

**Explore your local impact  
in Eastern Canada.**



2020/2021  
Annual Impact Report  
**EASTERN CANADA**

During this difficult year, as we faced nearly unprecedented challenges, you chose to give to those in need. Your generosity had an impact in countries across the globe and here at home.

With this report we want to invite you to reflect and celebrate.

## **Explore your local impact in Eastern Canada.**

The stories you're holding in your hands were made possible by your compassion.

You learned from and advocated with Indigenous neighbours. You helped provide a warm welcome to refugees making Canada their new home. You helped work toward restorative justice and peace in our communities.

**This is work that you made possible.  
Thank you.**

**EASTERN CANADA STAFF**

**Ruth Plett**  
Associate Director of the Peace & Justice Office (Oversees program in Eastern Canada)

**Christina Dunfield**  
Eastern Canada Program Coordinator (position ended October 2020)

\* MCC Eastern Canada includes Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

*“In the midst of the unknown, we continue to work for peace, for restorative justice and for reconciliation across Eastern Canada.”*

**RUTH PLETT**



**MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MCC CANADA’S PEACE & JUSTICE OFFICE**

In Eastern Canada, like the rest of the world, 2020–21 was a year of much unknown. The pandemic turned everyday life on its head. Due to the impact of COVID-19, MCC in Eastern Canada underwent significant restructuring, with the ending of five roles in the region: the eastern Canada coordinator, the peace and justice coordinator (MCC Quebec), the material resources development coordinator (MCC Quebec), the administrative assistant (MCC Quebec) and the Maritimes program coordinator. We acknowledge and lament this loss.

Further, this restructuring brought the national program and Eastern Canada department together with the Ottawa Office to form the new Peace & Justice Office of MCC Canada.

During times of change like this, the text from Romans reminds us—hope is about waiting for what is not known, what is not seen. Over a year into the pandemic, these words encourage us to have patience, tired and impatient for a new world as we might be, for the transformation that is coming. And in the midst of the unknown, we continue to work for peace, for restorative justice and for reconciliation across Eastern Canada.

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



**RUTH PLETT**  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE  
PEACE & JUSTICE OFFICE, MCC CANADA



*“Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”*

— ROMANS 8:24B–25 (NRSV)

**ATLANTIC CANADA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Barry Smith**  
Gateway Church, Lower Sackville, N.S.

**Dave Drinkwalter**  
St. John’s, N.L.

**Sandra Bunnett**  
Petitcodiac Mennonite Church, Havelock, N.B.

**Stephanie Perry**  
The Pool Church, Moncton, N.B.

**Walter Thiessen**  
St. Croix Church, St. Stephen, N.B.

**SUMMERBRIDGE PARTICIPANTS**

**Kennedy Steeves**  
Crandall University, Moncton, N.B.

**QUEBEC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Lyne Monette Renaud**  
Église Hochma, Montreal, Que.

**Réal Bonneville**  
Église Chrétienne de Saint-Laurent, Montreal, Que.

**Véronique Beaudin**  
Église l’Intersection, Sainte-Rose, Que.

**Dora-Marie Goulet**  
Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal, Montreal, Que.

**Richard Lougheed**  
Église Chrétienne de Saint-Laurent, Montreal, Que.

**SUMMERBRIDGE PARTICIPANTS**

**Anne-Émilie Henneuse**  
Église Chrétienne de Saint-Eustache

**Émilie-Lina Kitata**  
Centre Foi & Vie

**Éloïse Marineau**  
Église Hochma

**ATLANTIC CANADA STAFF**

**Dianne Climenhage**  
Regional Representative

**QUEBEC STAFF**

**Daniel Genest**  
Regional Representative

**Jean-Calvin Kitata**  
Peace and Justice Program Coordinator (position ended August 2020)

**Zacharie Leclair**  
Administrative Assistant Research and Communication Assistant (beginning August 2020)

This report was written to reflect the 2020/2021 fiscal year, which ended March 31, 2021.

**Material resources collected last year (April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021)**



**44**

Comforters



**110**

Hygiene kits



**175**

School kits



**20**

Infant care kits



**15**

Relief kits

**You are providing relief and hope for displaced families around the world.**

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## MCC ATLANTIC CANADA

Kaye Migchelsen had never seen a year like 2020. As the coordinator of Gateway Food Bank in Lower Sackville, N.S., she had to face the dangers of the pandemic and concern for the health of volunteers while urgently finding ways to meet provincial guidelines. Through it all, Kaye was encouraged by the community around her.

There were new volunteers that came forward. One couple showed up who were able to do the weekly shopping so fewer people were exposed to the risk of being in public. Volunteers comfortable with social media took over the administration of the group's Facebook page to share the needs with the community—and the community responded. The food bank had to build extra shelves and purchase freezers to hold all the donations.

New partnerships bloomed as fire departments, businesses, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, a local pool league and many others came forward with support. Even other food banks in the area shared donations so that needs of the entire community could be met. Over the year, Gateway's food distribution almost doubled. Different ways to distribute food helped alleviate physical labour and will continue after the pandemic.

Kaye shared, "We believe culture is calling on the church to do its mission and meet the needs of those in our community." MCC is honoured to support the Gateway Food Bank as they live out that mission each week.

**Your support helps Gateway Food Bank make sure families in Lower Sackville have enough to eat.**

*"We believe culture is calling on the church to do its mission and meet the needs of those in our community."*

**Kaye Migchelsen, Coordinator of Gateway Food Bank**



Kaye Migchelsen, coordinator of the Gateway Food Bank, was called in on her day off to be celebrated by the volunteers that she works with. They are like a family and served together through the pandemic to meet the needs of the community. (Photo courtesy of Gateway Food Bank)

Dave Drinkwalter,  
member of the MCC  
Atlantic Canada  
Advisory Committee.  
(Photo/Sam Russell)



### Advisory committee member profile

Dave Drinkwalter is a member of the MCC Atlantic Canada Advisory Committee. Formerly the lead pastor at The Meeting House in both uptown Toronto and Newmarket, Dave and his partner, Susan, moved to St. John's, N.L., in July 2015. There he led Reunion, a plant of the Be In Christ Church of Canada, that last year became independent. Theirs is a group

of committed individuals who support their community and each other. They have also been very supportive of MCC's work, hosting conversations, supporting events and praying for the organization throughout the recent restructuring.

