



2024/2025 Annual Impact Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Reporting on the impact of your
generosity in our communities.*

Cover photos



Volunteers prepare gravy for farmer sausage and vereniki at the 2024 MCC Festival for World Relief—an annual September fundraiser supporting people in need internationally and locally. (MCC photo/Dale Klippenstein Photography)



An attendee browses quilts at the 2024 MCC Festival for World Relief. This year's quilt sales raised funds for people in need of food both locally and globally. (MCC photo/Dale Klippenstein Photography)



Residents gather at a community event in Prince George—hosted by MCC BC's Community Connections program—focused on empowering residents to cultivate a safe and peaceful neighbourhood. (MCC photo/Kojo Kyei)



Pinkham (Pam) Sharp with her granddaughters at the Hearts of Freedom event, marking 50 years since refugees from Southeast Asia fled by boat to safety in Canada, and 46 years since MCC helped launch Canada's first private sponsorship agreements in 1979. (MCC photo/Monet Lamphere-Ma)



Ken Kohlmeier, a snowbird from Arizona, has dedicated multiple summers to volunteering in MCC's Material Resources program—playing a key role in preparing comforters and organizing shipments at the Abbotsford, BC warehouse. (MCC photo/Monet Lamphere-Ma)



A young attendee holds a plate of farmer sausage on a bun at the 2024 MCC Festival for World Relief. All profits from food sales went directly to supporting people facing hunger both locally and around the world. (MCC photo/Dale Klippenstein Photography)

Serving here at home

Homelessness Prevention & Outreach

Providing support and practical resources to those at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

New Foundations

Strengthening newcomers' skills, confidence and community connections.

Refugee Sponsorship

Supporting churches and community groups as they welcome newcomers to Canada.

Indigenous Neighbours

Walking with individuals and churches toward reconciliation with Indigenous people and communities.

End Abuse

Journeying with women healing from abuse, with men learning healthy relationships, and training community leaders.

Community Connections

Building relationships and creating a safe, welcoming community with neighbours and the local church.

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 around British Columbia over the past year.

Thank you for your act of faith and generosity.

*Read the full stories and explore
your local impact online at mcc.org/bc*

THANK YOU

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At the gathering of Mennonite World Conference this year in Zurich, General Secretary Cesar Garcia spoke about “The Courage to Love.” He described how this was at the heart of the Anabaptist movement 500 years ago and is at the core of being a follower of Jesus today.

On January 21, 1525, the Zurich Council forbade the “radical reformers” from any further dissemination of their beliefs. On that evening Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz and others baptized each other as an expression of being faithful to the Gospel. Not only did they believe in baptism on confession of faith, they also believed in being faithful to God above obedience to the State, renouncing violence and following “the way of love” as taught by Jesus. That took a lot of courage! Early Anabaptists were severely persecuted for these beliefs.

In Colossians 3, Paul wrote to the early church in Colossae as they faced pressure to conform to the state and other religious movements. Paul called them back to faith in Christ: “As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

Sometimes it takes courage to love, especially when caring for those who live at the margins or are rejected by society. Thanks so much for your generous support as we express God’s love to those living through conflict in places like Ukraine and Gaza, as well as those who struggle with poverty in the margins of our own communities.

Yours in Christ,



Wayne Bremner
Executive Director, MCC British Columbia



“And over all these virtues, put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

—COLOSSIANS 3:14 (NIV)

2024–2025 Local Program Highlights

155

people found support through End Abuse groups—women healing from violence, men learning healthy relationship patterns

85

refugees welcomed safely, supported by their sponsors and our Refugee Sponsorship team

1,018

adults and youth engaged in learning about Indigenous peoples' history, cultures and current issues

1,119

people at-risk of losing their housing supported by our Homelessness Prevention and Outreach team

1,679

comforter blankets sewn with care by volunteers in BC and delivered to people facing conflict and crisis globally

MCC BRITISH COLUMBIA 2024-2025 BOARD MEMBERS



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HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & OUTREACH



Your support gave Linda a lifeline— and kept her housed.

After falling victim to two online scams, Linda Fraser suddenly found herself without enough money to pay her rent. As a senior living on a fixed income in Abbotsford, Linda had always managed her finances carefully—but the scams wiped out her savings and left her scrambling.

