“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

Matthew 22:37–39 (NRSV)
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A message from MCC Canada’s executive director

“W

e at MCC are filled with gratitude and awe as we reflect on the past year. We are thankful for our homes in Canada that are so often graced with peace, security and abundance. But we recognize that millions of people around the world do not enjoy this same reality.

Thank you for partnering with us to compassionately serve these neighbours to ensure that “home” is a better place in more than 50 countries.

RELIEF: While conflict persists in Syria, MCC continues to work in the region where we have served for 25 years. Since 2012, MCC has sent more than 60 shipments of hygiene items, blankets and other supplies. These small gifts have made homes throughout the region safer and healthier.

In Canada, our refugee resettlement program helped hundreds of groups across the country welcome more than 1,100 refugees — including many from Syria and Iraq — to our communities. We are so pleased to be a small part of their journey to a new home.

DEVELOPMENT: MCC launched a three-year project in Afghanistan focused on improving the health of mothers, newborns and young children. We are incredibly grateful that this work will be supported by a $9.3-million grant from the Canadian government.

And although we retired the “Global Family” name in 2016, MCC’s education projects are still going strong. For example, our Zimbabwe Matabeleland South school improvement plan benefits nearly 800 children and their teachers. Your support repairs school buildings, purchases local classroom supplies, and provides school fees and uniforms for children in need.

PEACE: MCC continues to advocate for safe and secure homes for both Palestinians and Israelis, recognizing that followers of Jesus are called to love all people. Last fall, I travelled to the Holy Land with a group of denominational representatives from the Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders. The images and people I encountered — Palestinians and Israelis who are deeply committed to peace — will stay with me long after I leave MCC.

As I transition out of the role of executive director this September, my prayer for each home, whether near or far, reflects the vision of Isaiah 32:16–18:

Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. (NRSV)

In Christ’s peace,

Don Peters, Executive Director
MCC Canada

“The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.”

MCC Canada board members

Peggy Snyder (Chair), CCAL*
Walter Thiessen (Vice-Chair), Eastern Canada
Scott Siemens (Treasurer), Member-at-Large
Erica Fehr (Secretary), CCAL
Peter Wolfe, MCC British Columbia
Kris Peters, MCC Alberta
Peter Guenther, MCC Saskatchewan
Ernie Wiens, MCC Manitoba
Margaret Armanatides, MCC Ontario
Maggie Bergen, CCAL
Andrew Scanlan, CCAL
Paul Gilbert, Member-at-Large
David Chow, Member-at-Large

*Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders

--In Matabeleland South, Zimbabwe, school infrastructure is dilapidated and in some cases hazardous

Allen Ndlovu recalls using logs and rocks as chairs and tables for his students, but this year “we are celebrating,” he says. “All the textbooks and teaching materials are now available…. This partnership between MCC and the school has changed the situation and brought hope to the community.” (Photo courtesy of Allen Ndlovu)
Your place in this story

Thank you for picking up this copy of our 2016/2017 Annual Report. While the words “annual report” may bring up images of dry financial statements and business reporting, we hope you’ll see something quite different in these pages: yourself.

What follows is an overview of our work in the last year, and a sample of the ways we have used your gifts. We serve communities around the world that are full of innovation and resilience, but they face some incredible obstacles. That’s where you come in.

Your gifts to MCC have made a difference in so many ways—much more than we can capture in a 32-page report. You have made sure that MCC can be there, empowering those on the margins, joining families and communities to face the threats of poverty, conflict, disaster and disease.

I hope you’ll be inspired by the stories of those we serve, and that you’ll be touched to see your own place in this story: in almost 60 countries, MCC is there—thanks to you.

Darryl Loewen, Executive Director
MCC Manitoba

MCC Manitoba board members

Stefan Epp-Koop (Chair), MCM
Ernie Wiens (Vice-chair), MBCM
Janessa Giesbrecht (Secretary), Member-at-large
Gerald Loeppky (Treasurer), Member-at-large
Barry Dyck, MBCM
Catherine Enns, Member-at-large
Dan Block, MBCM
Ed Barkman, EMC
Ellen Paulley, Member-at-large
Frank Reimer, EMC
Jared Redekop, MCM
Kelsey Hutton, MCM
Murray Barkman, EMC
Peter Nickel, RMC
Rodney Stahn, EMMC
Stephanie Stobbe, MBCM
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.
MCC and partner Zakho Small Villages Project (ZSVP) staff climb the hill beside Dubardan, Iraq, where a new water tank and buried network of water pipes will replace the old system of ad-hoc, above-ground piping.