Not one to sit still, Dave also serves as a part-time offshore chaplain, supporting crews

working on floating production vessels on the Grand Banks in the Atlantic Ocean, several hundred kilometres off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. There he provides one-on-one support to crew members and leads gatherings at significant times throughout the year. "I give my time to MCC in Atlantic Canada because I trust

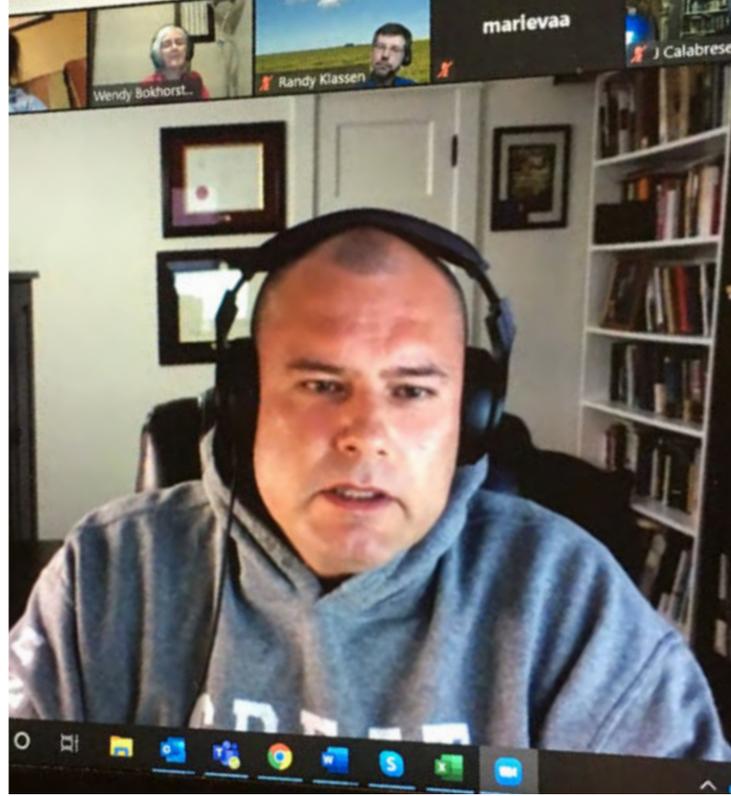
in them," Dave says. "I believe in the people they resource, the work they do and how they approach that work. I'm happy to serve such a great organization in whatever way that I can." MCC in Atlantic Canada is thankful Dave is part of the team. We appreciate his imagination, curiosity, creativity and his pastoral heart.



Quilt donation from Annapolis Valley Quilting Guild. (MCC photo)

### TATAMAGOUCHE CENTRE

MCC partners with the Tatamagouche Centre in Nova Scotia and is one of the supporters of the Peace and Friendship Gathering. This gathering supports the Elders of the Wabanaki Confederacy as they teach about the Peace and Friendship Treaties, specifically to Indigenous youth, but to the larger community as well. Last year the centre had planned to build a longhouse on the Tatamagouche grounds as a way of teaching. The pandemic restricted gatherings so that had to be delayed. Still, wonderful conversations continued with the youth. Tatamagouche also hosted an Elders gathering where they reiterated the importance of intergenerational gatherings and looked at ways to continue teaching throughout the changing COVID-19 landscape. The centre, under the leadership of executive director Nanci Lee, hosted conversations around anti-racism, treaty rights and offering restful space to the BIPOC community during very intense times. The Tatamagouche Centre is now taking a much-needed time of rest and reflection to regroup and discern their priorities going forward.



Jesse Thistle shares at the MCC Atlantic Canada book group. (MCC photo)

### BOOK GROUP

Many plans were made for gatherings to celebrate MCC's centennial. When they couldn't happen, new and imaginative ways to connect began to surface across MCC. A book group in Atlantic Canada was one of the ways we attempted to stay connected to each other. Choosing books by Indigenous authors, we met together to learn and grow. What started with the Atlantic Canada constituency quickly expanded to seven provinces, coast-to-coast. The first book we read was, *From the Ashes* by Jesse Thistle, a Métis-Cree man. Jesse recounts his life in the shadow of trauma and the impacts of racism. The highlight was Jesse joining the book group Zoom meeting, sharing insights and fielding questions, all with a goal of educating people about Indigenous realities in Canada. In the book, Jesse discusses intergenerational trauma, the foster system, addictions and the justice system. The discussion underscored the importance of the work MCC attempts to do domestically through the Indigenous Neighbours and Restorative Justice networks and how there is significant overlap between the two.



Jessica Tellez (right) and Christina Tellez attend a Mi'kmaq fisher rally in Halifax, N.S. (MCC photo)

### MI'KMAQ FISHERS RALLIES

A major story coming out of Atlantic Canada last year was the Mi'kmaq treaty rights violations during their lobster fishing season. Fishers from Sipekne'katik First Nation had their equipment destroyed, lines cut and the lobster pound burned to the ground while they faced racist rants and feared for their safety. To help raise awareness and understanding, we shared educational materials and wrote a post for the Peace & Justice Office blog. We also invited others to attend rallies in Halifax, N.S., and Saint John, N.B., to learn more about the Peace and Friendship Treaties.



Sign made for Mi'kmaq fisher rally in Saint John, N.B. (MCC photo)

### MATERIAL RESOURCES

While face-to-face meetings were more difficult, the ability to work on material resource projects seemed to increase. MCC in Atlantic Canada was blessed by donations of comforters, infant care kits and school kits from donors in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

*“New and imaginative ways to connect began to surface across MCC.”*

**DIANNE CLIMENHAGE,**  
Atlantic Canada Regional Representative

## MCC QUEBEC

### MESSAGE FROM MCC QUEBEC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

As we battle against an invisible viral enemy, we have seen many testimonies of love towards people in great need. I would especially like to acknowledge the generosity of Quebec donors who responded wholeheartedly to MCC's call to draw deeper into God by meeting needs that have been aggravated by the pandemic. Donors in Quebec continued to respond to the needs and increase giving for the second year in a row. Wow—glory to God!

