Shahlom and his cousin, Tamin Yeamin, in Dhobaura Upazila, Mymensingh District, Bangladesh. (MCC photo/Colin Vandenberg)
“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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We 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
A message from MCC Ontario’s executive director

"Love God, then love your neighbour"

Yet this year has shown us again how many of those compassionate Canadians who are not Anabaptist Christian but who are other kinds of Christians, or Muslims, or not at all people of faith, want to support MCC. And with few exceptions they respect or even applaud that our love of neighbour is grounded in our love of God. They also like the outcomes they see MCC achieving.

This is my last letter in an Annual Report for MCC Ontario as I am transitioning to the Executive Director role at MCC Canada. Though I can think of no reasons to leave, there are some compelling tugs pulling me to MCC Canada. This month it is exactly 25 years since Louise and I and our 3 children returned to Ontario from serving with MCC in Labrador. MCC Ontario has been a rich, fertile, encouraging and visionary place to serve. My gratitude for this opportunity is deep and lasting. My appreciation goes to all of you who are part of sharing God’s love and compassion in the name of Christ through MCC here in Ontario.

I invite you, my colleagues and co-servers, to remain grounded in our love of God. Our neighbours will be glad we did.

With peace,

Rick Cober Bauman
Executive Director, MCC Ontario
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.
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

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Blankets shipped</th>
<th>Relief kits shipped</th>
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<tr>
<td>FY2015</td>
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<td>FY2017</td>
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### SOUTH SUDAN

- **Emergency Food Assistance**

### IRAQ

- **Emergency Food Assistance**

### EL SALVADOR

- **Disaster Prevention**
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.

- Netff Nentfa (age 28) collects water from a tap built by MCC partner Migbare Senay Children and Family Support Organization (MSCFSO) as part of a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project in the Amhara region of Ethiopia. MSCFSO worked with MCC to rehabilitate the Dejel watershed, help communities stay healthy and become less vulnerable to the effects of drought. (MCC photo/Matthew Sawatzky)

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.

- 91,534 people attended health, HIV or reproductive health info sessions
- 55,115 hygiene kits shipped
- 14,498 people tested for HIV
- 9,992 infant care kits shipped
“Jesus sought out those he knew society may look down upon. He made them feel accepted and wanted, and be 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.

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.

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.
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 $41 million of assistance to over 900,000 people in 35 countries. A significant amount of that assistance was in response to conflict and drought.

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.
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.

“I believe my time in Chad will serve as an important part of my spiritual journey. It is necessary to face some of the perplexing questions of Christianity. However, I have also been realizing that faith necessitates a trusting, obedient step forward into things not entirely known.”

— SALTer Nathan Schmidt of Winnipeg, Manitoba, who served as an eco-charcoal and efficient cookstove project assistant in Chad.
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 counseling 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.
Children who participated in K-12 formal education

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>FY2016</th>
<th>FY2015</th>
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<td>45,151</td>
<td>43,807</td>
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Children who participated in early childhood education

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<th>FY2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,381</td>
<td>2,799</td>
<td>1,627</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Afghanistan**
  - **COMPUTER SKILLS**
    - 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.

- **Nigeria**
  - **PEACE CLUBS**
    - 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.

!”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.

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)

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

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.

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
Last year, MCC Ontario continued to experience a historic surge in refugee sponsorship, primarily dealing with the Syrian refugee crisis that came to a head in late 2015. Sponsor groups jumped from an average of less than 15 groups per year to 103 in 2016/17. We are so grateful for the overwhelming support of compassionate Canadians all over Ontario who welcomed over 380 newcomers into their communities. [mcco.ca/supporting-refugees]

Sometimes a welcome needs a little time to warm up

When a sponsor group told a homeowner that a refugee family would be moving in next door, the homeowner was concerned. To the growing discomfort of the sponsor group member, the neighbour went on a lengthy tirade about how he had lived in his house for many years, fixing it up and keeping it in good shape in order to raise the value of the house before retirement. "Now that I might want to sell it, the value will go down with them moving in!"

A few months passed and spring arrived. When the lead sponsor member saw the neighbour cleaning his yard, the sponsor greeted him. In the ensuing conversation, the neighbour inquired about the refugee family.

When the neighbour heard that the newcomers were doing well, his face lit up. He commented on how much he sees the newcomer children playing outside and how friendly the family is, greeting him every time they meet. "As soon as summer comes," he continued, "I want to invite them over for a barbecue and introduce the kids to my grandchildren. It would be so good for them to know each other."

