Syrian refugee children in Lebanon participating in activities by MCC partner, Development for People and Nature Association.
We work by faith

The work of MCC is a work of service and faith, responding to needs, as Jesus, the early church and the church today continues to respond. Those in prison are visited, those who need support are surrounded, young people are encouraged, older people are engaged, sand dams are built, borders are crossed, refugees are welcomed, food is grown, and good news is offered to the poor.

It would be easy to be overwhelmed: the Syrian and Iraqi refugees, poverty, violence and migration in Central America, ongoing suffering in Ukraine, food and water shortages, the urgent educational needs of children in many countries, the drop in oil prices, MCC’s commitment to partners in 60 countries, and to programs in Alberta. It is a big vision, an endless assignment, enabled only by the creative energy of the Holy Spirit, who never stops connecting us to each other so that God’s will can be done.

We are glad for the vision that gave life to MCC 95 years ago, and as we begin the last five years of a century of work, by faith, trusting God to lead this ministry through the church around us … we are thankful, and hopeful.

Abe Janzen, Executive Director, MCC Alberta

Board Members
Kris Peters (MB)
Noreen Neufeldt (MCA)
Rod Wilson (MB)
Linden Willms (MCA)
Ron Wiebe (EMC)
Connie Grove (Co-opted)
Nancy Friesen (EMC)
Sandra Friesen-Peters (Co-opted)
Cindy Klassen (Co-opted)
David Zentner (Co-opted)
Barb Heidebrecht (MCA)

Highlights

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

MCC’s partner Restorative Actions for Transformation (RAFT) received the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Community Justice Award for Partnership and Collaboration as well as the Bhayana Family Foundation Award for Collaboration from United Way.

On February 24, the Two Hills Thrift Shop celebrated it’s official opening!

In February, Alberta hosted the IVEP (International Volunteer Exchange Program) Mid-year Conference. Nearly 50 young adults from over 25 countries around the world gathered to build friendships, talk about peacebuilding, worship together and learn from each other’s experiences.

Learning Tours: This year staff and constituents connected with the international work of MCC through a work and learn tour to Kenya, a learning tour to the Middle East, and the Migrant Trail walk in Mexico and Arizona. As well, young adults travelled with Uprooted to northern and southern borders of Mexico to meet people, hear stories and learn about issues of migration.

The annual Relief Sale in Sherwood Park raised over $171,000 for MCC overseas relief and development work and our three Golf for MCC events raised almost $287,000. Thanks to all who supported and particated in these events.

On November 19, MCC Alberta hosted Breaking Down Walls: an evening with Joe Clark. The event brought together over 350 people and raised $110,000 for Global Family.

Donna Entz continues to work with the North Edmonton Ministry program in Edmonton, growing connections and understanding between the Mennonite and Muslim communities in Alberta.

MCC Alberta has been working to organize refugee sponsorships and to assist Syrian refugees resettling in Canada.
Welcoming the stranger
Refugee family resettles in Alberta

in recent months, MCC Alberta has partnered with agencies, communities, and congregations to assist Syrian individuals and families living as refugees to resettle in Canada.

The Almouad family from Syria arrived in Edmonton after living as refugees in Lebanon, where they were seen as outsiders.

They appreciate many things about Canada. While feeling safer and being able to continue studying once again, they noted that the people are so respectful. “Every office, whether in schools, banks, grocery stores, people treat us with respect. Even with not knowing English they are patient to wait until someone translates. We feel that we are equal like everyone else.”

We are so grateful for the strong support and energy of our constituents, and for new partnerships that make it possible for families to find a new future in Canada.

Donate to MCC’s relief work
mcccanada.ca/relief

Relief supplies in Gaza
Providing emergency food and bedding

When conflict erupted again in Palestine and Israel over July and August, 2014, MCC was the first non-government organization on the ground providing emergency relief through partner Al Najd Development Forum.

In Gaza, 230 families received locally purchased food including rice, lentils and canned meat; 150 households received mattresses and emergency bedding.

“All Najd staff … work tirelessly to get food and supplies out to families who have had their homes and livelihoods destroyed,” says Joanna Hiebert Bergen, an MCC representative for Palestine and Israel.

After the fighting stopped, MCC extended the food distributions to 460 families for eight months, and is funding home repairs for 70 families.

Donate to MCC’s relief work
mcccanada.ca/relief

Volunteers with Al Najd Development Forum deliver mattresses to families who opened their homes to displaced people.