With support from MCC’s account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, ZSVP helps families who are returning to their homes in small towns and villages of Iraq’s Nineveh governorate, which they fled in 2014 when the Islamic State group invaded the area. In Dubardan village, ZSVP is implementing a cash-for-work construction project that employs locals to construct a water network that connects each house in the village to a central source of potable water. (Photo/Joel Carillet)
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.

**Why financial support and cash transfers?**

In emergency situations, providing financial support such as vouchers and cash transfers allows people to prioritize their spending on what they need most. Their spending supports local markets and reduces the burden on communities that host people displaced by conflict and disasters.

Providing this type of support can also help empower women who might not otherwise have access to financial resources. In Syria, for example, the Syrian Orthodox Church provides monthly cash allowances which families use to help cover their food, shelter and medical needs.

- **94,519** people received emergency food assistance
- **25,834** people received locally purchased clothing, bedding, kitchen utensils and other materials
- **10,335** people received heaters and/or heating fuel for cold weather
- **4,510** people received financial support and cash transfers

Valentina Inskirveliy receives MCC relief including canned meat, hygiene kits, and blankets from MCC partner Care and Mercy Regional Charity Fund (CMZ), in Zhytomyr, Ukraine. MCC is partnering with CMZ to provide humanitarian assistance including canned meat, blankets, and kits to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable people. Through an MCC emergency response project, CMZ helped IDPs cover the cost of heating for the winter. (MCC photo/Colin Vandenberg)
An MCC project provided emergency food assistance for malnourished school children in Cueibet County, South Sudan. The project served a daily meal to 21,440 children in 52 schools to supplement the food received at home. Enrollment increased by nearly 300%, and teachers said the children were able to concentrate and learn better in class.

MCC’s Zakho Small Villages Project provided 12 months of emergency food baskets to 1,000 internally displaced Iraqi families. In October 2016, 99% of families reported an acceptable level of food consumption thanks to the assistance MCC was able to give.

With partner ANADES, MCC worked with nine communities in El Salvador to better prepare them for emergencies and train them in disaster prevention. Activities like planting trees and grasses to lessen the risk of landslides will help reduce the vulnerability of these communities to natural hazards.

“We could touch the love in the things they gave us. This love fed us. It wasn’t just words.”
— Andriy Chaus of Nikopol, Ukraine, expressing his thanks for the assistance he received through MCC partner New Life Charitable Fund
HEALTH

MCC’s health work focuses on improving the health and well-being of vulnerable people, including: teaching prevention of 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.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MCC’s projects in the area of health align with several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which countries around the world have pledged to work toward.

- **SDG #3** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- **SDG #6** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Go to mcccanada.ca/development-goals for more information and to see how MCC’s work aligns in other ways with the SDGs.
“Jesus sought out those he knew society may look down upon. He made them feel accepted and wanted, and he fulfilled their needs — not half-heartedly, or out of obligation, but with a heart full of love and humility.”

— SALTer Judy Wiebe of Picture Butte, Alberta, who served as a hospital nurse with Faith Alive Foundation in Nigeria.

People who attended improved hygiene practice sessions

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<th>FY2015</th>
<th>FY2016</th>
<th>FY2017</th>
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Households connected to an improved water source

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<th>FY2016</th>
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<td>Uganda</td>
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<td>6,757</td>
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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Lebanon

- HEALTH TRAINING · TRAUMA CARE ·

With partner Our Lady Dispensary, MCC is improving the health of community members and refugees in Lebanon. After people participated in health training sessions, 76% said they experienced decreased stress or anxiety in daily life. And 93% of those who attended trauma care sessions were able to identify self-care strategies for grief or trauma.

Uganda

- WATER · SANITATION · HYGIENE ·

A safe water, sanitation and hygiene improvement project helped 7,320 children in nine primary schools in the Kasese district of Uganda to lead healthier lives. Since April 2016, five schools constructed separate latrines for girls, boys and teachers, and 117 tippy taps (handwashing facilities) with soap were installed in schools and homes.

