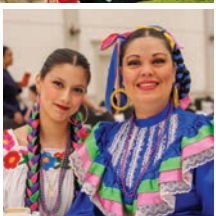
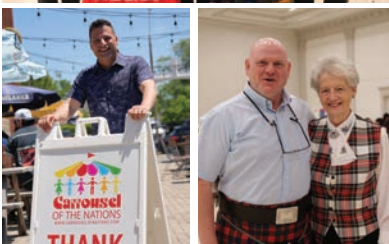


MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY

25/26 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It gives me great pride to reflect on all that our MCC team has accomplished over the past year. Our programs in settlement and integration, language and education, health and wellness, employment, and cultural celebration continue to grow, helping us respond

to the evolving needs of our diverse community. At the heart of our work is a commitment to building a welcoming and inclusive community through education, engagement, diversity, equality and excellence in service.

This year, we expanded our programs, improved accessibility and strengthened our impact across Windsor-Essex. A key highlight was our Memorandum of Understanding with the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board, allowing us to expand services to St. Michael's Adult Catholic High School and establish a new community hub. Our regional partnerships also continue to extend our reach and create new opportunities for individuals and families.

The 2026 MCC Awards Gala was another memorable highlight. We were honoured to recognize Emelda Byrne with the Herb Gray Harmony Award, Dr. Mark Awuku with the MCC Champion Award, and Marcela Diaz with the Kathleen Thomas Inspire Award. Preparing the gala videos gave me the privilege of learning more about their journeys, leadership and contributions. Their stories demonstrated how deeply they embody the values and spirit of MCC and it was an honour to help share and celebrate their impact.

The Carrousel of the Nations also continued its remarkable legacy as a cultural pillar in Windsor-Essex, celebrating more than 50 years of bringing communities together. With record-breaking attendance and 42 Villages, the festival continues to grow and proudly holds the distinction of being named Ontario's Top Festival and Event for four consecutive years. We are grateful to all of our Cultural Villages for helping make this celebration of diversity and community connection so meaningful.

On behalf of MCC, I extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors and funders, whose support makes our programs and services possible. To our dedicated volunteers, including our Board of Directors and Foundation Board, thank you for your leadership and tireless service. And to our exceptional MCC staff, whose team has grown over the past year, thank you for the compassion, talent and dedication you bring to our community every day.

Together, we are building a more welcoming and inclusive Windsor-Essex where everyone has the opportunity to belong, contribute and thrive. With gratitude for all we have accomplished together, we look ahead with optimism to the year to come.

Sincerely,

Fred Francis,
MCC Executive Director

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S GREETING



As we mark another year of growth and transformation at the MCC, it is with pride that I provide greetings. The MCC's expansion has been truly remarkable, underscoring our commitment to service delivery and support for our community.

The MCC's growth is reflected not only in the increased scope and reach of our programs and services, but also in their depth and impact. Through this continued expansion, the MCC is further strengthening its role as a cornerstone of inclusion, empowerment, and opportunity throughout Windsor-Essex.

At the heart of this success is the dedication of our staff. I extend my sincere appreciation to every member of the MCC team for their professionalism and commitment to assisting our clients and those most in need of our services. Their passion for the MCC's mission, and their determination to create a welcoming and supportive environment for all, continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of newcomers and long-time residents alike.

The MCC's Annual Awards Gala, held on May 1, 2026, at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts was an inspiring evening that brought our community together to celebrate individuals who champion diversity, inclusion, and community leadership. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the volunteers, sponsors, and supporters whose contributions helped make this event such a tremendous success. Your continued commitment is essential to the MCC's ability to create lasting and meaningful impact in our community.

The Foundation Board has also remained deeply engaged in advancing the MCC's long-term priorities. Over the past year, we have continued to oversee additional building improvement initiatives as part of a strategic infrastructure plan designed to ensure that our facilities remain strong, modern, and capable of supporting the MCC's growing programs and services for years to come.

Looking ahead, I remain optimistic about the future. The MCC is exceptionally well positioned for continued growth and impact and I am honoured to serve as Foundation President during this pivotal period in the organization's history.

With the continued support of our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and community partners, I am confident that together we will build an even stronger, more inclusive and more vibrant Windsor-Essex.

Thank you for being an important part of the MCC community and for believing in the work we do together.