The sponsor group was in awe of God’s grace and saw the ripple effect of welcoming refugees into their community. As one sponsor member put it, "It brings people together that might ordinarily not meet, and it makes the world a friendlier and kinder place to live in for all of us. The values of kindness and compassion and hospitality need to be practiced face to face in order to be truly alive."
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.

![Map of Colombia and DR Congo]

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

- **26,944** people trained in conflict transformation, peacebuilding or mediation strategies
- **10,616** people received psychological or trauma counselling, group therapy or support
- **11,459** people participated in community mobilization to prevent violence and promote peace

**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)
LOW GERMAN PROGRAMS

MCC Ontario

MCC Ontario provides settlement support to Low German newcomers through capacity development, networking, and advocacy and in partnership with Local Immigration and Adult Language and Learning programs across southwestern Ontario. Low German newcomers often face a number of challenges including a language barrier, cultural misunderstandings and poverty.

mcco.ca/lowgerman

Opportunities to learn more about this diverse and unique group of people

Low German Networking Conferences

Important events in the Low German program year are Networking Conferences, this year held in Aylmer, Leamington and London. Conferences are day-long forums where service providers, teachers, health practitioners, and others who serve and work with the Low German community have an opportunity to learn more about this distinct group of people.

This year’s workshops included topics that ranged from the significance and meaning behind their unique dress, to the nature of the Low German language, to the cultural values that shape their world view. One particularly popular session was the “Living Library” where participants selected a “human book” and signed up to listen to an individual’s story of migration, settlement, participation in Canadian life, or work with the Low German speaking community. Hearing personal stories was an effective way for people to learn about cultural sensitivity, customs and practices.

Over 400 participants took part in the conferences and were rewarded with many valuable lessons for improving the interactions and relationships between service providers and the Low German Community. Many participants noted that a major takeaway from the day was to "ask more questions. Get their story, learn their background, origins, [and] work history, instead of rushing through paperwork.”

Lily Hiebert Rempel, Low German Program Coordinator, MCC Ontario (MCC photo/Jennifer Vandermolen)

Over 400 participants took part in Low German Networking Conferences and were rewarded with many valuable lessons to improve the interactions and relationships between service providers and the Low German Community. (photo/Ingrid Heide)

Ann Suderman, Family and Children Services, Elgin St. Thomas presenting at the Aylmer Low German Networking Conference (photo/Ingrid Heide)
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

MCC’s restorative justice programs help individuals and churches find healthy ways to deal with harm and conflict, as well as respond to and prevent violence and sexual abuse. We also support healing processes through biblical reflection. Some of our restorative justice programs include: support for families and churches dealing with pornography 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)

Indigenous Neighbours

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

OTTAWA OFFICE

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
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

MCC Ontario

After many years of dedicated service and strong advocacy for those often shunned by society, Eileen Henderson resigned as the MCC Ontario Restorative Justice Coordinator. We are pleased to announce the hiring of Rod Friesen as the new coordinator. Rod brings a great deal of restorative justice experience and management skills to the position. Restorative justice views crime as not only the breaking of laws, but also the breaking of relationships. A restorative justice approach does not treat individuals as disposable despite their actions and works to prevent further harm. • mcco.ca/rj

Building safer communities

Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA), a program for women and men who have committed serious sexual offences, allows the community to play a direct role in the restoration, reintegration and risk management of people who are often viewed through a lens of only fear and anger. Despite continued funding challenges in Ontario, the work of CoSA staff, volunteers, and core members continues. In restorative justice, it is often the simple things that can bring profound growth. In Toronto, one CoSA community hosts a book club comprised of core members and volunteers that meets once a month. Averaging 10 members per meeting, the group’s reading material is eclectic, including fiction and non-fiction. Leatrice Chan, CoSA staff member, notes, “What we read is certainly important. But the original reason for a book club was so that men returning to the community could feel they had access to the sort of ‘normal’ activities that people take part in.”

These are the words jointly penned by a core member and his wife, who are regular participants:

“It has been a great opportunity to get to know some of the other core members on a deeper level. I find a lot of support goes back and forth at the book club.... It is a safe place for everyone to express themselves.”

It is this building of safe space and community that has made CoSA such an effective method of reducing recidivism – studies show that there is a 70% decrease in re-offending behaviour for core members engaged in CoSA. Not only is it effective in preventing future crime, it is also extremely cost-effective, saving $6 of taxpayer dollars for every $1 invested in CoSA. One book club, one coffee meeting at a time, CoSA is building safer communities.
In the year that Canada celebrated its 150th anniversary of confederation, we are mindful of the inherent conflict these celebrations hold for those who value reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Now more than ever, we are committed to building authentic relationships with the original peoples of this land. [mcco.ca/indigenous-neighbours]

Water insecurity in First Nations communities

In 2011 the federal government commissioned the “National Assessment of First Nations Water and Wastewater Systems: National Regional Rollup Report.” Looking specifically at Ontario statistics, it was found that 45% of First Nations in the province were at a high risk for water insecurity.

