



EDMONTON MENNONITE

centre *for*
newcomers

COMMUNITY
REPORT
2013

Vision

We see a future where many citizens walk with newcomers to bridge their transition into community. To achieve this vision we will serve as a key catalyst and leading collaborator in positively shaping the attitudes, behaviours and practices of organizations and individuals to value the diversity that newcomers bring to community.

Core Purpose

To enhance quality of life for newcomers and all Canadians

Values

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Creating a society that is based on the dignity of every human being.

Integrity, Democratic, Equal opportunities, Integration, Participation

DIVERSITY

Giving every individual the opportunity to achieve their potential and to participate fully in the community.

Respect, Inclusion, Strengths-based approach, Culture/age/gender/values, Spirituality

COMPASSION

Showing care and empathy for newcomers.

Grace, Love, Hope, Humility, Fellowship

RESPONSIBILITY

Acting to achieve our goals.

Accountability, Trust, Change, Mentoring, Ownership, Professionalism, Solution-oriented, Transparency

EMCN's Board of Directors

Daniel Eggert, Chair

Rick Enns, Vice-Chair

**Maria Jagiello-Cathcart,
Secretary**

Mat Wiens, Director

Neil Bargen, Director

Scott Key, Director

Peter Inglis, Director

Darrell Wiens, Director

Sofia Karmali, Director

Cecilia Ran, Director

Chuan Kua, Director

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Message from the Chairman, Board of Directors

It is my pleasure to report to you on behalf of EMCN's Board of Directors. Alberta and Edmonton continue to attract large numbers of new Canadians, and it is imperative that we as a community are at the front gate prepared to welcome newcomers and integrate them into our neighbourhoods, schools, and companies. As such, the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN) has to evolve and grow its provision of programs and services to ensure we meet the needs of newcomers in our community.

EMCN has never had the outlook of growth for growth's sake; the objective has rather been to provide service and support for newcomers as needed in our community. In response to the large migration to Alberta over the past decade, EMCN has grown significantly to service the needs of newcomers. This has required us to upgrade the agency's organizational systems in order that we have the capacity to connect and service more new Canadians.

One important step in upgrading the agency came this past year when the Board of Directors completed the Strategic Plan. The plan serves as a roadmap for the Executive Director and sets timely objectives which reflect the mission and vision of EMCN. Erick Ambtman and the Senior Leadership Team have begun implementing the plan and have since been successful on a number of fronts. Part of the plan also involves the Board of Directors upgrading its processes and methods. One priority this year for the

Board is to complete a governance review and be ready to commence implementation by the 2014 AGM. At this time last year the overall Strategic Plan was still at a theoretical level, but it is now very much a reality. There are still important pieces of the Strategic Plan that have yet to commence, but it is encouraging to see the wheels of change starting to turn.

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Message from the Chairman, Board of Directors

As EMCN evolves, so too does our need for funding. There are thousands (yes, thousands) of non-profit agencies in Edmonton daily seeking support from large and small funders alike. In order for EMCN to be there for newcomers, it is important that current and potential funders are fully aware of all the work we do to build our community with new Canadians, so that they can make informed choices with their resources. As Board Chair, I have been working closely with EMCN's Executive Director, Erick Ambtman, in seeking out new avenues for funding and discussing enhanced support from existing funders. I would like to especially thank the Stollery Foundation, the Edmonton Community Foundation and the United Way for all their help in the past year.



All of us on the Board believe that the future is bright for our city, but we will not be successful as a community by accident; we, as a province and city, need to be intentional about helping build the two-way bridge between the community at large and newcomers. We on the Board are committed to achieving EMCN's strategic objectives, and that commitment is shared by Erick and the rest of EMCN's wonderful staff. We look forward to continuing our close relationships with our many stakeholders to meet our common goal: to support and empower new Canadians who bring so much strength and quality to our community.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Daniel Eggert".

Daniel Eggert
Chairman

Message from the Executive Director

Our Clients – Wonderful People of Strength and Determination

Since I've been with EMCN I have concluded that this organization is not all about facts and figures: it's about human beings and their stories. Every day I hear about the strength of clients and their determination to live a better life than the one they left behind. Every day I see and talk to clients whose journey to a new land led them from poverty and privation and, very often, bloodshed. Hearing these stories and meeting these clients is both a humbling experience and a source of pride. I am proud to be part of an organization that each year works with, supports, and empowers more than 10,000 newcomers.

Throughout this report you will find photographs and stories about just a few of our many clients who have found success in this new land with the support of EMCN. These people truly represent what this agency is all about.

