Tatiana Rodriguez greets people through the border wall between Mexico and the US at a vigil for her brother who was killed there.
Sharing God’s love and compassion

“We will be there for those with no one,” a phrase from a song on Kim Thiessen’s fifth CD for AIDS and peace work of MCC, describes the work of MCC here in Alberta and in over 60 countries. When service is done in the name of Christ, it always seeks out those who are marginalized, disadvantaged, homeless, unemployed and landless. Probably a most extreme image we have of this is 25,000 unaccompanied children, coming from difficult lives in Guatemala and El Salvador to get over the wall at the US border, hoping to be reunited with a family member who is working in the US. Each year more than $3 billion is sent back home to desperate families in Guatemala alone.

MCC Alberta is grateful for the privilege of working, as staff and as volunteers, with high-risk offenders, people in prison, Syrians coming as refugees, youth and young adults, people learning how to make peace, young offenders, and victims of crime. Matthew 25 reminds us to feed those who are hungry and to visit those who are sick or in prison; that is what your gifts have supported through MCC this past year.

Abe Janzen, Executive Director, MCC Alberta

Find us at mccab.ca and on Facebook

Board Executive
Randal Nickel, Chair – Co-opted, Camrose
Kris Peters, Vice Chair – MB, Linden
Noreen Neufeldt, Treasurer – MCA, Lethbridge
Cara Baergen, Secretary – Co-opted, Edmonton

Directors
Rod Wilson – MB, Edmonton
Marguerite Jack – MCA, Calgary
Linden Willms – MCA, Pincher Creek
Nancy Friesen – EMC, Taber
Connie Grove – Co-opted, Medicine Hat
Ron Wiebe – Co-opted, Grande Prairie
Susan Thiessen – EMC, Calgary
Sandra Friesen Peters – Co-opted, High Level
Highlights of the past year

The people of Alberta continue to be generous, kind and compassionate. Here are some highlights from the past year:

- The fifth CD, “Even in the Smallest Places,” partially recorded in Guatemala/El Salvador, was launched this past November. Over $12,000 worth of CDs have been sold and an additional $67,000 in donations for AIDS and Peace has been generated through various events. The two Alberta events alone raised $57,000.

- After three years of searching, the Lethbridge Thrift Shop purchased and moved into a new, bigger building.

- The flood: In June 2013 much of Calgary, High River, Siksika, Black Diamond and Turner Valley were flooded in what has become the most expensive natural disaster in Canadian History. MCC supported Mennonite Disaster Service in the clean up work throughout the summer.

- MCC Alberta was awarded a YMCA Peace Medal for our international work with peace.

- Learning tours: This year staff and constituents connected with the international work of MCC through a working and learning tour to Kenya, as well as a learning trip to the Middle East.

- In preparation for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission final national event, author Richard Wagamese spent an evening (Jan. 24) in Calgary exploring how stereotypes can dissolve when we truly listen to each other’s stories.

- GO South! From July 14-19, Calvin Elias, Byron Peters, and Simon Wiebe cycled 960 km from La Crete to Red Deer in support of MCC’s AIDS program and MDS Alberta Floods project. They raised over $15,000.

- The annual relief sale in Coaldale raised over $268,000 for MCC overseas relief and development work. Thanks to all who volunteered, donated items, participated in pre-relief sale fundraisers, supported the event, or participated in Go!

- Three major golf events happened in September. Hosted in Okotoks, La Crete and Tofield, these tournaments raised a total of over $227,000 and were a great time for MCC supporters to connect.
The flood
Supporting our neighbours in Alberta

When communities across southern Alberta experienced flooding in June 2013, Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), in partnership with MCC and others, helped to bring immediate relief to many families and individuals.

MDS, with help from MCC and other volunteers, aided homeowners in Black Diamond, Medicine Hat, and High River to empty soggy possessions, drywall, flooring, and walls from damaged basements.

Many communities around Alberta contributed significantly to relief efforts, including donations of blankets and quilts, trailers and tools, vehicles, and of course willing volunteers! MDS has since established more permanent rebuilding operations in High River, continuing the support to residents rebuilding after such a disaster.

Donate to MCC disaster response
donate.mcccanada.ca

We saw such great appreciation from those we worked with (in this tragedy).

