



2023/2024  
Annual Impact Report  
**EASTERN CANADA**



*See the impact of your generosity in  
Eastern Canada.*





15-year-old Lydianne Ferland took the initiative to present MCC's longstanding work in Palestine and Israel in November 2023 to raise funds for MCC's emergency response in Gaza. (MCC photo/Zacharie Leclair)



Kits and crepes event at the home of Angela and Ray Geurkink in November 2023 in Montreal. (Photo credit: Ray Geurkink)



Participants at the Seven Generations Gathering in November 2023 meet in Tatamagouche Centre, in Bayhead, Nova Scotia. (Photo courtesy of Tatamagouche Centre)

We are so glad you are part of the MCC story.

These pages are just a glimpse into how your gifts are impacting people's lives in Eastern Canada and around the world.

Thank you for joining us in this work.

# MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR DIRECTOR OF EQUITY AND DOMESTIC PROGRAM

The English theologian and writer John Henry Newman said, “To live is to change,” and this adage rings true in Eastern Canada when we look at the year 2023–2024.

In both Atlantic Canada and Quebec, we welcomed new regional representatives into their roles: Jonathan Schut, a newcomer to MCC, and Zacharie Leclair, who’s worked at MCC’s Montreal office for seven years. We welcomed Kailey De Boer into an administrative and communications role in Quebec, and as I write this in summer 2024, Zahra Osmani has just begun her work as a migration and resettlement program developer, also in Quebec. Besides these staffing changes, each summer season we welcome new Summerbridge participants into the work of MCC and the church. Partners continue to grow their work and shift their response according to the needs on the ground, while the circle of supporters engaged in the work of MCC in Eastern Canada grows.

Isaiah’s words bring a balm and a steadiness when a season of changes can feel unsettling. God is with us as we pass through the water and as we walk through the fire. Moreover, God is doing a new thing, making a way in this wilderness and accompanying us along the journey.

We thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement as we strive to live out Jesus’ love for all, in word and in action.



**RUTH PLETT, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF EQUITY  
AND DOMESTIC PROGRAM, MCC CANADA**

*“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; and when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.... I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*

ISAIAH 43:1-2, 19 NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

## MCC EASTERN CANADA 2023/2024

### SUMMERBRIDGE

#### QUEBEC PARTICIPANTS

**Anny Théogène**

Église chrétienne de Saint-Laurent, Montreal, Que.

**Ines Amari**

Église chrétienne de Sainte-Thérèse, Sainte-Thérèse, Que.

**Evyka Théorêt**

Camp Péniel, Wentworth-Nord, Que.

#### ATLANTIC CANADA PARTICIPANTS

**Aaron Raymond**

The Well (MB Church), Dartmouth, N.S.

**Lily Somers**

The Well (MB Church), Dartmouth, N.S.

### ATLANTIC CANADA

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Sandra Bunnett**

Havelock, N.B.

**Dave Drinkwalter**

St. John's, N.L.

**Stephanie Perry**

Moncton, N.B.

**Barry Smith**

Dartmouth, N.S.

#### STAFF

**Passionate Ncube**

Regional representative (ending Nov. 2023)

**Jonathan Schut**

Regional representative (beginning Nov. 2023)

### QUEBEC

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Véronique Beaudin**

Église chrétienne de Sainte-Rose, Laval, Que.

**Réal Bonneville**

Église chrétienne de Saint-Laurent, Montreal, Que.

**Dora-Marie Goulet**

Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal, Montreal, Que.

**Annie Labelle**

Église chrétienne de Saint-Eustache, Saint-Eustache, Que.

#### STAFF

**Zacharie Leclair**

Regional representative

**Kailey De Boer**

Administrative and communications assistant

### MCC CANADA

#### STAFF

**Ruth Plett**

Co-Director of MCC Canada's Peace & Justice Office (Oversees program in Eastern Canada)

MCC Eastern Canada includes Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

\*This report was written to reflect the 2023/2024 fiscal year, which ended March 31, 2024.

## Material resources collected by MCC Eastern Canada in FYE 2024 (April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024)



274

Hygiene kits



2

Comforters



182

School kits



22

Infant care kits



## QUEBEC

# YOUR SUPPORT IS BUILDING COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION

Ruth Plett (left), MCC Canada senior director of equity and domestic programming, and Zacharie Leclair (middle), MCC Quebec regional representative, met with Harry Lafond (right) from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation to learn how the Cree community is developing expertise in forest horticulture. (Photo by Randy Klassen)

The wood sculpture *Portal of Healing* stands at the Stoney Knoll interpretive site in Saskatchewan symbolically marking the journey toward reconciliation between the local Cree, Mennonite and Lutheran communities. MCC Saskatchewan has been involved in the development of this site. (Photo by Randy Klassen)

*“Above all, I could sense joy and excitement that, despite the severity of the current situation, things are starting to move toward more justice and more peace.”*

**ZACHARIE LECLAIR**  
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
MCC QUEBEC



In May 2023, I embarked on an MCC learning tour to Saskatoon to visit MCC colleagues from the Indigenous Neighbours program. We are looking to create an Indigenous Neighbours program in Quebec this year, and this trip was an opportunity to see how MCC Saskatchewan has worked alongside Indigenous partners in the area.

It was a great time of learning from partners who are committed to walking the road to reconciliation with First Nations communities. I also took part in a pipe ceremony and visited with members of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation who are developing expertise in forest horticulture.

One of the most amazing encounters for me was meeting with Mennonite and Lutheran landowners who are engaged in a dialogue with Indigenous people who claim the settlers' farms as their rightful reserve land — which used to be called Reserve 107 under Treaty 6 from 1876. Though there are challenges and no concrete solutions yet, the group took the first step of forming a relationship to recognize the history of land



concession in the prairies before trying to settle the dispute. I was amazed at this rare capacity to remain calmly engaged in peacebuilding.

