Churches and sponsoring groups in British Columbia and across Canada continue to generously open their homes and their hearts to newcomers from around the world. Pictured above is the Fifak family, who settled in Saskatchewan in 2013. (MCC photo/Matthew Sawatzky)
This past year was quite extraordinary in the history of MCC British Columbia. Pictures and stories on the news of millions of people displaced has prompted a generous response from churches and donors, including churches and groups with no previous connection to MCC.

We were honored to have received about $850,000 from donors in BC toward major disasters this year, with the majority of it going to the crisis in Syria and the surrounding region which is now the largest disaster response in MCC history. We have also been humbled to have just over 100 churches express interest in sponsoring a refugee family from September 2015 to August 2015, of which half are churches that are members of MCC and the other half from other denominations. It’s a privilege to hold this trust and to work with so many people that are responding to the refugee crisis.

Together we are responding to the biblical call to be God’s people as described in Isaiah 58, “sharing food with the hungry, providing the poor wander shelter and clothing the naked.”

As an MCC supporter, you have helped ensure that those in need receive physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual support. In addition to the refugee crisis that has been unfolding, MCC has been responding to the needs of many other uprooted and vulnerable people here at home and around the world.

I trust you will find the stories in this report an inspiring reminder of what you have helped make possible. Thank you for trusting us to help share God’s love and compassion for all.

Yours in Christ,

Wayne Bremner,
MCC BC Executive Director

A message from the executive director of MCC BC
BC Local Program Highlights

Alongside MCC’s international programs, MCC BC continues to share God’s love and compassion for all in the name of Christ through our local programs. These programs seek to build healthy relationships between people and communities, welcome newcomers, work at issues of homelessness and poverty, and look at peace-oriented responses to conflict. Below are some of the highlights for each of our programs from the last year.

End Abuse Program

The End Abuse program supports families impacted by abuse in relationships. This year’s highlights included:

- **9 Facilitators** worked with **83 participants** in 9 ten-week When Love Hurts groups
- **19 men** participated in the Home Improvement, Men in Relationship support and accountability group.
- **50 people** participated in the annual 3 day ‘Understanding Abuse in Relationships’ training.

Homelessness Prevention and Outreach Program

The Homelessness Prevention and Outreach program responds to homelessness in our community.

- **26 participants** were assisted with housing and **130 participants** were assisted with other needs.
- Our weekly BBQ meal has grown to serve 50-75 people each week. **Participants have begun to take ownership** of the meal, helping to set up, tear down, cook, etc.
- We have continued to build relationships with the local homeless community.

Refugee Resettlement Program

MCC’s Migration and Resettlement program seeks to share God’s love with those who seek refuge in Canada by offering hope and practical support.

- We held a **refugee walk to raise awareness of the needs of local newcomers** which was attended by more than 100 people (pictured above).
- **10 Mennonite Church** and **36 Mennonite Brethren** churches were involved in sponsoring refugees, together sponsoring 106 refugees.
- MCC BC developed **new relationships with 57 groups** ranging from previously sponsored refugees and individual families to community groups and other faith groups.
Indigenous Neighbours Program

The Indigenous Neighbours program fosters the building of trust relationships between indigenous groups and local churches.

- MCC staff had the honour of being present at the closing event for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Ottawa.

- MCC BC recognized National Aboriginal Day 2015 with a display in the MCC Centre Atrium and hosting First Nations artist, Isadora Charters, to share his story.

- MCC BC staff continued to build awareness and relationships with local churches encouraging a spirit of reconciliation.

Child Poverty – New Foundations Program

The New Foundations Program addresses child poverty by assisting low-income single parents, mostly single mothers who have recently come to Canada as refugees.

- Participation in the program builds parents’ assets which are used towards something that will increase their self-reliance, such as skills training, employment readiness training and social support.

- The program assisted 136 participants in fiscal year 2015-16.

- MCC BC also works to reduce child poverty by providing supplementary nutritional support to families who rely on Food Banks and require more than what the Food Bank can offer.

BC Service Workers

MCC BC’s service worker program provides short and long-term service opportunities with partner organizations and programs. This year we were excited to have the following service workers serving both internationally and right here in BC.