“Many families can’t afford feminine sanitary products, so many girls have to miss school during their menses. What does this mean? Increased vulnerability to early sexual exploitation, pregnancy and marriage; risk of HIV; lower wage earning in the future; gender inequality; and adult poverty. Through the involvement of the KEDHAP Foundation, the girls’ absenteeism has dropped significantly or stopped completely.”

— SALTer Judy Loewen of Rosemary, Alberta, who served as a health educator at KEDHAP in Kenya.
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.

Farmers like Etienne Tiendrébeogo in Yé, Burkina Faso, have been trained by an MCC agriculture partner to use half-moon and Zai farming techniques which capture rainwater during storms. These conservation agriculture techniques help control erosion, improve soil fertility, and increase water retention in the soil, ensuring families have enough to eat throughout the year. (MCC photo/James Souder)

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. In the past budget year, the Foodgrains Bank provided more than $411 million of assistance to over 900,000 people in 35 countries. A significant amount of that assistance was in response to conflict and drought.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank
A Christian Response to Hunger

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 creates opportunities for artisans around the world to earn income by bringing their products and stories to North America. This year, Ten Thousand Villages provided sustainable livelihoods to more than 20,000 artisans from 27 countries through its direct, fair trade purchases of quality, handcrafted products.

579,643 pounds of MCC canned meat shipped

38,278 students participated in school feeding programs

2,265 kitchen or community gardens planted
Through our account at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, MCC implemented the Monga mitigation project in Bangladesh, supporting farmers to raise livestock and providing food assistance for families and their animals. Since the beginning of this project, the average family income increased from US$90 to $599. And the amount of protein consumed per day increased by 12%, helping people maintain higher nutrient diets.

MCC’s four-year project in the Assosa and Bambasi districts of Ethiopia promotes the adoption of conservation agriculture (CA) principles, such as minimum tillage, mulching and intercropping. During the first year of the project, the farmers’ CA plots yielded an average of 8.7 tonnes/hectare, as compared to their average conventional yields of 1.5 tonnes/hectare. Now, 1,529 farmers are using CA principles – even though the project originally expected to train only 700.

With partner Cosecha, MCC works in Camotan, Guatemala, on a project focused on horticultural production, organization, training and adaptation to climate change. Twenty-two families are now producing an average of 9.5 kilograms of vegetables per family through their home gardens and consuming vegetables such as onions, cabbage, lettuce and radishes.
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.

Stansberry Children’s Home has been a refuge for abandoned children in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, since 1954. Stansberry also runs a day care program, providing a safe, educational environment where kids can learn and grow while parents focus on sustaining their families. The day care provides snacks, play time and counselling to about 100 children from the children’s home and surrounding neighbourhood. (Stansberry photo/Juliane Kozel)

MCC’s projects in the area of education align with one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which countries around the world have pledged to work toward.

- SDG#4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Go to mcccanada.ca/development-goals for more information and to see how MCC’s work aligns in other ways with the SDGs.
“What sort of insights have I had this year? The power of a smile. Not just in a teaching position, but just in general being in a different culture. Start with a smile and laugh if you make a mistake, and it goes a long way.”
— SALTer Stefanie Heide of Aylmer, Ontario, who served as a university English teacher and tutor at Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

Through partner Help the Afghan Children, MCC offered basic computer education classes in Paghman district schools in Afghanistan. High school students gained important computer skills, enabling them to seek and obtain work in this expanding field. 1,518 students were trained, and the percentage of students demonstrating key competencies in word processing increased from 0% to 60% during the project.

MCC partner Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EPRT) has 270 volunteers and forms a critical force for peace in Plateau State, Nigeria, by encouraging a culture of non-violence, mediating conflict and serving as an early warning system for conflict. In schools with EPRT peace clubs, the number of students experiencing physical punishments dropped from an average of 100 students per school to six students per school.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

**Afghanistan**

- **COMPUTER SKILLS**
- **PEACE CLUBS**

**Nigeria**

**Adult literacy**

The global literacy rate for all people aged 15 and above is 86.3%. When adults develop literacy skills, they increase their potential of finding sustainable income and are better equipped to carry out daily tasks — including important things like reading a medicine bottle.

In Egypt, Magda Raouf Shafik is now able to read her Bible and help her nephews with homework thanks to an adult literacy class. (Diocese of Mallawi photo/Father Yohanna Fayez)
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.