I also got a clearer sense of how different the relationships with First Nations can be among provinces, especially between the one I know best, Quebec, and that of the prairies. Quebec was mostly populated by Europeans in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, before Canadian Confederation, the Indian Act and the residential school policy. Because of that, much of the language used around reconciliation (for instance, the term “settler”) has been questioned by many Quebecers. Nevertheless, I saw a very diverse movement in Saskatchewan made up of Indigenous people, settlers and newcomers, determined to address racism and achieve reconciliation. I am inspired to bring that same spirit of togetherness to the work in Quebec.

In Saskatoon, 115 organizations, including MCC, collaborate under an umbrella organization called Reconciliation Saskatoon.

The organization is committed to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and responds to issues such as the disproportionate number of Indigenous people in Canadian prisons. For example, more than 40% of women incarcerated in Canada are Indigenous, but in Saskatchewan, that proportion approaches 90%. Facing such gigantic issues, these organizations started to respond by concentrating on the root causes of colonialism and Indigenous dispossession, instead of getting caught up in addressing the consequences of criminal punishment.

Even more surprising from my Quebec perspective, religious groups, particularly Christian churches, are well-represented in this movement. Despite the confronting and difficult feelings in starting these conversations, I could sense the joy and excitement in using peaceful practices and dialogue to move toward a more equitable relationship. From grassroots to political circles, reconciliation is happening. It is up to us to do our part here in Quebec as well.



# QUEBEC

## MESSAGE FROM MCC QUEBEC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



ZACHARIE LECLAIR  
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
MCC QUEBEC



MCC Quebec staff as of August 2024: (L to R)  
Zacharie Leclair, Kailey De Boer and Zahra Osmani.  
(MCC photo)

This past year was marked by an important transition in the management of MCC Quebec. After six years of service as MCC Quebec regional representative, Daniel Genest retired. Many of his colleagues, as well as MCC Quebec constituents, thanked and congratulated him for his hard work in this role.

Now, after seven years with MCC Quebec and MCC's Peace & Justice Office in Ottawa, I had the opportunity to become the newest regional representative for MCC Quebec. I welcome this new challenge with joy. I also welcomed Kailey De Boer to the MCC Quebec team in January 2024. Our new administration and communications assistant already stands out for her spirit of service, her technological abilities and her love for writing. One of the biggest projects on the horizon for this year is the implementation of a program focused on migration and refugee sponsorship, including the arrival of a new staff member, Zahra Osmani, dedicated to this task.

Several disasters and conflicts have dominated the news recently, and MCC's relief, development and peace efforts are present in many of them. You have generously lent a helping hand to vulnerable populations in drought- and famine-stricken Ethiopia, in Haiti as it reels from the political crisis that followed the assassination of their president in 2021, in Ukraine facing an intensified Russian military invasion since 2022 and in Palestine and Israel to name a few.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for journeying with us in this troubled world. In Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, he invites believers to not only adopt an attitude of non-violence and refuse to seek vengeance ("let no one repay evil for evil") but to also do good both where we are and further beyond: "Always seek to do good to one another and to all." These words have been at the heart of MCC's commitment for over 100 years. Once again, it has been our honour to take part in this MCC ministry. In the name of Christ, thank you for your support.





← Staff from Al-Najd Developmental Forum, an MCC partner, helped distribute emergency food to families in Gaza in March 2024. (Photo courtesy of Al-Najd/Bashar al Arja)

## 75 YEARS OF PEACEBUILDING IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

The humanitarian disaster that unfolded in Gaza this year compelled MCC Quebec constituents and donors to respond. At the request of a Mennonite Brethren church, MCC Quebec hosted a webinar on the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict and MCC’s relief and peacebuilding work in the region since 1949.

The webinar was held in November 2023 and was open to all MCC Quebec constituent churches and donors, as well as to the student community at École de Théologie Évangélique du Québec (EETQ, Quebec School of Evangelical Theology).

The virtual discussion was an opportunity that brought together 75 people to better understand the roots and context of the conflict — particularly the injustice of Israel’s illegal occupation in the Palestinian territories — and identify prospects for peace in the midst of violence and turn our attention and prayers to the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. The financial contributions and active engagement of our supporters were an encouraging and welcomed support for the work of MCC staff and partners in the region.

*“Even if we didn’t have the same perspective, there was a commitment to have a dialogue as a group of churches. It was a blueprint for how we can address difficult questions that have theological implications.”*

**Zacharie Leclair, MCC Quebec regional representative**

## QUEBEC



## LOCAL EVENTS WITH GLOBAL IMPACT

In November 2023, two different events showed just how much global impact a seemingly small action can have. First, Angela and Ray Geurkink invited a group of friends over to their apartment for an evening of good company. But in between food conversation, they assembled relief kits for MCC in between sharing crepes.

The second event was led by 15-year-old Lydianne Ferland, who gave a presentation on MCC's work in Palestine and Israel to members of Église Chrétienne Évangélique de Saint-Eustache (Mennonite Brethren Church in Saint-Eustache) with the goal of raising funds for MCC's emergency response in Gaza.

Both events may have felt small in scale, but together they led to 178 donations of relief kits to MCC. That means 178 families will have their basic needs met in a time of crisis. Like the parable of the mustard seed that produces faith, these small thoughtful acts have produced a real impact on the lives of people in need.

## ATLANTIC CANADA

# YOU'RE SUPPORTING RECONCILIATION EFFORTS

Rematriation, sometimes referred to as “land back,” is a powerful act of reconciliation and one that has been discussed for several years at Tatamagouche Centre, an MCC partner in Bayhead, Nova Scotia. Tatamagouche Centre is an education and retreat centre that invites people to pursue right relationships, respect for creation and justice in the world.

Rematriation is distinct from repatriation in that the name identifies the important value of Indigenous women leading the process of restoring relationships between Indigenous people and their ancestral land.

During the Seven Generations Gathering in November 2023, the decision was made to move forward on a process of creating a different way of living based on Indigenous ancestral ways and spirituality. In pursuit of reconciliation and right relationships, Tatamagouche Centre has begun the process of rematriating the land on which they operate to the Women of First Light, a non-profit group led by Indigenous women from Wabanaki territory. The group will continue to care for the land while also operating and overseeing the governance of the centre.

