2017/2018
Annual Report
FOR MCC IN CANADA
BRITISH COLUMBIA EDITION

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
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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)
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

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.

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)
Education

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>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2016</td>
<td>87,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>78,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2018</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 dropout rate. They attended preschools and homework clubs; all moved on to the next grade level and passed year-end school assessments.

Megha Baski, 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)

Thanks to you…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78,035</td>
<td>School kits shipped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39,979</td>
<td>Children in K–12 formal education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,553</td>
<td>Children in early childhood education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,807</td>
<td>Children in non-formal education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>969</td>
<td>Children in programs for students with special needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,560</td>
<td>Teachers in professional development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,472</td>
<td>Children received scholarships or tuition support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,909</td>
<td>Children in vocational training</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Food

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canned meat shipments in lbs</th>
<th>FY2016</th>
<th>FY2017</th>
<th>FY2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>894,558</td>
<td>579,643</td>
<td>774,069</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

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)

Thanks to you…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>people attended agricultural trainings</th>
<th>43,611</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>individuals received supplementary or seasonal food assistance</td>
<td>69,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>children received food at school</td>
<td>10,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kitchen gardens planted</td>
<td>4,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>people attended nutrition workshops</td>
<td>44,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>people received agricultural supplies such as seeds or tools</td>
<td>31,281</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)
Water

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)

A group of children collect water from a borehole in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. MCC, in partnership with Medair and with funding from the Government of Canada is improving the lives of communities by providing access to safe water. (Medair photo by Paul Hageman)

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

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

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.

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Thanks to you...

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<th></th>
<th>FY2018</th>
<th>FY2017</th>
<th>FY2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene kits shipped</td>
<td>69,375</td>
<td>55,115</td>
<td>49,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant care kits shipped</td>
<td>10,396</td>
<td>9,992</td>
<td>6,978</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Disease, disability and malnutrition experienced by people forced to flee conflict often claims more lives and causes more suffering than the conflict itself. (UNHCR)
Peace and Justice

MCC believes God calls us to a life of peace and non-violence. We teach peacemaking 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individuals participated in peace clubs</th>
<th>FY2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10,028</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual training in conflict transformation, peacebuilding or mediation</td>
<td>FY2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27,327</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individuals participated in peace clubs</th>
<th>FY2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,858</td>
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</table>

PEACE CLUBS

Nigeria
Verity Zachariah took part in a peace club at a secondary school in Nigeria. (MCC photo/Matthew Lester)

Zambia
Emmanuel Kapasa presents a lesson to the peace club in Lusaka, Zambia, in March 2018. (MCC photo/Allan Reesor-McDowell)

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.

Thanks to you...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People trained in trauma healing</th>
<th>4,783</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People participated in community initiatives to prevent violence and promote peace</td>
<td>12,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People received psychological support or trauma counselling</td>
<td>4,176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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)
Newcomers

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.

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

RESETTED 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.

STORIES OF WELCOME

Esperance and Christian Manwengwe and their four children arrived in Calgary in 2017. Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, they came to Canada under the BVOR program. Daria Soltysiak is a member of the group that sponsored the family. “Anyone can look on the news and see what’s happening around the world,” she says. “For me there was a desire to help in some small way.” Christian is grateful for the support. “Our sponsors are really helpful,” he says. “Calgary is good because I feel it’s a secure place for me and my family.”

Danny and Anna Manwengwe at their home in Calgary.

FLEETING CONFLICT

WELCOMED 12,000 refugees from countries where conflict and displacement are ongoing, including Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq and Somalia.

50% of refugees

Fifty per cent of the refugees in the world come from three countries: Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan. (UNHCR 2018)

BETWEEN 1979 AND JULY 1, 2018, approximately 12,000 people arrived in Canada through MCC Canada’s private refugee sponsorship program.
MCC: BEHIND THE HEADLINES

As you watch the evening news, often MCC is hard at work in places that are making headlines caused by conflict and disaster, such as Syria. However, more often than not MCC workers serve in places where uprooted and vulnerable people have been overlooked. It’s the untold story, “Behind the Headlines.”