Since 2011, source water protection continues to be a concern in the waterways surrounding water-sheds and the industries that feed into them. While our federal government has vowed to clean up the water flowing through the 640 First Nations across the country, there is much work to be done.

MCC together with other partners is encouraging the federal government to work toward making water both potable and accessible. One such example is the work being done in Pikangikum First Nation, a community of 3000 members and 400 homes. Seventy percent of these homes are without access to indoor plumbing. As part of this project, funding from four non-governmental organizations has been matched dollar for dollar with federal funding to retrofit 20 homes – each with large holding tanks, some plumbing, a toilet, sink and bathtub. Though these are basic amenities in Canada, too many First Nations communities go without.

We continue to work with both Indigenous communities and settler Canadians to build a just society in which we can all feel welcomed.
PEOPLE IN POVERTY

MCC Ontario

MCC Ontario works directly with people impacted by poverty and seeks ways to improve government policies and programs to reduce poverty and increase the level of dignity and respect for people living in poverty. This year we saw more and more businesses sign on to the Living Wage movement that MCC Ontario helped to initiate. We also saw relationships grow and dignity restored through our Circle of Friends program that helps people transition out of homelessness. ▶ mcco.ca/poverty-reduction

Finding the light

Circle of Friends participants took part in a transformative six-week photography camp led by local photographer Anna Bulawa. “Finding the Light” took participants out into the community, rain or shine, to capture beauty in everyday moments.

MCC staff person, Debora Moslehi, saw normally shy and reticent participants come alive as they discovered a new way of looking at the world. “We were in awe, watching our participants develop self-confidence each week. Anna was extremely encouraging, keeping things simple and engaging.” Due to the supportive learning environment, participants with limited photography experience felt as though they too could take beautiful photographs.

“I didn’t know I had this talent,” enthused one participant. “Now I have something to connect with my granddaughter over. She loves photography and I can show her my pictures and understand more about what she is doing.”

Circle of Friends staff Kimberlee Walker reflected that viewing people, life, and events through a new angle and perspective while looking for the light was a lesson they all learned from photography. “We were all inspired to find hope and beauty where we least expected it, and where we may have overlooked it before.”

"We were in awe, watching our participants develop self-confidence each week..."
**MCC ONTARIO LEADERSHIP TEAM**

MCC Ontario is led by a team of five who provide strategic, operational and program direction.

**Rick Cober Bauman, Executive Director**
Rick has served with MCC since 1989 in a variety of capacities. For the past nine years he has given leadership to MCC Ontario as executive director. Prior to that, he served in the roles of MCC Ontario Program Director and Aboriginal Neighbours Program Coordinator. From 1989–1992, he was an MCC voluntary service worker, overseeing education, advocacy and community development work in Sheshatshiu, Labrador. Rick and his wife Louise are members of Tavistock Mennonite Church and have three adult children, Nicole, Jesse and Jared, and one grandchild. (MCC photo)

**John Head, Associate Executive Director**
John has served as associate executive director with MCC Ontario since 2014 overseeing HR, finance, facilities and IT. Prior to that John held management positions in finance and HR in private industry, and served for 20+ years as overseer and home church leader in his church. John has traveled on various short term missions trips to Haiti, Guatemala, Mexico and Albania. John and his wife Penny attend The Meeting House in Oakville and are parents to seven and grandparents to six. (MCC photo/Jennifer Vandermolen)

**Wendy Adema, Program Director**
Wendy is the program director for MCC Ontario and has served in this role for over nine years. Wendy has a Master of Social Work degree specializing in community development and social planning. Wendy has worked in the non-profit field for over 25 years - having previously worked at Social Planning Councils, United Way and other community organizations. Wendy oversees MCC Ontario’s six programs: Indigenous Neighbours, Material Resources, Restorative Justice, Refugee Sponsorship, Low German Newcomers and Walking with People in Poverty. Wendy, her husband and two daughters live in Glen Morris and attend Wanner Mennonite Church. (MCC photo/Jennifer Vandermolen)

**Kim Lester, Director of Communications and Revenue Development**
Kim has been giving leadership to the development of a well-rounded communication and fundraising strategy with MCC since early 2014. She counts it an incredible privilege to “stand in the gap” between those who want to share their resources and those in need. Prior to MCC, Kim has served in a variety of leadership positions both nationally and locally. In addition to being a graduate of University of Guelph she is a graduate of the Leadership Waterloo Region program. Kim and her husband Todd are part of the BIC community. They have two young adult daughters, Brittany and Brooklyn. (MCC photo/Brenda Burkholder)