(L to R) David Kroeker-Maus, Pascal Tchelougou, Annika Krause and Brendan Klassen participated in a “Kits and Crepes” night hosted by Angela and Ray Geurkink in Montreal, Quebec. (Photo courtesy of Ray Geurkink)





Participants at the Seven Generations Gathering in November 2023 meet in Tatamagouche Centre, in Bayhead, Nova Scotia. (Photo courtesy of Tatamagouche Centre)

This is a collaborative process between Tatamagouche Centre, Women of First Light and the United Church of Canada. The centre is situated on Mi'kmaw homeland — land that has been a sacred gathering place for hundreds of years. According to the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in the 1700s, this land has never been ceded or surrendered.

The journey toward rematriation must begin with truth-telling. As one of the clan mothers involved in the process has said, “We are still in the truth part of truth and reconciliation.” To engage in this process respectfully, Tatamagouche Centre is hosting a series of webinars aimed at offering a deeper understanding of what rematriation means and how it can be done to cultivate stronger relationships.

During the first webinar in February 2024, participants heard from the Center for Ethical Land Transition, a U.S.-based organization, about ways to ensure all voices in the process are heard and respected. Your support means the Tatamagouche Centre’s webinar series can continue to bring together a diverse range of speakers and participants to learn more about the finer details of land rematriation.

MCC’s vision of a world full of communities living in right relationships aligns beautifully with what is happening at Tatamagouche Centre. The rematriation of this land will ultimately provide a safe space for communities to gather, share culture, learn and heal.

## MESSAGE FROM MCC ATLANTIC CANADA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



JONATHAN SCHUT, MCC ATLANTIC CANADA  
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE. (PHOTO  
COURTESY OF JONATHAN SCHUT)

The last few years have seen many changes for MCC in Atlantic Canada. The most recent of those changes is my assumption of the role of regional representative in November 2023. In the midst of the many transitions, one thing has not changed and that is the commitment of Atlantic Canadians to the work of peace and justice in their communities and around the world.

It has been a joy to get started in this role by meeting people across the region who have deep roots and long-standing connections to MCC. As I embarked on this journey of representing MCC, I have been energized to hear their stories and learn about their passion for this organization and its commitment to relief, development and peacebuilding.

Gathering material resources has been so encouraging. I get to see first-hand the love and genuine care that goes into the preparation of each kit. Interacting with donors has shown me the depth of people's generosity as they acknowledge their own advantages and seek to use them for the benefit of others. Working with partners has opened my eyes to the many organizations that are doing great work right here in our region. Visiting churches has reminded me that the work of peace and justice transcends denominational differences as we all set out to share God's love and compassion with the world in the name of Jesus.

These early days have been pure joy. The learning curve has been steep, but it is such a privilege to interact with Atlantic Canadians and tell them about the work we do at MCC. I am looking forward with great anticipation to what the next year will bring!



## SUMMERBRIDGE TESTIMONY: AARON RAYMOND

**The Summerbridge program is an 8–12-week summer opportunity for Canadian young adults who are paid to serve in their home congregations and communities, taking on important projects. Aaron Raymond served last year at his home church, The Well, in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.**

Participating in Summerbridge has become a key part of my story as a follower of Jesus. Summerbridge provided me with the opportunity to discover my God-given abilities and how I could use them to serve others.

As a new Christian, I felt a call on my life for service and ministry. Summerbridge gave me space to explore this calling and discover what this service could look like. I worked under excellent mentors who encouraged and guided me. I had a chance to meet people in my community who opened my eyes to the suffering and hardships around me. I was able to build relationships with people in the community that I still have today. The experience of Summerbridge played a key role in my decision to pursue a Master of Divinity degree. I am currently working on this degree so that I can be equipped for service in the body of Christ.

Through the Summerbridge orientation, I learned about the story of MCC and its mission. MCC does incredible work around the globe. In so many places, MCC is demonstrating the compassion of Christ through relief,



Summerbridge participant Aaron Raymond worked for his home church, The Well, in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. (Photo courtesy of Aaron Raymond)

development and peace initiatives. To know that others are working diligently to bring the compassion of Christ to the world gives me the motivation to work toward my own call. I would be thrilled if my path crosses with MCC again in the future.



# 2023/2024 Annual Impact Report

**CANADA AND SHARED INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM**



*See the impact of your generosity  
around the world.*





Jean Bosco Nsanzimana is a farmer in Rwanda's Kayonza district. He and his wife participated in conservation agriculture training offered by MCC partner Peace and Development Network (PDN) and increased their crop yield. Through a savings and loan association offered by PDN, the couple were able to rent a larger tract of land to farm. (MCC/Fairpicture photo/ Denyse Kamugwiza Uwera)



MCC partner Remember the Poorest Communities (RPC) provides preschool education in Adama, Ethiopia, for 250 orphaned and vulnerable children. RPC's project increases access to early childhood education, improves literacy and supports the emotional well-being of the children. (MCC photo/Nafkot Gebeyehu)



MCC partner Asociación Nuevo Amanecer de Santiago Atitlán (ANADESA) runs a development program for women in rural communities in Guatemala. ANADESA staff Laura Patricia Choy Tuiz, left, and participant Lucía Chiyal Chavajay display Lucía's *mostacilla* (artisanal beadwork), her personal microenterprise. (Photo credit ANADESA)

Jesus told us that faith, even the size of a mustard seed, can move mountains. Your faith has been anything but small and has accompanied us every step of the way.

These are the stories of your impact over the past year.

Thank you for your act of faith and generosity.



# THANK YOU

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the privileges of my job is to offer you thanks. But think of this as a note of thanks coming from thousands of people you have never met. Your generosity matters deeply — to partners, communities and families around the world. Your gifts to MCC are making a real and lasting impact in communities from Myanmar to Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

How does that impact happen? Through MCC partners.