Sincerely,

Anthony Mascaro,
President, MCC Foundation Board

PRESIDENT'S GREETING



It is with immense gratitude that I conclude my second year as President of the MCC Board of Directors. This past year has been one of meaningful progress and continued commitment to building a more inclusive, welcoming and equitable Windsor-Essex community where newcomers can thrive.

The MCC continues to strengthen relationships with community leaders, corporate partners and local organizations, ensuring our programs and services respond to the evolving needs of the community. Under the leadership of our management team, we have sustained our core services while introducing new initiatives that have contributed to significant growth and positive impact across the agency.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our sponsors, funders, donors and community partners for their generous and unwavering support. Your commitment helps create a community where individuals and families feel valued, empowered and proud to call Windsor-Essex home.

To our dedicated volunteers, thank you for your time, compassion and commitment. Your generosity makes a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve and remains essential to the MCC's success.

I also extend my deepest appreciation to the members of the Agency and Foundation Boards for their vision, leadership, counsel and continued confidence in the MCC. Your guidance and credibility has helped position the organization for continued growth and success.

Most importantly, I recognize our exceptional staff, who are the heart of the MCC. Every day your professionalism and dedication bring our mission to life every day. By helping newcomers access employment, housing, health care, language training, and other essential services, you ease the challenges of settling in a new country and help individuals and families build brighter futures.

The success stories shared at our Board meetings are a powerful reminder of the lasting impact of your work. Each story reflects the resilience of those we serve and the difference made by your expertise, care and commitment.

On behalf of the Board, thank you to everyone who contributes to the MCC's mission. It has been a tremendous honour to serve as President and I am proud of what we have accomplished together. With the continued support of our staff, volunteers, partners, funders and community, I look forward to building on this success and advancing our mission in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Saad Jasim,
President, MCC Board of Directors



MCC FOUNDATION DIRECTORS 2025 - 2026

PRESIDENT - ANTHONY MASCARO
VICE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL DRAKE
DIRECTOR - ANDREW RANDALL

MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025 - 2026

PRESIDENT - DR. SAAD JASIM
VICE PRESIDENT - NICOLE SBROCCA
VICE PRESIDENT - PAUL CARTER
SECRETARY - ANTHONY MASCARO
DIRECTORS - DR. FAZLE BAKI, DINESH SINGH MALLA,
ARUNA Koushik, JOSEPH QI


**MULTICULTURAL
COUNCIL**
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY

25/26
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2026 MCC AWARDS GALA

For over 20 years, the MCC has held an annual evening of appreciation celebrating those who have made an outstanding contribution to building a community that is more welcoming for all.

THREE AWARDS ARE PRESENTED:

The Kathleen Thomas Inspire Award:

Recognizes a newcomer for their perseverance, optimism, and positive example provided to our community.



Marcela Diaz

2026 Kathleen Thomas Inspire Award Recipient

Presented by St. Clair College

The MCC Champion Award:

Celebrates significant contributions made to our community by first-generation Canadians.



Dr. Mark Awuku

2026 MCC Champion Award Recipient

Presented by Cogeco

The Herb Gray Harmony Award:

Recognizes an individual, business, or organization that has actively worked towards building a more harmonious community.



Emelda Byrne

2026 Herb Gray Harmony Award Recipient

Presented by WFCU Credit Union



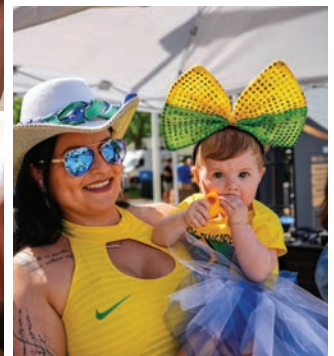
CARROUSEL OF THE NATIONS

VOTED TOP FESTIVAL AND EVENT IN ONTARIO FOUR CONSECUTIVE YEARS

For more than 50 years, Carrousel of the Nations has been a signature cultural festival produced by the Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County. Recognized by Attractions Ontario as the Top Festival in Ontario for four consecutive years, Carrousel is the longest-running festival in Windsor and one of the oldest multicultural festivals in the province.

Held annually over the second and third weekends of June, Carrousel brings together communities from across Windsor-Essex to celebrate the region's rich cultural diversity. Through its cultural villages, visitors experience authentic cuisine, live music and dance, artisan vendors, heritage demonstrations, and activities for all ages.

In 2026, Carrousel of the Nations achieved its highest attendance in the festival's history, welcoming an unprecedented **226,000 visitors**. This historic turnout demonstrates the tremendous reach of the festival and its growing ability to attract visitors from across Windsor-Essex and beyond.



