Inside:
Message from executive director
Mission and focus areas
Volunteer profiles
Financial reports
Updates on programs and projects
…and more

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ
Megha and Pirty are part of an MCC multilingual education project in Bangladesh.

"We believe that our lives will change with [these food packages]." — Agnès Ntumba (DR Congo)

"My new heroes are Reyad and Najwa, for their courage to come to Canada from Syria—such a brave and difficult change." — Elaine Hofer

On the cover: Farmer Jhala Toppo harvests vegetables from her garden outside the village of Tangrani, India, where residents receive support from MCC partner Disha, including the construction of a diversion dam in the nearby fields. This dam improves ground water retention, extending the residents’ growing season and access to water. (MCC photo/Colin Vandenberg)

MCC peace clubs have grown more than 250% since 2014. Verity Zechariah is one of our participants from Nigeria and says her local club helped create peace in her school, family and community.

"As I sat and prayed in the world’s largest salt flat—God showed his power through creation." — YAMENer Jhon Fredy Chocue Parra

"I was earning about 12,000 rupees from corn only. This year, I have earned 70 per cent more from beans, eggplant, tomato and green chilli thanks to a new irrigation system installed by an MCC partner in India." — Debendra Pujari

"As I sat and prayed in the world’s largest salt flat—God showed his power through creation." — YAMENer Jhon Fredy Chocue Parra

On the cover: Farmer Jhala Toppo harvests vegetables from her garden outside the village of Tangrani, India, where residents receive support from MCC partner Disha, including the construction of a diversion dam in the nearby fields. This dam improves ground water retention, extending the residents’ growing season and access to water. (MCC photo/Colin Vandenberg)

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A MESSAGE FROM MCC CANADA’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My mother still talks about the wooden sandals that “Marie, the young Russian Mennonite girl” wore when she arrived in the 1920s on my grandparents’ farm in southern Ontario. Homeless, forced to flee violence and starvation in Ukraine, Marie was a refugee.

Sadly, almost a century later the number of refugees and displaced people worldwide has reached historic levels.

MCC is responding to the needs of those fleeing conflict and disaster by heeding the call to “welcome one another… as Christ has welcomed you” (Romans 15:7, NRSV). You will see evidence of that in this year’s MCC Canada annual report as you read about our work in everything from emergency assistance to peacebuilding to refugee sponsorship.

From the first days of Marie’s arrival on my mother’s farmland and over the nearly nine decades since, the Anabaptist Christian community, often with leadership from MCC, has said “welcome” to the refugee. MCC was the first non-profit organization to sign onto Canada’s private refugee sponsorship program, allowing thousands of displaced families to make new lives here.

At the same time, we are active in many other regions, trying to prevent situations that lead to the creation of refugees.

Will our MCC staff continue their work in development so vulnerable people can remain in their communities and hope for a future for their children? Without doubt! Will our partners persist in their commitment to peacebuilding, to reducing the violence that causes people to flee in the first place? Absolutely.

And yet, as you read this, more than 68 million people are displaced. Together, we can help some of them.

With your support and prayers, MCC will walk with displaced people as they return to their communities and offer their gifts to help with rebuilding.

Others, like Marie, will arrive in our communities, and as we have for almost a century, we will have the opportunity to say “welcome!”

Thank you for your deep engagement in helping MCC create spaces of welcome.

In Christ’s peace,

Rick Cober Bauman, Executive Director
MCC Canada

“You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household.” —Ephesians 2:19
New International Version (NIV)

MCC Canada Board Members

Peggy Snyder (Chair), CCAL*  
Paul Gilbert (Vice Chair), Member-at-Large  
Scott Siemens (Treasurer), Member-at-Large  
Cindy Klassen (Secretary), CCAL  
Peter Wolfe, MCC British Columbia  
Sandra Friesen-Peters, MCC Alberta  
Dan Siebert, MCC Saskatchewan  
Henry Buhler, MCC Manitoba

Margaret Amanatides, MCC Ontario  
Walter Thiessen, Eastern Canada  
Andrew Scanlan, CCAL  
Laurence Fontaine, Member-at-Large  
David Chow, Member-at-Large

*appointed by Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders

DIRECTOR TRANSITION

In September 2017, Don Peters retired after 16 years as the longest serving executive director of MCC Canada. “Don has been an inspirational leader, demonstrating MCC’s values in word and deed,” says board chair Peggy Snyder. “Don’s steady, servant leadership enabled MCC Canada to weather joys and challenges, guiding the organization during polarizing times, both internally and externally. The board is grateful for the blessing Don has been to MCC.”
Relief

In situations of conflict or disaster, MCC is there — providing funds for emergency food and shelter, as well as supplies such as MCC relief kits. We also support long-term recovery projects such as rebuilding homes, providing employment through food- and cash-for-work projects and helping people heal from trauma. In all our relief work, we partner with local communities to reduce conflict and meet their most basic needs.