A partner is one expression of a community's desire to improve their lives. A partner may be a church, a women's cooperative or a community agricultural organization. Your gift allows MCC to partner with these organizations that are already at work in their communities.

These partnerships are built on trust, allowing us to take cues from a partner's vision for change and offer support in the ways they tell us they need it.

Your gift was life-giving. It empowered partners to provide water, trauma care and disaster relief for their communities, our global neighbours.

As you read the following pages, I hope you experience a sense of our gratitude and the gratitude of MCC partners. And I hope you can take a few moments to celebrate what your giving has enabled our partners to do.

We are deeply grateful for your support. Your gift is vital, with far-reaching impact.

Thank you, and thanks be to God.



**RICK COBER BAUMAN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC CANADA

**This report was written to reflect the 2023/2024 fiscal year, which ended March 31, 2024. To read an online version visit [mcc.org/about/reports](https://mcc.org/about/reports)**



**MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.** In our second century of service, we reaffirm our Christ-led commitment to serve and learn from vulnerable people around the world.

In Chacaya, Guatemala, Lilian Osorio (left) stands with her daughter Luna Isel Choy Osorio in front of the restaurant Lilian opened with support from MCC partner ANADESA (New Dawn Association of Santiago Atitlán). With your support, MCC projects and partners are encouraging women to carve out new opportunities for themselves and their families.

## MCC CANADA 2023/2024 BOARD MEMBERS

**Ron Ratzlaff**  
Chair, CCAL\*

**Eleanor Andres**  
Member-at-large

**Selena Friesen**  
CCAL\*

**Thoven Pierre**  
Quebec

**Catherine Enns**  
Vice-Chair, Member-at-large

**Trisha Ashworth**  
MCC Ontario

**Louise Larsen**  
MCC British Columbia

**Janet Plenert**  
MCC Manitoba

**Sandra Bunnett**  
Secretary, Atlantic Canada

**Jacqueline Block**  
MCC Saskatchewan

**Fiona Mo**  
CCAL\*

**Mark Sawatzky**  
Treasurer, Member-at-large

**Ernie Engbrecht**  
MCC Alberta

\*Appointed by the Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders (CCAL), which includes Mennonite Church Canada, Be in Christ Church of Canada, Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and Evangelical Mennonite Conference.



# Global disaster response



A woman walks by a pile of rubble left from the February 2023 earthquake along the streets of Jableh, a remote city in Latakia, Syria. Nearly 9,000 people received monthly food supplies from MCC partners after the earthquakes.\* (FDCD photo/Mohammad Said)



In Amman, Jordan, MCC and Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization staff inspect items from the initial shipment of 665 food packages for dispatch to Gaza.\* (MCC photo/Marc Falconer)

## Response to earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye

In February 2023, two significant earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye caused massive destruction in the lives of more than 14 million people, compounding an already significant humanitarian crisis there. But in the months after, MCC's response in Syria has continued, providing food baskets, hygiene kits and cash distributions to thousands whose lives were affected. MCC partner Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FDCD) provided monthly food baskets to 1,600 households — nearly 9,000 individuals. Their response focused on households whose homes were destroyed or damaged by the earthquakes.

## Inter-agency cooperation for Gaza

Part of MCC's emergency response in Gaza was funded by matching donations from the Government of Canada and the Humanitarian Coalition (HC), a collaboration of 12 Canadian international relief organizations. MCC participates in the HC through our membership in Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Every dollar you gave in the earliest days of the appeal for Gaza was doubled, significantly increasing the scope of the response. Emergency relief has been highly restricted in Gaza, so every shipment that crosses the borders makes a significant impact. This type of cooperation is fueled by donors like you and shows that when we work together, we can do more good than when we work alone.

\*Names have been withheld for security purposes.



Two women receive MCC comforters in the Zaporizhzhia region of Ukraine. Because of your support, more than 332,000 hungry people have been served meals, and more than 60,000 comforters have kept people warm.\* (Photo: Association of Mennonite Brethren Churches of Ukraine)



An MCC partner staff prepares food parcels for distribution to internally displaced people in Myanmar.\* (MCC photo)

## Continued relief and development in Ukraine

While the Russian military invasion of Ukraine faded from headlines this year, the needs remain high. MCC partners continue to supply emergency relief to people displaced from their homes by the fighting. Since 2022, MCC has spent nearly \$17 million on locally purchased goods and program costs in Ukraine. Peacebuilding projects have seen a boost in the last year, with many projects aimed at helping adults and children work through the trauma of war and displacement in supportive environments. Horse therapy, art therapy and massage therapy are a few of the ways MCC partners are helping Ukrainians address their emotional and spiritual needs in addition to their physical needs.

## Emergency relief in Myanmar

In 2021, a military coup overthrew Myanmar's first democratic government in decades. Since then, the country has witnessed a humanitarian catastrophe and has become dangerous for our partners to provide relief. But Mr. Khong\* recently shared on an episode of *Relief, Development and Podcast* how he is navigating these dangerous conditions. He talks about the moral obligation he feels as a peace worker, the livelihoods being impacted, families fleeing from their homes, the unpredictability of the army and the constant worry about being a target.

*Podcast: listen to Mr. Khong describe the situation in Myanmar.*





## Spotlight: Jonathan works for peace

On *Relief, Development and Podcast*, human rights lawyer and former MCC service worker Jonathan Kuttab (below) speaks about why understanding the context of the conflict in Palestine and Israel is essential to providing effective relief in the region. “I often say there’s a clear distinction between optimism and hope. I am not optimistic; this situation looks horrible. But I am full of hope that things can and will change.”