In addition, I want to celebrate the flexibility of our partners who, despite a multitude of obstacles, have responded creatively to offer leaner programs that continue to honour their missions.

The House of Friendship has worked with local farmers on an eco-farming space where surplus food is shared with people in the neighbourhood who need it. The Centre for Services in Restorative Justice is supporting people with trauma; the Circles of Support and Accountability of Quebec renewed the members and organization of its board with MCC Quebec's help. MCC Quebec also held its Summerbridge program, and three candidates experienced Christian service focused on justice and peace. Thanks to every church that collected relief kits and buckets.

With your support, MCC will continue responding to people in need around the world, build peace with all those whom God places on our path, and advocating for a more peaceful and just future.

Daniel Genest.  
(Photo courtesy of  
the Genest family)



With your support,  
the House of  
Friendship has  
worked with local  
farmers to share  
food with people  
in need.

*“I would especially  
like to acknowledge  
the generosity of  
Quebec donors  
who responded  
wholeheartedly.”*

DANIEL GENEST  
MCC Quebec  
Regional Representative

## Profiles

### Summerbridge participant



“Giving to MCC is important because it’s my way of participating in the relief of people in distress. I appreciate the many choices we have when it comes to donate, especially the Christmas Giving guide, which brings a concrete touch to our donation! I believe in MCC’s mission, in the way they share the love of Christ. I believe it’s crucial to support the continuity of MCC’s ministry in its many projects. With programs eliminated in Quebec, I want to support what is left while hoping others will add their hand in the development of MCC in our province.”

Esther Bourdages is a member of the Sainte-Rose Mennonite Brethren Church and an alumni of MCC’s Summerbridge program.

### Advisory committee member



“Peace, non-violence and justice are values that have been important to me for many years. I went through difficult times where violence was part of my life, but when I came to the Lord Jesus Christ, I found that the love and the peace of Christ were stronger than anything else. Now I’m happy to contribute concretely to the kingdom of God while MCC works with the poor, the marginalized, the disenfranchised. I give of my time because I trust it makes a difference in the lives of people.”

Véronique Beaudin is a member of L’Intersection Mennonite Brethren church, member of MCC Quebec’s advisory committee and is staff at l’École de Théologie Évangélique du Québec.

## Donor



“For us, giving to MCC is to contribute to the relief of the suffering in the world. MCC’s reputation of integrity is acknowledged by its partnering churches, by the government and by the community, as much for its sound financial management as for how it respects the people it works with.”

Francine and Jean-Raymond Théorêt are members of the Sainte-Thérèse Mennonite Brethren Church and are long-time champions of MCC’s relief kits. (Photo courtesy of Francine and Jean-Raymond Théorêt)

# THE ROLE OF ADVOCACY IN FAITH AND IN OUR WORLD

## Q&A WITH ZACHARIE LECLAIR

Zacharie Leclair has worked with MCC in Quebec since 2017 as an administrative assistant. In August 2020, he took on a new role as research and communication assistant for the MCC Peace & Justice Office, working more closely with advocacy and public engagement work. Zacharie shares a little bit more about his new role and the importance of advocacy.

### How would you explain what advocacy is to MCC Quebec, to constituents, partners and donors?

To advocate means to speak on behalf or in favour of someone or something. MCC is well-known as an organization that responds materially to basic human needs, especially when disasters arise. And it's well-known for peacebuilding work. But MCC is also called to speak to politicians and leaders in the hope of generating more structural change. MCC's famous relief kits are the bandage;

advocacy works to remedy injustices in our world. In general, the Peace & Justice Office tries to be an Anabaptist voice among our political leaders. In addition to the Peace & Justice Office in Ottawa, MCC manages two more advocacy offices; one in Washington and the other near the United Nations building in New York.

### Why did you accept the new role working more closely with MCC's advocacy work?

A leap of faith! First, I do research. I prepare summaries and analyses and I track policy and media coverage on various issues related to MCC domestic advocacy. This includes Indigenous matters, restorative justice and migration. Secondly, my new role was created to strengthen MCC's French capabilities. I do the proofreading and translation of multiple MCC resources, internal documents and promotional tools. Lastly, we agreed I would keep a significant part of my time to pursue the work of MCC in Quebec, with our constituent churches, in collaboration with our regional representative, Daniel Genest. I'm still passionate about the idea of consolidating the Anabaptist witness of our churches and I'm grateful my new role allows me to continue the work we were already doing together.



Zacharie Leclair is research and communication assistant with MCC Canada's Peace & Justice Office. (Photo courtesy of Zacharie Leclair)

### Why do you think we must urge believers to raise their voices in an increasingly secular and pluralistic society?

As a ministry of Anabaptist churches, I like the fact that MCC chooses to first defend the rights of people who are vulnerable and whose voices are often silenced instead of focusing on its own status, rights or perspective. In a society that doesn't always hold the same Christian values, MCC rather insists on peace and justice for the marginalized. And peace and justice are aspirations that are as much universal as they are Christian. I think we Christians have something to say on the primacy of love in all human relations and in all social issues. Don't all injustices and exploitation ultimately stem from a lack of love? Jesus said the mark of a disciple would always be love (John 13:35). To advocate for a fairer and more peaceful world "in the name of Christ" reminds us all that Christ has authority over everything and that all things exist through him and for him (Colossians 1:17). In Christ's name, through his authority, we thus advocate for peace.

*"MCC's famous relief kits are the bandage; advocacy works to remedy injustices in our world."*

**ZACHARIE LECLAIR,**  
Research and Communication Assistant



## Advisory committee member profile

"MCC is an exceptional organization that, for over 100 years now, has been providing essential services and building peace in the face of natural and human disasters. It has provided a space for the human family to fully live out Jesus' call for healing, sharing and solidarity. As such, for myself, volunteering for MCC is an opportunity to be a part of something much bigger than myself, with a global impact that I know is pleasing to God."

