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Message from executive director
Mission and focus areas
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Updates on programs and projects
...and more

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

Megha and Pirty are part of an MCC multilingual education project in Bangladesh.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Christ’s peace,

Rick Cober Bauman, Executive Director
MCC Canada

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

MCC Canada Board Members

Peggy Snyder (Chair), CCAL*
Paul Gilbert (Vice Chair), Member-at-Large
Scott Siemens (Treasurer), Member-at-Large
Cindy Klassen (Secretary), CCAL
Peter Wolfe, MCC British Columbia
Sandra Friesen-Peters, MCC Alberta
Dan Siebert, MCC Saskatchewan
Henry Buhler, MCC Manitoba
Margaret Amanatides, MCC Ontario
Walter Thiessen, Eastern Canada
Andrew Scanlan, CCAL
Laurence Fontaine, Member-at-Large
David Chow, Member-at-Large
*appointed by Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders

DIRECTOR TRANSITION

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

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

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

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.

The UN says there are more than 68 million people displaced worldwide because of disaster, conflict or persecution — the highest number on record.
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>FY2016</th>
<th>FY2017</th>
<th>FY2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87,651</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>78,035</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>51,062</td>
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</table>

**HIGHLIGHTS**

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

Together we…

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thanks to you…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>people attended agricultural trainings</td>
<td>43,611</td>
</tr>
<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>

HIGHLIGHTS

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

Together we…

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

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

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

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

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

**Togethe we…**

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

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

Thanks to you…

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

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 peacebuilding strategies and conflict resolution skills. Our restorative justice programs help individuals and churches find healthy ways to deal with harm and conflict, respond to and prevent violence and sexual abuse. Through our Indigenous Neighbours program, we strive to build respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individuals participated in peace clubs</th>
<th>FY2014</th>
<th>FY2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,944</td>
<td>10,028</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individuals trained in conflict transformation, peacebuilding or mediation</th>
<th>FY2014</th>
<th>FY2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,858</td>
<td>27,327</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.

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...

- 4,783 people trained in trauma healing
- 12,377 people participated in community initiatives to prevent violence and promote peace
- 4,176 people received psychological support or trauma counselling

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)

PEACE CLUBS

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.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

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

Together we…

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

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

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

**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.”

**FLEEING CONFLICT**

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.
A MESSAGE FROM MCC MANITOBA’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Apostle Paul’s encouragement to the Roman church prompts us into moments of rejoicing and weeping. We may tend to think of those moments as distinct, with different people. We may think that certain circumstances lend themselves to rejoicing; others to weeping. Further reflection reveals that life holds many experiences simultaneously, frequently calling for rejoicing and weeping in the same day.

When is it time to rejoice? Is it when crisis ends, or is averted? Is it after development efforts succeed? Is it upon newcomer arrival or sustainable independence as families? Is it when healing begins? Is healing ever complete? Is rejoicing only for those whose circumstances are joyful, weeping for those whose circumstances are sorrowful?

As we follow our calling to live at peace with everyone (v.18) it is necessary to rejoice and weep with all who rejoice and weep… all along the way.

In the following pages, you’ll find an overview of MCC’s activity in Manitoba during the 2017-18 fiscal year. Behind the budget numbers and stories that follow, I hope you’ll sense the rejoicing and weeping that has taken place. We invite you to share in both—with folks seeking safer lives as newcomers, with Indigenous & non-Indigenous friends seeking healing and reconciliation, with youth and young adults seeking skills and strength to pursue sustainable, paid employment, with churches and individuals seeking healthy interpersonal relationships and to heal from brokenness.

Your support of MCC has made this work possible. We thank you for your part in this story… and we rejoice in every life in Manitoba and beyond who has been impacted, giving thanks to God.

Darryl Loewen, Executive Director
MCC Manitoba

MCC Manitoba’s Board Members

- Catherine Enns (Chair), Member-at-large
- Henry Buhler (Vice-Chair), Member-at-large
- Janessa Giesbrecht (Secretary), Member-at-large
- Gerald Loepky (Treasurer), Member-at-large
- Barry Dyck, MBCM
- Dan Block, MBCM
- Ed Barkman, EMC
- Kelsey Hutton, MCM
- Kevin Drudge, MCM
- Peter Kehler, CMC
- Peter Nickel, RMC
- Rodney Stahn, EMMC
- Stefan Epp-Koop, MCM

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
- Romans 12:15
MCC in Manitoba

MCC’s impact is global, and it’s also very local—including right here in Manitoba. For over 50 years, MCC Manitoba has supported the international efforts of MCC, and worked for relief, development and peace here in Manitoba. Our local programs walk alongside Manitobans to build healthy communities, families and relationships.

Read on for a sample of how MCC Manitoba’s work is making a difference, and find out more at www.mccmb.ca/manitoba

MCC Manitoba works in several treaties territories

MCC Manitoba offices are located on Treaty 1 territory, the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, and Dakota people, and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation. We are grateful for their stewardship of this land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work and serve God the Creator here. As a Christian organization committed to Right Relationships, we also acknowledge the harms committed to the Indigenous peoples of this land by those of us who have settled here.