“I had to scour for all the money I had at home... here, there, there,” she said. “I had to use less money for my groceries.”

Facing eviction, Linda turned to the MCC BC Fraser Valley Rent Bank for help. While she waited a few days for her application to be processed, her brother stepped in with a short-term loan—but the next month’s rent was just as urgent, and he couldn’t help again.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, who help make the MCC BC Rent Bank program possible, Linda received a grant in time to pay her rent and stay housed. “After hearing I got the grant, I could breathe easier,” she said.

“Stable housing is important and a must-have. I normally make sure I have the rent money, but because of the scam I did not.”

Linda is grateful to the donors who made that support possible. “I’d like to thank each and every donor for making a donation because they help people keep their house, their shelter.”

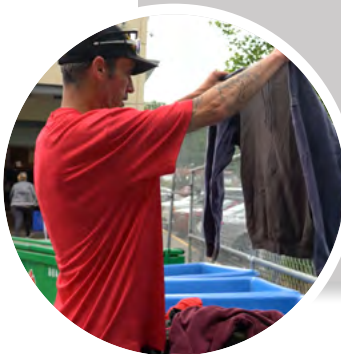


MCC’s Rent Bank program in BC currently serves the Fraser Valley and Central & Northern BC.

Linda Fraser stands outside an apartment building in Abbotsford, similar to the one where she lives. (MCC photo/Monet Lamphere-Ma)

Your support walks alongside people—before, during and after homelessness.

With weekly Meals & Friendship and the Circle of Friends social reintegration program, your support helps provide more than food and company—you’re offering hope, connection and the tools to rebuild. Alongside this hands-on support, MCC BC advocates for lasting solutions—working toward a future where everyone can find stable housing and belonging.



Rick receives clothing at a weekly Meals & Friendship BBQ in Abbotsford, BC (MCC photo/Monet Lamphere-Ma)

1,119

people at risk of losing their housing
supported by our Homelessness Prevention
& Outreach team.

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP



Evylene's name meant "I never expected it"—you changed that.

For generations, Evylene Sikutegemeya and her family of three lived as refugees. Though Burundian by nationality, they were born and raised in displacement—first in Tanzania, then in an overcrowded refugee camp in Malawi.

Evylene and her children faced threats to their lives from people back home and were sheltered by the MB Malawi church. Evylene and her daughter, Lucia, shared a tiny, closet-sized room and Danford lived in a dorm-style room with other boys. After marriage, Lucia and her husband Egide built a small shack—still without safety or stability. Their daughter, Grace, was born in the camp in 2022, while waiting for sponsorship. The family endured constant uncertainty and hardship.

Evylene's last name means "I never expected it." But in August 2023, the unexpected happened: through MCC's refugee sponsorship program, the family arrived safely in Canada.

Marian Mann of Saanich Community Church has been their steadfast sponsor, "Canadian mom" and advocate, with vital support from MCC BC managing the migration process and preparing for resettlement.

When their case was first refused—the agent didn't believe their story—Marian and Jennifer Mpungu from MCC stood by them, helping correct the record, document every detail and advocate for a second chance.



After years of waiting and bonding over WhatsApp, Evylene Sikutegemeya embraces sponsor Marian Mann as her family arrives at the Vancouver airport in August 2023. (Photo courtesy of Marian Mann)

"Sponsorship is a way we push back against scarcity mindset...God is a generous God. When we open our hearts, homes and churches, God blesses us with the richness of relationships."

MARIAN MANN, SPONSOR FROM SAANICH COMMUNITY CHURCH AND PROUD "CANADIAN MOM"

Today, after nearly two years in Canada, the family is thriving. Evylene and Egide are employed, Danford continues high school, Lucia studies English and Grace, age 3, learns as well.

They live together in a rented home—something they couldn't have imagined before—and are warmly welcomed and supported by Marian and other members of Saanich Community Church.

With tears in her eyes, Marian reflects, "It's been a miracle. They shouldn't have made it through all the challenges, but God had a plan."

Your support helps MCC BC equip sponsors like Marian, making it possible for families like Evylene's to escape danger, live together in safety and begin healing from the trauma of life as refugees—leaning into God's hope and wholeness for their lives.



Charity didn't just find community. She helped shape it.

Two years ago, Charity Igbekeleoluwa and her family arrived in Prince George as newcomers to Canada.

