



2024/2025
Annual Impact Report
ONTARIO

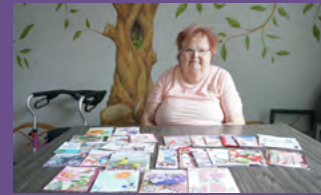
*Reporting on the impact of your
generosity in our communities.*



True Love, by Wilma Neegan and modelled by Canessa Halle. The dress design reflects the enduring bond between two loved ones. Wilma also designed the beaded headpiece. (Photo/Isaac Bird Photography)



Joel Font (MCC Ontario staff) welcomes fellow Venezuelans Anderson, Keli, David and Samuel Salazar at the airport. MCC Ontario staff sponsored the Salazar family beginning in summer 2024. (MCC photo/Joel Font)



Deb Wismer, Circle of Friends participant, displays some of her many handmade cards at her home. Deb led several card-making workshops with Circle of Friends. (MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara)



Rev. Douglas Day Kauffman, executive director of the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative, shares opening remarks at "Climate Jazz." MCC Ontario hosted this inaugural gathering of Anabaptist leaders from Canada and the U.S. who are concerned about the impacts of climate change. (MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara)



Erna Kornelsen (left) and Margaret Penner are best friends and steadfast prayer warriors for MCC. After retiring from the sorting room at the MCC Thrift St. Catharines shop, they now meet monthly with shop leadership to keep up to date and pray for MCC's work. (MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara)

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 Ontario, over the past year.

Thank you for your act of faith and generosity.



*Scan to see more of
MCC's work at mcc.org.*

MCC ONTARIO
2024/2025
SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Michelle Brenneman
Executive Director

Kim Lester
Associate Executive
Director

Wendy Adema
Director of People
and Programs

Sean East
Director of Finance
and Operations

Lynda Lynch
Thrift Director

THANK YOU

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

As I reflect on this past year, my heart is filled with deep gratitude—for your generosity, your prayers and your unwavering commitment to MCC’s mission of sharing God’s love and compassion and working for peace and justice. In a world that often feels heavy with need, you’ve chosen to respond not with despair, but with love.

Your support has brought hope to people across Ontario through programs like The Raw Carrot, where meaningful employment helps restore dignity, and Circle of Friends, where people transitioning out of homelessness find belonging and support. The Indigenous Neighbours team is growing with more exciting work happening in both southern and northern Ontario. And with your generosity, a new stationary meat cannery has been built to feed countless hungry people around the world. These are not just programs—they are lifelines, made possible because of you.

In challenging times—whether the devastation in Gaza or wildfires in Northern Ontario—it’s easy to feel small. But the stories in this report are a reminder that when we work together, real change happens. Our senior leadership team has also been working hard at learning from our past strategic plan to step into a new era where we can work even more effectively and with greater impact for those we serve.

I am grateful for God’s provision—and for you, who have listened to the call to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, and pursue peace and justice for all. I am reminded of the words of Paul to the church in Phillipi when he wrote: “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” May these stories encourage you to keep going, to keep giving and to keep believing that your actions, done in the name of Christ, are helping to build a better world.

With gratitude,

MICHELLE BRENNEMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC ONTARIO
MICHELLEBRENNEMAN@MCCO.CA



MCC ONTARIO 2024/2025 BOARD MEMBERS

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Matthew Miles
Vice-Chair

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Representative, BIC

Tim Khoo
Young Adult
Representative, CGUC

Randy Lepp
Conference
Representative, MCEC

Melissa Richer
Conference
Representative, BIC

Abe Wall
Conference
Representative, EMC

Bruce Yoder
Conference
Representative, MCEC

BIC – Be in Christ
CGUC – Conrad Grebel
University College
EMC – Evangelical Mennonite
Conference
MCEC – Mennonite Church
Eastern Canada

SETTING THE FOUNDATION LEARNING AND ANALYSIS

The end of this fiscal year marked the close of our 2020–2025 strategic plan. Despite the overarching disruption of the pandemic, we celebrate that MCC Ontario emerged stronger, reaching our directional targets and operational high-level priorities. As our communities continue to face rising levels of loneliness, polarization, mental health challenges and economic disparity, we have affirmed that mobilizing and equipping people to pursue peace, address poverty and foster belonging is both our unique contribution and the key to accomplishing our mission here in Ontario and around the world. Insights gleaned over the past five years have laid the foundation upon which we built our new strategic plan.

BUILDING TOMORROW

OUR STRATEGY FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT

MCC Ontario has a strong history of delivering outsized results both locally and globally. As we enter our next five-year strategic plan, we have an opportunity to build on this legacy. Guided by data and discernment, our focus is on how we mobilize and equip people, increasing awareness—especially among younger demographics—and maintaining agility in our planning as we pursue our three strategic priorities:



To respond to increasing polarization and conflict, we will share from our knowledge and strength in faith-informed peacebuilding.



