There were hugs, tears and smiles all around as families were reunited in Canada after being separated for many years. MCC Ontario was able to welcome over 450 newcomers to Canada this fiscal year.
Walking with hosts and guests

"And let us...provoke one another to love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24"

I have only heard it once. A young indigenous man, he happened to be from Attawapiskat, said something like this: “We are not opposed to refugees from Syria coming here, but have you forgotten your relationship with us!?”

He nailed it. He nailed me. From early in the days of the Syrian Refugee urgency I have wrestled with this question. I am building a relationship with a family of seven from a small village in Syria who is being sponsored by my church. I am deeply committed to seeing all of them enter fully and richly into life in Canada. And, God willing, it is very likely they will.

Frankly it is far more likely to happen for them than for the young lad from Attawapiskat who is reminding us of our first priority relationship…of our link to the people who welcomed my newcomer tribe here. Our hosts.

Both our Attawapiskat friend, and our new friends from Syria have faced violence. In the middle east it is the violence that makes news. Along the shores of James Bay it is the slow grind of structural violence.

Our Syrian friend fled the violence, while our friend in Attawapiskat is still in it. One is now a guest here, one has always been the host. Both represent peoples with whom MCC has deep, long and mutually transformative relationships.

Yet while many refugees thrive, too many of our indigenous neighbours struggle on the margins in urban and traditional landscapes. We at MCC cannot make this better. But we can build hope-filled relationships and walk humbly beside while persistently working for change.

Thank you for joining us as we honour both those we host and those who continue to host us.

Rick Cober Bauman, Executive Director, MCC Ontario

Thank you!

Your generous support throughout the year allows MCC to continue its work around the world—both locally and internationally. MCC Ontario is one part of a global, nonprofit organization 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. Here is a brief snapshot of how MCC puts your dollars to work.
**Mennonite Central Committee by the numbers**

### MCC Ontario's dollars at work

- **$15.2 million**
  - $3,654,122 Ontario programs
  - $9,973,509 Forwarded to MCC Canada
  - $1,609,809 Administration & fundraising

### MCC Ontario's funding sources

- **$15.2 million**
  - $8,169,254 Donations
  - $3,029,364 Thrift shops
  - $649,216 Relief Sales
  - $528,135 Material Aid in Kind
  - $3,029,364 MCC's Thrift shops
  - $9,973,509 Forwarded to MCC Canada
  - $1,609,809 Administration & fundraising

### MCC's dollars at work*

- **$86.6 million**
  - 19% Relief
  - 45% Development
  - 15% Peace
  - 21% Administration & fundraising

### MCC's funding sources*

- **$82.7 million**
  - 43% Cash & other donations
  - 21% MCC Thrift shops
  - 17% Grants (Government & Other)
  - 7% Other
  - 7% Relief sales & events
  - 5% Donations (material resources)

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**Based on the combined budgets of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. for the year ended March 31, 2016. MCC Canada’s annual report will be available in September 2016 at mcccanada.ca**

**Based on the combined budgets of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. for the year ended March 31, 2016. MCC Canada also budgeted to use $3.9 million of reserve funds during Fiscal Year 2016.**
Welcoming newcomers with gifts of warmth and fun

The Material Resources and Refugee programs at MCCO have a tradition of welcoming newcomer refugees who arrive in Ontario with a Welcome Kit.

The Welcome Kits became a collaborative effort that included school backpacks from a World Vision and Staples partnership, toys collected by the Knights of Colombus, knitted hats from the grassroots 25 000 Tuques movement, comforters hand-made by MCC donors and volunteers, MCC Thrift gift cards, and donations of bed sheets and other household items.

“The LEGO was a wonderful gift,” says Sarah Quackenbush, a sponsor from Manitoulin, about the toys included in the Welcome Kit. She added, “Mohammed eagerly opened it up and worked away at it alongside his new Canadian friend, Isaac. A language barrier is definitely not an issue for two children building LEGO.”