Dora-Marie Goulet is a member of the Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal and member of the MCC Quebec advisory committee. She is also staff at the House of Friendship, an MCC partner. (Photo courtesy of Dora-Marie Goulet)

**Explore your global impact.**



2020/2021  
Annual Impact Report  
CANADA



Last year was a hard year. For all of us.  
Through it all, you made a choice to help others.  
We couldn't be more grateful.

Looking back over the last year, we want to invite you to take some time to stop and see the difference you've made. Take a moment to reflect.

## **Explore your global impact.**

The stories you see in this report wouldn't have been possible without your generous support. Your gifts make a real impact around the world every day.

You brought relief to people who were hurting. You provided food and water to people who needed it. You gave the gift of education and a brighter future. You helped build peace for a better world. In the midst of a global pandemic, you responded.

**From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.**



Jessica Ana Maya Cabrera, pictured saying goodbye to her host grandmother, Dolores Pablo Mendoza, came from Mexico to serve in Guatemala through the Young Anabaptist Mennonite Exchange Network (YAMEN), a joint program of MCC and Mennonite World Conference. During her year of service, Cabrera found faith and dwelling in God's word provided a compass and guide. Every day she remembered the invitation of Matthew 22 to love God with all her heart, soul and mind and to love neighbours as herself. (MCC photo/Jardely Martínez)

**In 2020, MCC celebrated the centennial of its ministry.** As we enter a second century of service, we reaffirm our Christ-led commitment to serve and learn from vulnerable people around the world.

**The MCC Canada and MCC U.S. boards identified these four strategic directions to guide our work from 2021–2025:**

1. Increasing the capacity of our partners to help uprooted and vulnerable people
2. Improving communication with churches and constituents
3. Increasing peacebuilding and justice work
4. Caring for God's creation and supporting communities harmed by climate change

To read an online version of this report visit [mcccanada.ca/annual-impact-report-2021](https://mcccanada.ca/annual-impact-report-2021)

## A THANK YOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Looking back at 2020, some of you may remember it as the year of MCC's 100th anniversary. But I expect many more will remember it as the year of COVID-19.

In March 2020 we prayerfully decided to lower our projected income and reduce our spending plan. Unable to gather for in-person centennial events, we turned our attention to what MCC does best—relief, development and peace in the name of Christ, with a focus on responding to COVID-vulnerable communities.

The pandemic enveloped us all in a global unknown, even as it exposed painful inequities. You could have turned inward, tending to your personal struggles. Instead, you turned **toward** your global neighbours and shared of your finances generously.

Your gifts allowed us to continue our relief, development and peace work in the name of Christ. Even relief sales and MCC Thrift shops, facing strict constraints and closures, contributed significantly through creative ventures previously never considered or attempted!

We had imagined 2020 was going to be memorable for our community. But instead of reflecting back on centennial festivities, I expect to recall how we responded—together—to a world in need, refusing to be overcome by fear and loss.

Thank you for participating in ministry with MCC over this past year. Thank you for sharing God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ. And thanks be to God.

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



*“God is our refuge and strength,  
 a very present help in trouble.”*

— PSALM 46:1 (NRSV)

## MCC CANADA 2020/2021 BOARD MEMBERS

**Paul Gilbert**  
 (Chair), Member-at-Large

**Walter Thiessen**  
 (Vice Chair), Eastern Canada

**Oscar Cardozo**  
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**Cindy Klassen**  
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**Dan Siebert**  
 MCC Saskatchewan

**Peter Wolfe**  
 MCC British Columbia

\*Appointed by Canadian Council  
 of Anabaptist Leaders





## Because of your gifts, Josephine can grow enough food to support herself all year.

*“Diversifying farms with livestock production lessens farmers’ dependence on a single crop or harvest and gives them access to different markets.”*

MICHAEL ADEOLA  
MCC food security and livelihoods coordinator



Josephine Mwikali Mutinda shows off her maize harvest in a granary at her home in Kathonzweni, Kenya. (MCC photo/Mwangi Kirubi)

You can't help but smile when you see Josephine Mwikali Mutinda smile. And for her to be smiling after harvest season in rural Kenya is not something to take for granted. Climate change is negatively impacting farmers like Josephine, drastically affecting the rainy seasons that are vital to growing healthy crops.

Add to that a global pandemic that disrupted trade and economic stability in the area and many farmers have nothing to smile about.

But Josephine had some help this year—from you. Through MCC's account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, your donations equipped an MCC partner in Kenya to help Josephine diversify her farm and adapt to some of the environmental challenges she is facing.

She planted a wider variety of crops to increase her chances of good yields. This year, in addition to her successful maize harvest, she also brought in a bountiful mango crop. She also started raising chickens and rabbits, so she's less reliant on her crops and can supplement her income in the event of a poor harvest.

On average, it costs \$2.92 to provide farmers like Josephine with the seeds they need to plant crops for the year. Because of you, she, and hundreds of farmers like her, got the support they needed to provide for themselves this year while setting up for a more successful crop next year.

Sukhi Murmu, from Palashdanga village in West Bengal, India, holds a sheaf of rice. (MCC photo/Pabitra Paramanya)



## Partner profile

MCC partners with 14 other agencies to fight global hunger through Canadian Foodgrains Bank. MCC has 42 projects in 19 countries funded through its account at the Foodgrains Bank. This year, more than \$11 million went to MCC food and agricultural projects through that account.

## Food program highlights:

61,791

people attended training in improved agriculture and animal production methods

28,468

people received agricultural supplies including seeds and tools

26%

average increase in yearly income for a group of farmers in Nepal after learning new techniques

86.8%

of participants eat two or more meals a day (up from 40 per cent) thanks to an agriculture project in Ethiopia

The explosion came with almost no warning. The devastating blast wave in Beirut, Lebanon, ripped a huge portion of the city to shreds. Hundreds of people were killed and thousands more were injured. Nearly 300,000 people had nowhere to go—their homes reduced to rubble and shattered glass.