Listen to Jonathan describe the context of peace efforts in Palestine and Israel. (MCC photo/Christy Kauffman)



## Relief program highlights:

**299,458**

people received emergency food assistance

**11,805**

people received financial support or rent

**46,300**

people provided with temporary shelter

**202**

homes repaired or reconstructed

# RELIEF



## You're offering relief to those facing disaster or war

In October 2023, Firas Hamlawi, right, a volunteer, and Rifqah Hamlawi, centre, a staff member with MCC partner AI-Najd Developmental Forum, helped distribute food packages to 35 families and bedding to 10 families displaced by the increased violence in Gaza. (Photo courtesy of AI-Najd Developmental Forum)

*“It’s really only possible to respond in situations like this with trusted, existing partners.”*

SARAH FUNKHOUSER WHO IS THE MCC REPRESENTATIVE FOR JORDAN, PALESTINE, AND ISRAEL ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND SETH MALONE



Following the Hamas attacks on Israel last fall, the Israeli military response in Gaza launched one of the direst humanitarian crises of the last year. MCC staff overseeing projects in Gaza say the level of destruction is unfathomable.

**Your love in action empowered an immediate response.**

Your donations to MCC's Gaza response allowed our partners to hand out emergency food supplies and bedding for hundreds of displaced and terrified families with no delay. Support has since taken the form of cash transfers and cross-border food shipments when humanitarian aid is permitted to flow.

Your faithful support builds on MCC's 75 years of working in Palestine and Israel, which has allowed us to grow long-term relationships with our partners. Many MCC partners on the ground in Gaza have continued working, even with their own lives in danger. Their years of experience are essential in times of disaster.

"It's really only possible to respond in situations like this with trusted, existing partners," says Sarah Funkhouser, who, together with her husband, Seth Malone, is the MCC representative for Jordan, Palestine and Israel.

## Spotlight: Barbara shares her table

As a *Share Your Table* donor, Barbara Gagne-Gottel receives update emails with videos, recipes and much more. Barbara has been a *Share Your Table* donor since March 2021. She is one of more than 600 Canadians helping feed people around the world each month. “When I first heard of *Share Your Table*, immediately I felt it was an extension of my personal desire to practice hospitality.”

Barbara Gagne-Gottel, Quebec  
(MCC photo/ Mackenzie Schwarz)



## FOOD



### You're helping farmers respond to climate change and feed their families

Ovagini Rani tends to seedlings in her hanging garden at home. Hung from supports, her garden is protected from flood waters that would otherwise destroy it.

## Food program highlights:

**40,726**

people trained in climate-adaptive agriculture practices

**1,515**

farmers in a project in Mozambique say they can now control pests on the majority of their plots — a 400% increase from last year

**26,850**

people received agricultural supplies, including seeds and tools

**38**

projects in 20 countries are supported through MCC's account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank

**337,234**

trees planted

*“Now vegetables, fruits, other things, everything is here. Now I am getting enough.”*

NIKHIL CHANDRA MONDOL,  
A BANGLADESHI FARMER





Ovagini Rani has seen five homes washed away into the Jamuna River over her lifetime. Her current home sits on the banks of the Jamuna in Bogura, Bangladesh, and every year she hopes it remains there after the rainy season. Two recent rainy seasons have brought so much flooding that Ovagini has found fish at her doorstep more than once. In those conditions, there's almost no way to reliably grow anything.

But your generous support has equipped her with a life-changing solution and a creative approach.

MCC partner Maitree Palli Unnayan Sangathon (MPUS) is teaching farmers like Ovagini to think vertically. By building simple triangular frames from bamboo and planting crops that thrive

vertically, Ovagini doesn't have to worry about losing her crops when the river rises. Now, not only can she grow more food for her family, but she can also sell seedlings and compost to her neighbours, increasing the amount of money she can bring in for her family.

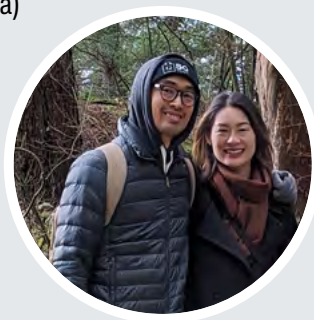
Ovagini can make 5,000 takas (\$58) most months on top of the 10,000 takas her husband makes from working day labour jobs. **Your support has empowered MPUS to innovate, which has enabled Ovagini to support her daughter's studies at university in Dhaka in ways she couldn't before.**



## Spotlight: Ken and Cheryl leave a legacy

Ken Ogasawara and Cheryl Lee are MCC supporters from Kitchener, Ontario, who have committed to leaving a legacy to MCC. “In our estate, we know that there will be space to give generously to our family, and space to give generously to our global family.”

(Photo courtesy of Ken Ogasawara)



# WATER

## You're bringing life-giving water to those who need it

Deepa Mandal Paswan washes her face with clean water from the borewell constructed by an MCC partner in Nepal. (MCC/Fairpicture photo/Uma Bista)

## Water program highlights:

### 46,247

people now have access to an improved water source

### 6,985

people now have access to a new or improved latrine or sanitation facility

### 40,092

people received water, sanitation or hygiene training

### 72%

of households in one project in Nepal now have drinking water available on their yard

*“I feel more at ease having my own water pump.”*

**DEEPA MANDAL PASWAN, RECIPIENT OF A BOREWELL IN RURAL NEPAL**



Access to clean water is essential for living a healthy life, something Deepa Mandal Paswan knows firsthand. She's a farmer in the Jahada district of Nepal and had to rely on her neighbours' offer to use their wells and pumps so she could access clean, safe water. Without convenient access to clean water at her own home, her children's health was suffering.

**But because you gave to MCC, Deepa and her children now have the security of their own safe water point.**

MCC partner SAHAS (Helping Hands) dug a borehole well 100 feet down into fresh, clear groundwater that now provides water that is

safe for drinking, cooking and bathing, with no treatment needed. This well is one of 53 under the current project, and Deepa says her life is noticeably better as a result.

“It will be easier for me because I had to go [to my neighbours] and sometimes I had to disturb them,” says Deepa. “I’m very happy about having my personal water point.”

With that barrier removed, her daily life has gotten easier and safer.

## Spotlight: Lil bakes pies

Lil Grove has been baking pies for MCC relief sales in Toronto for nearly 50 years. She says the total number differs every year, but conservatively, she's baked more than 10,000 pies over the years to raise money for MCC's global work.

