Albertans and Kenyans working together to build a sand dam in Kola, Kenya.
Teigan Fehr is one of 16 Albertans who recently travelled to Kenya to help the people of a community near Kola in the building of a sand dam.

The idea of the sand dam is to build a cement wall across a riverbed during the dry season. When it rains, the sand and water collects behind the dam until it overflows. The water saturates the sand so that 40 per cent of the sand is actually water. From there, the villagers extract water by digging holes and gathering the water with pails. The water is clean and fresh because of the filtering effect of the sand.

CFGB and MCC have helped in the building of over 1,400 sand dams to date. Each dam provides water for about 1,100 people. Teigan said, in an evening of storytelling recently, that she was struck by the joy in the valley as children, women and men worked together to place the rebar, the rocks, the cement … bowlful by bowlful … all done by hand.

My guess is that there were several reasons for this joy: they are building a water resource; they are doing it together. And they are being assisted in this work by 16 Alberta people who are experiencing, as is the community, the magic of the Holy Spirit’s blessing of people from different worlds as they work together and learn about each other.

– Abe Janzen
There are many highlights in this seven-month fiscal year, which ended March 31. We will need to become accustomed to a new annual rhythm of budgeting and program work, April 1 – March 31.

- The Alberta constituencies continued to provide generous support to the work of MCC and by the end of the seven months we had exceeded the target for revenues.
- No relief sale was held during this short budget year. The next one happens June 8 and 9 in Didsbury.
- Edmonton Thrift Shop has found a new location on a three-year lease and Lethbridge Thrift Shop is working towards the purchase of a new building.
- A group of Alberta pastors and church leaders visited Colombia in April.
- A group of 16 Albertans travelled to Kenya to help build a sand dam.
- The Fort Vermilion School Division has asked MCC to work with them as part of a three-year education and service program based in La Crete.
- Last September, three very successful golf tournaments were held for MCC in different parts of Alberta.
- Kim Thiessen and Daryl Neustaedter Barg have been asked to make a fifth CD for MCC, to be recorded in January 2013 in Guatemala and El Salvador, with a dual theme of AIDS and peace. It is known that El Salvador now has more violence than any country on earth.
- As part of the local and international work of MCC, we are becoming significantly more conscious of planning, monitoring and evaluation of our programs each year.

We are privileged to be invited to many churches from La Crete and High Level in the north, to the south of Alberta. Thank you, churches in Alberta, for your kind and diligent participation in the work of MCC. And thank you, MCC staff and volunteers; you are such committed people, so good to work with. It is a rich blessing to be a part of this ministry.

– Abe Janzen, Executive Director, MCC Alberta
In Zambia, students in 16 schools participate in MCC-sponsored peace clubs and learn how to resolve conflicts without violence. These clubs grew out of the work of Issa Ebombolo, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and colleagues at a MCC partner organization in Lusaka called Peace Centre.

Ebombolo is now the executive director of a new organization, called Peace Club. Under Ebombolo’s guidance, MCC workers have written curriculum that helps students recognize conflicts in their own lives and learn how to address them.

Ebombolo developed an interest in peacebuilding through participating in MCC-supported peacebuilding training. “Peace is about healing the wounds of the broken-hearted, and it is about restoring broken relationships,” he said. “Peace deals with a human being as a whole.”
Forgiveness takes us along a path of healing, which leads to reconciliation.
– Issa Ebombolo

5 WAYS TO HELP

1. Pray for the successful reintegration of released prisoners.
2. Value the marginalized people in your community.
3. Join Calgary Circles of Support and Accountability.
4. Pray for youth learning about urban poverty and homelessness through MCC Alberta’s program.
5. Support those involved in the Simunye program, serving with MCC South Africa peace partners.

10 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Hearing “I could not have ‘got clean’ without the help of the MCC Community Chaplain. I can now see the light at the end of the tunnel.”
2. Hoping the at-risk students who heard his story will make wiser decisions in their futures.
3. Meeting 10 new one-on-one matches at Edmonton Institute with the M2 program.
4. Appreciating committed volunteers, some of whom have supported Restorative Justice Ministries for over 30 years.
5. Celebrating Calgary Circles of Support and Accountability program’s 10th anniversary.
6. Hosting three youth groups in the Community Awareness through Service and Action program.
8. Hearing about the transforming experience for Simunye 2011 participants.
9. Celebrating 65th year at Ten Thousand Villages stores across Canada.
10. Sharing the Peace Sunday Packet entitled “Prayers and practices of nonviolence.”
A mother of seven grown children, Nayfe Mohamad is an avid promoter of a MCC-supported composting project located in an informal refugee camp of almost 3,000 Palestinian families in south Lebanon. Faced with the rising cost of buying fresh fruit and vegetables in local markets, many Palestinian refugee families in south Lebanon are rediscovering the benefits of composting. “The taste and smell of vegetables and fruit that my father and grandfather planted was delicious and tasty,” said Mohamad. “I want my children and grandchildren to remember how good everything tastes and smells when you use compost in gardens.”

This project is implemented by Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARD), a MCC partner organization that provides a variety of services in Palestinian communities. As the project progresses, compost not needed by families will help create a source of income for women in the community.
I heard about composting from my grandfather. I like the idea of composting; this is very beneficial for our community.
– Nayfe Mohamad
Osamah Abd Al-Hadi and his family (wife Halla, daughters Rania and Rana, and son Ali) are Palestinians who came to Canada in 2010. They have resettled well in Calgary. The two young children have learned English well enough to now help their parents speak and understand English. Their transition to life in Canada has been easier than their incredibly difficult life in a refugee camp in “no man’s land” between Syria and Iraq. They feel blessed to have been sponsored by MCC to come to Canada.