In the past year, EMCN has continued to grow and has strengthened relationships with our key stakeholders, including funders, partners, staff and clients. Our capacity to provide a full range of services to our clients has been considerably enhanced with new and expanded programming. Our management team has also been better aligned to ensure we can meet the evolving needs of our client base. And our growing numbers of funders have demonstrated their belief in the importance of EMCN's work with increasing generosity.

In addition, our Board of Directors continues to provide leadership in the development of strategies that provide EMCN with direction, focus and long term goals.

I can't say enough about our wonderful staff. Each and every one of EMCN's employees continues to demonstrate a tremendous



Message from the Executive Director

work ethic and a dedication to supporting our clients with the very best possible service. They have seen change and have recognized the need for that change and eagerly adapted to it.

Last year I said we were moving towards becoming a truly great and leading-edge organization. We have made great strides to this end and will continue to put in place the necessary structures to get there. We have hundreds of successful clients; we provide the services which have helped those clients achieve their success; and we are recognized in the larger community as being the biggest and best of the immigrant focused organizations in Edmonton.

We have cause to celebrate the fact that we are more financially viable than ever before. The support from organizations such as the Stollery Foundation, the Edmonton Community Foundation and United Way has been outstanding – a clear indication that they recognize the importance of the work we do. In addition, we have become the “go to” agency for the media for questions about any immigrant related issues and become a partner of choice for other social service agencies .

But we need to keep alert to change and ensure we meet the needs of our clients as those needs change. This is a new year and there will be challenges – but I am confident we can and will meet those challenges as they arise. The only way that we can live, is if we grow. The only way that we can grow is if we change.

**“The only way that we can live,
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we can grow is if we change.”**



Erick Ambtman
Executive Director



Programs and Services

EMCN's Service Commitment

EMCN has programs and services to help newcomers achieve full participation in the community, contributing their experiences and skills to strengthen and enrich the lives of all Canadians.

English Language Services

EMCN offers classes and groups where individuals can learn English. These classes and groups take place at different times and in a variety of locations.

Settlement Services

EMCN facilitates work with immigrant communities, families, schools, and organizations to help them meet, communicate, identify priorities, plan, and take action to achieve desired outcomes.

These community development principles guide a lot of EMCN's work, in areas such as Families and Youth, Community Development and Health and Wellness.

Career & Employment Services

EMCN has been helping immigrants succeed in the workplace for over 30 years. Employment and Career and Employment Services provide a variety of services to help the immigrant and newcomer to Canada to find work, including Employment Workshops and Clinics; Employment and Career Counselling; Employment Resource Centres; Job Clubs; Outreach Workshops; Specialized Training and Bridging Programs.



Finding a Sense of Belonging

New immigrants often feel isolated and disconnected when they first arrive in their new homes. So when Brenda Gonzalez wanted to connect with the community and feel a sense of belonging, she and her two children joined EMCN's Parenting and Literacy program.

She lives on the south side, but found the program to be so helpful that she made the trip twice a week. She connected well with several families in the program and even offered rides to one who lived near her.

Brenda, who is from Mexico, has an accounting background but needed to improve her English first. She came to the program with very few connections. She says she felt her life was on hold – waiting for her children to grow up and start school. With the help of our staff, she developed good connections and saw the importance of growing with her children. She began to do things for herself: started taking ESL classes in the evening, and finding part-time work at Cookies By George. She was eager to find a job that would allow her to improve her conversational English, and this job was perfect. Because of her success, the company offered her an opportunity to use her accounting skills, which will give her experience in Canada for future employment in her field. Our program played a significant role in giving her a context to rebuild her life here in Canada.

English Language Services

EMCN offers classes and groups where individuals can learn English. These classes and groups take place at different times and in a variety of locations.

- Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)
- LINC for Seniors
- Part-Time ESL Classes
- Community ESL
- Community EAL Outreach
- Parenting and Literacy
- ESL for Seniors
- English Through the Arts
 - Storytelling
 - Global Voices Choir
- ACE TESOL Certificate Program

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“Ghulam’s language skills are now such that he has just written the test for his Heavy Duty Mechanic’s Licence.”

Honing the Skills he Brought with him

Ghulamyahya Barbari was born in Afghanistan, but moved to Iran with his family when he was 2 years old. He worked as a heavy duty mechanic in Iran until he moved to Canada with his wife in October 2009. He started at EMCN in the Language Instruction for Newcomers (LINC) Literacy morning class in January 2010 and, to help pay the bills, worked in a fast food restaurant after class.