When asked what's kept her baking over the years, she said, "It feels really good to share and I believe in MCC."

Photo courtesy of Lil Grove



# HEALTH

## You're keeping mothers and their babies healthy

Lidya Shiferaw, 27, is a social health worker for a maternal and child health project with MCC partner Meserete Kristos Church Development Commission in Batu, Ethiopia. (MCC photo/Nafkot Gebeyehu)

## Health program highlights:

**38,836**

people received direct clinical care

**116,125**

people received hygiene items, including menstrual health supplies

**29,432**

people received psychosocial support care

**96%**

of supported ex-detainee children in a Palestinian project reported reduced PTSD-related symptoms

*"My child was malnourished before I started the program, but now his condition has become history. Both my children are healthy and clean."*

**DESELECH ALEMU, RECIPIENT OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SUPPORT IN BATU, ETHIOPIA**





Deselech Alemu's second child, Aberham, was only three months old when he started to get sick. Deselech thought it was probably a result of his being malnourished, but she couldn't afford to make any changes to his diet. Living on only her husband's day labour wages — around \$2 a day — in Batu, Ethiopia, meant that affording enough food to survive was already a challenge, never mind medicine for a newborn baby.

**But because of you, today, her little boy is happier and healthier than ever.**

The staff of MCC partner Meserete Kristos Church Development Commission (MKCDC)

knows the needs of the community and moms like Deselech who need support the most. They provide food or cash to handle the most immediate needs but also offer support for breastfeeding, child vaccination and hygiene to keep babies safe and healthy long-term.

Without MKCDC's help, Deselech would have been totally on her own, with no support. But because you generously gave, she and both her children are healthy and able to stay in their community.



## Spotlight: Jennifer helps refugees settle

Jennifer Bell formed Lake Front Refugee Project after she and some friends in Ontario decided to take action to help refugees in 2015. In 2017, they sponsored a trio of adult siblings from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who'd been separated from their parents 20 years ago. Through a set of miraculous circumstances, the children's parents were located in a Ugandan refugee camp and successfully sponsored to come to Canada this year.

Jennifer Bell (second from left) on a trip to Mbarara, Uganda, to visit the family of a group of refugees she was part of sponsoring in 2019. (Photo courtesy of Jennifer Bell)



## Migration program highlights:

# 452

refugees from these countries were resettled in Canada through MCC-supported sponsorship:

Syria **120**

Afghanistan **101**

Eritrea **82**

DR Congo **37**

Iraq **26**

Other countries include:  
Somalia,  
Burundi,  
Ethiopia,  
Iran,  
South Sudan,  
Myanmar and many more

# MIGRATION



## You're creating homes for those who've lost theirs

Members of the Calgary First Mennonite Church refugee sponsorship group meet with Alsar Zarour and her mother Mannal Khchfa. (L to R) Jake Wiebe, Elsie Wiebe, Mannal Khchfa, Alsar Zarour, Karen Janz. (MCC photo/Jessica Evans)

*"[My children] have a future, they are attending school for the first time in their lives.... They love the newness of this life."*

**ALSAR ZAROOR, A SYRIAN REFUGEE WHO WAS SPONSORED TO COME TO CANADA THROUGH MCC**



In December 2016, Alsar Zarour and her family were getting off a plane in Calgary, Alberta, feeling cold and alone. They'd fled their home in Syria into Türkiye, where they received news that they'd been sponsored to come to Canada by a group of total strangers.

Alsar remembers looking at her mother and saying, "Who would be waiting for us?"

Meanwhile, a refugee sponsorship group from Calgary's First Mennonite Church was eagerly awaiting their arrival, excited to show the family their new home.

"When we got into our house that night, I will never forget," Alsar recalls. "They asked us if we have everything we need. We didn't even know

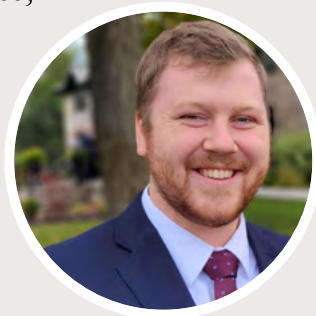
we had a house! We had spoons, everything was there, we didn't need anything. We only came with our clothes."

Today, eight years later, long after the formal sponsorship support ended, Alsar counts many from that group among her closest friends. They visit regularly, sharing the ups and downs of life.

**Every year, the incredible generosity of MCC refugee sponsorship groups creates lifelong friendships and changes the lives of hundreds of people who have been forced from their homes.**

## Spotlight: Mackenzie advocates in Canada

In the newly created position of domestic advocacy specialist at MCC's Peace & Justice Office in Ottawa, Mackenzie Graham focuses on advocating for policies that affect the work of MCC and our partners here in Canada. In this role, he is supporting the work being done in restorative justice, reconciliation between Indigenous and settler peoples and environmental justice in Canada.



(Photo courtesy of Mackenzie Graham)

## Peace & Justice program highlights:

20,581

people around the world received peacebuilding training

50

meetings between Ottawa policymakers and MCC staff

44,358

people globally received training in human rights

560

people in Canada signed up for a **Month of Climate Actions**

485

peace clubs active this year



# PEACE & JUSTICE



## You're equipping peacemakers and advocating for lasting change

A group of MCC staff and executive directors rallied for peace at the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario. (MCC photo/Annalee Giesbrecht)

*“We can’t always see the connections between our advocacy and clear outcomes and changes, so it was a huge win to see the calls for a ceasefire heard and turned into action in Canada.”*

**ANNA VOGT, DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY AT MCC CANADA'S PEACE & JUSTICE OFFICE**





MCC has been working in Palestine and Israel for 75 years, but there's one thing that hasn't changed in all that time — our commitment to non-violence as the foundation of every step toward peace. For months after the reignited violence in Gaza after October 7, it seemed like our calls for an end to the violence were ignored by the Canadian government.

But you raised your voice and the government listened.