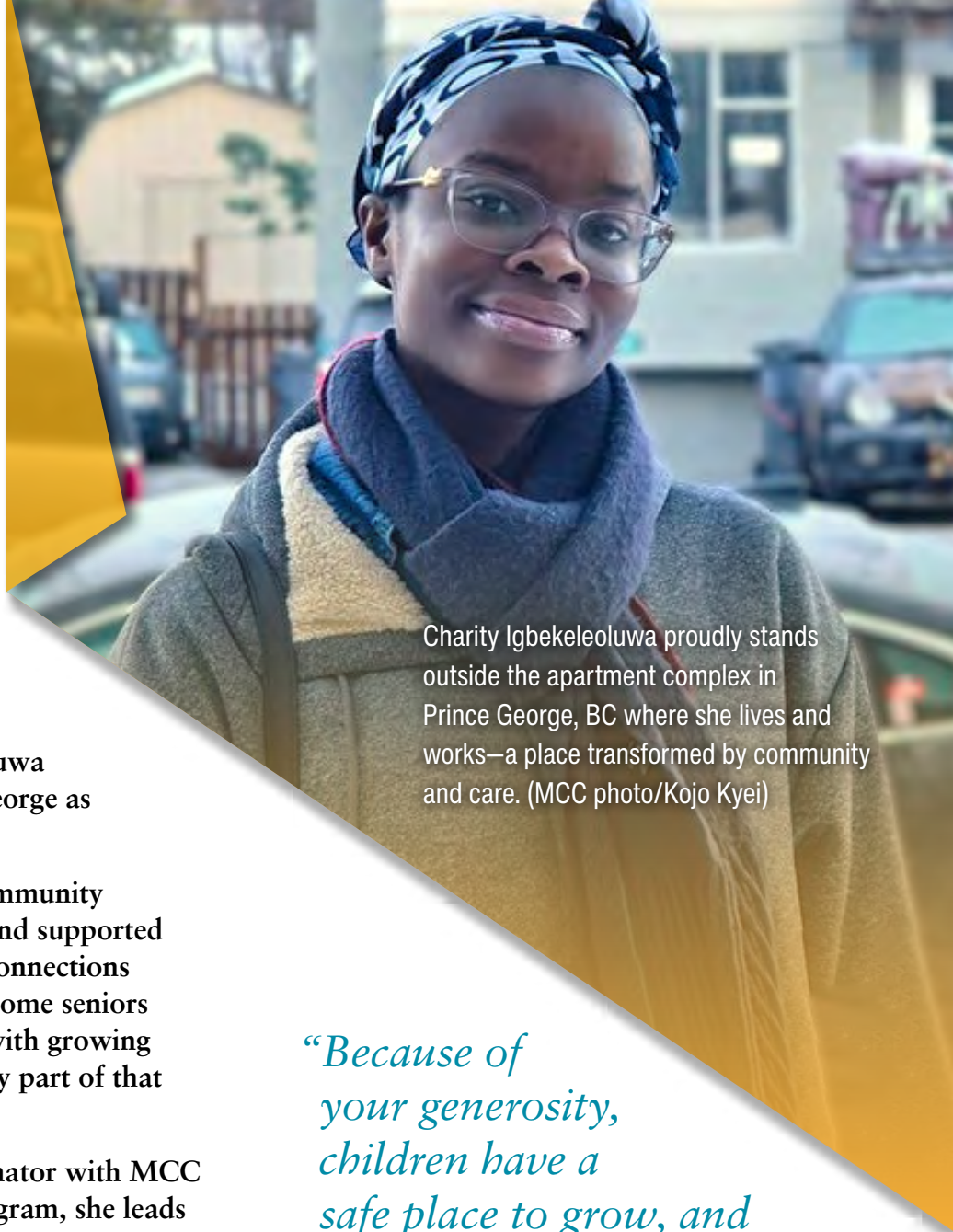
They moved into an apartment community stewarded by HyLand Properties and supported through MCC BC's Community Connections program—a place home to low-income seniors and single parents, but also filled with growing hope. Charity quickly became a key part of that transformation.

As the Children's Program Coordinator with MCC BC's Community Connections program, she leads after-school activities and organizes outings that help children feel safe, connected and cared for. Her presence has brought joy and structure to the lives of young residents and their families.