“Many times, a very poor family is receiving another very poor family into their home. When you support those families, you give harmony and peace.” — Fidele Kyanza, with MCC partner in DR Congo

Agnès Ntumba and her family fled their village in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo). “They were coming to kill us,” she says. The Ntumbas used to eat once a day. Food packages provided by MCC have meant two meals for the family. “We believe that our lives will change with this assistance,” Ntumba says. (MCC photo/Mulanda Jimmy Juma)

The UN says there are more than 68 million people displaced worldwide because of disaster, conflict or persecution — the highest number on record.

Thanks to you…

186,650 people received emergency food assistance
5,720 people received financial support, such as cash transfers
3,490 people received housing assistance, including home repairs

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017–2018, thanks to our donors and local partners, people in crisis received essential support.

Together we…

RESPONDED TO DROUGHT IN KENYA.
In partnership with World Relief Kenya, 1,530 households in one of the most drought-affected areas received cash transfers for food. The level of acceptable food consumption has increased from ten to 53 per cent.

RESPONDED TO DISASTER IN HAITI.
Many people are struggling with food insecurity and loss of livelihoods caused by Hurricane Matthew. We are working with 450 families, and their average corn crops have more than doubled. Bean yields are almost four times higher.

RESPONDED TO DISPLACEMENT IN JORDAN.
50,000 households of Syrian and Iraqi refugees, and vulnerable Jordanians, are receiving relief supplies. In partnership with Caritas Jordan, this project helps people cope when access to household items is limited.
We work alongside local communities and partners to: increase access to education, especially for low-income families, girls, ethnic minorities and children affected by disabilities, HIV or violence; improve education quality through professional development for teachers and educational materials; support vocational training to help youth find work; promote initiatives to develop young people’s potential as leaders.

“When a child has nothing to draw with and nothing to write on, that child cannot learn.” — Ann Wangari, with MCC partner distributing school kits to refugee children returning home to Somalia

School kits shipped

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2016</th>
<th>FY2018</th>
<th>FY2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87,651</td>
<td>78,035</td>
<td>51,062</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017–2018, thanks to our donors and local partners, children had the opportunity to learn.

Together we…

BROUGHT EDUCATION TO THE DISPLACED IN SYRIA. Fifty-four children from low-income and displaced families unable to enroll in school received education in non-formal settings. These students from grades nine to 12 passed national exams with good or very good scores.

HELPED YOUNG PEOPLE IN RWANDA FIND EMPLOYMENT. Eighty young people developed social, entrepreneurial and small business skills. Ninety-five per cent of them passed exams and completed internships in skilled trades.

HELPED STUDENTS IN BANGLADESH STAY IN SCHOOL. We supported 264 children from communities with a high drop-out rate. They attended preschools and homework clubs; all moved on to the next grade level and passed year-end school assessments.

Thanks to you…

78,035 school kits shipped
39,979 children in K–12 formal education
2,553 children in early childhood education
4,807 children in non-formal education
969 children in programs for students with special needs
1,560 teachers in professional development
4,472 children received scholarships or tuition support
2,909 children in vocational training

Megha Basri, left, and Prity Murmu are students in a multilingual education school in Jhinafulbari village, Rajshahi, Bangladesh. MCC partner Church of Bangladesh Social Development Programme (CBSDP) runs a multilingual education project in six schools in Rajshahi district, where many Santal and other indigenous people live. (MCC photo/Dave Klassen)

Almost half of the refugees worldwide are under 18 years of age. (United Nations)
MCC works with local partners around the world to make sure there is food today, food tomorrow and food for all. During conflict or disaster, we provide emergency food assistance. We work with farmers on techniques to improve soil health and increase yields. We advocate for government policies that allow everyone to access enough food, and our livelihoods projects provide materials and livestock for people starting new opportunities.

“Having food gives dignity to displaced people.”— Mulanda Jimmy Juma, MCC representative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

There are about 124 million people in the world facing food insecurity — an increase of 11 per cent over 2017. (2018 Global Report on Food Crisis)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2017–2018, thanks to our donors and local partners, people’s food security improved.

Together we…

HELPED FARMERS IN ZIMBABWE GROW MORE FOOD. One hundred and twenty farmers are learning about how to improve food production for their families through training in conservation agriculture. The project also encourages women to become leaders in the agricultural community.

HELPED PEOPLE IN LAOS GET MORE LAND. Farmers are being trained about how to navigate laws on land ownership. As a result, 120 households have received land certificates, allowing them to produce more food to eat and sell.

SUPPORTED OUR CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK PROJECTS. MCC is a founding member of the Foodgrains Bank, which supports food-related projects around the world. In 2018, MCC programmed $13.9 million through our account at CFGB to fund 40 projects in 19 countries.

The world needs to produce at least 20 per cent more food in the next 15 years. But food production is expected to drop because of climate change. (World Bank)

Devi Lopchan at her farm plot in the hillside village of Thulogaon in Nallu VDC, in the district of Lalitpur, Nepal. Lopchan received both kitchen garden and nutrition training through MCC partner The Rural Institution for Community Development (RICOD). RICOD is working to reduce malnutrition in the south of the Lalitpur district of Nepal, focusing on pregnant and nursing mothers and children under five. (MCC photo/Colin Vandenberg)

**Thanks to you…**

43,611 people attended agricultural trainings 69,822 individuals received supplementary or seasonal food assistance 10,549 children received food at school 4,896 kitchen gardens planted 44,362 people attended nutrition workshops 31,281 people received agricultural supplies such as seeds or tools
More than two billion people don’t have access to safe and secure drinking water. Women and girls walk for hours daily to collect water for cooking and cleaning; livelihoods suffer because farmers cannot irrigate their crops or water their livestock. MCC works with local partners to make sure people have access to clean, reliable water close to their communities.