**Hundreds of you sent letters or emails to government officials telling them clearly that Canada should be calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and they listened.** MCC staff in Ottawa engaged in press conferences and multiple

behind-the-scenes meetings with members of multiple political parties. In December, Canada's government joined the growing group of nations calling for the end to violence in Palestine and Israel and voted in favour of a UN resolution calling for the same.

Peace still hasn't come to Gaza, but your support of MCC's advocacy work has brought our calls for peace into the halls of government and made significant steps in Canada's support for a non-violent end to the conflict in Palestine and Israel.



## Spotlight: *Die Post* informs

*Die Mennonitische Post* (The Mennonite Post) is a German-language newspaper produced biweekly by MCC for Low German-speaking communities across the Americas. It is an important literacy tool and source of outside news for thousands of Low German-speaking Mennonites. Produced alongside it is *Das Blatt*, a German magazine for kids and their teachers. Between both publications, they reach around 30,000 people every month.

Staff and supporters at the grand opening of the new office of *Die Mennonitische Post* (The Mennonite Post) in Steinbach, Manitoba. (MCC photo/Fredy Hiebert)



# EDUCATION



## You're empowering women by tearing down barriers to education

Women and teenage girls participate in a literacy learning circle in Kabul, Afghanistan. These learning circles provide education on topics like literacy, child protection, health and conflict resolution. Names have been withheld for security reasons. (MCC photo)

## Education program highlights:

**25,674**

children and youth participated in K-12 education supported by MCC

**75%**

of students in an Egyptian school program for Sudanese refugees passed the Grade 6 national exam

**26,313**

children and youth received education supplies, including MCC school kits and locally purchased items

**100%**

of students in a Ugandan early child development program got passing grades for cognitive and social development

*“You can see that they have the desire to learn, they do not come for anything else. They come to get the education, to learn.”*

**AN MCC PARTNER\* IN AFGHANISTAN  
TEACHING WOMEN TO READ**



Less than 30% of women in Afghanistan over age 15 are literate. Decades of conflict and the Taliban’s increasing influence have prevented generations of girls from attending school. Without basic education, many Afghan women can’t earn money or access essential information on their own.

**But with your help, women and girls in Afghanistan are finding ways to get the education they need to empower future generations of women.**

An MCC partner\* in Afghanistan has developed a curriculum to teach skills such as literacy, peacebuilding and child protection to groups of women. Classes run for an hour each day, over

three years. It’s all done at great risk, as Taliban laws have banned most education for women across the country.

A staff member\* with MCC’s partner says by ensuring women have access to education, the ripple effects go beyond the immediate benefits.

“If you want to educate [the next] generation, you have to educate a woman because, especially in Afghanistan, women are all the time with their children.”

\*Names have been withheld for security purposes



# MATERIAL RESOURCES



## You're helping girls stay in school

Millicent Otieno, a sewing instructor at Loreto Rumbek School, South Sudan, holds an example of the reusable menstrual pad finished by the school dignity kit sewing project. With your support, over 3,000 dignity kits were distributed to female high school students in South Sudan. (MCC photo/Christy Kauffman)

*“For the girls who are receiving the dignity kit.... [I say] keep at your education, because education is the light of your life.”*

**REBECCA DENG,  
A RESETTLED REFUGEE  
FROM SOUTH SUDAN  
WHO COLLECTS DIGNITY  
KITS FOR MCC**



In countries like South Sudan, a girl's period is one of the biggest barriers she will face in continuing her education. One-time-use pads from stores are prohibitively expensive. Without access to the basic tools to manage their menstrual cycles with dignity, many girls will skip school and even drop out altogether.

But thanks to your support of MCC's dignity kits, more girls can attend school without worrying about their period. The kits contain several reusable pads, underwear, towels and cleaning supplies, all designed so the pads last for years before needing to be replaced.

**With dignity kits, girls are empowered to take charge of their own health and can pursue their education with one less barrier.**

### Material resources shipped last year with your support:



**298,827**  
Kilograms of  
canned meat



**81,048**  
School kits



**28,583**  
Relief kits



**8,641**  
Infant care kits



**80,060**  
Hygiene kits



**53,601**  
Comforters



**2,602**  
Sewing kits



**10,541**  
Dignity kits





## You're putting creativity into sustainability

Grace Bayles wearing the wedding dress she bought at the MCC Thrift shop in Warman, Saskatchewan, on her wedding day in Ontario in July 2023. (Photo courtesy of Grace Bayles)



Grace Bayles knew she wanted to keep her wedding budget low. She's a regular thrift shopper, so she knew what kinds of deals she could get if she kept her options open. But even she was surprised when she found the perfect wedding dress hanging on a rack, just a week before her wedding, at the MCC Thrift shop in Warman, Saskatchewan.

"I decided so late in the summer to look for another dress, so I only had a few days to find something," said Grace. "It was magical because it felt like another affirmation that God can provide for us.... It was a sign of his provision."

Grace and her husband Bob held their wedding last summer in Ontario, and her story is a great reminder that you never know what you may find when you need it at an MCC Thrift shop.

*"They pulled it off the rack and brought it to me... and I thought 'Oh my goodness, this is it!'"*

GRACE BAYLES, REGULAR  
MCC THRIFT SHOPPER

# 5,100

active MCC Thrift  
volunteers across Canada

# \$39,565,000

donated by MCC Thrift shops  
in Canada and the U.S. to  
support the work of MCC in  
the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

# GLOBAL SERVICE LEARNING



You're giving young adults the opportunity to grow and learn together



Madeline Simons (far left) and other members of the 2024 Seek cohort in front of the Banteay Srei temple in Siem Reap province during their term in Cambodia. (Photo courtesy of Madeline Simons)

*“I think [Seek] is a wonderful way to expand your worldview and build a really strong sense of community.”*

**MADLINE SIMONS, FROM DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND, ON HER EXPERIENCE DOING SEEK**

Seek, MCC's newest young adult service program, is a discipleship experience that invites young adults to explore, engage and reflect more deeply on what it means to be an Anabaptist follower of Jesus in a complicated world. Over a period of six months, a small group of 18-to-20-year-olds live and learn together in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with many opportunities to explore their faith and the beauty of Cambodia.