“Many years ago our ancestors came as refugees,” reflects Elaine Hofer (third from left). “If Canada hadn’t welcomed Hutterite refugees, many of us wouldn’t be here today.” Hutterite members of Green Acres Colony near Wawanesa, Manitoba, worked with MCC to sponsor a refugee family from Syria. From left, Wanda Waldner, Najwa Hussein Al Mohamad, Elaine Hofer, Reyad Alhamoud, Paul Waldner and 1-year-old Lee Waldner meet together at Green Acres Colony. (Photo courtesy of Ava Waldner)

MCC has longstanding work with Low German-speaking Mennonites living in communities and colonies across North and South America, including promoting German literacy and education through Die Mennonitische Post and Das Blatt, a children’s monthly magazine.

The Ottawa Office participated in the Canadian government’s International Assistance Review to help rethink our country’s international assistance policies and programs. This important review was the first one of its kind in about 20 years. Ottawa staff participated in various in-person consultations with Global Affairs Canada and provided a substantive written submission to the government. MCC was able to provide input on issues like:

• migration and displacement;
• conflict prevention and peacebuilding practices;
• policy building.

For more information, go to mcccanada.ca/IAP_review

The number of refugees from more than 10 countries who were welcomed to Canada with help from MCC is 1,152+.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Die Mennonitische Post, the German-language periodical published bimonthly by MCC, celebrated its 40th anniversary in June 2017. As one of the last remaining German-language publications in North America, the Post has 13,500 subscribers from Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Belize, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina and beyond.

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• policy building.

For more information, go to mcccanada.ca/IAP_review

The number of refugees from more than 10 countries who were welcomed to Canada with help from MCC is 1,152+.
Part of our family
Low German Mennonites in Southern Manitoba

Jacob and Helena Guenter and their family immigrated to Manitoba from Mexico two years ago to create a new life, but soon found themselves jobless and feeling lost in a new country.

They were unable to receive support from the local settlement services office, which only had funding to support newcomers with Permanent Resident status. Jacob holds Canadian citizenship and Helena is a temporary resident with a Work Permit.

The family turned to MCC’s Low German Mennonite Services, a Winkler-based program that assists Low German-speaking newcomers with information regarding health insurance, advice on driver’s licensing and birth registration and more. The program also helps connects newcomers with English and literacy classes, and other important services.

Many residents in the Winkler area do not know that these needs exist, according to program coordinator Tina Fehr Kehler. “There are many people that are immigrating to rural areas… who would otherwise fall through the cracks,” she says. “This program is a part of MCC and it’s a part of our history. This is a matter of helping empower them as they start life in Manitoba.”

Where are MCC-supported refugees coming from?

As a private sponsorship agreement holder with the Canadian government, MCC worked with hundreds of groups to help bring more than 1,100 refugees to Canada during last fiscal year.

Syria
724

Iran
12

Iraq
118

Pakistan
16

Myanmar/Burma
35

Colombia
39

Eritrea
61

Sudan
21

DR Congo
56

Other
58

Other
**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.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

Colombia

- **TRAUMA HEALING** -
  At the end of 2016, the Colombian government signed a peace accord with the country's largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP) after 50 long years of social and political violence. MCC partners with the Church Coordination for Psychosocial Action to help churches and church-related organizations develop and implement strategies for trauma healing and resilience.

DR Congo

- **CONFLICT MANAGEMENT TRAINING** -
  MCC worked to reduce conflict, promote healing, and build relationships across ethnic differences in communities in North Kivu province, DR Congo. In this peacebuilding project, 375 people participated in training workshops. Afterwards, 52% of participants shared food with members of an opposing group, 50% hosted members of the opposite group in their homes, and 45% of participants took part in meetings with members of the opposite group.

**PARTNER PROFILE**

In Iraq, MCC supports the Azidi Solidarity and Fraternity League (ASFL). In one ASFL project, displaced youth like Feryal (pictured, last name not used for security reasons) worked toward peace by sharing and documenting stories of trauma and resilience. These kinds of stories told by people of different religious and ethnic backgrounds build understanding and help avoid future conflict. Through this project, 36 stories were documented and published on social media, reaching approximately 5,070 people. (MCC photo/Matthew Sawatsky)
Ministry of reconciliation

Talking kimchi with North Koreans

By Darryl Loewen

It is a turbulent time of rising hostilities on the Korean peninsula. The 70-year division between the Korean people is one of the most tragic in history. The war remains unresolved between the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), also known as North Korea, the U.S. and South Korea, and little progress has been made toward a new future. Yet, over decades of working on both sides of the Korean divide, including 22 years in North Korea, MCC has learned that hope and reconciliation are not only possible, but are signs of God’s faithfulness. The following is a reflection by Darryl Loewen, executive director of MCC in Manitoba.