– David Zentner

1. Donate to MCC’s Syria Crisis campaign.
2. Make a hygiene or relief kit.
3. Build a sand dam in East Africa.
4. Form a group to learn about global conflicts.
5. Support the annual MCC Relief Sale.
6. Donate to the refugee family assistance fund.
7. Pray for the marginalized in your community.
8. Purchase a gift from the MCC Giving Catalogue.

Find us at mccab.ca and on Facebook
Shelter and supplies for Syrian refugees
MCC response exceeds $14 million

In Lebanon, where refugees from Syria now make up roughly one-fifth of the population, MCC is providing rent support to 350 families. Shelter is the primary need for those fleeing the conflict in Syria. “The homes are very basic and not originally built for winter,” says Rita Hamdan, director of Popular Aid for Relief and Development, an MCC partner. MCC received a grant from the Government of Canada to provide the funds for the rent support.

In addition to the shelter assistance, another 1,000 families are receiving essential items such as mattresses, blankets and hygiene supplies. Since the conflict in Syria began, MCC has spent over $14 million on assistance for those affected.

Learn more about MCC’s response to the Syria crisis
mcccanada.ca/syriacrisis

People shouldn’t have to live like this.
– Rita Hamdan

This refugee settlement in Lebanon has many sheds that are not equipped for winter and flood with heavy rains.

1. Providing 2,957 Filipino families with shelter after Typhoon Haiyan.
2. Trauma training after the shooting at Kenya’s Westgate mall.
3. Providing seeds and animal feed to 316 families in Bolivia.
4. Providing support for Colombian refugees.
5. Reconstructing 26 homes after Guatemalan earthquake.
6. Providing food and shelter assistance in Eastern Congo.
7. Providing food aid for 1,500 families after flooding in India.
9. Packing 1,000 kits at our Christmas kit-packing party.
10. Resettling 63 new refugees in Alberta.
Albertans giving back
Learning tours and fifth CD

In April, 18 Albertans travelled to Kenya to help a community build a sand dam and learn about the work of MCC. Sand dams provide access to cleaner water, closer to home for an average of 1,100 families. They are an incredible local invention. The gardens around the sand dam help the community feed themselves and allow them to sell the surplus. This surplus allows children to go back to school.

This group from Alberta also had the opportunity to visit an MCC supported AIDS clinic in Najile.

In Alberta, Kim Thiessen and Darryl Neustaedter Barg released their fifth CD, “Even in the Smallest Places,” to help raise funds for MCC’s work in AIDS and peace around the world.

Learn about sand dams
mcccanada.ca/stories/videos/sand-dam
Read about and buy the new CD
Takeyourplace.mcc.org/cds/new-cd-coming

We need each other so we will agree to love one another (despite our differences) – local community leader

1. Become a Global Family sponsor.
2. Donate to an MCC water project.
3. Make an AIDS care kit or school kit.
4. Donate items to an MCC thrift shop.
5. Buy the “Even in Smallest Places” CD.
6. Donate to Services for Newcomers.
7. Attend a golf tournament or other fundraising event.
8. Volunteer at an MCC thrift shop.

MCC Alberta Work & Learn Tour to Kenya included helping a community build a sand dam.

Find us at mccab.ca and on Facebook
New access to water in Zimbabwe
Supporting community efforts to build a dam

To get water, Violet Mudimba used to walk an hour one way from her village of Nkalange, Zimbabwe. So when Kulima Mbobumi Training Centre (KMTC) mobilized the community to build a dam, Violet helped dig trenches, pack soil and carry rocks for the wall.

More than 100 people contributed labour to the dam in a food-for-work project. MCC partnered with KMTC to provide food and materials for the dam.

By the end of the first rainy season there was more than 2.5 meters of water behind the wall. With new access to water for people and animals the quality of life in Nkalange has improved. “We are very thankful for the project, because we used to travel long distances,” said Mudimba.

Donate to MCC’s water projects
donate.mcccanada.ca/project/give-water

Violet Mudimba has more time for gardening and other work now that water is only a short walk from her home.
Peace medal and Planting Peace
Walking toward each other and not away from each other

Each year, the YMCA Calgary Peace Medals recognize local individuals, youth and groups who have demonstrated a commitment to building peace in Calgary or elsewhere in the world. This year, Mennonite Central Committee Alberta (MCCA) was thrilled to receive the peace medal in the International Group category. The medal was in recognition of MCC’s global peace work in over 60 countries in areas of conflict prevention, alternatives to violence, and working towards inclusion. The award also recognized local initiatives such as Planting Peace—a cross-cultural training session that brought together delegates from Alberta and 17 countries to learn peacemaking skills.