SERVICES OFFERED BY MCC

LANGUAGE AND TRAINING

INTERPRETATION & TRANSLATION SERVICES

MCC provides interpretation and translation services to a wide range of clients, including community organizations, businesses, government agencies, healthcare providers, private sector partners, and individuals across Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent. With a team of more than 130 professional interpreters and translators fluent in over 70 languages, MCC's Language Services division is one of the region's leading providers, delivering reliable, accurate, and culturally responsive support.

LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION SERVICES

Language Interpretation Services is the only program in Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent that provides free interpretation services for individuals affected by domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. Available to both survivors and the service providers who support them, the program helps ensure that language is never a barrier to accessing critical services, safety, and justice. By facilitating clear and confidential communication, it empowers individuals to receive the support they need during some of the most vulnerable moments in their lives.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING

For over fifteen years, MCC has provided customized diversity and anti-racism training to organizations and businesses. Our programs go beyond awareness, equipping participants with practical tools, strategies, and insights to help foster more inclusive workplaces and communities. Through interactive workshops, real-world scenarios, and expert guidance, MCC helps organizations create environments where diversity is valued, equity is promoted, and all individuals can thrive. Each session is tailored to the needs of the client and can address both general areas of interest and specific concerns.



TESTIMONIALS

"The MCC interpreters have been so wonderful to work with over the past few months. They are helpful, prompt, and professional, and I really appreciate their efforts and support with the families we were assisting. Thank you for everything and I look forward to our continued partnership with the MCC."

"I wanted to share that the MCC provided us a FABOLOUS interpreter. Our client felt very confident in the translation. Thank you to the MCC for the assistance on this one."

BY THE NUMBERS:

LANGUAGE AND TRAINING

4,491
SERVICES PROVIDED



234
CLIENTS SERVED



2,551
INTERPRETATIONS



8,063
HOURS OF INTERPRETATION



3,932
PAGES TRANSLATED



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MULTICULTURAL
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EDUCATION

MCC IGNITE ACADEMY

MCC Ignite Academy is a learning and enrichment program that supports students in Grades 2–8 by strengthening literacy, numeracy, and other skills that contribute to academic success. Developed by United Way Windsor-Essex Chatham-Kent through the ProsperUs initiative, the program also helps address barriers that can affect a child's ability to learn and succeed.

Through engaging activities, individualized support, and a welcoming environment, students are encouraged to build confidence, strengthen their skills, and reach their full potential. MCC Ignite Academy recognizes that student success extends beyond the classroom and that academic achievement is often connected to the supports available to children and their families.

By working closely with children, families, schools, and community partners, the program helps create meaningful opportunities for students to learn, grow, and thrive.

HWOW PROGRAM (HUB WITHOUT WALLS)

In partnership with Hiatus House, the Hub Without Walls (HWoW) program brings together community partners across Windsor-Essex to strengthen the prevention of and response to gender-based violence, including domestic and sexual violence.

MCC's role focuses on education, awareness, and prevention. Through culturally safe and trauma-informed workshops, school presentations, Orientation to Ontario sessions, and community outreach, MCC supports newcomers, youth, seniors, parents, and community members in understanding healthy relationships, consent, boundaries, and the signs and impacts of abuse.

A key focus is supporting newcomer communities by increasing awareness of their rights, available resources, and pathways to support, helping build safer and more informed communities.



TESTIMONIALS

"When I broke my ankle, things became very difficult for my family. I was worried about how we would manage everything. The program helped us with gift cards and extra support for my children, which reduced a lot of stress during that time. I am very grateful for the kindness and support we received when we needed it most."

"Ignite Academy's after-school program provides a safe and supportive environment for children. The program encourages creativity, confidence, learning, and personal growth. I appreciate the dedication of the staff and the quality care they provide every day."

BY THE NUMBERS:

MCC IGNITE ACADEMY

13,179
SERVICES PROVIDED



234
CLIENTS SERVED



3,632
INTERACTIONS WITH
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS



719
GROUP
RECREATIONAL
ACTIVITIES

1,728
FAMILY SUPPORT
SERVICES



982
EDUCATIONAL
SESSIONS



982
WORKSHOP
SESSIONS

426
JOINT ACTIVITIES
WITH COMMUNITY
PARTNERS



268
WORKSHOP
ATTENDEES

HEALTH & WELLNESS

MCC HEALTH CLINIC

For more than two decades, MCC's Health Clinic has provided accessible primary healthcare to clients who may otherwise face barriers to care. Our Nurse Practitioner provides comprehensive primary care to MCC clients without a family physician. This free service does not require an Ontario Health Card, helping ensure access to care for newcomers, refugees, uninsured individuals, and other eligible clients.