I was grateful for the opportunity in early 2017 to sit around the dinner table on a Manitoba farm and share a Mennonite feast with local friends, some MCC colleagues, and our five guests from North Korea.

The delegation was here for a few days of meetings with MCC about our work in their country, tour stops in southern Manitoba, and mutual learning about agriculture, development work and each other.

But for me, it was something that happened at that meal that captured the real purpose of the visit and the heart of MCC’s work; we talked about kimchi.

As we chatted warmly, laughed and talked about our families, our guests shared their favourite recipes and family secrets for making kimchi, a traditional Korean dish.

In the old days, they said, the cabbage, radish and peppers went into a clay pot and were buried in the yard until they were ready. You’ve probably had a similar conversation — maybe, like me, you’ve listened to aunties or grandmas reminisce about the old days of preserving veggies and fruit and butchering a winter’s supply of sausage.

MCC has been working in North Korea for 22 years, and we know the political and humanitarian situation well. We also know that kimchi recipes won’t make the sabre-rattling go away or change some disturbing news about the country. But for me, that family dinner was part of the ongoing work of peacebuilding, and helped illustrate that there’s always more to the story — more to the people — than what we might think.

Peace clubs

This year, MCC supported 374 active peace clubs — an increase of 200% over last year. Each club brings students together to learn how to resolve conflict between their peers. “I have been part of the peace club for two years now, and it has impacted my life greatly,” says Patrick Asuquo of Plateau State, Nigeria. “Conflict is a given. But there are ways to settle differences that lead to forgiveness and nonviolence. I want to be part of those solutions.”

OTTAWA OFFICE

Thirty students attended this year’s Ottawa Office student seminar called “Gender, peace and conflict: Exploring the intersection.” The participants, representing 15 schools from six provinces, spent two and a half days exploring how gender relates to contexts of peace and armed conflict. These young men and women had the opportunity to hear from elected officials, civil servants and civil society members working on gender and peacebuilding issues. They also had a tour of Parliament, attended Question Period and experienced some chilly Winterlude fun.
MoN CA'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 addiction, 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 reintegration initiatives; publishing books and resources.

Innu elder Elisabeth Penashue (centre) shares her traditional knowledge with university students Janie Pepin and Hailey Climenhage at Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation on the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador in December 2016. Across Canada, MCC’s work with Indigenous neighbours seeks to build bridges of reconciliation and understanding, creating opportunities for relationship-building and learning. For example, MCC in the Maritimes sponsored a learning tour to Timmins, Ontario, in May 2016, where participants learned about the efforts of mining companies to rehabilitate the land around tailings ponds, and also met with leaders and elders from Mattagami First Nation. (MCC photo/Dianne Climenhage)

Innu elder Elisabeth Penashue demonstrates how to skin a beaver at Sheshatshiu First Nation, Newfoundland and Labrador. As an elder, Elisabeth helps people from non-Indigenous backgrounds understand the Innu culture, and teaches the next generation of Innu children traditional practices, such as filleting salmon, hollowing caribou bones or baking bread in the sand. (MCC photo/Dianne Climenhage)

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action #48 and #49, MCC Canada’s board issued a public statement to acknowledge the long, complex history and current relationships between MCC, as an institution and its workers, and the Indigenous peoples of what we now call Canada.

MCC repudiates concepts used to justify European superiority over Indigenous peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery. Such concepts of superiority, coercion, violence and abuse are opposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to the inherent dignity and equality we believe all people have received from God.

To read the full response, visit: mcccanada.ca/trc-response

This year, the Ottawa Office continued to speak to the Canadian government about the conflict in Iraq and Syria, urging the government to end its military approaches — such as airstrikes, and assisting and arming Kurdish forces — and to strengthen investment in diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, and conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives in the region.