Service Workers from BC
- Anna Vogt
- Andrew & Michelle Potts
- Char Siemens
- Grace MacEwan
- Mark Tymm
- Meg Gerbrandt-Wiebe
- Sharon Mkisi

SALTers
- Kara Shin
- Dexter Volkmann
- Joshua Nightingale

IVEPers serving in BC
- Ana Xiong
- Lebo Motseki
- Long Moua
- Saneliswe Manana
- Zipora Anastasia

Service Workers in BC
- Karin Rempel
- Monica Mellado-Jerezano
- Tammy Battersby
- Thirza Prentice
- Rachelle Klassen
- Renny Hutabarat
- Shawna Fradette
- Benjamin Lao
- Tang Zeki
- Vidaluz Ortuno Nacho
- Sebastian Horsch
- Elisabeth Siemens
- Jenny Janeta
- Tobias Koenig
MCC BC Finances
Your Dollars at Work

2015-2016 Income for MCC B.C. (000s)

- Contributions: $2,349
- Thrift (net): $1,864
- Villages and Cafe: $774
- Local Program Revenue: $724
- Relief Sales (net): $666
- MCCC Contribution: $548
- Material Resources: $380
- Other: $38

Income
$8.216 million*

2015-2016 Expenses for MCC B.C. (000s)

- International Program: $2,940
- Local Program: $1,246
- Villages and Cafe: $943
- International Disasters: $873
- Material Resources: $506
- Fundraising: $333
- Finance & Admin: $1084

Expenses
$7.925 million

*Does not include MCC BC subsidiary net income of $798,000
MCC BC Volunteers

Ever since the birth of MCC, volunteers have been essential to the work that we do. We want to extend a special thank you to our many dedicated volunteers who generously give their time week after week.

• This year, we had more thrift store volunteers than ever, with 1,030 giving their time.

• Material resources volunteers gave more than 4,612 hours of time this year. That’s equivalent to more than 192 twenty-four hour days.

• Overall, we have seen a 5% increase in volunteers in 2015/2016.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in any capacity at MCC BC please contact us at volunteers@mccbc.ca

Ryan’s Story: Responding to Christ’s Call

Ryan Southern is a dedicated volunteer at the Powell River Thrift Shop in B.C. Joining the team this past January, he believes that the work of MCC is in line with what Jesus has commissioned His people to do here on earth. He says, “Jesus helped the poor. He talked about feeding and clothing the poor. He said ‘As you do these things to others, you are also doing them for me.’ As I’m working here, I feel that I’m helping people in need; sometimes that looks like sorting, baling, taking in donations or putting things out on the floor.”

Proceeds from MCC Thrift Shops go towards MCC’s work in relief, development and peace. Southern believes this work can be achieved step by step. “We are putting our faith in Jesus Christ,” he says. “I did, and that’s why I’m here.”

What Volunteers are Saying...

Recently, we asked some of our thrift shop volunteers about their experiences working with MCC, and here’s what they had to say:

What continues to draw you back as a volunteer?
“I grew up knowing about MCC. Coming here to volunteer we have become like family. This draws me back; it’s a good atmosphere.”
Abbotsford Thrift Volunteer

Do you have any memorable experiences volunteering?
“Every day has given me memorable experiences, new ways of seeing through other people’s eyes. I show up wondering what the day will hold.”
Lorea, Powell River

How has your understanding of MCC’s mission changed since volunteering?
“MCC is a real bridge builder between persons of various backgrounds who want to make a positive contribution in the name of Christ.”
Wilf, Abbotsford

If you could give one piece of advice to other individuals coming to volunteer here what would it be?
“Open up your heart and give of yourself to others. I am blessed to volunteer here. I love all my friends and our customers. Be prepared for a life-changing blessing on your life.”
Cathy, Mission
Thank You

Your generous support throughout the year enables MCC to serve and learn from the world’s most vulnerable people, both locally and internationally. MCC BC is one part of the worldwide MCC family that strives to share God’s love and compassion for all through relief, development and peace.

We’re grateful you’ve chosen to make a difference in the world through MCC, as you give, serve, advocate and pray.
Ebou Dango, a farmer in Didyr, Burkina Faso, participates in a program supported by MCC through partner Office of Development of Evangelical Churches (Office de Développement des Églises Evangélique or ODE) to help women farmers adapt to climate change through conservation agriculture practices, seed production and off-season vegetable production. (MCC photo/James Souder)
In the North Kanem region of central Chad, Ngueni (uses one name), a Daza elder, is proud of the new school that brings education in the Dazaga language to their children. Girls are given the opportunity to attend school as well as boys, which is a huge change for the Daza community where girls generally work at home and marry very young. (MCC photo/Ben Weisbrod)

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds. . . .

Hebrews 10:23–24
Over the past year, we’ve witnessed God’s faithfulness in the worldwide ministry of MCC. We’ve seen Christ’s love expressed in tangible ways, and discovered hope in unexpected places.

In Nepal, MCC helped rebuild lives after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the country.

In Syria and Iraq, MCC offered humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding support as part of the largest financial response in our history.

And in Canada, we partnered with churches and other community groups in a groundswell of support for refugees fleeing the Middle East.

Some of these events stretched and shaped us in surprising ways. Yet, we know God has called us to this work and we are grateful for his faithful provision.

We are grateful for all our church constituencies and supporters. You give, serve, advocate and pray faithfully. Thank you.