As participants in the covenant of Treaty 1, we strive to work towards reconciliation in our words and deeds. MCCM’s work in the province extends to all five of the Treaty Territories here and seeks to prioritize equity, justice and Indigenous self-determination according to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We also promote and facilitate learning opportunities for our staff and constituency.

MCC Manitoba staff

Darryl Loewen, Executive Director

Communications & Donor Relations
Brad Reimer, Director
David Turner
Gord Letkeman
Kendelle Romero-Fawcett
Nikki Hamm
Sophia Bezoplenko
Valerie Block

Programs
Deborah Martin-Koop, Director
Arisnel Mesidor
Jaymie Friesen
Joanna Hiebert Bergen
Joanna Schellenberg
Katie Laban
Kerry Saner-Harvey
Meron Mekonnen Geberu
Tena Klassen
Tina Fehr Kehler

Finance & Administration
Carlee Friesen, Associate Director
Christina Van Niekerk
Martha Brandt

Social Enterprise
Viniece Blain, Director
Alex Strange
Andy Arthur
Heather Kidd
Rachel Isaak
Ruth Plett
MCC Manitoba finances

DOLLARS AT WORK
$11.04 MILLION

73%
15%
12%

FUNDING SOURCES
$11.03 MILLION

64%
27%
4%
3%
1%
1%

Manitoba Programs
$1,682,172
Admin & Fundraising
$1,296,144
International Programs
$8,060,940

Fundraising Events
$120,851
Other Income
$332,882
Material Resources
$463,085
Government Grants
$130,000
Thrift Shops
$2,941,690
General Contributions
$7,041,382
Giving Forward

Hevin Ahmad wasn’t in Winnipeg for long before she was making a big difference in her community.

Ahmad is Syrian, but fled to Iraq where she lived for three years prior to coming to Canada. Ahmad and her husband had trouble making ends meet in Iraq.

“We were refugees in Iraq. We didn’t have anything. We took our salary and put it towards rent and food and that’s it. We couldn’t make anything for the future,” she explains.

They came to Canada in 2017 through private sponsorship with the help of MCC. That summer, she and two other privately sponsored refugees paid it forward by organizing a summer program for newcomer children, youth and young adults.

The program, for 50 Syrians between five and 27 years old, participants learned English, practiced literacy, went on field trips around Manitoba, did crafts, dance and played sports.

The summer program—which continued in 2018—is made possible through a grant from the Canadian government. For the organizers, it’s a way to show others the same kindness they say they have received.

“I came here as a refugee,” says Nour Ali, another of the organizers. “I always say, when you get help you have to give forward. You have to help more people.”

Reem Younes (below, with daughter Alma) helped with a summer program for Syrians because she knows what they’re going through. “I know the way they feel. I came here as a refugee, but sponsored by a church… The first year it was so difficult, even with kind people. It took me many months to think this is my home, this is my country. I want to help these kids feel at home and forget what they saw in Syria.”
“I stood there and shook her hand again and again”

As told by Judith Hege (below), a participant in MCC’s International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) during 2016-17.

My IVEP placement is at Winnipeg Harvest, a food distribution and training center. I work for volunteer services giving tours for groups, working with the volunteers and being part of managing the volunteers and related administrative work. I like to work with all the volunteers coming from different backgrounds, abilities and ages. It can be challenging and extremely busy, but you also get so much friendliness and joy from the volunteers.

One day I came to my workplace in the morning and at the entrance area I met a woman from Zimbabwe. I shook her hand and said: “Good Morning!” I don’t know why I shook her hand. Normally Canadians just say “Hi!” and maybe wave with their hand (except if it is very official and you introduce yourself). After I shook her hand I excused myself and was going to leave but then she told me that she was from Zimbabwe and that in her home country they shake hands if they like someone. I told her that we in Germany also shake hands. I stood there and shook her hand again and again. It was a lovely encounter in a week where I felt very lonely.

Living in a host family gives me a deeper insight into Canadian culture. For example, my host sister celebrated her birthday two days before her actual birthday. I had promised her I’d bake a cake, automatically thinking they would eat the cake at the beginning of the party at 3:00 pm when all the kids come over. Luckily I asked about it, because we ate the cake after supper. In Germany we would not celebrate a birthday before the actual date and we would always eat the cake at cake time – 3:00 pm.

I enjoy the IVEP program because I get to meet young adults from so many different countries. At mid-year conference, I got to talk to people from all over the world and learned about different cultures. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve and learn in Canada and feel blessed to be here.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER WORKING FOR RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS

Erin Froese (pictured above) received the 2017 MCC Thrift Shop Founders Scholarship, awarded annually to a student whose studies align with MCC’s work and who shows a commitment to serving their community, the world and the church.