Sponsor a Planting Peace participant for 2015

I want to work for peace so that everyone grows well.
— Jason Konayuma, Zambia

8 Ways to help

1. Plan an event for International Day of Peace.
2. Organize a peace walk.
3. Pray for people in prison who want to reconnect with their families.
5. Contact our office about our youth programs.
8. Host an IVEPer.

Find us at mccab.ca and on Facebook
2. Integrating peacebuilding into development work in Afghanistan.
3. Promoting non-violence with young adults in the West Bank.
5. Learning with youth through CASA.
6. Addressing needs of victims, youth offenders and the community through RAFT.
7. Listening to stories at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
8. Supporting families of people in prison.
10. Sharing about peace through music and stories.

Sharing memories can contribute to lasting peace
Project encourages public discussion on victims of conflict

Tamara Šmidling says damaged buildings and scarred sidewalks are still evident in Bosnia and Herzegovina. But the most enduring impact of past wars is the ethnic divisions.

“We have a lot of discussion about our own victims,” Šmidling says. “But we need to recognize there were victims on all sides.”

Šmidling is Program Coordinator of the Peace Academy Foundation (PAF) in Sarajevo. With funding from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), PAF is implementing “The Culture of Remembering.”

Initially, the project will bring together people from three communities to discuss how sharing memories can contribute to lasting peace. Eventually, the goal is to find and publicize memorial sites to encourage public discussion.

Learn more about MCC’s peace projects mcccanada.ca/peace

We need to remember there were victims on all sides.
– Tamara Šmidling

The impact craters of mortar rounds are filled with red resin on Sarajevo sidewalks. They are known as “Sarajevo roses.”
Winning medals in life

Cindy Klassen, one of Canada’s most decorated female athletes, was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame on June 6th, 2014.

Cindy credits her successes on and off the ice to God. MCC has been blessed by Cindy’s involvement and support. She has attended numerous Alberta Relief Sales where she has biked, run and promoted the work of MCC locally and internationally, travelled to Nigeria and Ethiopia where she learned about the devastating reality of AIDS, and cycled through Kenya with Albertan and Kenyan cyclists, promoting peace. Thank you, Cindy, for inspiring us with your gifts, your faith and your commitment to MCC.

Volunteer at a relief sale
mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/volunteer/relief-sales

Passing on the passion

Three generations of MCC participation.

What makes MCC truly unique is the sheer number of people involved. Like many others around Alberta, Jake and Verdell Andres have supported the work of MCC for many years. From quilts to relief sales and the local thrift shop, they make a difference. They are also passing on this passion to their children and grandchildren. This is what makes MCC’s work possible. Thank you.

Volunteer in an Alberta MCC thrift shop
mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/volunteer/thrift-shops

Find us at mccab.ca and on Facebook
Children are like blooming flowers

Soma Chakraborty is a teacher at a school in Kolkata, India.

I see my classroom as a garden. My students are from six to 10 years old. They have lots of problems. But when they come to our schools, our loving schools, they are blooming like flowers. We give as much as we can. I am cultivating these beautiful flowers so they can serve their communities as beautiful human beings.

Learn more about MCC’s work in India in the fall 2013 issue of A Common Place acommonplace.mcccanada.ca

Service workers
1. Loralee Williams, Burkina Faso
2. Martha and Ron Ratzlaff, Kenya (finished term 2013)
3. Wendy Martin, Laos

SALTers
1. Stefan Dyck, Nepal (SALT term 2013-2014)

▲ Working for food security in Nepal

Stefan Dyck, from Okotoks, worked with agricultural and food security projects.

In the Okhaldhunga district, Stefan Dyck served with MCC’s partner SAHAS (Group of Helping Hands). They work with local people, providing building materials and training workshops for fish ponds, pig sheds/rearing, and tomato cultivation. Community members were provided with 500 fish per pond and two pigs per shed. “It was great to see how excited and proud participants appeared as they showed off their new sources of income and food.”