“We were so happy. We had a shower, washed our clothes. Then we started developing our land.” — Maheshwar Pujari, talking about the day that pipes brought water to his village in India

Farmer Debendra Pujari (pictured) and his wife Santoshi Pujari (with their 3-year-old daughter Vanita Pujari) live in Batasahi village in the district of Gajapati, Odisha State, India. Due to water scarcity in his village, Pujari had often found it necessary to earn extra income when agriculture was not productive. And the Pujaris used to spend five to six hours daily getting enough water for one day. When MCC partner ISARA (Institute of Social Action and Research Activities) installed a Diversion Based Irrigation System in the hills above the village in 2016, residents of Batasahi gained access to irrigation throughout the year. The Pujaris have increased their small backyard plot and are growing enough vegetables to feed their family and to sell at the local market. They are an encouragement for other farmers who find agriculture difficult and unprofitable. (MCC photo/Pabitra Paramanya)

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017–2018, thanks to our donors and local partners, people’s access to clean water increased.

Together we . . .

BROUGHT WATER CLOSER TO HOME IN INDIA. Water was plentiful in streams above several villages, but scarce in farmland below. By diverting some of the water downward, villagers are growing more food to eat and sell in local markets.

RESTORED LAND BY CONTROLLING WATER IN ETHIOPIA. Soil erosion caused by runoff is claiming agricultural land. A series of check dams funded through MCC’s account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank is reducing erosion and restoring farmland.

IMPROVED THE HEALTH OF NEW MOTHERS AND CHILDREN IN AFGHANISTAN. In partnership with Medair and with funding from the Government of Canada, we built wells and latrines. Access to safe drinking water increased by 17 per cent and use of better sanitation facilities increased by 57 per cent.

Thanks to you . . .

10,152 households connected to an improved water source
2,606 latrines built

Worldwide, four out of 10 people face a scarcity of water. Unclean water and poor sanitation are a leading cause of child mortality. (WHO)
MCC focuses on improving the well-being of vulnerable people, including: teaching prevention of HIV and other communicable diseases; providing care and supplies for people living with HIV and AIDS; improving access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities (WASH); working with mothers to promote healthy lifestyles in their families; responding to gender-based violence; and working with traumatized communities.

“Without mental health services, health care is like a stool with two legs. You can prop it up with a rock, but it is unbalanced and weak.” — Dr. Peter Desameau is with an MCC partner in Haiti

In 2017–2018, thanks to our donors and local partners, people’s health improved.

Together we…

**EDUCATED ON THE RIGHT TO GOOD HEALTH IN EL SALVADOR.** Nine hundred women and young people are learning about how to recognize and take preventative action against common diseases. They are also learning about how to advocate for the right to health care and non-violent communities.

**HELPED PEOPLE IN NEPAL RESTORE THEIR DIGNITY.** People dealing with mental illness are being rescued from unhealthy situations and supported through the recovery and rehabilitation process. Eventually they are reunited with their families and can live with dignity in their communities.

Thanks to you…

- 24,507 people tested for HIV
- 92,482 people attended health and HIV information/awareness sessions
- 991 people trained as health care workers and caregivers
- 78,277 people attended hygiene awareness sessions

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

Disease, disability and malnutrition experienced by people forced to flee conflict often claims more lives and causes more suffering than the conflict itself. (UNHCR)
MCC believes God calls us to a life of peace and non-violence. We teach peacebuilding strategies and conflict resolution skills. Our restorative justice programs help individuals and churches find healthy ways to deal with harm and conflict, respond to and prevent violence and sexual abuse. Through our Indigenous Neighbours program, we strive to build respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

### HIGHLIGHTS

“We must — absolutely must — do everything we can to avoid churches becoming places of revictimization and further pain.” — Randy Klassen, MCC Canada’s Restorative Justice program coordinator, reflects on #ChurchToo conference on professional sexual misconduct, May 2018.

“As a young Indigenous woman… I am only beginning to recognize the long and ongoing struggle for respect for Indigenous rights. We need to get past seeing my rights as a threat.” — Miriam Sainnawap, co-coordinator of MCC Canada’s Indigenous Neighbours program reflects on a United Nations conference in May 2018.

### PEACE CLUBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nigeria</th>
<th>Zambia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verity Zachariah took part in a peace club at a secondary school in Nigeria. (MCC photo/Matthew Lester)</td>
<td>Emmanuel Kapasa presents a lesson to the peace club in Lusaka, Zambia, in March 2018. (MCC photo/Allan Reesor-McDowell)</td>
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</tbody>
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### A CRY FOR HOME

A Cry for Home — MCC Canada’s advocacy campaign on Palestine and Israel — was the main campaign for our Ottawa Office in 2018. Campaign materials were presented to more than 4,000 people across the country, and MCC invited people to sign the No Way to Treat a Child petition. It urges the Canadian government to prioritize the human rights of Palestinian children.

