



**Mennonite
Central
Committee**

MCCO Programs

2016/ 17 Mid-Year Summary

November 2016



Indigenous Neighbours

Impact Story:

MCC sits as part of the Pikangikum working group, a group comprised of NGO's, concerned individuals, and both Provincial and Federal Government reps.

Pikangikum First Nation is a community of close to 2,000 people, and its members live in 450 homes. Only 20% of these homes have a luxury of water that runs into the home for both drinking and Sanitation.

In late September, MCC Indigenous Neighbours had the pleasure of attending one of our calls where something monumental happened. After discussions around money, and retrofitting homes with sinks, toilets, and tubs; and having clean water piped into the homes our group thought that we could manage 10 of these. The First Nation had identified 20 families at risk; homes where amputees struggled, or where elders were raising a number of children.

It was a moment when the Federal Government announced that “They would match our ten with another ten”.



Restorative Justice

Impact Story:

Women at GVI made and sent 150 pillowcase dresses to children of incarcerated women in the DRC.

The women love hearing about where their “gifts” have been sent and are always eager to receive reports back. The incarcerated women in the DRC also sent a gift back to the GVI women.





Refugee Assistance

Highlights:

1. 26 speaking engagement events with a total of 2425 participants in attendance.
2. Development of a refugee portal to reach dispersed CGs across the province and follow-up on newcomers' settlement.
3. Newcomers access to resources: 90% attending ESL or in School, 97% seen a doctor, 93% seen a dentist, 50% referred to appropriate social services, 40% have a library card, 93% involved in other activities (social, sports and other lessons)
4. # of requests for sponsorships received: 255
5. #of new refugees (approved sponsorships) within this period: 128

Low German

Highlights:

Two videos on Confidentiality and Consent have been completed in Low German. The aim is to develop an inventory resource of service delivery concepts in the Low German language, to aid newcomers in accessing services and understanding information important for settlement.

Walking with people in poverty

Highlights:

1. In 2012, a high percentage of survey respondents reported attitudinal change (90%) as a result of TOOLS and 72% reported a change in behavior and actions. But less than half of respondents reported a transformation in faith. In 2016, more than 75% of participants and 87% of leaders reported a significant change or growth in their faith as a result of the TOOLS experience. A high percentage of participants and leaders also reported change in attitudes and behavior in 2016.
2. 30 employers enrolled in the Living Wage Employer program. Total employment at the thirty employers was over 2,000 employees. Of that number, more than 1,680 are paid the living wage.

Material Resources

Highlights:

1. MR is working at using the collection and distribution of material goods as an opportunity to engage and educate a variety of groups about the peace, development, and relief work of MCC. This summer, MR worked with Silver Lake Mennonite Camp to develop and deliver Peace education for approximately 800 camper participants.
2. Meat Canning changed locations this year to a new facility that worked well and suited the Canning needs. The new facility is more up to the standards of the CFIA, and is more efficient than locations used in the past. We received CFIA approval in April 2016.



IVEP- Impact Stories:

R from India and serving at Eden High School comments on new perspectives she gained through her IVEP term:

Before I came to Canada I used to think that North Americans don't treat third world countries well, which I was wrong about. I find here people are very welcoming. And they give value to each and every culture. Third, after realizing that Canada is a multi-cultural country, I see that they give value to each and every person, no matter their ethnic background. They embrace each and every culture. Seeing this it makes me think, that in India we should also accept each other no matter which religion you belong to; we are one country. We all are Indian. It makes me think how we are dividing people by the caste system. We are actually dividing India by continuing doing that.

A from China serving at New Hamburg Thrift compared absorbing a new culture to food:

Before I came to Canada there was just my country's culture/people/language in my view. Now this experience has really opened my views. I have absorbed a different culture now. Culture is just like food for me, it's totally different from my country, but each meal I absorb different nutrients and energy from the different foods. I am sure this "nutrition" will give my body health.



S from Swaziland serving at Camp Crossroads summed up the new perspectives he gained by writing:

A lot has changed because before I came here, I had a single story and I thought the way we live and do things in our country was the best. I am proven wrong somehow. So I am a changed person now who understands life differently.