Alongside her work with children, Charity and her family also host weekly fellowship gatherings that have become a trusted space for neighbours to pray, reflect and support one another.

"With time, I have seen how a real community is built," she says, "through listening, hospitality, care and showing up—even when it's hard."

Thanks to your support, residents like Charity are helping to reshape their neighbourhood from the inside out—building a strong, connected and thriving community.



Charity Igbekeleoluwa proudly stands outside the apartment complex in Prince George, BC where she lives and works—a place transformed by community and care. (MCC photo/Kojo Kyei)

"Because of your generosity, children have a safe place to grow, and families can connect in peace and joy."

CHARITY IGBEKELEOLUWA, RESIDENT
AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAM COORDINATOR

448

residents impacted by MCC BC's Community Connections Program in Prince George.

NEW FOUNDATIONS



You're building confidence for newcomers like Elena.

Originally from Ukraine, Elena spent 23 years in Israel before conflict and family ties—her daughter and granddaughter in Canada—prompted her move in 2020. Even after several years in Canada, some tasks didn't transfer easily. Though she brought valuable skills and experience, navigating new systems in a different country felt confusing and overwhelming.

Thanks to the MCC BC New Foundations program—made possible by the generosity of people like you—she received one-on-one and group support that helped her build on existing skills and gain new ones. That practical support made all the difference. From budgeting and smart shopping to filing her taxes independently in Canada for the first time, Elena developed the confidence and tools to thrive in her new home through hard work and the support of a welcoming community.

This kind of support doesn't just teach skills—it helps people like Elena feel empowered and truly settled. Your donations make this life-changing program possible, giving newcomers the chance to build strong, peaceful and independent lives here in Canada.



Elena and fellow newcomers explore the British Columbia Parliament Buildings in Victoria, BC as part of the New Foundations program. (MCC photo/Patti Holm)

*"I am proud that I
filed my own taxes
for the first time"*

ELENA, NEWCOMER IN THE
NEW FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM

22

newcomer families empowered for life in Canada through skill-building workshops and personalized support.

19

volunteers trained to support and equip newcomers.

INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS



You're helping
churches move
from learning
to action.

At Peace Mennonite Church in Richmond, BC, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples started with learning and grew into genuine relationships.

Marianne Thee, longtime nurse and church member, recalls, “We learned nothing in school about Indigenous history. It starts really small—just being side by side, having a conversation.”

With support from the MCC BC Indigenous Neighbours program, the church hosted educational events like the KAIROS Blanket Exercise, incorporated annual worship services around Red Dress Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and listened deeply to Indigenous voices. These small steps shifted hearts and priorities.

As a next step, MCC staff Bridget Findlay introduced the church to Musqueam First Nation, leading to a meaningful relationship and invitations to volunteer on their land. Marianne reflects, “You can’t go there with an agenda. It’s about helping where they ask us to help.”

Lead pastor Winston Pratt reflects on the transformation: “There is a deep commitment to justice and reconciliation within the congregation.”

Your support empowers churches across BC to walk the path of reconciliation with humility, hope and respect—living out Jesus’ ministry of reconciliation in their communities.

As part of the annual Walk in the Spirit of Reconciliation in the Fraser Valley, multiple churches gathered at Kwantlen Longhouse to engage in conversations about reconciliation with First Nations peoples. (MCC photo/Caio Unruh)

*“Reconciliation
is more than words—
it’s a commitment to walk
alongside Indigenous
neighbours, to listen,
learn and act together.”*

WINSTON PRATT, LEAD PASTOR AT
PEACE MENNONITE CHURCH IN RICHMOND, BC

1,018

adults and youth engaged in learning about Indigenous peoples’ history, cultures and current issues—with many also taking steps toward reconciliation.

END ABUSE



You're part of Ashley's healing journey.

Ashley* was part of an MCC BC End Abuse support group in Prince George—a safe space where women begin to heal after emotional, physical and psychological abuse by partners they once trusted and loved.

Though the group shared stories and laughter, Ashley carried a heavy burden: “I have court this week,” she said softly. “I need to testify against him.”