We are also grateful for the support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada. This significant contribution supports MCC’s disaster relief and sustainable community development around the world.

The following report is an overview of MCC’s work during our 2015–2016 fiscal year. May it inspire us all to continue to hold fast to our hope without wavering.

Grace and peace,

Don Peters,
Executive Director, MCC Canada
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.

Institucion Evangelica Bilingue Menonita student Jorge Bonilla, 16, holds hands with students during a peace-building exercise at the Esecuela Esteban Guardiola school in Tocoa, Honduras. The student-to-student school program is run by MCC partner organization Proyecto Paz y Justicia (PPJ), an organization that promotes peace, reconciliation and social justice throughout the community. (MCC photo/Nina Linton)
Strategic directions

1. MCC prioritizes work with uprooted and other vulnerable people.

2. MCC’s key emphases in building healthy, sustainable communities are: responding to disasters; ending hunger; providing clean water; offering quality education; and enabling sustainable livelihoods.

3. MCC is committed to preventing violence and promoting justice and peace.

4. MCC invests in young people to serve at home and around the world.

5. MCC, through mutually transformative relationships, nurtures and aligns the passions of the church, partners, and supporters.
Disaster 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 important needs.

Advocacy corner

MCC Canada communicates regularly with the Government of Canada on matters of policy. The Ottawa Office documents all written communication sent directly by MCC Canada, as well as many of the letters sent by partners or coalitions that MCC Canada supports. On February 23, 2016, MCC wrote a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau commenting on Canada’s recently announced plan for responding to the crises in Syria and Iraq.

Featured projects

IRAQ MCC’s Zakho Small Villages Project provided blankets, warm clothing, heaters, heating fuel and food baskets to 201 displaced Iraqi and Syrian refugee households during the cold winter months in Dohuk, Kurdistan region of Iraq.

SYRIA Ongoing conflict has significantly impacted the livelihoods of Syrian families and their ability to provide nutritious food for their families. An MCC project in the Qalamoun area and rural Homs provided 6,000 households with monthly food baskets to ensure adequate food consumption for a period of 12 months.

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO MCC provided shelter assistance for 411 internally displaced families in Shasha and Mubimbi camps in North Kivu through the distribution of tarps.
Fawzia (full name not used because of security concerns) raises bees as part of a livelihoods initiative of MCC and Zakho Small Villages Project, which promotes beekeeping, kitchen gardens, tomato cultivation and poultry raising in northern Ninewa governorate, Iraq. (MCC photo/Matthew Sawatzky)

**Highlights**

- **11,845** people received heaters and/or heating fuel for cold weather
- **29,482** people received locally purchased clothing
- **11,750** relief kits shipped
- **48,115** blankets shipped

**Disasters we responded to in 2015–16**

1. Conflict in DR Congo
2. Drought in Ethiopia
3. Garissa University attack in Kenya
4. Somali refugees in Kenya
5. Boko Haram violence in Nigeria
6. Political instability in Burundi
7. Conflict in South Sudan
8. Conflict in Sudan
9. Drought in Zambia
10. Drought in Zimbabwe
11. Flooding in Tanzania
12. Cyclone Hudhud in India
13. Flooding in India
14. Typhoon Komen in Myanmar
15. Conflict in Myanmar
16. Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines
17. Flooding in Nepal
18. Earthquake in Nepal
19. Conflict in Ukraine
20. Conflict in Iraq
21. Conflict in Syria
22. Bombardment of Gaza
23. Drought in Colombia
24. Conflict in Colombia
25. Drought in El Salvador
26. Drought in Guatemala
27. Earthquake in Nicaragua
28. Drought in Nicaragua
29. Drought in Honduras
30. 2010 earthquake in Haiti
Health

MCC’s health work focuses on improving the health and well-being of vulnerable people, including: teaching prevention for HIV and other communicable diseases; providing emotional care and practical supplies for people living with HIV and AIDS; improving access to clean water and sanitation and hygiene facilities; working with mothers to promote healthy lifestyles and nutrition practices in their families; responding to gender-based violence; and working with communities who have experienced trauma.

**Featured projects**

**NICARAGUA** MCC works with partner Acion Medica Christiana to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and violence prevention for about 2,500 students. After the instruction, 61 per cent of the students identified four HIV prevention measures—an increase of 3.5 per cent from August of 2015. About a quarter of adolescent students say they are learning how to resolve differences through dialogue.

**NIGERIA** MCC works with partner Go International on water and sanitation projects in communities of Adamawa and Taraba states. The projects include drilling boreholes and constructing latrines, along with providing health education. All community members are now drinking water from the wells. It used to take up to 40 minutes to access clean water—now it takes five to 10 minutes. Latrine use increased by up to 30 per cent.