VULNERABLE AND FORGOTTEN: In the parable of separating sheep from goats in Matthew 25, Christ calls us to care for the vulnerable when he identifies with those that are overlooked and forgotten. He calls us to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit those in prison.

Jesus identifies with the most vulnerable people by saying that when we care for them, we care for Him. By loving humanity, especially the overlooked and forgotten, we are loving God. Every day, at home and around the world, there are hundreds of untold stories as together we serve “behind the headlines.”

CRISIS IN CONGO: Due to violent conflict 1.4 million people have been uprooted, fleeing for their lives. MCC is working with Mennonite churches in DR Congo to welcome and care for those that have been displaced.

ABUSE IN CANADA: Half of all women have experienced sexual or physical violence, and every 6 days in Canada a woman is killed by an intimate partner. In BC, MCC provided individual and group support to 363 people in response to abuse.

HOMELESSNESS IN BC: The number of people who live homeless is on the rise. Last year we assisted 252 toward housing and 315 with basic needs such as meals, clothes and care.

THRIFT COMPASSION: In addition to raising $1.8 million in net income for MCC ministry, Thrift in BC also assisted 1,303 people who came through our doors with basic needs.

LEGACY VISION: A generous donor with a bold vision gifted MCC with revenue generating property with the goal of supporting MCC ministry for generations to come, similar to an endowment.

CHURCHES IN ACTION: 106 Mennonite and 26 non-Mennonite churches in BC connected with MCC in some way, of which 37 sponsored refugees.

These are just a few highlights of meeting basic needs as an expression of our faith. Thanks for your part in the MCC story, including so many untold stories of serving “behind the headlines.”

In Christ,

Wayne Bremner, Executive Director
MCC British Columbia

MCC BC’s Board Members

Peter Wolfe (Chair), MB
Terry Christie (Treasurer), MC
Ingrid Schultz (Secretary), MC

Tim Kroeker, MB
Gerry Grunau, MC
Don Klaassen, MB

James Toews, MB
Karen Heidecrecht Thiessen, MC

“As you did this to one of the least of these …you did it to me”
Jesus, Mathew 25:40
Get Involved with MCC BC…

GIVE
Your gift responds to urgent needs in our local community and around the world. It helps people to build more hopeful futures for their families and communities. Your gift changes lives where needed most and brings new opportunities to people across the globe.

SERVE
MCC has many excellent opportunities for both individuals and groups to get involved in the vision and mission of MCC right in your own backyard, or around the world. Please contact our office at volunteer@mccbc.ca to learn more about how you can get involved.

PRAY
We appreciate your support in prayer as we meet basic human needs and work for peace and justice. Pray that those we serve would be blessed by our work and that the Lord would grant us wisdom and grace as we continue this good work.
Leaving a Legacy for MCC

An innovative way to support the long-term future of MCC

Several years ago, a faithful MCC supporter was looking ahead to the end of his life and wanted to find a way for his assets to assist the poorest of the poor for many years into the future. He approached MCC with an idea for the donation of his valuable properties.

After careful and thorough consultation with experts in legal, financial, corporate, charitable, and endowment arrangements, we concluded that we could move ahead with our innovative plan.

MCC Legacy Trust Group was formed in 2012 to manage rental buildings and properties for development, creating an innovative way to support the long-term future of MCC by donating revenue-generating assets. The proceeds will support the relief, development and peace work of Mennonite Central Committee around the world.

This year has been a significant milestone for MCC Legacy Trust. The profits generated from the rental properties and land developments have begun to produce significant revenue, enabling a substantial donation to support the work of MCC.

This is an opportunity for faithful men and women throughout BC who recognize that the assets accumulated through their life's hard work are not their own to use these resources for God's kingdom. MCC Legacy Trust provides a way to create a legacy and become part of the rich story of MCC.