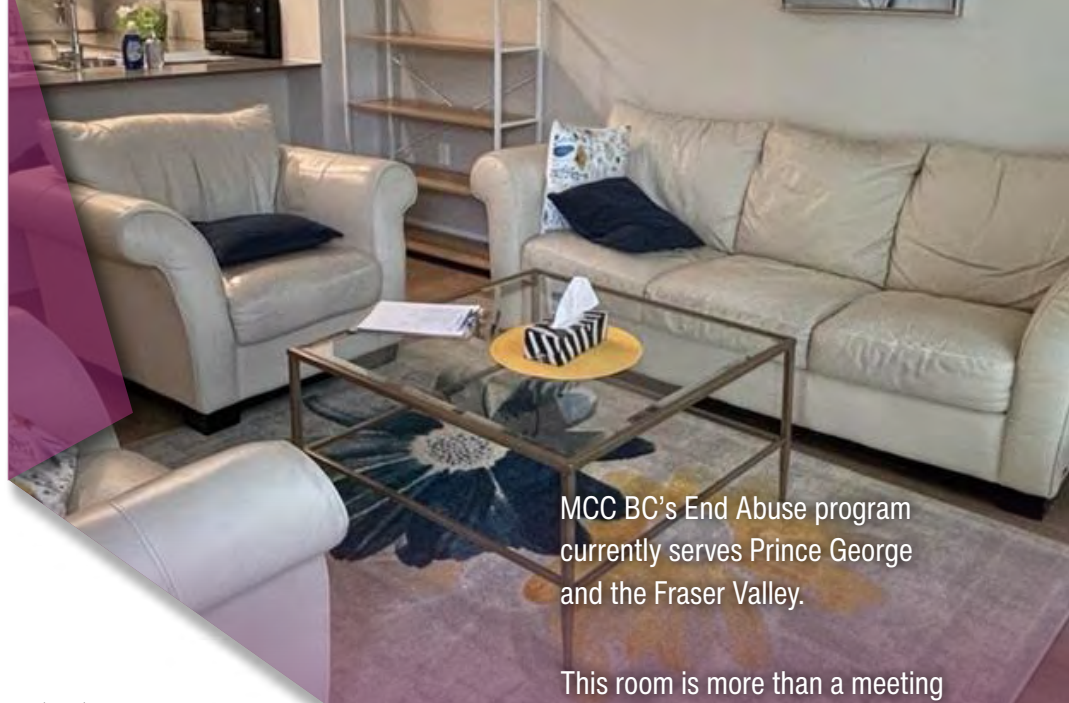
When Christie Leithead, the MCC BC End Abuse facilitator, offered to go with her, relief washed over Ashley's face. The court day was long and painful. For five hours, Ashley faced intense questioning—not about the abuse, but about small details meant to challenge her memory. Her abuser sat across the room, surrounded by his supporters.

Ashley spoke with courage, sharing how she had been isolated, assaulted and denied food—while her abuser fed the family dog in front of her to control and humiliate her.

Christie stayed by her side, gently reminding her that trauma can make it hard to remember every detail, but it doesn't take away the truth of her experience.

Your compassion helps Ashley and many women find a safe place to be heard, understood and supported—not only in moments like court, but throughout their healing journey—as they find the courage to move forward.

**Name has been changed due to the sensitive nature of this program.*



MCC BC's End Abuse program currently serves Prince George and the Fraser Valley.

This room is more than a meeting space—it's where women like Ashley begin to heal after abuse. (MCC photo/Christie Leithead)

*“When Christie offered
to go with me, I felt relief.
I wasn't alone.”*

ASHLEY, WHO IS HEALING WITH SUPPORT
FROM MCC BC'S END ABUSE PROGRAM

31

pastors and community leaders reached out for support to prevent and respond to abuse in their communities.

155

people found support through End Abuse groups—women healing from violence, men learning healthy relationship patterns.

THRIFT & VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers and donors like Dianne fuel MCC's life-changing work.

In Kelowna, Dianne Erisman spends her afternoons where she feels most at home—at the MCC Thrift Shop.

“I try to stay home twice a week,” she says, “but I’d really rather be at the shop.”

After retiring from teaching Grade 1 and losing her husband in 2001, Dianne began volunteering at the MCC Clothing Etc. thrift shop in Abbotsford. “I was hooked. I went all day, every day.” Before she moved to West Kelowna in 2010, she made sure there was a Mennonite church and an MCC Thrift shop nearby.