Relief highlights

1. Emergency food for 248 families during Central American drought.
2. Bedding and baby clothes for families displaced by flooding in Nepal.
3. Emergency food for 4,400 people in Ethiopia.
5. Food vouchers for 250 displaced Colombian families.
6. 700 kits packed at a Christmas party.
7. 95 refugees resettled in Alberta.
8. Golfing for MCC.
9. Packing 200 kits with the help of new immigrants.
10. Raising $171,000 at the relief sale in Sherwood Park.

Donate to MCC’s Syria and Iraq crisis campaign.
Donate to relief.
Sponsor a refugee family.
Make a relief or hygiene kit.
Buy gifts from the MCC Christmas Giving Catalogue.
Pray for marginalized people in your community.
Join the Work and Learn Tour to Kenya.
Volunteer at the Material Resource Centre.
A better way to shop!
Supporting MCC through Thrift Shops

The work of our Thrift Shops is amazing! What began in 1972 as a small project has turned into a major source of support for MCC’s local and international ministry. Annually, the Thrift Shops in Alberta, through the hard work and dedication of all the staff and almost four hundred volunteers, contribute approximately 20% of all MCC Alberta’s revenue. In this fiscal year, donations from Thrift amounted to almost $800,000!

This past February we worked together with the Two Hills community to open a new shop, and expansion is in the works for the Calgary Thrift Shop. Thrift shops also provide a wonderful way of informing the public about MCC’s work around the world, as well as promoting stewardship of materials. Many thanks to everyone who supports the MCC Thrift Shops, either as volunteers, staff, donors, or shoppers!

Learn more about MCC’s Thrift Shops
thrift.mcc.org

Alternatives to Coca in Colombia
Helping farmers grow legal and sustainable crops

With a lack of opportunity in rural Colombia, farmers Maria Valencia Rivas and Genaro Jabe Hinestroza supported their family by growing coca, which is processed into cocaine. But in early 2013 they decided the risk of fumigation from government coca elimination programs was too high.

An agricultural program run by the Mennonite Brethren Church in Chocó, an MCC partner, was the opportunity they needed. The project built a rice mill nearby, provided farmers with initial seeds and committed to buy the crop. “That’s the main thing for us, having the guarantee that we can sell it,” says Valencia Rivas.

Learn more about the church’s work helping farmers grow new crops
mcccanada.ca/alternativestococa

As part of the Cacao not Coca project, Colombian farmer Maria Valencia Rivas received rice seed and cacao seedlings.
Uprooted
Young adults explore issues of migration in the borderlands of Mexico

Uprooted is an annual Learning & Service Tour for Alberta & Saskatchewan young adults ages 18-25 that ran for the first time in May 2014. Through this program, young adults have travelled with MCC to the northern and southern borders of Mexico and explored themes of migration & peacebuilding.

The three-week tour is hosted by MCC Mexico and MCC West Coast and has provided an opportunity for young adults to enrich their faith, learn about themselves, learn about MCC and gain a greater awareness of the barriers faced by peoples in Mexico and countries to the south.

Learn more about Uprooted  mccab.ca/uprooted

8 Ways to help

1. Sign up for MCC’s Ottawa Office blog.
2. Become a monthly donor.
5. Host an IVEPer.
7. Organize a peace walk.
8. Share Peace Sunday materials with your church or friends.

10 Highlights

1. Training 6,858 people in conflict transformation and peacebuilding.
2. Supporting peacebuilding in Mozambique where weapons are being surrendered.
3. Inspiring openness to all cultures for youth in China.
4. Connecting peace organizations in Bolivia to discuss causes of racism and conflict.
5. Empowering teachers in Kosovo to promote inter-ethnic dialogue in the classroom.
6. Building bridges through IVEP.
7. Hosting the IVEP mid-year conference.
8. Hosting youth groups to discuss peace building.
10. Discussing alternatives to military action with Israeli youth.

Diffusing violence and encouraging connections
Peacebuilding in region of religious and ethnic diversity

When Mugu Zakka Bako arrived at the scene of bomb blasts in Jos, Nigeria, in May of 2014, he saw more than destruction and injured people. He saw Christians and Muslims working together, rescuing people from the debris and consoling each other.

Bako, MCC’s peace coordinator in Nigeria, says that’s a change from a few years ago when reprisal attacks after a bombing meant the “whole city would be in flames for days or weeks.”

MCC and its partners are involved in intensive peacebuilding work to diffuse violence and encourage connections between Muslims and Christians.

MCC’s peacebuilding work has been a priority in Nigeria since 2001.

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

Many have come back dramatically transformed.

– Dave Klassen, MCC representative in Nigeria

MCC Nigeria peace coordinator Mugu Zakka Bako speaks at an interfaith training event held in Plateau State, Nigeria.
Packing 30,000 school kits for MCC!
Simon Eng packing school kits at the MCC Alberta Material Resources Centre in Calgary.