MORE THAN JUST BUSINESS

MCC Community Enterprises responds to the social issues of unemployment, poverty, and marginalization through community-based social enterprise solutions. It equips and empowers those who face employment barriers while supporting the relief and development work of its owner, MCC BC.

MCC CE is comprised of five programs: Agora Employment Essentials, Common Place Café, Ecoworks Landscape Services, Marketplace by MCC CE and Yellow Barn Country Market. Agora Employment and Ecoworks have both been helping the local community for over 25 years.

Agora Employment Essentials has worked with refugees, youth, women who have survived violence, and other unemployed individuals. Since 1990, Agora projects has completed 70 employment projects impacting over 37,000 participants.

Ecoworks Landscape Design provides job skills in the field of landscape installation, maintenance and design. Ecoworks has trained and enabled more than 2,000 youth, new immigrants and others for future careers.

The MCC Community Enterprises are an excellent training ground, teaching the hard and soft job skills that help transition people out of unemployment and poverty. Their response to the social needs of the community is an ideal counterpart to the mission of MCC BC.
CREATING A PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO CALL HOME

They say that home is where your story begins.

The need for a place to call our own is so foundational to the human experience, the United Nations has defined it as a human right.

In August of 2010, MCC BC launched the Fraser Valley Rental Assistance Project in response to the rising number of homeless individuals in the Fraser Valley. MCC BC’s Homelessness Prevention and Outreach Program (HPOP) runs a wide variety of services including the Rent Bank, weekly meals, emergency shelter and sponsoring 3 low barrier houses with Raven’s Moon Resource Society.

MCC BC’s partnership with Raven’s Moon provides housing to people with barriers such as a history of addiction or a criminal record that make it difficult to secure rental accommodations. Raven’s Moon currently has 14 homes and seven basement suites that they rent out, housing over 100 people.

As MCC BC seeks to provide more housing opportunities, they are partnering with Raven’s Moon and the City of Abbotsford on an initiative called Homelessness Abbotsford Rental Connect (HARC). HARC is working with landlords to create a registry of those willing to make their rentals available and ensure that wrap around services and rental assistance are provided in an effort to help residents maintain successful tenancy.

Helping people find a home and community where they have more options to participate is the first critical step on the road to sobriety, safety and financial stability. As MCC BC continues to partner with Raven’s Moon and other community programs, more and more people have a place to call their own and a foundation on which to build lasting change.
Volunteers are the lifeblood of MCC. We could not do our work without the tireless effort of thousands of volunteers across the province. Some are new, and some have served MCC for years. Waldimar Neufeld (pictured right) started his long history with MCC back in the 1960s and has served ever since.

After retirement, Waldimar and his wife Elinor chose to make volunteering their focus. "We find an element of fulfillment knowing we’re part of the work of the Kingdom,” he says.

**VOLUNTEER HANDS REACH ACROSS THE NATIONS**

Volunteers across BC lovingly hand-tie comforters made of colourful fabric squares to send across the globe.

A few years ago, the MCC Director of relief operations was visiting a refugee camp in Darfur, Sudan. The UN and MCC were both giving out blankets, but he noticed that the MCC line was much longer. He approached a mother holding an infant in the MCC line to ask why she was willing to wait.

She replied, “I have lived in refugee camps most of my life. My husband and other children have died along the way. I can see that these Mennonite blankets are made by hand. It's a comfort to know that somewhere out there, someone cares about us. We have nothing. But tonight, I want my daughter to sleep in a blanket with colour.”

They are called comforters because they bring comfort as well as warmth. Volunteers joining together to make and deliver comforters show the suffering that they are loved.

**ONE OR TWO DAYS A WEEK**

Waldimar volunteers at MCC Centre Thrift. You might find him patiently untangling and testing Christmas lights before they are sold. He enjoys volunteering, saying “whatever we do, people benefit.”