### PRAYERS WRITTEN FOR PEACE SUNDAY 2017 BY MCC STAFF AND OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

**May your church** be a voice of reason, reaching across divides to speak to a region that has endured 70 years of hostility. (Northeast Asia)

**We witness** the violence and injustice and our hearts break. Heal the broken and comfort the sorrowful. (Palestine and Israel)

**As you look** down on your children, we ask that you bring this military conflict to an end. (Ukraine)

**We pray** for safety, wisdom and peace of mind for migrants who are fleeing from intimidation, threats and violence. (Latin America)
Around the world people become displaced when they are forced to flee their homes because of conflict or disaster. MCC walks with uprooted people around the world in a variety of ways, including: addressing the root causes of conflict and migration; supporting refugees and internally displaced people; informing Canadians about refugee policies and advocating for fair legislation; promoting refugee sponsorship and supporting churches through the sponsorship process.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

We are thankful for the many groups and churches across Canada that sponsored refugees through MCC’s sponsorship program.

Together we...

**RESETTLED** about one third of the people who arrived in Canada through the Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) program in 2017. The program is for refugees identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as most vulnerable. They are often in need of protection, have medical conditions or are part of women-headed households.

**HELPED** 715 refugees come to Canada through MCC’s resettlement program in FY 2018.

**WELCOMED** refugees from countries where conflict and displacement are ongoing, including Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq and Somalia.

**BETWEEN 1979 AND JULY 1, 2018**, approximately 12,000 people arrived in Canada through MCC Canada’s private refugee sponsorship program.
A MESSAGE FROM MCC ALBERTA’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year, I have been filled with gratitude as I’ve entered the executive director role at Mennonite Central Committee Alberta. In these past months, I’ve encountered many people – in Alberta and beyond – working together to extend the gracious hand of God to those in need. This is MCC.

In Romans 12, Paul encourages us to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Perhaps all the work of MCC and our partners can be categorized under either “weeping” or “rejoicing.” Conflict, natural disaster, displacement, poverty, famine... We need only to open a newspaper or browse online to learn of today’s tragedy. Humanitarian aid, peacebuilding training, conservation agriculture, health clinics, children in school... How incredibly necessary it is to shine light in places of brokenness. In more than 50 countries, MCC walks with many to move toward a better world. Sometimes weeping, often rejoicing, always together.

We were blessed to receive a recent visit from Father Lukas Awad of the Syrian Orthodox Church, a partner of MCC. In our Calgary office, he spoke of the ongoing war in Syria, now in its eighth year. Bombing, displacement, and the church in the midst of it all. “Jesus is hope”, he said, after telling us of Syria’s hardship. “But not by himself, but through the people.” The holy spirit is working in many ways, including in and through his people in difficult places.

In May, a pastor in Edmonton shared the inspiring story of a young Albertan making a positive difference. Ella, grade 3, learned about fundraising in school and was inspired by the possibility of helping others. She asked her pastor if they could do something, and an MCC fundraiser called “Let’s Get Together to Change the World” was born! Ella’s vision led to funds raised to purchase materials for desperately needed relief kits, with now more than 68.5 million displaced persons worldwide. Most certainly someone’s world will be changed.

Jesus leads us into loving relationship with our neighbours—friends, strangers, and even enemies. In Luke 10, an expert in the law tries to make Jesus narrowly define his neighbour, but instead Jesus tells the well-known parable of the good Samaritan. Everyone is our neighbour and Jesus teaches us to extend mercy and compassion to those who need it.

Whether you have been a life-long supporter or are just now learning about MCC – or somewhere in between – thank you for your care for this global ministry. Your partnership makes possible this relief, development and peacebuilding work in the name of Christ. Weeping or rejoicing, we are always together in complex realities with those in need. Thank you for being part of this work.

With gratitude,

Thomas Coldwell, Executive Director
MCC Alberta

“In Romans 12, Paul encourages us to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.”

MCC Alberta’s Board Members

Sandra Friesen-Peters (Chair)
Evangelical Mennonite Conference

Robert Enns (Vice-Chair)
Mennonite Brethren Conference

Edwin Dening (Treasurer)
Co-opted

David Zentner (Secretary)
Co-opted

Barb Heidebrecht (Director)
Mennonite Church Conference

Bruce Erickson (Director)
Mennonite Brethren Conference

Marguerite Jack (Director)
Mennonite Church Conference

John Bueckert (Director)
Evangelical Mennonite Conference

David Kauffman (Director)
North West Conference

Maria Alejandra Toro (Director)
North West Conference

Connie Grove (Director)
MCC in Alberta

While working to meet needs within the province, MCC Alberta also supports the organization’s ongoing international work. Central to MCC’s focus in Alberta is biblical justice and peace building, whether assisting with refugee sponsorship, supporting persons incarcerated or released from prison, working to restore and repair relationships for those impacted by crime, building relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous groups, providing educational opportunities to learn about local and international stories and needs, or collecting material aid to send to people in crisis. This work is all done in the name of Christ.