Services include assessment, diagnosis, treatment, prescribing, preventive care, chronic disease management, mental health care, women's health, and referrals to specialists and community resources. Care is delivered in a culturally safe, trauma-informed environment, with interpreter support available as needed.

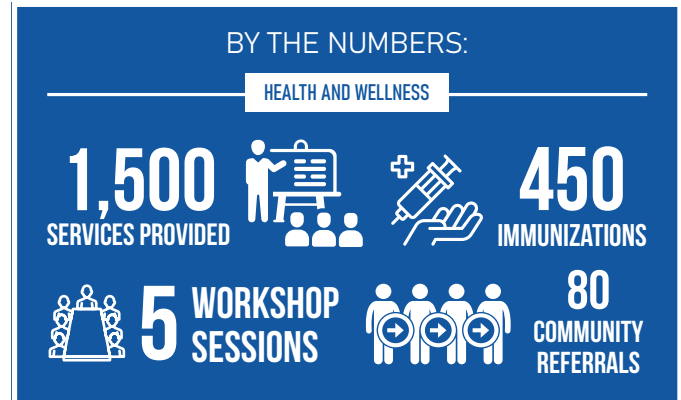
The clinic also works with MCC's after-school and summer camp programs to provide age-appropriate health education and wellness initiatives. MCC also participates in local health committees, helping advocate for equitable access to healthcare and improved health services for newcomers.

MCC HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO

The MCC Health & Wellness Expo is one of MCC's signature annual events and has been connecting newcomers to health, wellness, and community resources across Windsor-Essex for more than 20 years.

Each year, over 50 exhibitors from the public, private, and non-profit sectors come together to provide health screenings, interactive displays, community resources, and expert-led workshops covering topics such as nutrition, mental health, fitness, personal safety, and individualized care.

The Expo creates opportunities for newcomers to connect with healthcare professionals, community organizations, and local services while gaining practical knowledge and building connections that support their health, well-being, and successful integration into the Windsor-Essex community.



TESTIMONIALS

"As a newcomer to Canada, I was unsure how to access healthcare services for my family. The MCC guided us through every step, answered our questions, and helped us connect with the care we needed. Her support made us feel welcomed and confident in our new community."

"Starting a new life in Canada comes with many challenges, but finding support for our healthcare needs was not one of them. MCC treated us with respect, provided guidance in a way we could understand, and helped us feel connected to our new home."

MCC TALENT CONNECT



EMPLOYMENT

MCC Talent Connect supports individuals from diverse communities at every stage of their employment journey. Through a range of programs and services, our team works with job seekers to identify supports that best meet their individual needs, goals, skills, and level of experience.

Our programs provide opportunities for youth and adults to build workplace skills, strengthen language abilities, gain valuable experience, and connect with employers and community resources. Clients also have opportunities to expand their professional networks through job fairs, networking opportunities, community events, employer engagement, and volunteer experiences. MCC Talent Connect currently offers three programs for eligible clients: **Integrated Employment Services (IES), the Youth Employment Program, and the Adult Workplace Language Program.**

Employment support at MCC goes beyond finding a job. Our team provides personalized guidance and wraparound supports to help address the barriers that may impact a client's ability to enter and succeed in the workforce. By offering a variety of services tailored to the needs of job seekers, MCC helps clients build confidence, develop their skills, make meaningful connections, and take important steps toward long-term employment success.

BY THE NUMBERS:

TALENT CONNECT

8,560
SERVICES PROVIDED



497
CLIENTS SERVED



195
CLIENTS MATCHED
WITH EMPLOYERS



192
WORKSHOP
SESSIONS



1,856
WORKSHOP
ATTENDEES



TESTIMONIALS

"I would like to sincerely thank MCC Talent Connect for their support and guidance during my job search. The MCC Talent Connect Team's advice, encouragement and assistance have made a big difference for me. I truly appreciate the time and effort you have given to help me prepare for opportunities, and stay motivated throughout the process. Thank you again for everything you have done. I am grateful for your support."

"Thank you very much to the MCC Talent Connect team. Your contribution is big to me, you helped me pave my future life in Canada, supported with your education, your professionalism and your skill of communication. You have my deepest respect."