**IVEP* profile**

Sanelisiwe Manana from Swaziland was a respite support worker at Matthew’s House in Abbotsford, B.C. “It rained on my first day [in Canada], and in Swazi culture when you go to a place and it rains, it means the heavens are rejoicing [over] your presence” says Sanelisiwe. “It was a sign that my God is always with me.”
In India’s Munigadiha village, beneficiaries of a water system collect water piped down from a higher elevation. MCC’s partner, the Institute of Social Action and Research Activities, works with local villages to identify perennial water sources and provides piping to bring the water to those villages. (MCC photo/ Pabitra Paramanya)

Highlights

- 241 latrines repaired or constructed
- 49,529 hygiene kits shipped
- 6,978 infant care kits shipped
- 12,982 pounds of soap shipped

Fiscal Year 2016 Outputs

- Households connected to an improved water supply
  - FYE 2016: 6,757
  - FYE 2015: 
  - FYE 2014: 
- Individuals attended improved hygiene practice sessions
  - FYE 2016: 45,004
  - FYE 2015: 
  - FYE 2014: 
- Individuals referred/received medical treatment
  - FYE 2016: 27,471
  - FYE 2015: 
  - FYE 2014: 
- Individuals tested for HIV
  - FYE 2016: 22,704
  - FYE 2015: 
  - FYE 2014: 
- Individuals attended health, HIV, or reproductive health information sessions
  - FYE 2016: 133,138
  - FYE 2015: 
  - FYE 2014: 

Partner profile

Many people in Vietnam suffer mental and physical disabilities from the use of dioxin-contaminated Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. MCC partner Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange runs a day centre where families can bring people with disabilities while they are at work. With MCC support, the centre provides exercise equipment and staff trained in physical therapy. In 2016 an MCC service worker will begin work with VAVA as an occupational therapist.
Food & Livelihoods

MCC works with local partners around the world to make sure there is food for today, food for tomorrow and food for all. In situations of conflict or disaster, we provide emergency food assistance including food packages, vouchers and cash. We work with farmers on new techniques to improve soil health and increase yields. We also advocate for government policies that allow everyone to access enough food. Our livelihoods projects provide the tools, seeds, and livestock for starting a new opportunity, and the vocational and business skills training needed for success.

SALT* profile

Tyler Loewen, from Winnipeg, served as an agriculture development worker in Chi Pheach Village, Cambodia, with MCC’s SALT program. “The lushness of rice paddies and coconut trees as far as the eye can see was a vastly different agricultural experience for this Canadian prairie dweller,” he said. During his one-year term, Tyler solidified his desire to study international development.

Featured project

NEPAL MCC’s partner Shanti Nepal addressed the food security and nutritional needs of poor and marginalized Chepang communities in Dhading District. The project focused on women and children; since it began in January 2014, the percentage of pregnant and breastfeeding women eating a balanced, diverse diet, increased from 44 per cent to 69 per cent. The percentage of pregnant women with an iron deficiency decreased from 58 per cent to 19 per cent. In children under five years, the percentage with severe malnutrition declined from 10 to five per cent.

NEPAL

MOZAMBIQUE With partner CCM Tete, MCC ran a water and food security project in drought-prone areas of Mozambique, promoting water conservation and sustainable agriculture techniques. Since the project began in January 2013, households can now harvest nine months each year (up from 4.5 months). The percentage of households growing drought-resistant crops, such as manioc and sweet potato, has increased from 20 per cent to 27 per cent (in 232 households).
In Desarmes, Haiti, Jean Veny Normil holds okra seeds, dried and stored from last year's harvest, that are ready to plant. Through our account at CFGB, MCC is working in the Artibonite Department of Haiti to support farmers in improved agriculture techniques and processes, including the use of seedbanks to securely preserve the year’s harvest so farmers can plant again when the rains come. (MCC photo/Paul Shetler Fast)

### Highlights

- **2,363** kitchen or community gardens planted
- **776** water structures constructed (wells, rainwater systems, sand dams, etc.)
- **894,558** pounds of MCC canned meat shipped
- **41,946** pounds of dried soup mix shipped
- **1,738,397** trees planted

MCC is a founding member of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, where we partner with 15 other organizations to reach our goal of a world without hunger. We use funds in our Foodgrains Bank account to support MCC food-related projects around the globe. Those funds are eligible for a matching grant from the Canadian government—for food assistance, the match is 4:1; for food security programs, it is up to 3:1.

Ten Thousand Villages is MCC Canada’s fair trade social enterprise, creating opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to North American markets through long-term, fair trading relationships. In Bangladesh, Villages partners with an organization called CORR—The Jute Works (CJW), started in 1973 in a garage with five artisans. CJW now works with more than 3,000 makers such as Saphia, whose fair trade income allows her to own land and support her family despite being disabled by polio as a child.
Education

Through MCC’s education projects, 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 the quality of education through professional development for teachers, educational materials and other support for schools; support vocational training to help youth find work in their home communities; promote peace clubs and other initiatives to help develop young people’s full potential as leaders.