VOLUNTEERS GIVE THE GIFT OF TIME AND TALENT

MCC Alberta thrives in large part because of an enormous network of volunteers! Volunteers show up early and stay late to help run thrift shops, they pack up and move across the world to support international programs, they answer phones at the office, they organize and assist at relief sales, golf tournaments, and other fundraisers, they sew comforters, they pack relief and school kits, they ride their bicycles or run or walk to raise needed funds for MCC, they visit prisoners, they provide friendship to people released from prison, they offer their time and expertise as board members, and they spread the word about MCC!

MCC Alberta’s board chairperson, Sandra Friesen-Peters, organizes and leads meetings and oversees many aspects of MCC in Alberta. She also ran a half-marathon in August 2017 to raise funds for MCC’s education and peace projects in Kenya (see photo).

MCC Alberta staff

- Thomas Coldwell, Executive Director
- Orlando Vasquez, Associate & Program Director
- Robin Grimstead, Development Director
- Laurie Bennie, CoSA Program Associate
- Anne Boelhlig, Administrative Assistant
- Angela Bennett, Community Engagement Coordinator
- Moira Brownlee, CoSA Coordinator
- Linda Dickinson, Material Resources Coordinator
- Ric Dueck, IT
- Joyce Doran, Thrift Shop Coordinator
- Trish Elgersma, RAFT Facilitator
- Chrissy Enns, Services for Newcomers Coordinator
- Elda Enns, Administrative Assistant
- Justine Foxall, Administrative Assistant
- Iliana Friesen, Human Resources Coordinator
- Allison Goerzen, Indigenous Neighbours
- April Hauck, Calgary Thrift Shop Manager
- Darrel Heidebrecht, RAFT Facilitator
- Gord Hutchinson, Drumheller M2 Coordinator
- Abe Janzen, Donor and Church Relations
- Ron Janz, Accountant
- Rose Klassen, Donor Stewardship Coordinator
- Edmund Lee, Edmonton Thrift Shop Manager
- Carol McNaughton, Peace Program Coordinator
- Debra Potter, Taber Thrift Shop Manager
- Debra Raatz, Financial Services Assistant
- Mary Lynn Retzlaff, IVEP Coordinator
- Tyler Retzlaff, Refugee Coordinator
- Jim Shantz, Edmonton M2 Coordinator
- Susie Thiessen, Services for Newcomers Assistant
- Ruth Vermeulen, Lethbridge Thrift Shop Manager
- Donita Wiebe-Neufeld, Edmonton MCC Liaison
- Peter Worsley, Reintegration Chaplain
MCC Alberta finances
April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018

REVENUE
$5.3 MILLION

- Contributions: $3,265,770
- Thrift Shops: $736,537
- Refugee Resettlement: $372,863
- Government Grants: $336,349

EXPENSES
$5.3 MILLION

- International Program: $2,531,356
- Alberta Programs: $1,215,928
- Admin & Fundraising: $940,130
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank: $301,290
- Relief Sales: $177,820
- Other Income: $108,115

MCC Alberta by the numbers...

$143,588 in Material Resources shipped internationally!

$258,362 raised at Golf for MCC in three locations!

$52,243 raised in Grow Hope sponsored acres!
### Alberta highlights

April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School kits shipped</td>
<td>7,586 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grow Hope acres sponsored</td>
<td>101 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene kits shipped</td>
<td>1,700 kits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees resettled through MCC</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young adults participated in programs</td>
<td>744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief kits shipped</td>
<td>692 kits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant care kits shipped</td>
<td>291 kits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comforters shipped</td>
<td>1,830 comforters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local volunteer hours</td>
<td>82,500 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers served internationally</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circles of Support and Accountability</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanket exercises facilitated</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEW FACES AT MCC THRIFT SHOPS

In our Taber Shop, Debra Potter became our new manager in spring 2018. Along with the team of staff and volunteers, she is working diligently to create community awareness about the shop and the important work of MCC.

In the Edmonton Shop, Edmund Lee became the manager in fall 2017. His background in engineering, social work, pastoral work and his family’s business gives him a broad range of skills to lead the team as they relocate the shop to northwest Edmonton. (MCC photo/Angela Bennett)

MATERIAL RESOURCES

In our Material Resource warehouse, we often host groups to help with folding, baling, checking, packing, unpackaging, boxing... it all happens with the help of volunteers. They could be Girl Guides, Bible study groups, youth groups, retirees, school groups, comforter making groups, family groups, synchronized swimming teams, or Restorative Justice program participants.

One of our longest serving volunteers, Simon, will have packed more than 35,000 school kits by the beginning of September! This warehouse activity doesn’t reflect groups that meet across the province – about 18 in total. Volunteers are the fuel for the engine that is MCC Alberta. Thank you!

(MCC Photo/Thomas Coldwell)

ALBERTA HIGHLIGHTS

RAFT (Restorative Actions For Transformation) provides Restorative Justice interventions for youth and their victims, in partnership with Youth Probation in the City of Calgary. These interventions include the possibility of face to face interaction with victims and youth or individual facilitated impact awareness sessions with youth. Approximately 150 youth participated in RAFT in the past year.