Froese is an environmental studies major at Canadian Mennonite University (CMU).

“My first year Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies course talked about the brokenness that exists in Canada. That was a thread throughout my degree.”

The scholarship has encouraged Froese to continue volunteering in her community. Froese has volunteered at Camps with Meaning for many years, and helped organize a pilgrimage from Kitchener to Ottawa, Ontario to advocate for Bill C-262, which calls for the adoption and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP).

“The pilgrimage was a chance for me to take this thread of learning to a space outside of the classroom where it was an enactment of the things I’ve been trying to study—the church trying to engage in building right relationships,” she explains.
Record year for Grow Hope as Manitobans raise over $1 million for hunger relief

“We want to be able to contribute to the fight against global hunger in any way we can. It’s humbling to be a part of Grow Hope, knowing where the proceeds will go,” say Grant and Colleen Dyck.

Story by Rachel Bergen

The 2017 growing season was especially exciting for some Manitoba farmers, including Grant and Colleen Dyck at Artel Farms in Niverville. After harvest, thanks to Manitobans who sponsored acres of their land, the Dycks donated close to 400 acres to MCC Manitoba’s Grow Hope campaign, helping raise up to $1.3 million earmarked for MCC’s food projects around the world.

It was a record-breaking year for Grow Hope in Manitoba, a campaign which invites donors, or “farmers,” to sponsor land on a participating local farm. Throughout the growing season,
Linda Waldner had never been on a plane before this year. In January, the Hutterite woman left her home at Crystal Spring colony and boarded seven flights to get to Ethiopia to take part in a Canadian Foodgrains Bank learning tour with her husband, Jerry.

The colony of about 180 people near Ste. Agathe, Manitoba collectively donated 50 acres of land to MCC’s Grow Hope campaign in 2017. This year they’re donating even more after Linda and Jerry saw how MCC partners are addressing food security needs.

“I didn’t know anything about this part of the world,” Linda says. “We needed to know, to see it on our own. Pictures don’t tell you anything compared to seeing it,” Jerry adds. “It was very encouraging to see what those donations are doing.”

The colony members felt compelled to contribute even more to MCC’s work after the learning tour. In 2018, they’re donating 30 more acres of land to Grow Hope, a total of 80 acres. The Waldners were also inspired to share what they witnessed with others. They spoke to members of Silverwinds Hutterite Colony near Rosenort, Manitoba and now they’re donating 40 acres of their own land.

“I think everyone would feel like they should give more if they were on that tour. I think it makes a difference,” he says.
Barista credits Sam’s Place experience for first job

When Hilda Askar isn’t in school, she’s steaming milk, pouring espresso and working a cash register at a Starbucks in Winnipeg.

Askar credits her job to a volunteer experience at Sam’s Place in 2016. Sam’s Place is a café and bookstore run by MCC Manitoba which provides training for youth and young adults looking to enter the workforce—especially those who face barriers to employment.

Askar believes her experience at Sam’s Place was what got her the job at the coffee chain known for its excellent customer service.

“Everything I did at Sam’s Place was what I talked about in my interview. I think if I didn’t volunteer there and didn’t get the experience necessary to get my foot in that door, I wouldn’t be where I am today,” she says.

In the last year alone, Sam’s Place staff have trained more than 150 youth ages 14-24. Sometimes these youth face barriers to employment, but in cases like Askar’s, Sam’s Place can break down those barriers.

Askar says she regularly recommends Sam’s Place as a place for her peers to gain job experience.

“Whenever someone comes to me directly and talks about their résumé, I mention it right away,” she says.

“Everything I did at Sam’s Place was what I talked about in my interview. I think if I didn’t volunteer there and didn’t get the experience necessary to get my foot in that door, I wouldn’t be where I am today.” – Hilda Askar
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.

24,530 Relief kits

560 Sewing kits
78,035 School kits
774,069 Canned meat (lbs)
63,841 Comforters
10,396 Infant care kits
69,375 Hygiene kits

Global Service Learning

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.
Finances

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

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

FUNDING SOURCES
$107 MILLION

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM EXPENSES
BY THEME

INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC PROGRAM EXPENSES
BY REGION

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

Disaster response
- $19,140,000

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

Contributions
- Cash and other $56,443,000
- Thrift $19,315,000
- Material resources $7,129,000
- Relief sales $6,190,000
- Other $6,559,000

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

United States
- $7,554,000

Canada
- $11,870,000

Latin America & Caribbean
- $8,128,000

Africa
- $17,417,000

Asia
- $13,568,000

Europe & Middle East
- $17,796,000

Multi-region
- $7,999,000
MCC around the world

57 countries
508 partners
716 projects
1,133 workers

Canada
445 MCC workers*
$11.9 million
*includes Thrift

United States
210 MCC workers
$7.6 million

Latin America & the Caribbean
108 MCC workers
$8.1 million

Africa
143 MCC workers
$17.4 million

Canada
445 MCC workers*
$11.9 million
*includes Thrift
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)