The city’s food supply was greatly diminished, and hospitals were overflowing with wounded, as a city already brought to the brink by the global pandemic desperately called for help.

A call you answered. You, and thousands of compassionate Canadians, came together to reach across the world and care for a hurt and grieving city. You contributed to MCC’s \$2.3 million emergency response in Beirut.

Your incredible generosity helped provide monthly food support to 1,300 families, give hygiene vouchers to 750 families, fix 75 homes and businesses and provide trauma care to 270 children and adults.

“Though the emergency stage has passed, many of those needs remain the same and are now worsened by the severe economic crisis Lebanon is witnessing,” says Tala Itani, peacebuilding advisor for MCC Lebanon. “We thank everyone who contributed to the emergency response.”

## Your donations helped thousands recover from the explosion in Beirut.

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*“We are now able to cook and make meals for our children.”*

ALICE JOUBANIAN  
Lebanon



Kate Mayhew, MCC representative for Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, walks through the Beirut neighbourhood of Gemmayze following the massive explosion in the city’s port in August 2020. (MCC photo/Garry Mayhew)

Mark Siemens (second from right) and his family on a camping trip to Banff National Park in Alberta. The Siemens family left to right: Mattea, Julie, Alexi, Katrina, Mark and Annika. (Photo courtesy of Mark Siemens)



## Donor profile

Mark Siemens’ family wanted their gifts to have real impact. They heard about Share Your Table, MCC’s monthly giving program, and thought it was a perfect fit. He says, “the combination of cooking as a family, trying new foods from around the world and reading about the lives of people throughout the world made this program both impactful and fun.”

## Relief program highlights:

**161,046**

people received emergency food assistance

**65,005**

people received locally purchased emergency relief items, including clothing, kitchen items and bedding

**1,231**

households received home repairs or reconstruction

**1,194**

people received financial support or rent assistance



Sarothi Pahan wanted to be a teacher. But after finishing her primary school education, that dream seemed impossible. Sarothi has polio. Even though Bangladesh was declared polio-free in 2014, many remote areas, like Sarothi’s home of Vutahara, struggled to access vaccines.

That infection caused a serious physical disability in Sarothi’s legs, greatly limiting how far she’s able to walk. And because there are no high schools near Vutahara, her dream of teaching others was being pulled out of her reach.

Now, thanks to your generosity, Sarothi’s dream is on track to become a reality. An MCC partner in the area connected her to a group home for children with disabilities in a nearby city. The cost to support one student here for a year is \$112—beyond the financial capacity of her family. **But because of you, Sarothi’s room and board, food and education costs are fully covered, allowing her to pursue her education at a nearby high school.**

You’ve given Sarothi the ability to make her own choices about her future. She’s now in Grade 10 and is one the top students in her class. Her dream of sharing a love of education with others is becoming more her reality every day because of you.

## Your support enabled Sarothi to keep attending school

*“MCC’s partners provide quality access to education for children who wouldn’t have that opportunity due to violence, poverty, gender, ethnicity or disability.”*

LYNN LONGENECKER  
MCC education coordinator



Sarothi Pahan studies with a notebook that she received along with an MCC school kit. (MCC photo/James Kisku)

Ron Mathies and his wife Gudrun Mathies pack MCC school kits with their grandchildren every year on Christmas Eve. (Photo courtesy of Ron Mathies)



## Volunteer profile

Ron Mathies and his wife, Gudrun Mathies, both worked in education and administration for their whole careers. Every Christmas Eve, they put together MCC school kits with their grandkids (in person or over a video call) while they share family stories. He says, “we wanted to build the habit that when we share gifts with family, we’re also remembering to share gifts with others.”

## Education program highlights:

13,816

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

2,238

children received scholarships or tuition support

87%

of children in an after-school tutoring program in Guatemala passed all their courses—a 71 per cent increase from the beginning of the project

88%

of students who received tuition support at a school in Syria finished with average grades above 75 per cent



When Ayalew Misgan was very young, there was no clean water at home. He lives in western Amhara, Ethiopia, where for much of his life, the water nearby wasn't safe to drink. The only water sources were shallow open-pit wells or small ponds that the local wildlife also drank from.

As a result, women had to walk hours in either direction to collect water that was only sometimes safer to drink. These long walks could be dangerous and exhausting. Often, young girls missed time at school to assist their mothers in water-gathering.

But your caring support has drawn clean, safe water up from the ground for Ayalew and his whole village. Your support allowed an MCC partner to dig wells deep enough to reach safe, clean water. For the cost of \$5,200, one of these pumps provides an easy-to-access supply of drinking water free from disease or bacteria.

"Our life in the past had made us vulnerable to many problems. Now, we are able to fetch and use safe water here from our village, near our homes. From this time onwards, we have no worry of [getting sick]," says WorkuAbebe Chinais, who lives in the same community as Ayalew.

## Because of your support, Ayalew can drink clean water every day

.....

*"Now we are able to fetch and use safe water here from our village, near our homes."*

**WORKUABEBE CHINAIS**  
Ethiopia



Ayalew Misgan drinks from the water pump that was built to bring clean water to his village in western Amhara, Ethiopia. (MCC photo/Daniel Stoltzfus)

Durga Bahadur Sunchiuri (left), MCC Nepal program coordinator, and PR Sharma, Shanti Nepal's program director, check on a recently built water tap in Dhola, Nepal. (MCC photo/Avash Karki)



## Partner profile

Shanti Nepal is an MCC partner, founded in 2003. They're committed to demonstrating the loving actions of God and all creation through their efforts to ensure everyone has access to food and water. They were a major part of MCC's emergency response following the 2015 Nepal earthquake.

## Water program highlights:

**18,638**

people now have access to an improved water source

**9,660**

people received access to a new or improved latrine or sanitation facility

**294**

drinking water systems constructed or repaired

**92**

water harvesting structures for irrigation constructed or repaired

Your gifts have kept Floride safe from disease.

For most of her life, the only option Floride Murhimanya M'nkware had to relieve herself was to use a hole in the ground. Her village, known as Mosho II, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) didn't have running water or bathroom facilities.

