THANK YOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I’m pleased to report another remarkable year in which there was so much evidence of God’s faithfulness and provision despite great uncertainty.

The pandemic continued to impact our work in Ontario and globally; this required perseverance and the need to be flexible and adapt to ever-changing circumstances. Thrift shops were closed or had limited capacity, travel restrictions delayed refugees coming to Canada, material resource shipments were delayed and isolation weighed heavily on staff and those we serve.

Internationally, the needs were significant with crises in many places around the world. Conflict in Ethiopia, war in Ukraine, economic and political instability in Lebanon and the impact of climate continue to create food insecurity in many places. These are some of the challenges MCC responded to with your support.

In spite of multiple challenges, those who help make the ministry of MCC possible gave generously of their time and resources to collectively bring hope and healing to those most deeply affected. To our volunteers, donors, supporting churches and dedicated staff, we are grateful for your generosity and compassion that is making a difference in the lives of those who struggle with accessing everyday necessities.

As you read stories of impact and other results in the following pages, I hope you are inspired knowing that despite so much conflict and need, God is at work restoring hope and healing. Know that you are a vital part of MCC.

Joyfully in Christ,

JOHN HEAD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC ONTARIO
JOHNHEAD@MCCONTARIO.CA

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

— HEBREWS 13:16 NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)
ABOUT MCC ONTARIO

In addition to more than 600 projects worldwide, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is actively engaged in making a difference in Ontario. We walk towards reconciliation with Indigenous Neighbours and alongside newcomers building a new life in Canada. We support those impacted by crime or facing the realities of poverty and homelessness. We work to build stronger and safer communities.

Our work includes:

• A network of thrift shops committed to supporting local and international relief, development and peace projects and a sustainable way to preserve finite resources
• Resettlement of refugees made possible by church and community sponsorship groups
• Facilitating reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples through relationship, art, advocacy and emergency assistance
• Responding to the needs of communities and individuals who have been impacted by crime through restorative justice, trauma healing and peacebuilding initiatives
• Networking and liaising with providers and agencies in delivering culturally appropriate services for Low German-speaking newcomers
• Walking alongside and supporting people in our community facing the realities of homelessness and poverty
• Collecting and shipping desperately needed aid materials all over the world

MCC ONTARIO WORKS ON TREATIED LAND

MCC Ontario acknowledges and honours the Original People from all the Nations represented in this land we now call Ontario. We acknowledge the impact of colonialism on the land, language, culture and knowledge of all Indigenous Peoples. We also recognize the contributions that Indigenous Peoples have made to shaping and strengthening communities across Ontario.

We are grateful for the opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to make the promise and the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our lives and in our work.

“Thank you.... Your support through prayer and kindness sure does help!”

Ed Sackaney, Fort Albany First Nation

LEADERSHIP TEAM

John Head
Executive Director

Kim Lester
Associate Executive Director

Wendy Adema
Program Director

Michelle Brenneman
Director of Human Resources
Every Child Matters pin, beaded at the Stitching and Stories Niska event
MCC photo/Clara Wheaton

Thank you for partnering with MCC Ontario to provide emergency supplies, support food sovereignty and respond to the Calls to Action put forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

“The pins created during this workshop are not only a symbol of solidarity but — because they hold the story of a group, brought together by art, who shared in moments of learning, hearing, seeing and healing — they are also a symbol of hope and reconciliation.”

Stitching and Stories participant

6 Northern Indigenous communities received emergency aid.

16 Indigenous communities increased their access to culturally appropriate, nutritious and affordable food through Community Gardening kits.

737 individuals expanded their knowledge of colonial impacts on Indigenous Peoples.

15 Indigenous artisans educated patrons about the unique cultures in Ontario’s Far North through the Niska Artisans program.

Stories of community

MCC’s Niska Artisans program held an online event called Stitching and Stories. Over three weeks, Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants came together to listen, learn and share. Participants learned how to bead an Every Child Matters pin while connecting through creativity.