In 2011 he found a job as a mechanic and transferred to LINC evening classes to continue his studies. Ghulam’s language skills are now such that he has just written the test for his Heavy Duty Mechanic’s Licence. He is still waiting to hear if he has passed, but is confident about the results because he has also been working with a tutor in math and science. His advice to newcomers is to study and train if they want a good job. “If you don’t want to study, just work, your job will never change.” Finally, he says, “The government and all of the teachers help us in Canada to try and give us new skills. EMCN has the best teachers. I’m proud of them.” Ghulam is a success because he has never given up on his goal.





English Language Services

Learning the Language – then Supporting Others!

When Sanaa Sabra first came to Edmonton from Lebanon with her husband and 4 children in 1999, her English language skills were limited. She joined EMCN's language program in February 2000 and finished the advanced course in 2002.

But she continued in school, first receiving a Teacher Assistant Diploma from Grant MacEwan and later a Business Administration Management Diploma. Sanaa now works in the same EMCN language program where she was once a student: as a Teacher's Assistant in the morning, and as an Administrative Assistant in the evening. Sanaa's success is a constant source of inspiration to the students she comes into contact with each day. Sanaa's advice to newcomers is: "Don't stay home, go to school. It's never too late to learn."

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“Sanaa now works in the same EMCN language program where she was once a student.”

Settlement Services

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These community development principles guide a lot of EMCN's work, in areas such as Families and Youth, Community Development and Health and Wellness.

- Settlement Counseling and Support
 - Families, Youth and Children
 - Housing for Refugees:
There's No Place Like Home
 - Health and Wellness
 - Temporary Foreign Worker Settlement Services
 - Community Development

“[EMCN] definitely helped me find a job in my field and get settled in Canada.”

New to Canada – and to EMCN!

Alpesh Patel was eager to start a new life when he arrived in Canada from India in 2012. He had relatives in Edmonton, which was one of the major reasons he came to the city – but he didn't have a job.

However, he had gained considerable IT experience while in India, and he felt he would be able to find work doing the same thing in Edmonton. His relatives advised him to seek advice from the Welcome Centre for Immigrants in Millwoods.

He attended an employment workshop, one-on-one job counseling sessions, mock interviews and was given assistance with resume preparation. Within a month he was hired – by EMCN! Alpesh is now in charge of all EMCN's IT programs and is doing a great job.

He says: "I was new to Canada when I went to the Welcome Centre and attended the settlement and employment workshops. The centre's career practitioner helped with my resume and prepared me for interviews. She definitely helped me find a job in my field and get settled in Canada."





Fleeing Violence – and Starting a New Life

Mwavita Wabenga came to Canada in 2009 with her husband and six children. Originally from the Congo, she and her family had to flee their country to Uganda

to escape war and violence. Her family moved from Winnipeg to Edmonton in 2011. She began studying in our LINC program as a level 1 student in spring of 2012. In her words, reflecting back on the beginning of her English studies, she says: “I felt nervous the first day I started my English program. I felt frightened to speak English because of my bad English, but my children felt proud of me when I talked English at home.”

When Mwavita was experiencing some miscommunication with her landlord, utilities company and telephone company, she was referred to a settlement counsellor to help her sort things out and get back on a good footing. When winter came, and her apartment proved to be substandard in terms of insulation and windows in good repair, the settlement counsellor supported her in trying to get the landlord to do his part, and at the same time began to process of helping her and her family apply for Capital Region Housing.

During this time, Mwavita moved on to LINC 2 where she began to share her struggles and dreams around housing with her classmates. Together, the whole class learned about how to talk to a housing manager about a complaint, how to write a letter of complaint and keep a copy, and how to call Capital Health about concerns. The class encouraged Mwavita to achieve her dreams with respect to housing.

Mwavita returned to class after a weekend to announce to the class that she had been offered a new home through Capital Region Housing. She was thrilled with the news, and the students supported her with cheers and plans to have a housewarming party at the end of June.

Telling Her Own Story

I arrived in Edmonton last April as a sponsored Immigrant from Jamaica. Even though I had done some research from back home, having arrived here, the reality of starting life all over again was like a nightmare and I just did not know where to begin. I started visiting the Millwoods Library to search and apply for jobs then one day saw information on the Millwoods Welcome Centre for Immigrants. I called the Centre and was asked to start attending their workshops the following week.

On my arrival I was impressed with the warm and professional staff. The workshops were very informative. I garnered information regarding resume writing (Canada's way), job interviews and job fairs, qualification assessment, employment mentorship program, leisure and housing, volunteering, immigration matters and had direct contact with the Counselor.

This helped me to settle into my new life comfortably. Since August of last year I have been employed by The Business Link as an Administrative Assistant. I am member of the Dufashayne Foundation, presently volunteering for the Canadian Diabetes Foundation and instrumental drama presentations at the Triumphant Ministries. It is now my pride and responsibility to inform other Jamaicans arriving in Canada of the services they can receive from the EMCN and the Welcome Centre for Immigrants.