IVEP The International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) is a year-long exchange opportunity for young, Christian adults. Participants come from around the world to volunteer in Canada and the US. Enhancing skills is an important part of IVEP. This year, Ruchi (from India) served at the Calgary Center for Newcomers and gained self-confidence as she made presentations.

LEARNING TOURS MCC Nicaragua hosted a learning tour in February 2018. The group of 12 participants toured agriculture and education projects and visited with local people who participate in the projects.

SOOP Bruno and Rha Friesen from Foothills Mennonite Church in Calgary served through SOOP (Service Opportunities with Our Partners) at the Glendale Guest House in Arizona. Marjolein and Robert Havens from Bassano served in Tucson with the Shalom Mennonite Fellowship.

COSA Circles of Support and Accountability volunteers become part of a circle that surrounds men recently released from prison to hold them accountable and to support their reintegration. CoSA is a Canada-wide federally funded program.

SERVICES FOR NEWCOMERS: In Taber, MCC supports newcomers by helping them in their integration processes (language, education, health, etc) and by connecting them to the appropriate service providers. Some cases are referred to the appropriate professionals. We also have a job board which they can access electronically.
INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS

Alberta’s Indigenous Neighbours program seeks to respond to the 94 Calls to Action put out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The mandate is to foster relationships and to provide and participate in educational opportunities. Facilitating the blanket exercise has been a key part of the program this year, with over 20 blanket exercises facilitated for about 500 people.

(MCC photo/Angela Bennett)

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Abdulrazzak Ayoubi and Subhieh Shehadeh have recently arrived with their family from Syria. They were sponsored through the MCC Migration and Resettlement Program, part of the 205 refugees resettled in Alberta through MCC last year. They arrived in Fort McMurray this spring. Abdulrazzak has been able to find work in construction, alongside his son. “Thank you so much,” Subhieh said with a smile. “We wish to live in peace in Canada.”

While there are various public opinions toward immigration, there is a strong commitment by MCC Alberta to devote time and energy to inspire congregations and community groups to make positive decisions to take on new refugee sponsorships. Thank you to the many sponsorship groups who have changed many lives for the better.

(MCC photo/Angela Bennett)
Planting Peace

Young adults from around the world gather in Alberta

Coordinated by MCC Alberta, Planting Peace is a two-week peacebuilding program for young adults from Canada and abroad to travel and learn together in Alberta. Participants came from Bolivia, Honduras, Colombia, Syria, Lebanon, India, Laos, Zimbabwe, and Canada.

In the midst of the diversity was the common desire for a more peaceful world: to learn from one another, to hear and understand differences, to seek and find the common threads of humanity.

The group heard from one another as they talked about their home countries, with all of the beauty and challenges mixed together. They participated in sessions on inter-faith dialogue, social change through art and movement, homelessness in Canada, advocacy and peacebuilding.

On the final day, participants were asked, “What is Planting Peace to you?” To many, Planting Peace is a safe place to learn and grow. One participant wrote, “… it is an eye to view the world differently, it is the ear of what the world needs. It is the world coming together to learn and experience and share the stories that make us who we are. It is a melting pot of hope.”

Let peace be planted.

(MCC Photo/Thomas Coldwell)

35 YEARS OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN ALBERTA

On November 12, 2017 a group gathered to commemorate MCC Alberta’s 35 years of involvement in Restorative Justice. Starting in 1982 with a prisoner visitation program, MCC Alberta’s involvement grew to include support for families of prisoners, victim offender mediation, chaplaincy with ex-offenders, and support networks for ex-offenders.

Featured speakers included Senator Kim Pate and MCC Canada Restorative Justice Coordinator, Randy Klassen. Klassen expressed the hope that in the coming 35 years, the words restorative and justice would be more commonly used together - that the vision for hope and healing at the root of restorative justice would become the experience of victims, offenders, and communities impacted by crime.

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

There was only standing room left as supporters, co-workers, and family gathered to celebrate Abe Janzen’s 21 years of service as executive director for MCC Alberta. Well wishes from current and former MCC executive directors and chairpersons affirmed Abe’s skills as a learner, a mentor, an encourager, a passionate and energetic visionary, a source of wise counsel, and a friend.

He was described as someone with a “can do” attitude, who is also humble and interruptible. Storytelling has been integral to the way Abe has connected with MCC supporters in Alberta, so on this occasion, Abe told stories of some of the most memorable moments he recalled from his time with MCC.

As Abe showed the group photographs of some of the walls in the world he had visited in his years with MCC, he reminded those present that MCC should always be about tearing down walls, never building them.

Abe’s simple but profound closing words to the gathered group were to “Love God and love your neighbour… the rest is detail.”

Abe Janzen completed his service as MCC Alberta Executive Director on November 30. He continues to work part-time for MCC Alberta in donor and church relations.

