurants that will take you on a journey of history, community traditions, and exceptional cuisine from around the world.



AGM STATISTICS MATRIX 2022-2023

86,449
SERVICES PROVIDED



515
WORKSHOPS
AND SESSIONS



7,267
WORKSHOP ATTENDEES



3,617
NEW CLIENTS



3,384
COMMUNITY
REFERRALS

19,544
SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS



Settlement Services

NEWCOMER SETTLEMENT PROGRAM (NSP)

The NSP provides referral and information services to Naturalized Canadian Citizens, Refugee Claimants, Convention Refugees, Temporary Foreign Workers, and International Students.

ORIENTATION TO ONTARIO (O2O)

This program provides essential information about resettling in Ontario and connecting to community services.

CANADA CONNECTS

This matching program connects newcomers with community residents, establishes social networks, and creates valuable relationships.

CARE FOR NEWCOMER CHILDREN (CNC)

The CNC program provides childcare services to parents attending MCC training or language classes. Our experienced Early Childhood Educators supervise children and organize educationally entertaining activities which emphasize both skill and social development.

CLIENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM (CSSS)

This nation-wide program provides an additional 12 to 18 months of personalized case management to Government Assisted Refugee clients, easing the transition to new communities and new homes.

ORIENTATION SERVICES

Orientation staff work one-on-one with clients to provide support, information, referrals, and advocacy. They also offer specialized group information sessions and workshops.

THE WINDSOR RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WRAP)

This program provides immediate and essential services to Government Assisted Refugees during their first few weeks in Canada. The MCC team members greet clients upon arrival at the Windsor Airport, provide temporary accommodations, assist in finding permanent homes, enroll children in school, refer to services in the community, and provide essential life skills training.

Language

LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM

The training provides eligible clients with eight levels of English language training free of charge. These classes cover the four core language skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Upon graduation from level eight, students have the language skills to fully engage in the community.

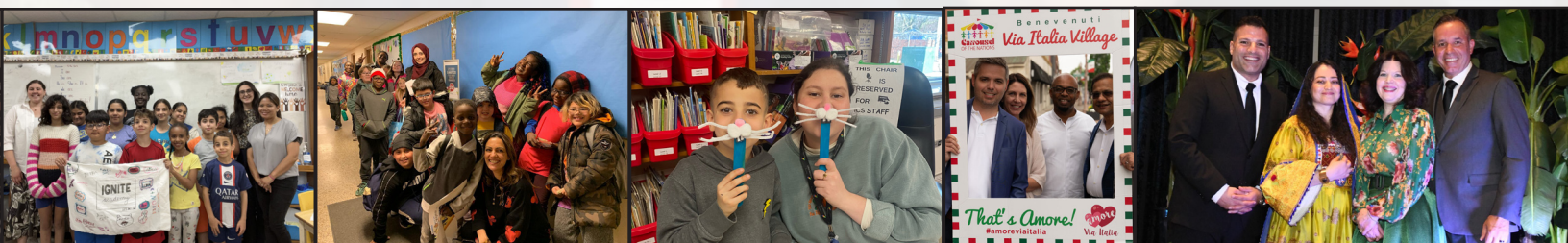


INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION DEPARTMENT

The MCC offers interpretation and translation services in over 70 languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As the region's largest local provider, MCC's professional and confidential services are accessed by newcomers, community organizations, individuals, and businesses.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING

MCC Cultural Competency training offers customized diversity and anti-racism training for organizations and businesses.



5,370
HOURS OF
INTERPRETATION



8,069
CLIENTS SERVED



2,976
CLINIC SERVICES

833
TRANSLATION AND
INTERPRETATION SERVICES

2,815
INTERPRETATIONS



789,697
PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH
SOCIAL MEDIA



MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY

A welcoming community for all

OUR MISSION: TO CREATE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR ALL THROUGH EDUCATION, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND THE PROMOTION OF DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY.



"I just wanted to say that in my experience with the Ignite Academy After School Program, this program is a backbone that the kids need."

The teachers and Family Support Workers are like angels with no wings. The staff supports us emotionally, refers us to community services, and helps in every possible way that they can without embarrassing us or making us feel different. This program is a big support for my grandson because when he comes home, he doesn't have the stress. My grandchild is happy. Sometimes you know your kid is feeling miserable because they are being bullied or have other problems at school.

But the Ignite Academy program makes things better; you can tell his body is happy, his face is happy, and he is not feeling miserable. Kids really need this program because it really works. It makes a difference and for a better future and a better world, this program is really necessary."

- Soheila, Ignite Academy Caregiver

"I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the invaluable assistance MCC staff provided to us. My case manager with the client support services (CSS) support has been instrumental in acclimating to our new surroundings, overcoming challenges and achieving our goals. My family wouldn't have been able to make a smooth transition to Windsor without the help of the MCC."

- Merman, Abdullah, and Amena Sediqi, MCC Clients

"I am eternally grateful for the hard work provided by the MCC, and their efforts in assisting to reunite my wife and me in Windsor. Without them and their help, I would not have been able to follow the proper procedures to reunite. I am grateful for them for their help."

- Steve Saad, MCC Client



WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE OUR GENEROUS FUNDERS, SPONSORS, AND PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN 2022-2023



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada



Public Health Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé publique du Canada



245 JANETTE AVE. WINDSOR, ON • 7651 TECUMSEH RD. EAST. WINDSOR, ON

WWW.THEMCC.COM

519-255-1127

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