Ways to help

1. Make a relief or hygiene kit
2. Attend your local MCC relief sale
3. Organize a comforter knotting blitz at your church
4. Sew kit bags
5. Donate to MCC’s Syria and Iraq crisis campaign
6. Volunteer at your local Material Resource warehouse
7. Purchase a thrift gift card to be included in a Newcomer Welcome Kit

Donate to MCC’s relief work
mcccanada.ca/relief
Warmth for the winter
Delivering supplies to earthquake zone in Nepal

On April 25, 2015, Sudarshan Chepang and his family huddled inside their home as it collapsed around them. Now the family lives in a temporary shelter of tarps, sheet metal and salvaged material. “We know it will be cold, but where else can we go?” Chepang says.

In December, working with partner Sansthagat Bikas Sanjal, MCC provided Chepang’s family with winter jackets, blankets, tarps and mattresses. Across Nepal, MCC provided winter supplies to about 1,200 households.

Now we have blankets and [our children] will be warm. — Sudarshan Chepang

For more on our relief work, visit mcccanada.ca/relief

Sudarshan Chepang, his wife Jamnua Chepang, and one of their two children.
Helmi Ansari (right), his wife Mehreen Sait (3rd from right) and the Grosche staff team receiving their Living Wage Certificate of Recognition

Working for a Living Wage

“I remember getting paid $4 an hour washing dishes”

Helmi Ansari is not a low-paid worker today. In fact, he is co-owner of Grosche International, a Cambridge, Ontario company. His personal experience helped underline the value Grosche places on creating good work that pays a living wage.

Grosche is one of twenty organizations that signed on to pay all of their employees a living wage in the first year of the Living Wage Employer Program in Waterloo Region.

MCC Ontario is proud to be one of those organizations and to have helped launch Living Wage Waterloo Region. In that first year, more than eighty (80) workers saw a pay increase as a result of the Living Wage Employer Program.

In that first year, more than eighty (80) workers saw a pay increase as a result of the Living Wage Employer Program.

mcco.ca/living-wage

Ways to help

1. Advocate for employers to join the Living Wage Initiative in your community
2. Buy Indigenous-made Niska products
3. Take the TOOLS challenge
4. Advocate to end the burden of refugee transportation loans
5. Support Lazarus Rising as they respond to homelessness and marginalization in Toronto
6. Share a meal with a Low German newcomer family

Learn more about MCC’s development projects
mcccanada.ca/development
Henrique Cubonera Mbondo’s garden provides both food for his family and income.

Nourishing gardens in Mozambique

Sand dams provide water during dry season

In the village of Maule Maule, Mozambique, the rainy season lasts for only a few months, and families struggle to find enough water to sustain gardens. In 2013, a sand dam changed that for Henrique Cubonera Mbondo and his family. The dam, built in partnership with the Christian Council of Mozambique, provides water for 75 families during the dry season.

Mbondo has enough vegetables to feed his family, and a way to earn income. “I can sell vegetables to buy oil and maybe buy goats. I feel secure,” he says.

“Now I don’t have to go to the bush and find firewood to sell.” — Henrique Cubonera Mbondo

Learn more about how sand dams work mcccana.ca/stories/water-life-mcc-sand-dams

Henrique Cubonera Mbondo’s garden provides both food for his family and income.

HIGHLIGHTS*

- enabled 134 disadvantaged Roma children in Serbia to continue elementary school
- helped 45 families in Palestine to establish home gardens & produce vegetables
- ran literacy classes for 177 women in Afghanistan
- provided tailoring training for 126 students in Cambodia
- In Ontario increased awareness of Low German community needs to 330 people
- achieved 95% elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS at the Mengo Hospital in Uganda
- provided safe water for 6,000 people in Mozambique

*As of January 2016
MCC was pleased to join in the dance of Reconciliation during the Canada wide Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Hearings in 2015 - the dance is celebrated here in front of our Country’s Parliament Buildings with a Jingle Dress Dance; a healing dance.

Walking in Relationship

For more than 30 years, MCC Ontario has walked in relationship with First Nations across the province through the Indigenous Neighbours program.

From the Potato Island project aimed at improving food security in the 1980’s, to working with building teams during the 2013 housing crisis in Attawapiskat, MCC Ontario has remained committed to authentic relationship by working in partnership with First Nations.

We continue to walk alongside Indigenous communities through our commitment to the Calls to Action put forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including an ongoing commitment to be active in education initiatives with our Dancing Toward Reconciliation events.