As she got older, it was a greater challenge for her to use these safely—two planks of wood don't make a very stable platform. Digging a hole more than a few metres deep is challenging, but a shallow pit will attract disease-spreading insects and fill up in a matter of months. It's an unhealthy and dangerous cycle.

But your compassion broke that cycle.

Thanks to you, an MCC partner in DR Congo has installed brand new latrines in Mosho II, including one at Floride's home. It costs \$252 to build a latrine like this. Now there's no smell, no risk of waste infecting water supplies and no danger of her falling and hurting herself. Floride also received a rain barrel in her home to collect rainwater that she can use for cooking and washing dishes or hands.

"We are old now," says Floride, 66. "We don't have strength to dig the toilet over and over again. But the water is helping us, especially when it rains. We are sure we'll have water all the time."

*"This type of basic infrastructure for safe handwashing and waste disposal is essential for preventing the spread of new infectious diseases."*

PAUL SHETLER FAST  
MCC global health coordinator



Floride Murhimanya M'nkware (left) and her husband Jacques Safari Lukwebo stand beside their new latrine in the village of Mosho II in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. (MCC photo/Matthew Lester)

Paul Shetler Fast, MCC's global health coordinator, stands near a lava field after the May 2021 volcanic eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (MCC photo/Mulanda Jimmy Juma)



Staff profile

Paul Shetler Fast is MCC's global health coordinator. "Health is deeply personal for all of us," he says. "Even when I'm working with people across vastly different cultures, we can still connect on something shared but also personal. Celebrating with a mother whose child has recovered after serious illness is both as universal and personal as it gets."

Health program highlights:

37,450

people received direct clinical care

118,933

people received hygiene items, including menstrual supplies

88%

of participants in one mental health project in Palestine and Israel experienced significant reductions in stress and other symptoms

20x

more people washed their hands at community gathering sites in Zimbabwe's Mwenezi district following a health-messaging project



Everyone needs a home. Somewhere to feel safe and secure where their basic needs are met. Somewhere to come and go freely where they can imagine a future. But that is not the reality for Palestinians—or even for some Israelis.

MCC Canada’s A Cry for Home campaign has been educating and advocating for action to end the illegal occupation of Palestine and create safe, just and peaceful communities for all Palestinians and Israelis.

Your faithful support has empowered MCC to raise the voices of our partners in Palestine and Israel to the highest levels of government in Canada.

Our advocates have been meeting with members of Parliament and citizens across Canada, carrying the stories of the people on the ground. You’ve enabled us to meet with government officials, rally Anabaptist and other faith groups together and equip all Canadians with tools to let their voices be heard to say we need a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

## Your donations have lifted the needs of the people in Palestine and Israel to the halls of Parliament.

*“The advocacy offices have been meeting with partners on the ground—they’re hearing from people directly engaged in this work. These monthly exchanges give partners hope.”*

JOAN ALTY  
MCC representative for Jordan,  
Palestine and Israel



Woroud Al-dibs, left, who attends music classes with an MCC partner in Palestine and Israel, plays a traditional instrument called the oud with Viviane Eyer who was visiting with an MCC learning tour to Palestine and Israel. (MCC photo/Naomi Enns)

Anna Vogt carries a sign that reads, “The moment has come to reconcile ourselves. Yes to peace, to forgiveness, to life,” during a peace march in Bogotá, Colombia, in 2016. (MCC photo/ Amy Eanes)



### Staff profile

Anna Vogt started with MCC’s Seed program in Colombia and now serves as director of the new Peace & Justice Office in Ottawa. “A wise mentor once told me that advocacy means listening boldly,” she says. “You can’t advocate with someone if you’re not listening to them. I feel honoured to listen to the stories of our partners and boldly raise their voices up to a bigger platform.”

### Peace & justice program highlights:

15,441

people trained in conflict transformation, peacebuilding or mediation

162

Peace Clubs active this year

36

Peace Clubs and restorative justice units operating in prisons in Zambia

85%

of participants in a youth peacebuilding program in Cambodia say they’ve changed their behaviour toward “the other”

Shadi Alkhanous knows what it's like to land at an airport in Canada without knowing a single person. That's why he joins refugee sponsor groups as often as he can to greet newcomers who are walking out of the airport into Canada. He knows firsthand the comfort of hearing a familiar language.

Shadi arrived in Canada from Syria in October 2016. Along with his wife Sultana and his children Ghazal and Hussein, they escaped a dangerous conflict zone and made a new home in St. Catharines, Ont.

Shadi quickly found a job at a grocery store called Alnoor Halal Food Market. Last year, he opened a take-out and delivery counter in the store, offering meals like beef kabab and chicken shawarma. Even during the pandemic, when the food counter can be open safely, lines at the take-out window are a common sight.

And he wouldn't be here without you. **It's your support that has enabled MCC Canada to resettle more than 13,000 refugees in Canada over the last 42 years.**

Now that he's in Canada, Shadi and his wife have helped other newcomers find sponsors for family members still living as refugees. Shadi says it very simply—he likes to help people however he can. “When people call me, I'm happy to do what I can for them,” he says. “I do the same as people did for me when I came new.”

**Your donations gave Shadi an opportunity for a new life in Canada.**

.....

*“When people call me, I'm happy to do what I can for them .... I do the same as people did for me when I came new.”*

**SHADI ALKHANOUS**  
Former refugee from Syria



Shadi Alkhanous runs the take-out and delivery counter at the Alnoor Halal Food Market in St. Catharines, Ont., serving meals like shish tawook, chicken shawarma and beef kabab. He and his family have been living in Canada since they were resettled here in 2016. (Photo courtesy of Shadi Alkannous)

Terry Schulz and his wife, Sandi Schulz, have supported a number of refugees for resettlement. (Photo courtesy of Terry Schulz)



### Volunteer profile

Terry Schulz is a refugee resettlement sponsor from Abbotsford, B.C. “We do it because we're grateful,” he says. “We've never had to worry about food or safety in our life, so we decided we'd try to help people who don't have all that. And God's really put people in our life that have made it possible.”