**Jan Martens-Janzen, Director of Social Enterprise**
Jan has served with MCC since 1983. Her terms of service with MCC include education work in Nigeria, and roles as program director in Saskatchewan, country rep in Egypt, country rep in Lebanon, and for the 12 years preceding her work in Ontario, Europe & Middle East area director. For the past year and a half she has given leadership in MCC Ontario as the director of social enterprise which, in part, gives oversight to the Thrift shops. Jan and her husband Rick attend Waterloo North Mennonite Church, have two married adult children and four grandchildren. (MCC photo/Shoua Vang)

**Supporting coordinators**
- Michelle Brenneman: Human Resources Coordinator
- Sheryl Bruggeling: Communications and Events Coordinator
- Solomon Seevaratnam: Accounting Manager

**Ontarians serving internationally**
- Bonnie Klassen, Area Director: South America/Mexico, Latin America and Caribbean Programs
- Rebecca and Paul Shetler-Fast: MCC Representatives for Haiti
- Cath & Peter Woolner: Interim MCC Representatives for South Africa
- Helena & John Guenther: Low German Mennonite Program Coordinators, Mexico
- Raquel Conde Guevara: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Haiti
- Marty & Dianne Climenhage: Newfoundland and Labrador Regional Representatives
- Naomi and Doug Enns: MCC Representatives for West Europe
- Rudi Okot: Peacebuilding Coordinator, Iran-Iraq-Jordan
- Wendy Martin: MCC Representative for Laos
- Talina Matthies: Capacity Building Coordinator for Eastern Congo
- Dave & Mary Lou Klassen: Interim MCC Representatives for Bangladesh
- Leanna Buisma: SEED, Community Worker, Colombia
- Elysha Roepen: SEED, Community Development Worker, Bolivia
- Jonna Gladwell: SALT, Assistant Youth Leader, El Salvador
- Katelyn Folks: SALT, Peace Project Assistant, Nigeria
- Stefanie Heide: SALT, English Teacher & Tutor, Cambodia
- Vanessa Snyder-Penner: SALT, Peace Program & English Teaching Assistant, China
- Andrea Sherk: SALT, Community Worker & Field Staff, India
- Krista VanderHout: SALT, Program Assistant & Office Staff, India
- Rebecca Isaak: SALT, Program & Educational Activities Assistant, Lebanon
The financial information on this page represents the operations of MCC Ontario for the year ended March 31, 2017 and has been prepared from the audited financial statements. Complete audited financial statements are available upon request or at mcco.ca/annual-reports.

**MCC ONTARIO FINANCES**

**FUNDING SOURCES**

- 52% Cash & other contributions $9,370,357
- 22% Government & non-government grants $764,379
- 19% Thrift Shops $4,033,563
- 6% Relief sales $587,766
- 3% Material resources (in kind) $532,259

**DOLLARS AT WORK**

- 59% Forwarded to MCC Canada $10,947,410
- 28% Ontario program $5,297,234
- 10% Forwarded to Mennonite Disaster Service for Fort McMurray Relief $25,693
- 3% Administration* $1,937,795
- .1% Fundraising $509,783

*includes $770,000 of non-cash building amortization expense.

**ONTARIO PROGRAM DOLLARS AT WORK**

- 45% Indigenous neighbours $257,728
- 19% Low German $504,220
- 10% Material resources $691,886
- 8% Poverty $436,119
- 7% Food security & sustainable livelihoods $2,312,556
- 5% Material resources (in kind) $532,259
- 3% Restorative justice $984,492

**TOTAL ONTARIO DOLLARS BY THEMES**

- 53% Education $6,684
- 19% Homelessness $436,119
- 13% Food security & sustainable livelihoods $2,312,556
- 13% Material resources (in kind) $532,259
- 8% Restorative justice $984,492
- 5% Migration & resettlement $2,816,787
- 3% Humanitarian relief & disaster recovery $691,886
- 2% Peacebuilding & conflict transformation $285,943

**TOTAL ONTARIO DOLLARS**

- $18.1 million
- $5.2 million
- $5.3 million

**TOTAL ONTARIO DOLLARS**

- $18.7 million
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**
  - 43% Education
  - 17% Humanitarian relief & disaster recovery
  - 13% Health
  - 27% Food security & sustainable livelihoods
  - 2% Restorative justice
  - 14% Migration & resettlement

**International Program Expenses by Region**

- **$61.8 million**
  - 27% Africa
  - 21% Asia
  - 20% Latin America & Caribbean
  - 15% Europe & Middle East
  - 10% Canada
  - 10% Multi-region
  - 9% United States

**Domestic Program Expenses by Region**

- **$82.2 million**
  - 27% Africa
  - 27% Asia
  - 15% Latin America & Caribbean
  - 21% Europe & Middle East
  - 15% United States
  - 10% Canada
  - 10% Multi-region

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

The proceeds from your donation help Mennonite Central Committee relief, development and peacebuilding work in Ontario and around the world. Go to thrift.mcc.org to see what’s new. Thank you for your support!