Rick Cober Bauman, MCC Ontario Executive Director believes “through authentic listening and a heart aimed towards reconciliation we can (hopefully) unlearn centuries of history that have been so destructive.”

— Rick Cober Bauman

Ways to help

1. Expand your world by becoming an IVEP host family
2. Be challenged and changed through SALT
3. Volunteer with Circles of Support and Accountability
4. Pray for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Syria and for the millions of displaced people
5. Educate children to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves through the Circle of Grace curriculum
6. Download the MCC Ottawa Office advocacy toolkit

Learn more about MCC’s peace projects
mcccanada.ca/peace
In the midst of violence

Peace training for students in Honduras

Chamelecón, Honduras can sometimes feel like a war zone. Gangs take over schools at night, and people are shot at for catching a bus in the wrong place.

To help build peace, MCC supports a program run by Proyecto Paz y Justicia (Peace and Justice Project), part of the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Honduras. Volunteers teach students about respect, forgiveness and conflict resolution to help them deal with the violence around them.

Though many have fled the community, project coordinator Merelyn Amaya has stayed. “We never closed the door as the church. To the contrary we worked harder and more,” she says. “God gave us the hope that this will stop.”

Learn more about the peace project in Honduras  mcccanada.ca/honduras-peace

Merelyn Amaya is a coordinator for the MCC-supported peace program in Chamelecón, Honduras that teaches conflict resolution to students.
Making a Difference through Thrift

Ontario is home to 14 MCC Thrift Shops, and they are making a difference.

Over the past 40 years, MCC Thrift Shops have generated over $320 million dollars to support the relief, development, and peacebuilding work of MCC in Ontario and around the world – all while diverting millions of pounds from landfills across North America.

Jan Martens Janzen is the MCC Ontario Thrift Development Officer. She says, “Thrift Shoppers make a difference with every dollar and every donation. They’re helping support clean drinking water and food security, peacebuilding education, trauma healing, sustainable development and disaster relief in over 55 countries.”

Thrift Shops in Ontario receive upwards of a million donations a year, processed by over two thousand dedicated volunteers across our 14 shops. “I love volunteering here,” said a long-term volunteer at Thrift on Kent. “I love the people, and I feel like I’m doing something good for the world from right here in my own hometown.”

Learn more about MCC Thrift shops
thrift.mcccanada.ca
young adults participated in global service learning opportunities through SALT, IVEP and YAMEN

Ontarians volunteering overseas

Service workers
1. Rudi Okot
2. Raquel Conde Guevara
3. John & Helena Guenther
4. Erin & Nishant Das
5. Mark & Jane Sider
6. Krystan Pawlikowski & Ruth Plett
7. Wendy Martin
8. Doug & Naomi Enns

10. Cath & Peter Woolner
11. Glenn & Dawn Toering Boyes
12. Rebecca and Paul Shetler Fast
13. Emily Nigh & Tyler Braun
14. Margaret Sider
15. Bonnie Klassen

SALTers
1. Heidi Dyck
2. Janna Martin

Volunteer with SALT
Serving and Learning Together

Kara Hee-won Shin works with an MCC partner on peacebuilding projects in Kenya. One of the projects involves trauma healing for students who survived a 2015 attack at their college. “I have been astonished by their resilience,” she says. When asked about her SALT experience, Shin says; “If you want to look at the world through the eyes of strangers who welcome you…this is a safe place for you to come and do so.”

Volunteer with SALT
mcccanada.ca/salt
From Crisis to Community

Around Ontario, cities are opening their doors and welcoming newcomers.

When Adnan* fled Syria years ago with his wife, three children, and elderly mother, he did not know where they would end up. So much of his family’s life was now behind them. Their future was uncertain.

After years of waiting, Adnan’s family was sponsored by a church community and settled in St. Catharines, Ontario. The group, members of First Mennonite Church in Vineland, had worked for months to raise funds and develop a comprehensive settlement plan with the support of MCC Ontario’s Refugee Resettlement program.