### Migration program highlights:

**80**

refugees came to Canada through MCC's sponsorship program from:

Eritrea	<b>12</b>
Iraq	<b>12</b>
Syria	<b>32</b>
Palestine	<b>9</b>

Other countries:  
DR Congo, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Iran, Sudan – **15**

The global pandemic greatly reduced the number of people who could resettle in Canada this year. MCC included a number of safety measures and protocols for those who were able to enter the country to ensure their health.

## MATERIAL RESOURCES



Abdel\* lives in Homs, Syria, with his family in a temporary shelter. He's holding items from an MCC relief kit and enjoying the warmth of a comforter handmade by MCC volunteers. (Photo courtesy of FMEEC/Abuna Sergios)



**Your support is a tangible sign of hope in times of crisis.**

*"Here the light of Christ shines through MCC. [The kits] we received today will paint a smile on my wife and children's faces."*

LAITH BAJAJI, an Iraqi refugee in Jordan

### Material resources shipped last year:



**550,440**  
Canned meat (lbs)



**51,549**  
School kits



**77,240**  
Hygiene kits



**45,787**  
Comforters



**21,792**  
Relief kits



**5,812**  
Infant care kits



**1,600**  
Sewing kits

Abdel\* and his family have had a very challenging few years. They've been forced to abandon two homes because of the constant threat of violence in Syria. They're living in Homs, Syria, now—Abdel, his parents and his five siblings—in a house that desperately needs repairs to withstand the rainy winter months.

But your caring support offered warmth to Abdel on the coldest of nights.

He and his family received an MCC relief kit and comforters that were packed and sewn by MCC volunteers. These supplies provided his family with important basic necessities and the knowledge that people across the world were thinking of them.

*\*Name changed for security reasons.*



## MCC THRIFT

Ruth Jantz (left), shop manager of the Sargent MCC Thrift Shop in Winnipeg, Man., and shop assistant Essence Matthews say adapting to public health orders now feels somewhat normal. (MCC photo/ Allison Zacharias)

*"[The volunteers are] so dedicated, even though it took a while for it to sink in that we can't do things as we normally would [due to COVID-19]."*

RUTH JANTZ, manager of Sargent MCC Thrift Shop

**Your dedication kept thrift shops open for our communities.**

This year saw a major disruption to MCC Thrift shops across the country. But the staff and volunteers who operate our shops worked tirelessly to ensure shoppers got as close to a regular experience as they could.

Ruth Jantz, manager of the Sargent MCC Thrift Shop, says the flexibility of volunteers made a challenging situation much more manageable. "They've been great at adapting to the changes in their schedules, filling the gaps and figuring out a new routine," says Ruth. "They're eager to continue as much as they can."

And for volunteers like Pearl Plohman, her time at a thrift shop was also a way for her to connect. "MCC has been a lifeline for me [during the pandemic]," she says. "God made us to be sociable creatures, so you do need contact with people."



**MCC THRIFT**  
*Where every purchase is a gift to the world*

**\$12,387,000**

Donated by MCC Thrift shops in Canada and the U.S. to support the work of MCC in the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

# GLOBAL SERVICE LEARNING

GSL

YOUNG ADULTS VOLUNTEERING IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

Dr. Ela Castro, a 2019–2020 YAMEN participant, used her training as a doctor to serve at Casa del Migrante (Migrant House) in Guatemala City, Guatemala, offering medical care to migrants and refugees. (MCC photo/Lizette Miranda)



You are helping young adults experience service and growth

*“YAMEN is a great place for people to confirm their gift and their call.”*

DR. ELA CASTRO, a 2019/2020 YAMEN participant

Dr. Ela Castro always knew she wanted to spend her life serving those in need. By all outward appearances, this is what she was doing. She’d studied for years to earn her medical degree. She was working at a health-care clinic. She was helping people—but something was missing.

It wasn’t until she took a step of faith that she truly felt like she’d found her purpose. Through her church, Ela decided to try a one-year term of service with Young Anabaptist Mennonite Exchange Network (YAMEN) and was placed at a ministry serving migrants in Guatemala.

“YAMEN is a great place for people to confirm their gift and their call, and for me it was proof that I can do something different than other doctors are called to do,” she says. She also says her time with YAMEN played a pivotal role in her faith formation and in planning what is next for her life.

“It was my Gethsemane,” says Ela. “It was an opportunity for me to experience my faith by myself without the support of my mom and dad and closer family.”



# Give a gift today

## Help families in poverty survive the effects of COVID-19

Even as the impact of the pandemic recedes in Canada, in many countries the hope of widespread vaccinations could still be two or three years away. This leaves people incredibly vulnerable to the health and economic effects of the pandemic.

Join us with a gift to help respond to the overwhelming need for health care and relief. Your generous donation will provide life-saving support for families living in poverty.

[mcccanada.ca/covid-19-donation](https://mcccanada.ca/covid-19-donation)



# COVID-19 RESPONSE



In the early months of 2020, it became clear the COVID-19 disease was going to be a global threat. Adapting our programs around the world to ensure everyone stayed safe was a top priority. Working with our partners across the globe, we adapted and shaped projects to meet the constantly changing situation. As universal as the threat of the coronavirus was, each project required a unique approach. Here are just a few of the ways we responded.

A staff member\* from MCC partner Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARAD) prepares to distribute MCC blankets and relief items in Tyre, Lebanon, in March 2020. She wears a mask and gloves to protect herself and recipients. (MCC photo/Evangeline Hammond)

\* Name not used for security reasons.



## Kenya

Anna Mwatha (right) and Joel Esapaya (left) support families and pregnant mothers in Mathare, a neighbourhood of Nairobi, Kenya. Our partner shifted how they provide health care and support for pregnant mothers to one-on-one sessions, mostly by phone. And they maintained a network of handwashing stations in the area.

(MCC photo/Scott Stoner-Eby)



## Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, we shifted some funds to buy personal protective equipment for project staff so they could keep meeting safely to provide mental health care and share COVID-19 prevention information with their clients. The name of MCC's partner in this work and the names of the people pictured are not provided for security reasons.