Madeline Simons recently finished her term with Seek and says the thing she thinks will stay with her most is the sense of community they built together.

“We heard everyone’s own testimonies and stories about their lives — that was really special because you just get to know people on such a deeper level. And you have so much perspective on their life. I think every time I heard someone’s story, I was kind of in awe of what they had to go through, how strong they are now. That was really valuable.”



*Listen to a podcast to hear more from Seek participants.*







Gratitude and generosity have always been important values for Dan and Erica Block. With a gift in their will, those values will continue (MCC photo/Meghan Mast)

# Leaving a legacy of hope

Dan and Erica Block of Winnipeg, Manitoba, have decided to add a gift in their will for MCC.

While they don't consider themselves wealthy, they recognize that they have something to share.

"We're among the privileged," says Dan. "[Leaving a gift in our will is] a marvellous opportunity for us to practice generosity."

Their legacy gift ensures that the values they supported throughout their lives will continue to make an impact in years to come.

*Watch this video where Dan and Erica tell their story.*



## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **I don't consider myself wealthy – can my gift still have an impact?**

Absolutely! Leaving a gift in your will isn't just for the wealthy. It's a way to support causes you care about, regardless of your current financial status. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps support meaningful work.

### **How do I include a gift in my will?**

There are several ways to set up a legacy gift. Some people specify a fixed dollar amount, while others designate a percentage of their estate after providing for their loved ones. We'd love to help you figure out what is right for you.

For more information visit [mcc.org/legacy](https://mcc.org/legacy) or call Rosie at **844-732-2346**.





## Canada

513 MCC workers\*

\$14.5 million

\*includes MCC Thrift staff

## United States

208 MCC workers

\$14.9 million

## Latin America & the Caribbean

80 MCC workers

\$7.8 million

## Europe & the Middle East

43 MCC workers

\$24.9 million

## Africa

166 MCC workers

\$26.5 million

Dollar figures on map represent direct program expenses without fundraising and administration costs.

Map uses Equal Earth projection

# MCC around the world

## FINANCES

The financial information on these pages presents the combined operations in Canadian dollars of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. for the year ended March 31, 2024. More detailed financial and program reporting, as well as complete audited financial statements are available at [mcc.org/about/reports](http://mcc.org/about/reports).

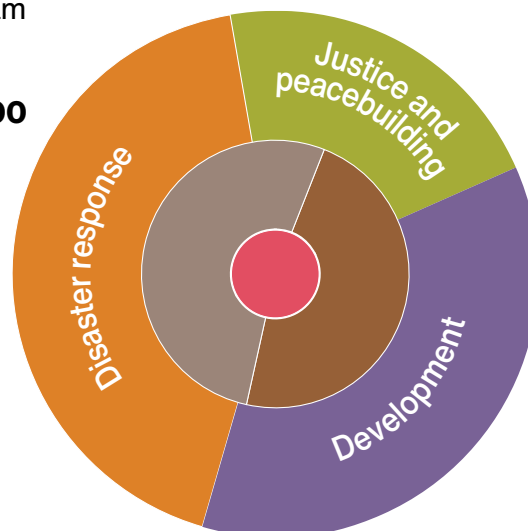
For a detailed list of funding sources see the electronic annual impact report appendix online at [mcc.org/about/reports](http://mcc.org/about/reports).

### TOTAL EXPENSES:

# \$151,725,000

Direct program expenses (outer ring total) **\$109,911,000** **72.44%**

The three sections of the outer ring are a total of direct program expenses



Administration **\$17,075,000** **11.25%**

Social enterprise **\$15,378,000** **10.14%**

Fundraising **\$9,361,000** **6.17%**



**Asia**  
140 MCC workers  
\$8.5 million

**Multi-Region**  
\$12.8 million

**45**  
countries

**353**  
partners

**452**  
projects

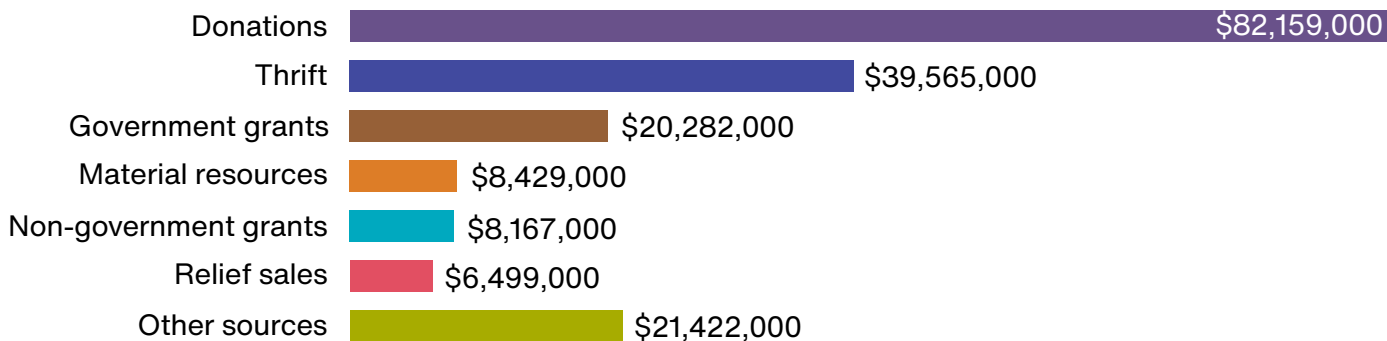
**1,150**  
workers

**137**  
participants in Global Service Learning  
programs as of March 31, 2024:

YAMEN	24
IVEP	23
SALT	14
Seed	21
Seek	20
Summerbridge	14
SOOP	21

**TOTAL REVENUE:**  
**186,523,000\***

**Funding sources**



\* A gift of capital property of \$56.6 million to MCC B.C., managed by HyLand Properties, is excluded from the above graph to make financials comparable year-over-year.

**Space reserved for FSC stamp**