The proceeds from your donation help relief, development and peacebuilding work in Ontario and around the world.

The biggest thrift story of the year was the discovery of an authentic painting by Canadian folk artist Maud Lewis. The painting was first found by Louis Silcox, a volunteer at the New Hamburg Thrift Centre who thought the painting might be genuine. After the painting was authenticated by keen collectors and experts, MCC put it up for auction.

In addition, an opportunity arose to partner with a local cinema for a special advanced screening of the highly-acclaimed bio-pic, Maudie, starring Sally Hawkins and Ethan Hawke, which proved a perfect setting to launch the auction. The film depicted the humble life of Lewis and her husband, who sold her paintings on the roadside for $2 to tourists passing by. Despite her abject poverty and struggles with acute chronic arthritis since childhood, her strong spirit has lifted her legacy and art well beyond her lifetime.

The online auction saw the painting sell for $45,000, more than three times its assessed value and more than double the price of the previous highest price of a Maud Lewis painting.

“We are thrilled with the selling price and it’s poetic that the art of a Canadian artist who lived in poverty will be going toward helping others in need,” says Rick Cober Bauman, Executive Director of MCC Ontario.

Thrift volunteer Louis Silcox and New Hamburg Thrift Centre General Manager Karla Richards display the discovered authentic painting by Canadian folk artist Maud Lewis. (MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara)
MATERIAL RESOURCES

MCC Ontario

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. Churches, families, schools, 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. • mcco.ca/mr

Material Resources and Peacebuilding

Material resources and peacemaking go hand in hand. The practical needs that a relief or school kit meet is also a message of peace to show that there are people who are doing their part in making sure those who have been displaced by violence can regain a peaceful life. This past year, our friends at The Meeting House church stepped up in a huge way to combine peace and relief through their inaugural Peacemakers campaign. In total, 1,652 relief kits were donated. “As Anabaptists, we are convicted by Jesus’ radical message of peace, culminating in the laying down of his life for us, to be peacemakers in our communities and around the world. That is why when MCC and The Meeting House began re-envisioning our 10-year relationship it made sense for us to shift our partnership towards MCC’s peace-building and relief efforts,” explained Matt Thompson, Compassion Manager at The Meeting House. “This new direction of our partnership is an incredible opportunity for us to partner with MCC in promoting peace in a very tangible way.”

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.

Bosnia $360,000
DPRK (North Korea) $480,000
Ethiopia $640,000
Iraq $350,000
Jordan $1.11 million
Lebanon $90,000
Other $206,000
Serbia $150,000
Ukraine $148,000
Canada/U.S. $1.82 million

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
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.
VOLUNTEERS

The thousands of generous, kind, and compassionate volunteers who we are blessed with in Ontario and world-wide are the core of both the legacy and future of MCC. In Ontario, over 3,000 women, men, and children volunteer their time, their energy, and their skills to empower the work of MCC. They pack relief kits, knot quilts, sort used items at a Thrift Shop and advocate for the vulnerable. As an organization, and as individuals, we are eternally grateful for your service!

mcco.ca/volunteer

Paying it forward

"I want to be part of this grand effort."

Suzi West’s personal story plays a significant part in her passion for volunteering with MCC. Born into an Old Colony Mennonite family in Mexico, her family of 11 was forced to leave the only life they’d known to escape a harsh life of poverty and isolation.

Growing up, she worked long hours in cash crop fields and orchards to help supplement the family income. She quit school at the age of 16 to work full-time in a factory. “After two years of full-time employment I realized that the cycle of poverty would continue in my life if I didn’t make a change. I returned to school and eventually earned a university degree.”

After a successful career as a settlement worker and a school counsellor, Suzi now wants to pay it forward.

“I take to heart Mother Teresa’s words: ‘I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.’ Giving of my time, energy and money are my stones. And I cannot deny my deep respect and passion for the degree of support MCC extends to those in need around the world. I want to be part of this grand effort!”
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)