(MCC Photo/Angela Bennett)
A Year of Service with SALT
Learning the importance of being present

In Cambodia, I (Carol McNaughton) was privileged to serve alongside seven other SALTers and YAMENers – young adults from Zambia, Nepal, Kenya, Costa Rica, Canada, and the United States. Experiencing Cambodia alongside people with diverse perspectives and life experiences deepened my SALT year, broadened my world view, and enriched my understanding of God.

Whenever I was struggling to feel useful in my service placement, my MCC supervisors would gently remind me that SALT is not just about supporting a local organization. SALT was cooking supper with my host family, saying yes to invitations to weddings of people I had never met, and showing up and learning the importance of being present.

I think the philosophy of connecting peoples really distinguishes MCC. In the name of Christ, people from all around the world go to serve in countries across the globe. It isn’t just North American volunteers going to ‘help’ the global south; it is about cultivating meaningful connections and building transformational relationships.

It is this philosophy I hope to carry into my new work at MCC Alberta as the Peace Program Coordinator. Here in Alberta, I hope we keep growing in our sense of connectedness to a global community, and I don’t know how else to do that except relationship by relationship, connection by connection.

(MCC Photo/Carol McNaughton)

In the past five years MCC Alberta has sent over 15 SALTers to serve around the world! Including places like Mexico, Zambia, Cambodia, Nigeria and Tanzania!
Thank you

For nearly 100 years,
MCC has been able to continue its ministry thanks to the generous, compassionate support of people like you. We are grateful that you have chosen to partner with us to touch the lives of thousands of vulnerable people around the world.

Together, we can bring hope and help to people who are suffering due to conflict, disaster, poverty and illness. And we do it all in the name of Christ, who commanded his followers to demonstrate love to our neighbours.

We also acknowledge the generous support of the Government of Canada, whose significant contributions support our work around the world.
Material Resources

MCC stands with those who are suffering and cares for their needs in times of disaster, war or conflict. Through material resources centres in Canada and the U.S., MCC receives, packs and ships donated goods to countries around the world. We provide relief kits, school kits, hygiene kits, sewing kits, comforters, canned meat and more.

HIGHLIGHTS

THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR WORK. We are very grateful for the churches, families, retirees, school and community groups who pack kits, make quilts and donate their time to our work.

ADJUSTING OUR CURRENT KITS. We spoke to our MCC program staff and local partners and, based on their feedback, we made some minor adjustments to the required contents of our kits. See mcccanada.ca/kits.

A NEW KIT COMING FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN. We are currently developing a dignity kit containing reusable menstrual hygiene supplies for women and girls.

Global Service Learning

All about love

“Beyond the concept [of love], it is a reality that I lived every day in Honduras, in the eyes of the children, in the smile of the people and in the warm embraces.” Damaris Guaza Sandoval from Colombia served with YAMEN in Honduras.

Blessed

“When you have the opportunity to leave your country, go serve, learn, contribute and see faces of joy and gratitude for your work, this is how you feel. Blessed.” Juan P. Albizu from Puerto Rico served with SALT in Bolivia.

Finding purpose

“The whole year I kept this in my mind. What is God’s purpose for me this year and how can I follow his will? I am very happy to use my overseas experience with IVEP to help others.” Kateryna Oliferovska from Ukraine served with IVEP in Canada.

God’s power

“Forever will remain the feeling of fullness and gratitude that I felt as I sat and prayed in the world’s largest salt flat — God showing his power through his creation.” Jhon Fredy Chocue Parra from Colombia served with YAMEN in Bolivia.

Everything I hoped for and more

“Blessings, challenges, joys and struggles. Plus, that which I couldn’t have even dreamt of.” Magdalene (Maggie) Bergen from Canada, served with SALT in Kenya.

A blissful year

“I gained international experience, which I had in my dreams since I was born. And making good relationships with different people exposed me to learn more from them and most turned into best friends.” Moris Muhindo, (or Mwami Moris) from Uganda served in Canada with IVEP.
MCC Thrift Shops
Where every purchase is a gift to the world

As a non-profit network with 50 shops across Canada, MCC Thrift supports MCC’s relief, development and peace projects. Thrift shops also help build strong, resilient neighbourhoods, and encourage people to reuse and re-purpose gently used items as a way to care for the environment.

$128,444,000
Donated by MCC Canada Thrift shops to the work of MCC since the early 1970s

HIGHLIGHTS

REFRESH, RENEW, RE-PURPOSE. This was the theme of our Canadian MCC Thrift conference. One hundred MCC Thrift managers and board members gathered in Saskatoon in April 2018 for three days of sharing and learning.

NEW INITIATIVES AT MCC THRIFT. A wedding show at a shop in Manitoba highlighted how a wedding can be both thrifty and beautiful. In Ontario, the new MCC rePurpose Centre is extending the life of donations.

BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THRIFT IS OUR VOLUNTEERS. We thank the more than 5,000 people who volunteer their time, talent and passion to our 50 shops across Canada.

MCC Thrift volunteers from across Canada, from left: Prabhjot Kaur, Patty Hobler and Waldimar Neufeld.

Ten Thousand Villages

Started in 1946 by MCC, Ten Thousand Villages is the oldest and largest fair trade organization in North America. As MCC Canada’s fair trade social enterprise, Ten Thousand Villages Canada creates opportunities for artisans around the world to earn income by bringing their products and stories to shoppers. Each year, Ten Thousand Villages empowers more than 20,000 artisans through fair trade principles.