To deepen our presence, relevance and impact, we will expand our local efforts in areas of MCC strength.



To grow the vision for worldwide relief, development and peace, we will invite a broader network of partners and supporters to join and deepen their involvement in our movement.

Our gratitude and commitment

We honour northern Cree Nations, long-time teachers and partners in Timmins and beyond. We recognize the Anishnaabe Nations, caretakers of the water, who invite us to walk with them in healing relationships. We also honour the Haudenosaunee Nations, who follow their Great Law of Peace and call us to make reparation real.

We honour the treaties and respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action as a central part of our calling as people of God's peace.

Artwork by August Swinton (MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara)



Ontario program highlights:

32%

increase in Niska sales, boosting supplemental income for 23 artisans

26

advocacy efforts targeted federal and provincial policies, including rent control, disability benefits and clean water

349

newcomers were supported in their first year in Canada

INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS



Indigenous design shines bright at Niska Noël

Rooted in the heart of MCC Ontario's Indigenous Neighbours program, Niska supports Indigenous artisans through the principles of fair trade.

After more than 20 years of hosting the popular Niska Noël Market, the event took an exciting step forward. On November 29, 2024, at the Timmins Museum: National Exhibition Centre, a vibrant new chapter unfolded—a fashion show celebrating the artistry of 13 Indigenous designers. Local Indigenous models brought each piece to life, wearing designs inspired by connections to land, lineage and legacy.

The show opened into Saturday's Niska Noël Market, where guests had the chance to meet artisans, purchase runway pieces and explore a wide array of handcrafted beadwork, leatherwork and artwork.

We are grateful for the enduring partnerships that made this celebration possible—between the MCC Niska Artisan program, the Timmins Museum, the Ojibway Cree Cultural Centre and Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre.

Your generous support helps grow social enterprise initiatives like this one, while nurturing the community bonds and shared spirit that make them meaningful.



“There’s lots of excitement about what this looks like next year, and how do we keep the momentum going.”

CLARA WHEATON,
INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS ASSOCIATE

Evening Wear, by Christine Neegan and modeled by Hazel Esquat, is inspired by both modern and traditional elements emphasizing glamour and sophistication.
(Photo/Isaac Bird Photography)

In December 2024, MCC Ontario's material resources team responded swiftly to a local call for help when Quilts for Survivors faced a surge in demand they couldn't meet. The team supplied 300 comforters, enabling the initiative to continue delivering comfort and care to Indian Residential School survivors across Ontario. This timely contribution reflects MCC's commitment to supporting reconciliation efforts through practical, compassionate action—right here at home.

The comforters that were provided to Quilts for Survivors. (MCC photo/ Scott Morton Ninomiya)



Ontario program highlights:

39

people joined Circle of Friends as they transitioned from shelter to housing

953

vulnerable people were supported through local programs

612

people attended Low German networking conferences and learned how to better engage and support individuals from Low German-speaking communities

Scan me to listen to Undercurrents episode 29 - Together, we can!



MEAT CANNERY



Feeding the world— One can at a time

On January 18, 2025, more than 700 people gathered in New Hamburg to celebrate the grand opening of MCC's first-ever stationary meat cannery. Behind this state-of-the-art facility is a story of faithful people each doing their part. For decades, MCC's mobile meat canner crossed borders, overcoming red tape to can meat for hungry people. But rising costs, tighter regulations and a pandemic halted Canadian operations in 2019.

When plans began for a permanent facility in Ontario, excitement grew—and so did the challenges. At one point, the project was on the edge of collapse when a key piece of equipment—the pressure cookers, called retorts—were suddenly unavailable. That's when Martin Rahn, a volunteer on the build committee, remembered he had four old retorts sitting behind his barn. Against all odds, they still worked!

"This is not MCC's cannery. This is God's cannery," says Jon Lebold, material resources program coordinator.

The facility is poised to can nearly 41,000 kgs of meat in its first year—meals that bring vital protein to displaced families in conflict zones and disaster areas.

Because of your support, what started as a big dream will soon feed hungry families around the world. Thank you for being part of the miracle.



Members of MCC Ontario's material resources staff pose in front of the repurposed retorts on the day of the grand opening. (MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara)

“The new cannery will not only strengthen MCC’s ability to meet emergency food needs, but also bring communities together through the hands-on work of meat canning.”

MICHELLE BRENNEMAN,
MCC ONTARIO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For Dagmar Veenhoven, watching her son Lucas struggle with anxiety and depression was heartbreaking. “Finding work was hard. When employers see visible mental health challenges, they often don’t want to take a risk,” says Dagmar. But The Raw Carrot was different. “They look beyond barriers. It’s an amazing organization.” Since joining over five years ago, Lucas has found purpose, consistency and community. “He’s never missed a day of work...his self-confidence has grown so much!” The Raw Carrot has meant dignity, hope and a second chance.