Volunteer with SALT serve.mcccanada.ca
Alberta

Executive Director
Abe Janzen

Associate Director
Kim Thiessen (also Generations Program)

Program Director
Orlando Vasquez (also Refugee Assistance and IT)

Human Resources and Administration Coordinator
Anne Boehlig

Administration Assistants
Ruth Neufeldt (also Global Family)
Elda Enns

Material Resources
Linda Dickinson

Peace and Youth Program Coordinator
Megan Enns

Communications and Donor Relations
Lisa Rosenberg (Donor Relations)
Rose Klassen (Communications)

Thrift Shop Coordinator
Adrienne Wiebe (also Constituency Relations)

Service, IVEP and SALT
Iliana Friesen

Constituency Relations
Jim Shantz (also Indigenous Communities)

Financial Services
Brian Lenchyshyn (Accountant)
Debra Raatz (Assistant)

Restorative Justice Ministries
Peter Worsley (Community Chaplain)
Moira Brownlee (Circles of Support and Accountability Coordinator)
Laurie Bennie (Circles of Support and Accountability, Bowden M2/W2)
Janet Anderson (Edmonton M2/W2)
Gord Hutchinson (Drumheller M2 Coordinator)
Darrel Heidebrecht (Restorative Action for Transformation)
Trish Elgersma (Restorative Action for Transformation)

Services for Newcomers (Taber)
George Epp (Coordinator)
Mari Banman
Leora Epp
Tina Klassen

Building Bridges (Edmonton)
Donna Entz

Thrift Shop Managers
April Hauck (Calgary)
Ruth Vermeulen (Lethbridge)
Bryan Heidebrecht (Edmonton)
Susi Peters (Taber)

Thrift Shop Managers
April Hauck (Calgary)
Ruth Vermeulen (Lethbridge)
Bryan Heidebrecht (Edmonton)
Susi Peters (Taber)
Worldwide
Personnel by program location
377 Service workers  622 Salaried workers
Total: 999

Financials
MCC operates at the provincial, national and international level. These numbers represent budgeted Canadian income and expenses for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

Actual income and expense figures for the fiscal year were not available when this report went to print. However, the actual year-end figures are available at mcccanada.ca/annualreport.

MCC Canada and MCC U.S. both contribute to MCC’s international program. Numbers in this report only reflect MCC in Canada’s contribution to MCC’s international work.

BUDGETED INCOME  FY 13/14
Cash gifts
    Canada 17,659,297
Gifts-in-kind 2,243,698
Thrift shops 8,493,343
Relief sales 1,657,800
Grants
    Nongovernmental grants 783,926
    Governmental grants 6,751,019
Ten Thousand Villages 10,790,000
Other income 3,615,228
Total income $51,994,311

BUDGETED EXPENSES  FY 13/14
International program
    Africa 7,776,042
    Asia 3,823,958
    Europe and the Middle East 1,659,375
    Latin America and the Caribbean 4,251,092
    Multiregion 10,585,534
Canadian program
    Justice and peacebuilding 4,517,035
    Material resources collection 1,529,787
    Sustainable community development 3,305,554
Ten Thousand Villages 11,487,000
Administration 5,939,164
Fundraising 2,568,123
Total expenses $57,442,663
Find us at mccab.ca and on Facebook
Where Albertans Give

People in Alberta are generous in making the work of MCC possible. The needs continue to be urgent and MCC Alberta is grateful to Albertans for their generosity and compassion.

- More than $341,000 was raised for water projects, an increase of 30 per cent. This could build 22 sand dams and significantly change the lives of close to 200,000 people.

- Instead of supporting an individual child, Global Family supports the community behind the child and this makes a world of difference. Albertans gave $358,000 to this worthwhile cause.

- In the weeks following Typhoon Haiyan, MCC distributed emergency food and hygiene supplies to families in the Philippines through our partner, Church World Service. Albertans generously donated over $256,000.

- MCC Alberta also received many donations for administrative costs and “where needed most.” We are thankful Albertans recognize that critical projects need to be managed and well implemented.
What is Mennonite Central Committee?
MCC is a charitable organization that partners with churches and community organizations worldwide to walk with people who are disadvantaged.

MCC supports activities that provide emergency assistance, reduce poverty and promote healthy communities, sustainable living and alternatives to violence.

It is a global ministry of Anabaptist churches in Canada and the U.S. which includes Mennonite and Brethren in Christ. MCC envisions communities in harmony with God, one another and creation.

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