**FAMILIES PACK KITS FOR MCC**

At MCC B.C.’s first ever Kit and Caboodle event on July 26, 2017, families took part in a scavenger hunt to find relief and hygiene kit items and pack them into bags or buckets.

Irene Ens brought her grandchildren to show them what MCC does.

“Our grandkids are here from Alberta for a visit. We donate to MCC in their name every Christmas and it’s hard to explain why we give to others and not them. This is a concrete way to show why we give gifts to MCC,” she explained.

Material Resources Coordinator Dennis Vogt says these kits are in high demand and will go to people in need worldwide including Ukraine, Ethiopia and Syria. Families packed 13 relief kits and 34 hygiene kits.

“This is a practical way for families to engage with the message of MCC,” Vogt said. “Parents and grandparents can show their kids why social justice and helping others is important.”

From Fort St. John to Vancouver, MCC BC has over **3000 volunteers** across the province who make our work possible.
A Place of Understanding and Support
Walking alongside men and women as they pursue their journey of healing

For Laurie, MCC BC’s End Abuse program was a blessing that couldn’t have come at a better time in her life.
Laurie (last name and location withheld for safety) faced emotional and physical abuse at the hands of her then-husband of over 15 years.
Several months after she left him, she took part in the MCC BC program.
“The help provided by the End Abuse program is unique. In fact, calling it ‘help’ seems inadequate because it was actually lifesaving. I consider End Abuse to be my Mile Zero of a new life,” Laurie says.
End Abuse provides support groups for women in intimate partner abuse situations, groups for men to learn healthier ways of being in relationships, and education for potential volunteers.
“We know that one in four women experience abuse in domestic situations and it’s the same in the Church community as it is elsewhere. The difference is that Christian women stay longer because they take their vow seriously and don’t see that there’s any way out,” says Program Coordinator Elsie Goerzen.
Laurie continues to learn but feels strong enough to support others now. Last March she took part in a training session to become a volunteer leader.
“I am still implementing the teaching I received in that year at End Abuse, grateful for the foundation it has provided in my life. And out of that gratitude, I volunteered to be an assistant or co-facilitator to be part of such a vital work,” she says. “I’ve been pulled from the river, and now I’m on the riverbank, offering a hand to others.”
Goerzen is honoured to walk alongside these women. “It is a privilege to walk beside women like Laurie as they pursue the journey of healing. The courage, resilience, and hope of the women we meet is inspiring.”

#ChurchToo
Sexual misconduct is a difficult but crucial topic for the Christian community to address. MCC BC partnered with Columbia Bible College as they hosted their first conference on the issue: #ChurchToo – A Conference on Responding to Professional Sexual Misconduct.
MCC BC’s End Abuse Program Coordinator Elsie Goerzen was a speaker and part of the conference planning team. Topics included Streetproofing the Church & Church Institution, Understanding Sexual Abuse by a Church Leader and The Bible, Sexual Abuse and #MeToo.
Goerzen is the facilitator of the yearly MCBC Relationships with Integrity seminar held for their pastors. Some topics covered are sexual abuse and misconduct, boundaries and power, forgiveness, and the impact of abuse on all levels.
MCC BC seeks to be a resource for churches and church leaders on this critical topic. Elsie Goerzen is available to provide information and facilitate seminars with church leaders or other organizations on sexual misconduct, abuse and other topics.

Carole Penner, plenary speaker & assistant professor at Conrad Grebel College, provides theological and personal perspective on the issues at stake when a Christian leader engages in professional sexual misconduct at the #Churchtoo conference in May, 2018. (Columbia Bible College photo)
BC Summerbridge participants support home churches

Serving the local church and developing valuable leadership skills

Last summer, Ariel Hoajaca and Lydia Cheung supported their Vancouver churches through MCC’s Summerbridge program.

Summerbridge is an 8 to 12-week service program for constituent church members over 17. Young adults are sponsored to work in their home church or a local community organization, gaining leadership skills through the program.