Participants shared in the richness of each other’s stories, vulnerability and honesty. At the end of the workshop, it was evident that participants hadn’t just created pins — together, they had created a community.
Throughout COVID-19-related shutdowns, the Material Resources team continued to ship emergency supplies to families experiencing conflict and disaster, reminding them that their needs are not forgotten.

Thank you for providing immediate relief to people in need. Your gift provides essential material resources to families living amid conflict, disaster and poverty. The impacts of your generosity are far-reaching!

2,030 relief kits provided valuable supplies to families whose lives have been disrupted by war or disaster.

11,600 hygiene kits helped families remain healthy after fleeing their homes.

5,500 school kits became treasures for families who struggle to afford basic school supplies for their children.

3,704 comforters provided a tangible message to people in places like Ukraine that their needs are not forgotten.

Stories of hope

In June of 2021, MCC relocated its central material resources warehouse from Plum Coulee, Manitoba to New Hamburg, Ontario.

By reducing the number of Canadian shipping sites and locating the central warehouse closer to an international port, critical relief supplies — such as comforters, canned meat and relief kits — reach those who need them faster than ever before.

MCC’s New Hamburg warehouse ships much-needed relief supplies the moment disaster strikes.
When JP finally got the news that he’d soon become a new Canadian, he was filled with excitement, joy and relief.

Stories of hope

JP lost his parents to a militia attack when he was just a boy. Orphaned and alone, he was forced to flee his home in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Eventually, JP settled in South Africa. Sadly, however, xenophobic views caused upheaval in the community. Immigrants and refugees were blamed for taking jobs away from the locals. JP was targeted by a violent mob and badly beaten.

JP fled to Kenya and obtained refugee status, but he desperately wanted to find a safe and permanent home. MCC assisted JP’s sponsorship group to bring JP to Canada.

136 active sponsoring groups were supported as they navigated development and COVID-19-related setback in the refugee sponsorship process.

569 refugees from all over the world are being assisted in starting a new life in Canada.

345 service providers gained a deeper understanding of how to engage with members of the Low German-speaking community.
The Dismas Photo Club is an art project that was created and led by folks reintegrating into community after serving a sentence and by the volunteers who support them.

Your MCC partnership helps reduce risk and improve community reintegration outcomes by empowering individuals to build a culture of peace.

The Dismas Photo Club allows members to learn photography techniques, spend time in nature and build relationships with fellow members.

Stories of peace

It is impossible to ignore the escalating tensions between nations, political parties and cultural groups. Instead of finding common ground, it seems that issues of class, race, gender, health policies and climate change are becoming ever more polarized.

In response to these escalating tensions, MCC continues to build peace in our communities. This year, 460 people were trained to become active bystanders. These individuals now actively create cultures of peace in their communities!

In the face of hatred and ignorance, knowledge, understanding and empathy are often the best way forward. As we recognize our responsibility for the well-being of others, we are changing our communities for the better.
The Raw Carrot staff are paid a living wage and the soups are sold through MCC Thrift Shops and a number of local grocery stores.

Your MCC partnership helps foster connection, create meaningful employment and advocate for vulnerable people. The impacts of your generosity are far-reaching!

Stories of community

MCC’s Circle of Friends (CoF) program continued to meet throughout the year with online and hybrid meetings. CoF supports individuals and families transitioning from homelessness and shelter-living back into the Kitchener-Waterloo community.

MCC staff developed the art of facilitating online meetings and taught vital digital literacy skills to Circle of Friends participants.

Pandemic-related stressors continue to put many vulnerable participants at risk of mental health and/or addiction complications; however, participants continue to benefit from meaningful activities and personal connections through Circle of Friends programming.
Sarene is one of 15 staff and nearly 300 volunteers who process, sort, recycle and give new homes for thousands of items moving through New Hamburg Thrift Centre every day.

Despite COVID-19-related closures and restrictions, MCC Thrift Shops continued to be an important part of our communities.