To read a recent letter from MCC to the Canadian government, go to mcccanada.ca/letter_to_Cdn_govt
Abuse response and prevention
A personal calling for program coordinator

Prior to beginning her position as Abuse Response and Prevention Coordinator for MCC Manitoba, Jaymie Friesen worked with survivors of abuse in Southeast Asia. “The experience was eye-opening, because I witnessed survivors of serious trauma and abuse healing and reclaiming their life. It inspired a lot of hope in me,” Friesen explains.

The experience also helped her come to terms with how much abuse occurs around the world—including in her own family. “A lot of my relatives are survivors of abuse… I witnessed the effects of abuse that went unhealed and unacknowledged for so many years,” she explains.

In Friesen’s role with MCC, she wants to engage with Mennonite groups about topics that are sometimes portrayed as an external problem, rather than ones that occur within the church. MCC offers workshops for adults and youth in areas such as preventing abuse, healthy relationships, trauma and power dynamics in relationships.

“Find out more at mccmb.ca/abuse.”

Circles of Support and Accountability
Enlarging the circle to walk alongside those recently released from prison

This year in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador, MCC took strides to improve access to resources to help people recently released from prison.

In May 2016, MCC helped to recruit and train volunteers for Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) to support newly released people who have been convicted of sexual offenses.

In October 2016, MCC partnered with Northern Canada Evangelical Mission to establish a program called Second Wind in central Labrador, which helps people who have been released from prison or have addictions issues, but don’t fit CoSA’s criteria. Through Second Wind, MCC offers long-term support and friendship as men and women work to transition back into their community.

Dianne and Marty Climenhage, MCC representatives in the area, say these programs are some of the only ones available. “Without programs like these, the people we serve would have limited access to supports. Some communities only have 500 people, and the victim and offender may live in the same area. We focus on the victim by helping the offender not offend again,” Dianne says.

“And that’s how we help the community,” Marty adds. MCC provides access to tools that individuals and communities need to heal.

“In July 2016, MCC representatives Dianne and Marty Climenhage visited Nain, Nunatsiavut in Newfoundland and Labrador to discuss restorative justice and food security projects. They met with community members and leaders Gordon Obed (far right) and Silpa Obed (second from left), pictured with their family. (MCC photo/Dianne Climenhage)”
The financial information on this page presents the combined operations of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. (excluding Ten Thousand Villages Canada) for the year ended March 31, 2017, 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.

**EXPENSES**

$100.4 MILLION

- **Relief**: $20,001,000
- **Development**: $46,075,000
- **Peace**: $16,159,000
- **Administration**: $13,116,000
- **Fundraising**: $5,077,000
**Revenue**

$114.1 million

**International Program Expenses by Themes**

$61.8 million

- Education
  - $10,521,059
- Food security & sustainable livelihoods
  - $16,567,778
- Health
  - $8,518,146
- Migration & resettlement
  - $167,990
- Humanitarian relief & disaster recovery
  - $16,486,263
- Peacebuilding
  - $8,016,816
- Conflict prevention
  - $1,367,392
- Restorative justice
  - $134,169
- Government grants*
  - $18,846,000
- Non-government grants
  - $3,197,000
- Other
  - $9,910,000

*A portion of these funds are held in a restricted fund for future budgeted international program expenses.

**International and Domestic Program Expenses by Region**

$82.2 million

- Africa
  - $17,376,567
- Asia
  - $12,064,435
- Europe & Middle East
  - $16,425,420
- Latin America & Caribbean
  - $7,978,649
- Canada
  - $12,821,641
- United States
  - $7,660,593
- Multi-region
  - $7,907,695

- Cash & other contributions
  - $48,986,000
- MCC Thrift
  - $20,386,000
- Relief sales
  - $6,088,000
- Material resources
  - $6,731,000
- Non-government grants
  - $3,197,000
- Other
  - $9,910,000

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MCC MANITOBA FINANCES

**EXPENSES**

- **International programs** $7,420,834 (73%)
- **Manitoba programs** $1,684,967 (16%)
- **Admin & fundraising** $1,172,823 (11%)

**REVENUE**

- **General Contributions** $6,069,838 (59%)
- **Thrift Shops** $3,262,285 (32%)
- **Government Grants** $130,000 (2%)
- **Material Resources** $356,420 (3%)
- **Other Income** $298,893 (3%)
- **Fundraising Events** $179,242 (1%)
MCC stands with those who are suffering and cares for their needs in a tangible way. In times of disaster, war or conflict, we share basic resources that let people know they have not been forgotten. Through material resources centres (MRCs) in Canada and the U.S., MCC receives, packs and ships donated goods to countries around the world. We provide assistance in the form of relief kits, school kits, hygiene kits, sewing kits, comforters, canned meat and more. Material resources centres rely on thousands of volunteers to do the hands-on work. Churches, families, school and community groups, and retirees give their time to pack kits, make quilts and work on recycling projects. We are grateful to all these volunteers and donors who help us provide emergency assistance to people in need.