For Ariel of First United Spanish Mennonite Church, participating in Summerbridge seemed like a natural decision.

Ariel’s mother, Ericka Hoajaca, sparked the idea of Summerbridge after learning about the American program “Summer Service” for young people of colour. Ericka became FUSMC’s first Summerbridge participant, and years later her son Luis also participated in the program.

Following in their footsteps, Ariel joined Summerbridge last summer, where she led vacation Bible school, taught piano lessons, and helped renovate the church office.

“I’m getting more confident with just asking people instead of waiting for people to come to me. [...] It’s given me the confidence to talk to people and ask for things I normally wouldn’t,” said Ariel.

Lydia Cheung of South Vancouver Pacific Grace Mennonite Brethren Church helped with children’s programming, two weeks of day camp, and youth devotions and worship in her Summerbridge position.

“It’s more than just completing tasks and knowledge that needs to be shared with the kids. God calls us to be able to carry the weight of the ministry you’re entrusted with,” said Lydia.

Both women say they’d recommend Summerbridge to people wanting to serve their church and community and gain invaluable leadership skills.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES: “WHEN YOU SHOP, YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

“Fair trade is alive and well!” says Erna Dyck (pictured above).

Dyck is the manager of Ten Thousand Villages in Abbotsford, a nonprofit social enterprise of MCC BC. TTV is the oldest fair trade business in North America.

Two key elements of fair trade are fair wages and no child labour. This appeals to socially conscious youth who learn about fair trade in high school and university. Many customers choose to make their everyday purchases of coffee or chocolate at TTV to support ethical business practices.

As Dyck says, “When you shop, you make a difference.”
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

A tangible sign of God’s love in times of crisis

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

YAMEN! Young Anabaptist Mennonite Exchange Network

27 participants

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.

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.

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.

Salt: Serving And Learning Together

50 participants

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.

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.

IVEP: International Volunteer Exchange Program

53 participants

774,069

Canned meat (lbs)

63,841

Comforters

69,375

Hygiene kits

24,530

Relief kits

560

Sewing kits

78,035

School kits

560

Sewing kits

78,035

School kits

24,530

Relief kits

69,375

Hygiene kits

10,396

Infant care kits

63,841

Comforters

Global Service Learning

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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.

“This year we...”

PROVIDED SUPPORT 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.
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.

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

- **$104 Million**
  - Reliefs: $22,782,000 (15%)
  - Development: $45,926,000 (22%)
  - Peace: $15,624,000 (14%)
  - Administration: $14,483,000 (9%)
  - Fundraising: $5,134,000 (6%)

**Funding Sources**

- **$107 Million**
  - Contributions: $56,443,000 (53%)
    - Cash and other: $19,315,000 (18%)
    - Thrift: $17,417,000 (16%)
    - Material resources: $7,129,000 (6%)
    - Relief sales: $6,190,000 (5%)
  - Grants: $50,551,000 (47%)
    - Government: $10,091,000 (9%)
    - Non government: $1,697,000 (1.6%)
    - Other: $6,559,000 (0.6%)

**International Program Expenses**

- **$90.5 Million**
  - Education: $10,303,000 (12%)
  - Relief: $22,782,000 (29%)
  - Development: $45,926,000 (49%)
  - Peace: $15,624,000 (17%)

**International & Domestic Program Expenses**

- **$102.2 Million**
  - Africa: $22,782,000 (21%)
  - Asia: $13,568,000 (13%)
  - Europe & Middle East: $17,796,000 (17%)
  - Latin America & Caribbean: $8,128,000 (8%)
  - United States: $7,554,000 (7%)
  - Canada: $11,870,000 (11%)
  - Multi-region: $7,999,000 (8%)

**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
  - Peacebuilding: $7,505,000
  - Conflict prevention: $1,603,000
  - Restorative justice: $146,000

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