SALT* profile

Edmonton’s Marie Dening spent a year with MCC’s SALT program as an assistant English teacher in Viet Tri, Phu Tho, Vietnam. Marie discovered that the “funny” mistakes her students made when learning English “came with good teachable moments and lots of laughter.” During her time in Vietnam, she also became a student: “I learned to rely on myself to grow in my faith, on my time, and to make my faith more personal.”

Featured project

KENYA At the Mathare Menno Kids Academy, MCC’s education project improved the quality of education for 354 students, while keeping it accessible to low-income and vulnerable families. Students’ mean score on the Kenya Primary Certificate Examination (KPCE) increased 23 per cent over three years—from 255 in 2013, to 295 in 2014, to 314 in 2015 (maximum score 500). Since the project began in January 2014, the percentage of pregnant and breastfeeding women who are eating a balanced and diverse diet rose from 43.8 per cent to 69 per cent.
Arbasana Anzaj, teaching assistant and graduate of the Bread of Life tutoring program, works with David Raimovski at the MCC-supported Little School in Surčin outside of Belgrade, Serbia. Roma children come here for help with homework. MCC supports the tutoring program through partner Bread of Life to help young Roma students succeed in school. (MCC photo/ Matthew Lester)

**Highlights**

43,801 children participated in K-12 formal education

5,731 children received scholarships or tuition support

1,034 teachers participated in professional development

3,196 children or youth participated in vocational training

371 children participated in programs for students with special needs

**How to make a school kit**

Notebooks and pencils are treasures for families who struggle to afford basic school supplies. School kits are often requested after disasters and help bring normalcy to children whose families have been forced to flee their homes.

**Contents (NEW items only)**

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (about 21.5 cm x 27 cm; 140 pages)
- 8 unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic; indicating both 30 cm and 12 in)
- 12 coloured pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large pencil eraser

School kits are distributed in a useful double drawstring cloth bag (30 x 43 cm/11 3/4 x 16 3/4 in). You may:

- Sew the bag yourself
- Request bags from an MCC material resources centre or donate contents that we will place in a bag.

**Bring completed school kits to an MCC drop-off location.**

87,651 school kits shipped in FYE 2016

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Map represents the full picture of MCC's program for year ended March 31, 2016.
Global Service Learning†

20 YAMEN* participants
*Young Anabaptist Mennonite Exchange Network

56 IVEP* participants
*International Volunteer Exchange Program

51 SALT* participants
*Serving and Learning Together

16 Seed participants

10 Summerbridge participants

40 Summer Service participants

66 SOOP* participants (canadian)
*Service Opportunities with Our Partners

†Numbers represent participants who began their service term between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.
Migration & Resettlement

Around the world people become displaced when they are forced to flee their homes because of conflict or violence. 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 process.

Advocacy corner

For this year’s annual student seminar, the Ottawa Office collaborated with MCC Canada’s National Migration and Resettlement Program Coordinator to carry out a two-and-a-half day seminar entitled “Refuge. Asylum. Displacement. Canada’s Response.” Twenty-five university students from seven provinces explored government policy on refugees, identified current challenges, and discussed ideas about Canada’s role in refugee resettlement.

From refugee to sponsor

CALGARY, AB In 1978, Nhung Tran-Davies’ mother, a widow, joined hundreds of thousands of people fleeing Vietnam. She packed herself and six children into the bottom of a boat in the midst of Vietnam’s stormy season. “She did sacrifice pretty much everything,” says Tran-Davies. “Put our lives on the line because she just had hope that we would find something better than what was there in Vietnam.”

Nearly 40 years later, Tran-Davies is working through MCC Alberta’s refugee sponsorship program to bring two families to Canada from Syria. In Fiscal Year 2016, MCC (as a private sponsorship agreement holder with the Canadian government) helped sponsor more than 1,800 refugees across the country, and more are on the way. While most were from Syria, MCC works with churches and community groups to settle refugees from many conflict zones around the world, including DR Congo and Eritrea.
**Highlights**

**1,822** people for whom MCC submitted refugee sponsorship applications

**217** groups (including churches, individuals, businesses and community groups) with whom MCC worked

**added 7** provincial staff in the area of migration and resettlement

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**Low German program**

**WINKLER, MB** In Winkler, Tina Fehr Kehler works as MCC Manitoba’s Low German Mennonite program coordinator, helping Low German-speaking people settle into life in Canada.

For example, Fehr Kehler supported Lucy Hildebrand and her family as an interpreter and guide after they arrived in February 2013. She helped Hildebrand enrol in English classes, and when Hildebrand’s husband, Edward broke his thumb at work, Fehr Kehler helped with phone calls and paperwork. Hildebrand is full of praise for Fehr Kehler, “Tina helped me very much! I am very thankful for her.”