On March 31, MCC Alberta celebrated 30,000 school kits packed by Simon Eng! Simon has been volunteering with MCC since 2007 - he faithfully shows up at the Calgary office every Tuesday and works at packing school kits in the Material Resources Centre. The kits are shipped around the world and end up in the hands of children who so desperately need these materials in order to go to school. Thank you, Simon, for your hard work and dedication to MCC and to children around the world!

Volunteer at a material resources centre
mccab.ca/materialresources

Long-term volunteers
Ed and Kay Woelk at the “Golf for MCC” event in Tofield.

Sixteen years ago, Ed and Kay Woelk took on the challenge of helping organize the first MCC Alberta Golf Tournament. They have organized meals, prizes, and many other details, and have encouraged immeasurable interest and support for the work of MCC. Prior to their work with golf tournaments, they volunteered at the Calgary Thrift Shop. Thank you, Ed and Kay, for your inspiring and friendly support!

Volunteer in Alberta
mccab.ca/volunteer

Helping provide education with SALT
Betty Sawatzky, from Purple Springs, worked as a teacher’s assistant.

In Jordan, Betty Sawatzky served with SALT (Serving and Learning Together) at MCC’s partner organization Arab Episcopal School in the city of Irbid. She taught grades 1-6 Math (in English) and assisted with grades 1-3 English classes.

“I get quite excited when I see the students understand what is being taught, and knowing that their grades have improved since the beginning of the school year.”

Volunteer with SALT
serve.mcccanada.ca

My dream has come true
Chandreque Finiasse works with an MCC partner in Mozambique.

When I was a child helping my father with his goats, I used to think about working in agriculture.

I studied agriculture, and now I work with people in villages where sand dams have been built. I show them how to plant vegetables and save seeds. They are so proud when they show me their harvest.

I love my job and I believe this is what God wanted me to do.

Learn more about MCC’s work in Mozambique in the spring 2015 issue of A Common Place.
amccanada.ca
What we do
The MCCs in Canada and the U.S. together work in three program areas: community development, disaster response, and building peace. For the year ended March 31, 2015, the total worldwide program costs allocated to the MCCs in Canada were budgeted to be:

- Community development: $23,000,000
- Disaster response: $9,700,000
- Building peace: $7,300,000
- Total: $40,000,000

The funds we raise
MCC raises funds across Canada from many sources. For the year ended March 31, 2015, we budgeted to raise the following amounts:

- Cash donations: $19,600,000
- Donations–material resources: $2,000,000
- MCC Thrift Shops: $9,200,000
- Relief sales & events: $1,500,000
- Grants from gov’t & other: $11,100,000
- Other: $3,900,000
- Total: $47,200,000

In addition MCC Canada budgeted to use reserve funds of $2,200,000 from prior years.

Administration and fundraising
The MCCs in Canada use approximately 20% of their total expenses for administration and fundraising. We work hard to maintain a balance between using our resources responsibly and making our programs as effective as possible. For the year ended March 31, 2015, the MCCs in Canada budgeted to spend the following:

- Administration: $7,000,000
- Fundraising: $2,400,000
- Total: $9,400,000

*Actual results for the year ended March 31, 2015 will be available after June 30, 2015 at mcccanada.ca/annualreport.

*All amounts are expressed in Canadian dollars.
DOLLARS AT WORK

Fiscal Year 2014-15 MCC Alberta Revenue

- $3,367,550 Contributions
- $799,245 Thrift Shops
- $324,725 Government Grants
- $298,219 Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- $66,314 Other income

Total $4,856,053

Fiscal Year 2014-15 MCC Alberta Expenses

- $602,659 Administration & fundraisings
- $298,219 Canadian Foodgrains Banks
- $2,491,464 International programs
- $1,357,564 Alberta programs

Total $4,749,907

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 $384,471 was raised for water projects. This could build 25 sand dams and significantly change the lives of close to 225,000 people.

Rather than supporting individual children, Global Family supports educational efforts for the whole community, which makes a world of difference. Albertans gave $377,663 to this worthwhile cause.

Over $233,000 was donated by Albertans to support health programs with HIV and AIDS.

MCC Alberta also received many donations for administrative costs and “where needed most.” We are thankful that Albertans recognize that critical projects need to be managed and well implemented.

Map represents the full picture of MCCs budgeted program expenses for year ended March 31, 2015 (expressed in Canadian dollars).
Note: worker statistics are as of January, 2015.
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

Yusuf Al Attar, 12, stands inside his family’s rabbit and pigeon enclosure next to their home in Gaza. The family participated in a rabbit-raising project with MCC partner Al Najd Developmental Forum.