Lucas Veenhoven standing in the Raw Carrot kitchen. (MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara)



Ontario highlights:

3,181

people have participated in Training Active Bystanders (TAB) since MCC began offering the program in September 2019. TAB trains individuals on how to safely intervene in harmful or isolating situations

11

People’s Action Group members with lived experience of homelessness advocated for and consulted on Waterloo Region’s housing stability



Scan me to learn more about TAB training

PEACE AND ADVOCACY



Youth leading change with Rockway

At Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, peacebuilding isn’t just taught—it’s lived. Through the new Youth Leading Change partnership with MCC Ontario, select students in Grades 11 and 12 embark on a journey that transforms classroom learning into real-world impact.

After participating in five workshops led by MCC staff, students get the chance to apply their learning by volunteering with MCC’s local programs—tackling issues from poverty to Indigenous reconciliation and, more recently, climate action.

“They felt like they couldn’t do anything,” Rockway teacher David Penny recalls. That changed when MCC offered \$800 in seed funding and a challenge: create a climate action for peace.

What followed was transformative. Students designed and planted a pollinator garden, launched a multi-year rewilding initiative and began cultivating a pear orchard—all on school grounds. “It was amazing to see them jump on board,” says Penny.

“It’s not just impacting the environment, or Rockway, but also our surrounding community, too,” says Julia Abicht, a student at Rockway.

Thanks to you, students are putting faith into action—growing peace, one seed at a time.



*“I learned so much and
feel motivated to continue
and share.”*

OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE FEEDBACK
FROM ONE STUDENT PARTICIPANT

Grade 11 student Oliver Berg and other members of Youth Leading Change start digging out their new pollinator garden. (MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara)



MCC PICKS UP



Decluttering with purpose

Launched as a pilot project in the Region of Waterloo, MCC Picks Up was designed to make donating to MCC thrift shops easier. In 2024 alone, MCC Picks Up collected over 3,500 bags and boxes of donated items. This service now includes furniture pick-ups, offering a convenient way for people to pass along bulky items that still have life in them. For a small service fee—offset by a charitable tax receipt—donors can turn couches, tables and dressers into affordable finds for local families and essential funds for MCC's global work.

Last year alone, the six MCC Thrift shops in Ontario forwarded over \$5 million to support MCC's work—all made possible by generous donors and shoppers like you.

Thank you for giving new life to your old treasures—and for making peace possible, one pickup at a time.

MCC Picks Up staff Alex Balieiro and Tom Bulay get ready for another day of picking up generous donations from the community. (MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara)

MCC Thrift highlight:

9.5%

more customer transactions than last year (shop revenue funds international grants)



mccpicksup.com

Ontario Programs



Peace and Advocacy



Indigenous Neighbours



Migration and Resettlement



Walking with People in Poverty



Material Resources
(Humanitarian Aid)

Thrift Shops

MCC Care & Share, Stouffville
MCC New Hamburg Thrift Centre, New Hamburg
MCC Thrift, St. Catharines
MCC Thrift & Gift, Elmira
MCC Thrift on Kent, Kitchener
MCC Thrift on Mill, Leamington

FINANCES

The financial information represents the operations of MCC Ontario for the year ending March 31, 2025, and has been prepared from audited financial statements. More detailed financial and program reporting, as well as complete audited financial statements are available at mcc.org/about/reports.

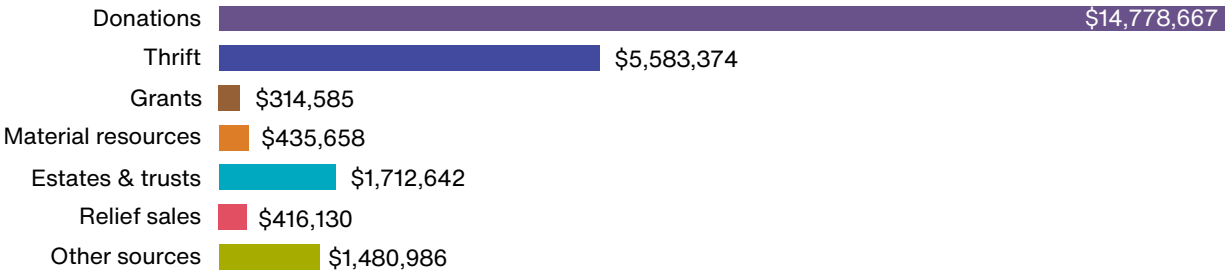


For a detailed list of funding sources see the electronic annual impact report appendix online at mcc.org/about/reports.

TOTAL REVENUE:

\$24,722,042

Funding sources



TOTAL EXPENSES:

\$27,009,489

Direct program expenses
(outer ring total)
\$16,987,151
62.89%

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



Administration
\$1,748,632
6.47%

Social enterprise
\$6,573,647
24.34%

Fundraising
\$1,700,059
6.3%