This kind of communication is just a small part of Fehr Kehler’s role. She works to reduce the cultural divide in her geographic area by educating local service providers about the history, religion and culture of Low German Mennonites. She also connects newly landed families with translation, health care and English classes.

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**IVEP* profile**

Tandy Daka from Zambia served as a youth worker at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. When reflecting on the new perspectives she gained from being part of IVEP, Tandy says “I was so scared about someone attacking me because of my skin colour, but I found out I don’t have to be scared because we are all from somewhere. Since then, I’ve been able to move around and smile and greet people I’ve never met before. It’s all about putting yourself out there for people to get to know you for who you are.”
Peacebuilding

MCC believes God calls us to a life of peace and non-violence and we actively promote the pursuit of peace. We teach conflict resolution skills and peacebuilding strategies, and encourage people to courageously choose peace over violence. MCC facilitates interfaith dialogue and relationship-building across cultural, racial and ethnic divides. We build resilience and respond to psychological needs through trauma healing, and we provide churches with educational and advocacy resources about peace.

Advocacy corner

Each year our Ottawa Office prepares a worship and teaching resource for churches to use in conjunction with November’s Peace Sunday. The 2015 Peace Packet was entitled “Crossing to the other side: Living as people of peace in a time of fear and terror.” It addressed questions such as: How do followers of Jesus live faithfully and joyfully in this climate of fear? How do we relate to the “other”? You can find a PDF of the packet at mcccanada.ca/media/resources/3542.

Featured projects

VIETNAM  MCC’s partner Tan Son People’s Committee trained community representatives and leaders in conflict resolution, to help address domestic violence among ethnic minorities in one of the poorest areas of Vietnam. Peacebuilding groups in six villages were established to raise community awareness and understanding of domestic violence and how it can be prevented. Between September 2014 and February 2016, incidences of domestic violence decreased from 18 to five. Four of the six villages say domestic violence reports have declined since September 2014.

PALESTINE AND ISRAEL  MCC worked with partner East Jerusalem YMCA to support women in the West Bank who lost their husbands in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. After participating in counselling services and career assistance, the women reported increased self-esteem, and improvements in their mental health and sense of well-being. Data collected before and after the support programs shows that the women’s sense of social inclusion also increased by almost 20 per cent.
Right to left: Sadia Rahimi, Setana Naderi, Rowida Hayaty, Rowida Raufi, and Homira Haidari write in their composition books during a peacebuilding class at Abdullah Bin Omar High School in Paghman, Afghanistan. The program is supported by Help the Afghan Children and MCC. (MCC photo/Matthew Lester)

Fiscal Year 2016 Outputs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FYE 2016</th>
<th>FYE 2015</th>
<th>FYE 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals trained in trauma healing</td>
<td>2,996</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals received counselling/trauma counselling</td>
<td>3,827</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students participated in peace clubs</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,041</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals participated in advocacy workshops and networks</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,239</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals trained in conflict transformation, peacebuilding, or mediation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23,204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MCC’S PEACE BUTTON**

was created in 1989 as a way of expressing an alternative message of non-violence on Remembrance Day. Anabaptist faith teaches us to love our enemies and seek the well-being of our neighbours through peaceful means. Each year, MCC distributes more than 10,000 buttons to communities throughout Canada.

**Partner profile**

MCC builds relationships with local churches and organizations in every country where it operates, actively collaborating with these partners to work toward positive change and development. In Shamshabad, India, MCC supports the work of MB Centenary Bible College and its Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies, which reaches marginalized communities by organizing conflict resolution workshops, providing counselling teams, running an adult literacy program, and providing school tutoring for children. CPCRS also offers peacebuilding certificate and diploma programs for graduates and professionals, equipping them to work for peace and conflict transformation within their communities.
Restorative Justice

MCC’s restorative justice programs help individuals and churches find healthy ways to deal with harm and conflict, as well as respond to and prevent violence and sexual abuse. We also support healing processes through biblical reflection. Some of our restorative justice programs include: support for families and churches dealing with pornography, sexual abuse and domestic violence; Circles of Support and Accountability (where volunteers meet with individuals with sexual offending histories, helping them transition back into communities); prison visitation and reintegr-ation initiatives; publishing books and resources.

Advocacy corner

The Ottawa Office is MCC’s voice to the Canadian government, advocating for policies that support our work of relief, development and peacebuilding. We also inform Canadians about political issues and how they can get involved. This year, MCC joined with Canadian Foodgrains Bank in a major advocacy campaign called Good Soil to call on Canada to increase its aid to smallholder farmers. We also continued our work on mining justice, helping shed light on how the practices of Canadian mining companies negatively impact the lives of communities where MCC works.