“Ten Thousand Villages has changed my way of seeing the world.”
—Marie Blydt-Hansen, volunteer

This year we...

PROVIDED SUPPPORT FOR ARTISANS. We impact the lives of more than 20,000 makers like Raja Bannoura who lives in the West Bank of Palestine and Israel. His workshop produces hand-carved olive wood products. “This is more than a job,” says Bannoura, “it is part of our heritage.”

CLOSED A NUMBER OF STORES. Due to changes in the retail industry, we closed about 30 per cent of the Ten Thousand Villages Canada brick-and-mortar stores across the country. We are in the process of reimagining our business model, focusing on our remaining 25 locations and bolstering our online and wholesale presence.

Hundreds of volunteers give their time to Villages, one or more days on a weekly or monthly basis — and we couldn’t succeed without them! From left: Natsumi, Laura and Matthew.
## Finances

The financial information on these pages presents the combined operations of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. (excluding Ten Thousand Villages Canada) for the year ended March 31, 2018, expressed in Canadian dollars, and has been prepared from the audited financial statements of the respective MCCs. Complete audited financial statements for each of the MCCs, including notes, are available upon request or at mcccanada.ca.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>182,896</th>
<th>29%</th>
<th>116%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCC kits distributed around the globe</td>
<td>of MCC workers younger than 30</td>
<td>more kitchen gardens planted over last year</td>
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<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>1/3</th>
<th>20,000</th>
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<tr>
<td>meetings between Ottawa Office staff and Canadian government officials advocating for peacebuilding activities</td>
<td>of all Blended Visa Office-Referred refugees arriving in Canada resettled through MCC</td>
<td>artisans in 27 countries supported by Ten Thousand Villages, MCC's fair trade social enterprise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>69%</th>
<th>97%</th>
<th>247</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of MCC Canada’s restorative justice projects reported sustainable funding</td>
<td>more individuals received emergency food assistance over last year</td>
<td>structures to collect water built</td>
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<th>40</th>
<th>31</th>
<th>13,500</th>
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<tr>
<td>food-related projects in 19 countries funded through MCC’s account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank</td>
<td>participants attended Ottawa Office student seminar in February, coming from 15 different schools</td>
<td>subscribers to Die Mennonitische Post, MCC’s German-language magazine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**FUNDING SOURCES $107 MILLION**

- **Contributions**
  - Cash and other $56,443,000
  - Thrift $19,315,000
  - Material resources $7,129,000
  - Relief sales $6,190,000

- **Grants**
  - Government $10,091,000
  - Non government $1,697,000
  - Other $6,559,000

**INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM EXPENSES BY THEME**

- Sustainable community development
  - Education $10,303,000
  - Food security & sustainable livelihoods $16,078,000
  - Health $9,767,000
  - Migration & resettlement $368,000

- Disaster response
  - Justice and peacebuilding
    - Peacebuilding $7,505,000
    - Conflict prevention $1,603,000
    - Restorative justice $146,000

**INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC PROGRAM EXPENSES BY REGION**

- Africa $17,417,000
- Asia $13,568,000
- Europe & Middle East $17,796,000
- Latin America & Caribbean $8,128,000
- United States $7,554,000
- Canada $11,870,000
- Multi-region $7,999,000
MCC around the world

57 countries  508 partners  716 projects  1,133 workers

Canada
445 MCC workers*
$11.9 million
*includes Thrift

United States
210 MCC workers
$7.6 million

Latin America & the Caribbean
108 MCC workers
$8.1 million

Africa
143 MCC workers
$17.4 million

Canada
United States
Latin America & the Caribbean
Africa
Global Service Learning†

27 YAMEN* participants
*YOUNG ANABAPTIST MENNONITE EXCHANGE NETWORK

53 IVEP* participants
*INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

50 SALT* participants
*SERVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

37 Seed participants

11 Summerbridge participants

44 Summer Service participants

53 SOOP* participants
(Canadian participants only)
*SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES WITH OUR PARTNERS

†Numbers represent participants who began their service term between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018.

Map indicates program costs in Canadian dollars for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018.
Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, shares God’s love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.

AREAS OF FOCUS

1. Caring for the lives and futures of uprooted and other vulnerable people.

2. Providing water, food and shelter first in times of hunger, disaster and conflict, then education and ways to earn income.

3. Working with churches and communities to prevent violence and promote peace and justice.

4. Investing in opportunities for young people to serve in Canada, the U.S. and around the world.

5. Serving with humility and in partnership to meet local needs with local solutions.
Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

—Romans 12:14–18 (NRSV)
Lebohang Motseki, 27, is the farm manager of Malealea Teaching Farm in the village of Malealea, Lesotho. He also farms 2.1 hectares near the town of Maphutseng with his mother. Lebohang took part in the International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) between 2015 and 2016 at Willowview Farms in Abbotsford, B.C. He says his IVEP experience inspired him to try modern farming techniques. (MCC Photo/Matthew Sawatzky)