- In Aleppo, Syria, a worker for Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) delivers an MCC relief kit to Sosamma (name changed for security reasons), a 91-year-old woman who left her home in a state of shock after a missile hit it last summer. She now lives alone with great difficulty and suffers from memory loss. Without a regular income, she relies on help from others and appreciates MCC’s relief kit. (Photo courtesy of MECC)

Countries receiving MCC shipments of material resources*
(Such as comforters, hygiene kits, relief kits, canned meat, etc.)

* Shipped between April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017, indicated by Canadian dollar value of goods.

MCC comforters have many uses

1. They provide warmth and comfort on a bed
2. They keep out winter drafts from windows
3. They swaddle babies
4. They are a tangible sign of God’s love
MCC AROUND THE WORLD

56 countries
515 partners
767 projects
1,118 workers

Canada
413 MCC workers*
$12.8 million
*includes Thrift

United States
194 MCC workers
$7.6 million

Latin America & the Caribbean
118 MCC workers
$8 million

Africa
154 MCC workers
$17.3 million

Canada:
- 413 MCC workers
- $12.8 million

United States:
- 194 MCC workers
- $7.6 million

Latin America & the Caribbean:
- 118 MCC workers
- $8 million

Africa:
- 154 MCC workers
- $17.3 million
Global Service Learning†

25 YAMEN* participants
*YOUNG ANABAPTIST MENNONITE EXCHANGE NETWORK

48 IVEP* participants
*INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

53 SALT* participants
*SERVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

30 Seed participants

10 Summerbridge participants

50 Summer Service participants

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

†Numbers represent participants who began their service term between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017.

Map indicates program costs in Canadian dollars for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017.
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 repurpose gently used items as a way to care for the environment.

Over the past year, MCC Thrift surveyed donors, shoppers and volunteers to find out what was working well and what needed to change. Through this process, we updated the Thrift website to make it easier for people to find information about their local shop and learn more about what we do. Go to thrift.mcc.org to see what’s new.

We also used the feedback we received from donors, shoppers and volunteers to refresh our brand and introduce a new look, including an updated logo.

We are grateful for our more than 10,000 volunteers, 300 shop managers, and hundreds of board and committee members in Canada and the U.S. who give so much of themselves to this work. MCC Thrift contributed more than $20 million to the work of MCC during this past fiscal year, and we couldn’t do it with you. Thank you!

We invite you to:

- Shop, donate or volunteer at MCC Thrift because you care… about your family, your community and beyond.
- Shop, donate or volunteer at MCC Thrift because your dollars matter… as you spend wisely and share what you have with others.
- Shop, donate or volunteer at MCC Thrift because you hope for a better world… environmentally, economically, socially and spiritually.

Go to thrift.mcc.org to see what’s new.

Thank you for your support!

Since the early 1970s, MCC Canada Thrift shops have contributed more than $119,444,000 to Mennonite Central Committee

International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) participant Antonio Lebranca (left) from Mozambique and service worker Thomas Gleichauf (right) from Germany help load a delivery truck at the MCC Centre Thrift Shop in Abbotsford, B.C. (MCC photo/Luke Tilley)
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.
30     MCC in Manitoba and Canada
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. The program provides training on nutrition, locally available foods, kitchen gardens and the importance of pre- and post-natal care as well as training for peer educators. The project also provides seeds and supplies for gardens, funds for income generation through savings groups and supplementary food to families most in need. (MCC Photo/Colin Vandenberg)
Students participate in psychosocial activities run by MCC partner Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARD) in southern Lebanon.

PARD has worked for years in Palestinian areas in southern Lebanon and began psychosocial activities to give Syrian and Palestinian refugees tools to address trauma and a chance to express themselves and grow in confidence. Activities are held on Friday mornings at community centres and schools, including this one in Jim Jeem, a Palestinian area in southern Lebanon. (MCC photo/Matthew Sawatzky)