CoSA (Circles of Support and Accountability)

Research has shown that sexual offenders who participate in a Circle of Support and Accountability are 80 per cent less likely to re-offend than those who don’t — leading to fewer victims and safer communities. CoSA started as a single circle in a Mennonite church in Hamilton, Ontario in 1994. It now supports hundreds of released offenders at 17 sites across the country, many of which are operated or funded by MCC. MCC is also supporting the development of CoSA Canada, a new association strengthening CoSA programs by giving them a national voice and seeking funding opportunities. As a supporter of the very first CoSA circles, MCC remains committed to this important and transformational expression of God’s unconditional love.
Indigenous Neighbours

Education is an important theme in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) final report and Calls to Action. To build a new future between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, we must understand more fully and learn from our past. MCC is responding to this need for education by promoting and facilitating the Blanket Exercise, an experiential learning tool in which participants take on the role of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Rebekah Sears, a staff person in the MCC Ottawa Office, saw the connection between education and reconciliation after she participated in the Blanket Exercise. She said, “I’m . . . grateful for the chance to visit the familiar while continuing to gain a new and deeper understanding of the history of my country. I hope and pray we can keep this conversation going and see real change—all across this amazing land.” Please contact your nearest MCC office if you’d like to bring the Blanket Exercise to your congregation.

Highlights

**Ran 21 projects** related to Indigenous land rights, healing and education and global Indigenous connections.

**Advocated** for MCC’s adoption and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, dismantling of the Doctrine of Discovery, and response to other relevant Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

**Established** a new CoSA site in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador, trained volunteers, and provided ongoing support to a CoSA core member moving toward successful integration.

**Saw 44 per cent** of MCC’s restorative justice projects in Canada report sustainable funding.

A former core member of an MCC-supported Circle of Support and Accountability program run by the Moncton Community Chaplaincy relaxes inside. He wishes to remain anonymous so he can reintegrate into society without the stigma related to sexual offenders. (MCC photo/Shane Yuhas)

A guide for newcomers

This resource from MCC Manitoba provides newcomers—and all Manitobans—with an introduction to the cultures and histories of the Indigenous peoples of Manitoba. Available for free at: mcccanada.ca/media/resources/4186

Hundreds of people participated in a mass Blanket Exercise on the steps of Parliament Hill, lead by KAIROS including members of First Nations communities, faith communities, MCC staff and others. (MCC photo/Alison Ralph)

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The financial information on this page represents the combined operations of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. (excluding Ten Thousand Villages Canada) for the year ended March 31, 2016, 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.
International program expenses by themes
$73.2 million

- Education: $10,391,000
- Humanitarian relief & disaster recovery: $25,749,000
- Health: $4,853,000
- Migration & resettlement: $170,000
- Peacebuilding & conflict transformation: $8,710,000
- Restorative justice: $100,000

International and domestic program expenses by region
$91.3 million

- Africa: $18,352,000
- Asia: $14,973,000
- Europe & Middle East: $23,786,000
- Latin America & Caribbean: $9,875,000
- United States: $7,044,000
- Canada: $10,995,000
- Multi-region: $6,256,000
Thrift Shops
Working for a greater purpose

“I just love it.” These are words Mark Jantzen uses to describe his role at the MCC Calgary Thrift Shop, where he works as the Furniture Coordinator. This newly-created position has been ideal for Jantzen, who had been looking to semi-retire from his banking job to find more meaningful work.

Every day is a bit different for Jantzen, who helps manage approximately 25 volunteers in the furniture department. They travel in the Thrift Shop van to do furniture pickups twice a week, with about five stops each time. Jantzen also helps maintain consistency in the pricing and advertising of the furniture.

The Calgary Thrift Shop is a great outreach for Jantzen and the other volunteers. They are able to connect with the local community and get to know the shoppers.

Jantzen has led a very interesting life. Formerly, he served as pastor at Dalhousie Community Church (Mennonite Brethren) in Calgary for 17 years. After that, he made a career change and travelled to China to teach English for a year. Upon his return, he worked in banking. Jantzen has also been a board member for the Calgary Thrift Shop and therefore has a long connection with the shop. The Calgary Thrift Shop underwent renovations this year and re-opened in August 2016. This shop regularly donates over $650,000 to support the ministry of MCC.

What is his inspiration? “It’s the people,” Jantzen says. “The staff and volunteers, the people coming in each day to shop, are amazing. It’s working for a greater purpose, for God’s kingdom.”