SETTLEMENT & INTEGRATION SERVICES

WINDSOR RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WRAP)

WRAP provides immediate, essential settlement services to Government-Assisted Refugees during their first weeks in Canada. MCC staff welcome newcomers at Windsor Airport, arrange temporary accommodations, support the search for permanent housing, enroll children in school, connect families with community resources and provide essential life skills training to help them settle successfully into their new community.

CLIENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM (CSS)

This nationwide program offers 12 -18 months of case management for eligible Newcomers to Canada to support them in settling into their new community. Through individualized and family case management clients receive direct services, ongoing support and community referrals, client will ease into the transition of living in Canada.

ORIENTATION TO ONTARIO (O2O)

O2O is a bilingual program designed to help newcomers successfully settle in Ontario by providing accessible information, practical guidance and community connections.

Through interactive workshops, the program offers essential information and resources to individuals and families who have recently arrived in Ontario. Workshop topics include education, financial services, healthcare, housing, obtaining an Ontario driver's licence, employment resources and other key aspects of living in Ontario.

NEWCOMER SETTLEMENT PROGRAM (NSP)

The Newcomer Settlement Program (NSP) helps naturalized Canadian citizens, refugee claimants, convention refugees, temporary foreign workers, and international students settle in Ontario. It provides personalized settlement support, referrals to community and government services, and workshops that promote successful community integration. In Windsor, the program is delivered by the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (MCC) in partnership with the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario and Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc.

ORIENTATION SERVICES

Staff provide one-on-one support to help eligible clients adapt to life in Canada. Services include direct assistance, information, referrals, advocacy, and orientation for families throughout the settlement process.



BY THE NUMBERS:

WINDSOR RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



CLIENT SUPPORT SERVICES



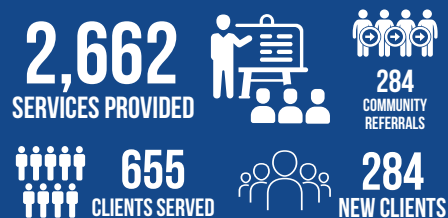
ORIENTATION TO ONTARIO (O2O)



NEWCOMER SETTLEMENT PROGRAM



ORIENTATION



LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM

Language Training offers newcomers English language training, covering four areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Language Training offers seven levels of training. The classes are free of charge to those with permanent resident status, landed immigrants, and convention refugees.

CARE FOR NEWCOMER CHILDREN

The Care for Newcomer Children (CNC) program provides on-site childcare for children aged six months to six years whose parents attend Language Training classes.

NEWCOMER YOUTH GROUP

This program offers a safe and supportive environment where youth can build confidence, develop skills, and make friends. Activities include Homework Club, employment support, sports and recreation, leadership development, and field trips throughout Windsor-Essex.

CONVERSATION CIRCLE LUNCH N' LEARN

This program provides an informal way for newcomers to practice English conversation skills. Our clients attend the group sessions to meet new friends, share ideas, and develop the language and cultural understanding they need for their successful integration into Canadian society.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

This series connects participants with local organizations and resources. Guest speakers introduce their expertise and highlight services that support newcomer integration.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

This program promotes MCC services across Windsor and Essex County by engaging with local agencies, businesses, and the wider community. Through events and partnerships, MCC raises awareness, builds relationships, and attracts new clients and supporters.

BY THE NUMBERS:

LANGUAGE TRAINING

41,669
SERVICES PROVIDED



335
CLIENTS SERVED



152
NEW CLIENTS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



165
WORKSHOP SESSIONS



1,662
WORKSHOP ATTENDEES



TESTIMONIALS

"My MCC case worker was very nice and helpful. They helped me and my family understand life in Canada and learn about the services available to us. Their support made us feel welcome and comfortable in our new community."

"The MCC worker helped me with doctors and medical appointments. They also helped arrange an interpreter when I needed one. This support made things much easier for me and my family. I am very thankful for their help."

"The MCC is a very good organization for people who are new to Canada. They helped me understand many things and find the services I needed. Without their support, I would have been lost and not known where to go for help."

"The MCC facilitators were very good and knowledgeable. They explained everything clearly and were always willing to answer questions. I learned a lot from the workshop."



MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL

OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY

25/26 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION:

TO CREATE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY

FOR ALL THROUGH EDUCATION, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT,
AND THE PROMOTION OF DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY.



We would like to recognize our generous funders, sponsors, and partners for their support.



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