$114,919
MCC Thrift and Gift in Elmira celebrated their highest month of sales ever in November 2021, reaching $114,919.99.

1,463
volunteers supported the worldwide work of MCC through Thrift here in Ontario.

$51,546
The cash registers at MCC Thrift on Kent in Kitchener showed a record-breaking week from October 25-30, 2021 of $51,465.60.

$15,775
MCC New Hamburg Thrift Centre experienced their highest sale day ever on October 29, 2021 reaching $15,775!

Stories of development

When COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in the summer of 2021, MCC New Hamburg Thrift Centre (NHTC) was finally able to take full advantage of their expansion which was completed in November 2020.

NHTC, Ontario’s largest MCC Thrift shop, moved donation processing tasks next door to 65 Heritage Drive, allowing the retail store to add 4,200 square feet for a total of 12,000 square feet of prime retail space. The new flexible space has given the NHTC team the ease to continually adapt floor space to maximize sales per square foot.
COVID-19 RESPONSE

Your support creates opportunities to respectfully support Indigenous-led initiatives.

“...in the face of a massive COVID-19 crisis and huge humanitarian problems, ordinary Canadians stepped up to help. This airlift of supplies has made a huge difference.”

Charlie Angus, MP
Timmins James Bay

JAMES BAY CRISIS

In June and July 2021, COVID-19 swept through James Bay communities, taking hold in Fort Albany, Kashechewan and Attawapiskat First Nations. All of this transpired while forest fires raged. At one point in the summer of 2021, over 180 significant forest fires were burning across Northern Ontario!

Then, in late 2021 and early 2022, the Omicron wave of COVID-19 caused an unprecedented spike in cases across northern communities.

The chronic housing shortage on the James Bay Coast means there are often 15 people crowded into one small house, which made isolating almost impossible.

Even in the best of times, food insecurity is a severe problem in the communities of James Bay because of the high cost of food. In these situations, lack of food quickly became a crisis as supplies dwindled and families were not able to leave their homes.

Because of your support, MCC was able to provide necessities to 618 families to allow them to shelter in place.

Over 50,000 lbs of food, 220 comforters, 700 hygiene kits and 100 school kits were delivered safely to Fort Albany, Kashechewan and Attawapiskat First Nations. We could not have done this without you!
Financial highlights

The financial information on this page represents the operations of MCC Ontario for the year ending March 31, 2022 and has been prepared from the audited financial statements. Complete audited financial statements are available upon request or at [MCC Ontario.ca/annual-report](http://MCC Ontario.ca/annual-report).

**MCC ONTARIO DOLLARS AT WORK:**

\[ \text{International programs: } \$11,344,152 \quad 65\% \\
\text{Core mission support: Fundraising} \quad \$793,907 \quad 5\% \\
\text{Core mission support: Administration} \quad \$2,033,023 \quad 12\% \\
\text{Ontario programs:} \quad \$3,182,365 \quad 18\% \]

**MCC ONTARIO FUNDING SOURCES:**

\[ \text{Donations} \quad \$11,704,090 \\
\text{Estates and trusts} \quad \$2,828,783 \\
\text{Thrift} \quad \$3,121,566 \\
\text{Grants (government and other)} \quad \$616,001 \\
\text{Other} \quad \$950,653 \\
\text{Material resources} \quad \$481,849 \\
\text{Relief sales} \quad \$284,409 \]

**MCC ONTARIO PROGRAM DOLLARS BY THEME:**

- **Migration & resettlement:** $1,002,855
- **Poverty:** $951,192
- **Restorative justice:** $616,001
- **Indigenous neighbours:** $584,976
- **Material resources:** $289,826
- **Low German:** $66,602
- **Peacebuilding and education:** $28,839

- **Education:** $8,201
- **Food security & sustainable livelihoods:** $2,828,783
- **Humanitarian relief & disaster recovery:** $950,653
- **Peacebuilding & conflict transformation:** $481,849
- **Peacebuilding and education:** $284,409

**ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2021/2022**

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