Refugee program
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Thrift shops
Last year, the MCC thrift shops in Canada contributed $7.2 million to MCC. “When we work together we can help others. Every little bit counts—it all adds up. We can’t all be overseas workers for MCC but we can all help MCC.”
A lasting solution, the possibility to begin a new life, is the only dignified solution for the refugee himself.

– Poul Hartling, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 1978-1985
Francis Kalanzi was three years old and living with HIV when his grandmother, Milly Nakasujja, started taking care of him. Both of his parents had died of HIV-related illnesses. “I was very afraid that he would die too because he was so small and he was coughing up blood,” said Nakasujja. Over the years, they have received much-needed medical, educational and other assistance from Mengo Clinic, a MCC partner organization in Kampala, Uganda.

Francis is now 13 and in Grade 4. His grandmother, now 75, appreciates his help with selling eggs and other jobs. Both of them participate in a club at Mengo Clinic that organizes monthly meetings for youth living with HIV and their caregivers. This club gives Francis the opportunity to meet with counsellors who specialize in HIV and with other youth facing similar challenges in life.
I have hope for my future because I have brought this boy from a very bad condition.
– Milly Nakasujja

5 WAYS TO HELP

1. Pray for Low German Mennonite families as they settle in Alberta.
2. Remember the 32 million people living with HIV, and the 18 million AIDS orphans.
3. Buy a CD to support the Generations program.
5. Support the MCC Alberta FASD program.

10 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Supporting the work of MCC in Taber, including helping with citizenship and immigration matters.
2. Receiving funding from Alberta Mental Health to provide counseling to Low German Mennonites.
3. Offering friendship to Low German Mennonites moving to Alberta from Mexico and Bolivia.
4. Raising more than $700,000 through the sale of CDs over the last few years and more than $3 million in funding for the Generations program.
5. Partnering with Mennonite Church Alberta and Mennonite Church Canada Native Ministries programs.
6. Distributing 21,501 hygiene kits worldwide, a joint effort by Canada and the U.S.
7. Encouraging gender equality in HIV programming in Egypt through partner BLESS.
8. Presenting workshops in several churches on understanding the needs of those with FASD.
9. Attending the International Conference on FASD in Vancouver that focused on justice issues.
10. Distributing Geschichte der Mennoniten (Stories of Mennonites) in Low German schools.
Poverty prevents many students in Bangladesh from getting more than a Grade 10 education. With support from MCC’s Global Family education sponsorship program, Apola Koch, 17, can continue her education beyond Grade 10. She now dreams of becoming a teacher and breaking her family’s cycle of poverty.

The sponsorship program enables Apola to attend a boarding school run by the Salesian Sisters of Mary Immaculate and helps cover the costs of her books, notebooks, transportation and living expenses. Apola is actively involved in the school’s youth club and helped the club organize HIV and AIDS seminars for youth. Apola’s parents are hopeful for their daughter’s future. “My life is gone with hardship work,” said her mother Pravati Koch. “My daughter will not do that type of work. She will lead a happy life in the future.”
Education will help me to get a good job. Without an education I would have to marry a boy without an education and plant rice and cut firewood.

– Apola Koch

5 WAYS TO HELP

1. Host an International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) participant.
2. Sponsor a Global Family project.
3. Volunteer with SOOP (service opportunities for older people) in your retirement.
4. Share your skills with the SALT program.
5. Consider a three-year term working overseas with MCC.

10 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Using SODIS technology (solar UV purification) to provide safe drinking water for our Global Family program in Kenya.
2. Sponsoring 653 Global Family projects worldwide through Alberta donors.
3. Placing four willing, enthusiastic IVEPers throughout the province.
4. Celebrating and strengthening the global church through IVEP.
5. Providing girls in India, Afghanistan and Nepal with access to education.
6. Reducing school absences through water purification, sanitation and hygiene education.
7. Meeting with SALT participants to hear about their experiences with MCC.
8. Connecting with students at Menno Simons Christian School on themes of peace.
9. Getting to know constituents through IVEP placements in Edson, Lethbridge, Calgary and Edmonton.
10. Launching the 1000 Acts of Peace blog at a weekend Peace & Technology youth retreat.
**Calgary**

**Alberta**

**Edmonton**

**Lethbridge**

**Taber**

**Red Deer**

**Didsbury**

**La Crete**

**Tofield**

**Olds**

**Coaldale**

**Rosemary**

**Medicine Hat**

**Nanton**

**High Level**

**Grande Prairie**

**Edson**

**Linden**

**Pincher Creek**

**High Level**

**Lodge**

**Volunteers**

**Offices/staff**

**Thrift shops**
- Taber: $5,000, $35
- Lethbridge: $52,500, $95
- Edmonton: $0, $32
- Calgary: $295,000, $240
- Thrift shops total contributions: $352,500

**Material resource centre**
- Calgary: $220

**Ten Thousand Villages**

**Relief sale**
- No relief sale during the seven months

**Golf tournaments**
- $180,000

**Communities (total)**
- $2.5 million

**Volunteers**
During 2011, the MCCs in Canada changed their year ends from August 31 to March 31 to bring them in line with all MCCs in North America. This transition resulted in a one-time, shortened, seven month fiscal period.

MCC operates at the provincial, national and international level. The numbers above explain MCC income and expenses in Alberta for the seven month fiscal period.

A portion of the funds raised by each provincial office also support MCC’s national and international work. Due to publishing deadlines, MCC Canada actual income and expense figures for the fiscal period ending March 31, 2012 will be available at mcccanada.ca/annualreport by June 30.
What is Mennonite Central Committee?
MCC is a non-profit relief, development and peace agency with more than 1,000 workers around the world. It is a ministry of Anabaptist churches which includes Mennonites and Brethren in Christ. In Canada, MCC operates at both a provincial and national level.

Purpose
MCC 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.