(MCC photo)



## Nepal

Public health inspector Ram Udgar Yadav (right) takes Pramod Kumar Yadav's (left) temperature in front of a health facility in Nepal. We shifted our program here to a more direct care approach, providing items such as hospital beds and thermometers to under-equipped hospitals in the area. At the time the photo was taken in May 2020, the government of Nepal did not require face masks to be worn outdoors.

(BICWS photo/Sanjog Luitel)



## El Salvador

When tropical storm Amanda devastated communities in rural El Salvador, we quickly launched an emergency response that included food and personal protective equipment. These women in Cuisnahuat, El Salvador, were some of the 300 households who received a one-month supply of food.

(MCC photo/Kathy Figueroa)



## India

In India, our local partner introduced social distancing and other safety protocols to distributions of food, water and hygiene kits like this one to make sure no one was exposed to any extra risk.

(ISARA photo/Jajati Pandit)

# MCC around the world

**Canada**  
444 MCC workers\*  
\$9.5 million  
\*includes MCC Thrift

**United States**  
156 MCC workers  
\$8.4 million

**Latin America & the Caribbean**  
67 MCC workers  
\$5.9 million

**Europe & the Middle East**  
35 MCC workers  
\$15.2 million

**Africa**  
138 MCC workers  
\$15.6 million

**Multi-Region**  
\$7.4 million

**Asia**  
128 MCC workers  
\$6.1 million

**47**  
countries

**385**  
partners

**508**  
projects

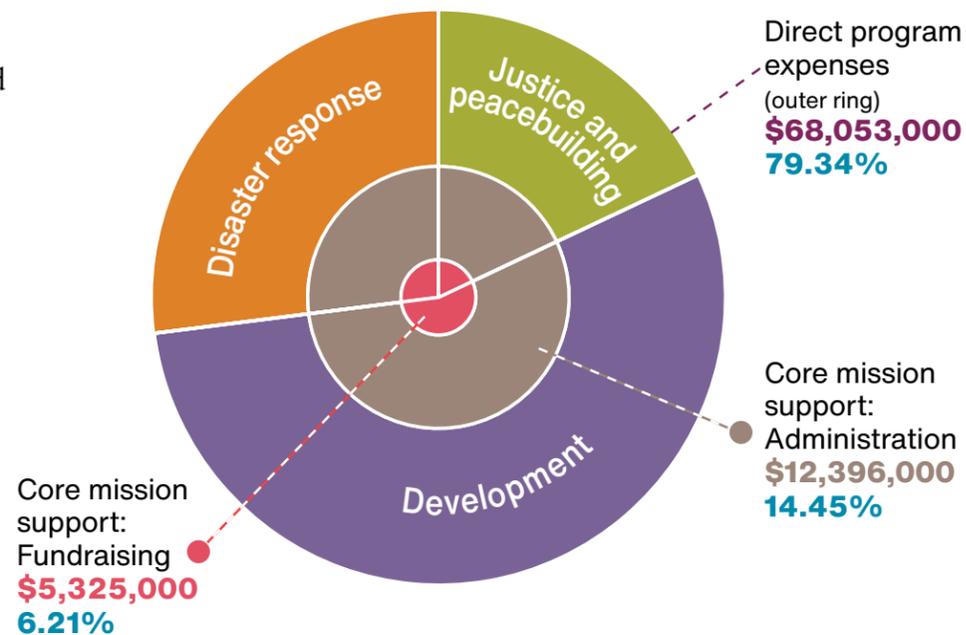
**968**  
workers

**31** participants in Global Service Learning programs: SALT, IVEP, YAMEN, Summerbridge, Seed and SOOP. Participant numbers last year were greatly reduced because of the pandemic.

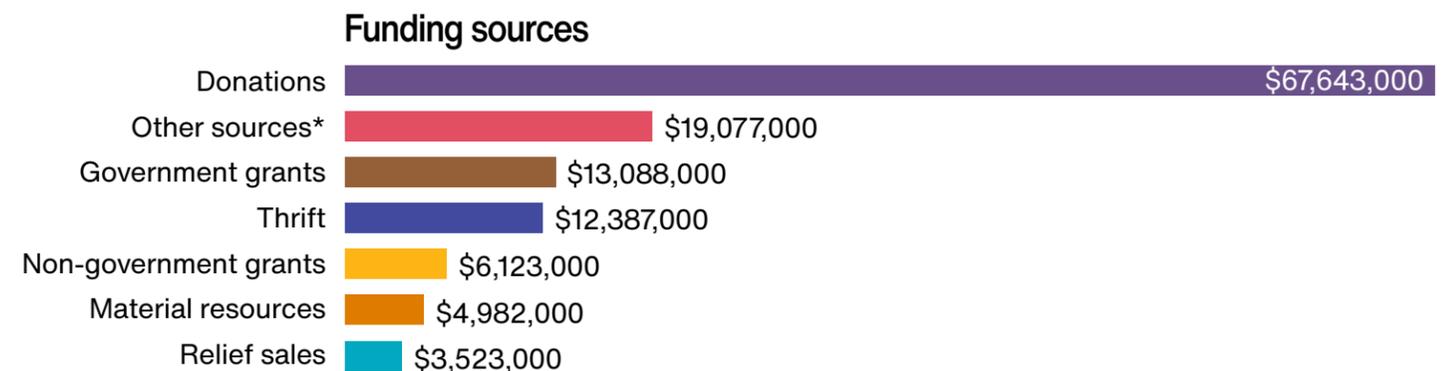
## FINANCES

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, 2021. More detailed financial and program reporting, as well as complete audited financial statements are available at [mcccanada.ca/annual-report](http://mcccanada.ca/annual-report).

**TOTAL EXPENSES:**  
**\$85,774,000**



**TOTAL REVENUE:**  
**\$126,823,000**



\*For a detailed list of funding sources see the electronic annual impact report online at [mcccanada.ca/annual-report](http://mcccanada.ca/annual-report).