**IVEP* profile**

Abhishek Samuel from India served as a management support worker at the Christian Benefit Thrift Shop in St. Catharines, Ont. What are some differences he noticed between Canada and India? Apart from snow and pumpkin carving, Abhishek found the thrift shop concept quite innovative: “I find good, used and sometimes never used things, which is missing in India.”
Taking the leap of faith
Thrift conference 2016

In April 2016, 220 MCC Thrift Shop managers and board members from Canada and the United States gathered in Niagara Falls, Ontario, for their binational conference. The theme was “Taking the Leap of Faith through Investment and Action.” Three days were spent sharing information, learning together, visiting shops, planning for the future and hearing stories of the impact the daily work of Thrift Shops have at home and around the world. Attendees were challenged to tell the good news stories of their Thrift Shops and the work of MCC in a clearer and more open manner. They were encouraged to plan for the future to ensure that the legacy of Thrift volunteers continue and that shops remain viable in a rapidly changing retail environment. Reminders were given that volunteers are the heart and soul of Thrift work and that they are the reason growing shops continue to thrive.

MCC ended the conference by saying thank you and celebrating more than 10,000 volunteers, over 300 managers and the more than 100 boards and committees that give so much of themselves to this work. While Thrift Shops contributed over $20 million to the work of MCC in this past fiscal year, there is so much more to celebrate! Thank you to the volunteers, donors and shoppers of MCC Thrift Shops. The mission work of MCC would not be possible without you!

MCC has 50 Thrift Shops across Canada.

Through the generous support of volunteers, donors and shoppers, Thrift provided over $20 million toward MCC’s mission last year.

Thank you!

$1 MUG helps provide supplies for a school kit for a child in Zimbabwe
$2 TOY TRUCK helps provide supplies for a relief kit for Ukraine
$4 TABLECLOTH supplies a farmer in Burkina Faso with 10 moringa plants
$5 SHIRT provides a hygiene kit for a refugee in Jordan
$13 LAMP provides a widow in Kenya with animal husbandry training
$15 TOASTER provides training for a farmer in Cambodia to raise chickens
$17 SET OF DISHES provides cooking utensils for a displaced family in Nepal
$20 BLANKET provides spade, pick axe and hoe for a farmer in Ethiopia
$20 END TABLE provides vegetable seeds for one kitchen garden in Iraq
$30 ROCKING CHAIR provides nutrition support for children affected by HIV and AIDS
CHILDREN PLAY GROUP GAMES DURING RECESS.

Working with its long-term partner, Remember the Poorest Community (RPC), MCC is adding a school feeding program to our current education project in Adama (also known as Nazret), Ethiopia. A hot lunch will be provided to 250 students at the school, five days a week. Many of the households included in the project are amongst the most poor and food insecure in Ethiopia. The current drought in Ethiopia has led to escalating food prices in the region. More than 20 students have left since the school term began in the fall of 2015, as their families have moved in with relatives in outlying areas to save on rent and utilities and free up money to buy food. Those still at school suffer from lack of concentration, sleepiness in class and illness. The goal of the hot lunch program is to increase access to nutritious food, thereby improving concentration and attendance for children. (MCC photo/ Matthew Sawatzky)
Contact

National Office

Mennonite Central Committee Canada
134 Plaza Drive, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5K9
204.261.6381  mcccanada.ca

Provincial Offices

MCC Alberta
210-2946 32nd Street NE
Calgary, AB T1Y 6J7
(403) 275-6935

MCC British Columbia
201-33933 Gladys Avenue, Box 2038
Abbotsford, BC V2T 3T8
(604) 850-6639

MCC Manitoba
134 Plaza Drive
Winnipeg, MB R3T 5K9
(204) 261-6381

MCC Maritimes
27 John Street,
Moncton, NB E1C 2G7
(506) 383-9339

MCC Newfoundland and Labrador
Box 850, Station B,
Happy Valley, NL A0P 1E0
(709) 896-3213

MCC Ontario
203-50 Kent Avenue
Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1
(519) 745-8458

MCC Québec
200–4824 Chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges, Montreal QC H3V 1G4
(514) 278-3008

MCC Saskatchewan
600-45th Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7L 5W9
(306) 665-2555

Follow us

Intersections

A Common Place

MCCCanada.ca
All the accomplishments and outcomes featured in this report, touching the lives of people around the world, are possible only through your generosity. MCC is blessed to have the trust and overwhelming support of people like you. For that, we are truly grateful.

**Thank you for giving through MCC to make a difference in people’s lives through relief, development and peace in the name of Christ.**

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Sita Shakya, Community Health Facilitator with Shanti Nepal, and Parbati Tripathi, female community health volunteer at the home of Mann Kumari Thapa Magar and Bhakta Bahadur Thapa Magar. The couple’s home in Dhading District, Nepal, was heavily damaged in the spring 2015 earthquake. MCC partner, Shanti Nepal, provided emergency food assistance and assistance with building temporary shelters in the District of Dhading, Nepal, following the spring earthquakes. (MCC photo/Matthew Sawatzky)