Dianne has been volunteering with MCC for 24 years—first in Abbotsford and now in Kelowna. She’s served on the shop committee, joined the MCC BC board and travelled with MCC to Brazil, where she saw how small loans were changing lives.

She also spent 20 years collecting Coca-Cola memorabilia—now generously donating it back to the shop where her journey began.

But for Dianne, it always comes back to the people, who she calls her “MCC family.” “I’ve met wonderful people... friends who I love dearly. From them, I’ve learned so much more about being a Christian.”

Thanks to the generosity of people like Dianne—whether donating their time or treasures—the MCC Thrift shops continue to thrive. The funds raised through these shops support people in need across BC and around the world, bringing hope, renewal and the love of Christ through MCC’s local and global work.

Dianne Erisman, thrift volunteer of 24 years, with her Coca-Cola collection—gathered over two decades and now donated to help others through MCC.

Below, Dianne with part of her MCC “family” Lorna Leiding and Donna Dickson. (Photos courtesy of Dianne Erisman)



“I say that serving at MCC is my reason for being.”

DIANNE ERISMAN, A VOLUNTEER AT THE MCC THRIFT SHOP IN KELOWNA

2,257

volunteers generously gave their time in thrift shops, programs and events this year—decreasing costs and helping MCC make a greater impact.

FAITHFUL TOGETHER

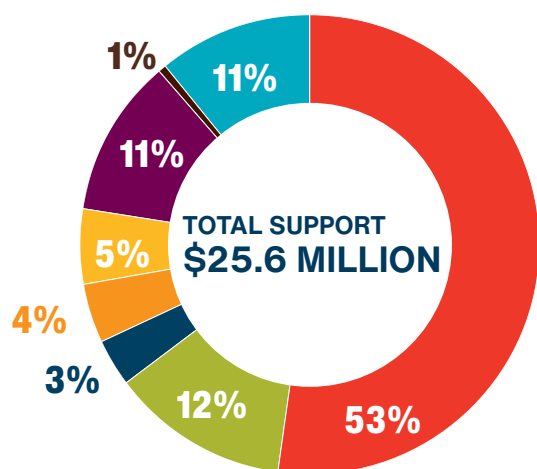
In a year marked by war, displacement, rising costs and division in the world, you showed up. Your generous gifts of time and resources empowered MCC to bring God's love to places of deep brokenness—providing food, shelter and support for people in crisis, both here in BC and around the world.

Thank you for giving faithfully and courageously. Together, we make peace tangible and transform lives, trusting in God's steady hand.

FINANCES

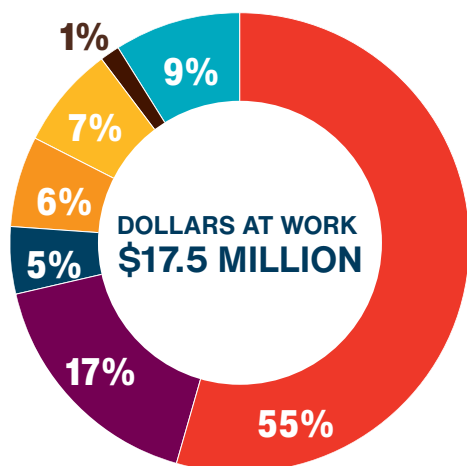
The financial information on these pages reflects MCC British Columbia's operations in Canadian dollars for the fiscal year ending in March 31, 2025. More details including audited financial statements and an appendix with a funding source list are available at mcc.org/about/reports.

**Note: \$8 million was received from HyLand Properties near the end of the fiscal year which will be used in following fiscal years according to program plans.*



TOTAL SUPPORT RECEIVED (TOTAL REVENUE) \$25,553,132*

Contributions	\$13,372,221	Local Program	\$2,878,198
Thrift Stores (Net)	\$3,193,484	Relief Festivals (Gross)	\$1,338,580
Contributions (Disasters)	\$1,085,025	Material Resources	\$128,486
Ten Thousand Villages/ Common Place Cafe	\$838,531	Other	\$2,718,607



DOLLARS AT WORK (TOTAL EXPENSES) \$17,492,119

International Program	\$9,527,750	Fundraising, Communications & Events	\$1,265,355
Local Program	\$2,973,177	Material Resources	\$237,839
Ten Thousand Villages/ Common Place Cafe	\$856,192	Finance & Administration	\$1,546,781
International Disasters	\$1,085,025		