After arriving, Adnan’s family was invited to the Mayor’s State of the City Luncheon as special guests. At the event, St. Catharines mayor Walter Sendzik formally welcomed the family of newcomers to their new community. Weeks later Adnan returned the favour, inviting Mayor Sendzik to his home to thank him for his warm reception. Without hesitation, the mayor accepted the offer, and met the family for tea.

“I came from a place where there was a divide between people with power and people without,” said Adnan. “Here... I have had the mayor in my home. We have been welcomed, and are able to be welcoming in return. To those who have helped us, and those who are helping so many families like mine, we are grateful for the incredible difference you’ve made.”

*name has been changed

Learn more about refugee resettlement in Ontario
mcco.ca/supporting-refugees
A wedding for Brian and Reem

Two Winnipeg churches organized a wedding celebration for Syrian refugees

When Brian Darweesh and Reem Younes got married, they were living as refugees in Lebanon fleeing violence in Syria and a threat on Darweesh’s life. There was no white dress and no party.

A little over a year later the couple had another wedding in Winnipeg. Though most of their family and friends were a world away, the church was full with people from the congregations that sponsored the couple through MCC’s sponsorship agreement.

“We do it because we love people and we feel that this is what God calls us to do: to reach out, to welcome the stranger, to be hospitable, to share what we have,” says Heidi Reimer from the settlement committee at Douglas Mennonite Church.

It’s clear that Darweesh and Younes are becoming part of the community that pitched in to plan the celebration. As Younes said to everyone at the reception, “even if my family is not here, really you are my family.”

Learn more about refugees
mcccanada.ca/refugees
Canada
406 MCC workers

United States
191 MCC workers

Latin America
& the Caribbean
111 MCC workers

MCC Ontario

Rick Cober Bauman
Executive Director
John Head
Associate Executive Director
Kim Lester
Revenue Development Director
Wendy Adema
Program Director
Rick Tozer
Interim Program Team Lead
Michelle Brenneman
Human Resources Coordinator

Sheryl Bruggeling
IVEP Coordinator, Events & Communications
Greg deGroot-Maggetti
People in Poverty Program Coordinator
Carolyn Gray
Material Resources Coordinator
Eileen Henderson
Restorative Justice Program Coordinator
Lily Hiebert Rempel
Low German Program Coordinator

Josh Hissa
Communications Coordinator
Jan Martens-Janzen
Thrift Development Officer
Bob Lebold
Physical Resources Coordinator
Moses Moini
Refugee Program Coordinator
Lyndsay Mollins Koene
Indigenous Neighbours Program Coordinator
55 countries
528 partners
761 projects

Europe & the Middle East
47 MCC workers

Asia
220 MCC workers

Africa
128 MCC workers

Map represents the full picture of MCC’s program for year ended March 31, 2016.
Note: Worker statistics are as of January 2016.

MCC Ontario Board Members

Karen Cornies (Chair)
Mike Tennant (Vice-Chair)
Dave Tiessen (Secretary)
Luke Jantzi (Treasurer)
Rick Cober Bauman (Ex-officio/Executive Director)
Sherry Main (BIC)
Jacob Enns (EMC)
Marlene Goertzen (MB)
Jonathan Silverthorn (MB)
Isaiah Ritzmann (MB)
Margaret Amanatides (MCEC)
Tim Wichert (MCEC)

Lynn Rempel (MCEC)
Jacob Reimer (Old Colony)
Anita Dong (Additional Director)
Sara Anderson (Additional Director)
Matt Steinman (Young Adult, CGUC)
Nico Thiessen (Young Adult, RUC)

BIC = Brethren In Christ
EMC = Evangelical Mennonite Church
MB = Mennonite Brethren
MCEC - Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
CGUC = Conrad Grebel University College
RUC = Redeemer University College
What is **Mennonite Central Committee?**

MCC is a charitable organization that partners with churches and community organizations worldwide to walk with people who are disadvantaged.

MCC supports activities that provide emergency assistance, reduce poverty and promote healthy communities, sustainable living and alternatives to violence.

It is a global ministry of Anabaptist churches in Canada and the U.S. which includes Mennonite and Brethren in Christ. MCC envisions communities in harmony with God, one another and creation.

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

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Thuli Chepang participates in a food security program in Dhading district. She learned how to grow her own garden for her own consumption and for market.