By Pauline Henry

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 - Specialized Training and Bridging Programs

Employment and Career Services offered:

- include individual counselling
- employment workshops designed to help immigrants with their search for meaningful employment

We are here to help immigrant workers move quickly into employment in their field of expertise.

Job Searching Support is a Great Success

Shan Shan Zhang came to Canada from China in October, 2012. She had completed the master's degree program in accounting at the Dublin City University in Ireland and has ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) membership, but she came to EMCN to seek assistance in finding work as an accountant in Edmonton.

Shan Shan was assisted in preparing targeted resumes and cover letters for different positions and was also given employment-related information including interview preparation. Ongoing help and support enabled her to find an accounting position with a distribution company.



She says: "I want to say thank you, and I really appreciate all the help you provided for me."

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Using the Skills for Which he was Trained

Larry Ashiri is a Nigerian who arrived in Canada, in October of 2009. Larry has a M.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering and worked as an Operations Engineer in a large facility that maintained large mechanical systems before arriving in Canada.

With his wife Matti still residing in Nigeria, Larry lived in Toronto, supporting himself by taking up transitional jobs in security, earning \$12.50 per hour. Although he searched for work more suited to his engineering background, Larry did not find success and was often told because he did not have exposure or experience in the Canadian mechanical engineering industry, it would be a challenge for him to secure professional level employment.

Taking personal initiative, Larry searched on the internet and discovered the Engineers' and Technologists' Integration Program (ETIP) offered by the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. He applied for the program and in September, 2011 he was interviewed and accepted in to ETIP 2012.

A strong student, Larry graduated from ETIP in October of 2012 and subsequently began work at Schlumberger Canada Limited as a Technologist. At the same time Larry welcomed his wife Matti to Edmonton.

With a B.Sc. in Demography and Social Statistics, Matti was referred by Larry to EMCN for further assistance. She is now enrolled and currently studying in EMCN's Payroll Certificate Program.

“Larry graduated from ETIP in October of 2012 and subsequently began work at Schlumberger Canada Limited as a Technologist.”



Entrepreneur Success

A Successful Restaurant Owner – Thanks to EMCN

Bayani Amir Alcantara first became acquainted with the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers in September 2011, when he accompanied his mother-in-law to an entrepreneurship session, hoping to help her with a business idea. Having worked as a cardiovascular technologist in the Philippines, his home country, he had education but no business experience. Eventually his mother-in-law returned to the Philippines but he continued with the program, where he received help in organizing his ideas and setting goals for his business. He is now the proud owner of a restaurant downtown, and his family makes enough money that they can focus on the restaurant and they do not have need of outside work. Bayani is a success because he started off knowing nothing about business, and the entrepreneurship program gave him the knowledge and planning to start an operational business that he can make a living off of with his family.



“He is now the proud owner of a restaurant downtown, and his family makes enough money that they can focus on the restaurant and they do not have need of outside work.”

Connecting with the Community

Habiba Abdulle met the EMCN team in 2011. Originally a social worker in her native country, she was and is very active in the Somali community and had begun a food processing business when she first started participating in the entrepreneurship program. Her challenge was that, even though she was very close with her community, she did not have any access or connections to places outside of her community, and could not expand her business.

During her time with the program, she received valuable information about networking and making social and business connections with other people. The instructors of the entrepreneurship program even spent extra time to help her make connections, and today her business has now successfully expanded to outside of the Somali community, and she hopes to continue growing. Habiba is a success because she had already started a business, but with the help of the EMCN entrepreneurship program she was able to see it grow and succeed.

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Entrepreneur Success



Motivated to Run a Business

Nick Siegenthaler and Irina Smirnova first learned about EMCN in 2011. Nick has lived in Canada for many years, and his wife Irina has only recently come to Canada from her home country of Russia. Nick had a variety of jobs, from being a tradesperson to being involved in a helicopter charter company. Irina had experience as a teacher, but knew that her interests lay in running a business.

She had only been in Canada for a few months when she had a bad experience at an aesthetics

salon and said “I could do this better.” Through EMCN’s entrepreneurship program, Irina learned the important steps of starting and running a business in Canada, and today Nick owns an agricultural fertilizer company and she owns her own aesthetics business.

Nick and Irina are successes because they both had the motivation and ideas to start a business, and the entrepreneurship program gave them the information to succeed in Canada.

Volunteers

Volunteers play a vital role at EMCN. So many members of the community give their time and energy to help newcomers settle in Edmonton and build new lives. And the majority of our volunteers were once newcomers themselves – so they have a deep understanding of the issues faced by new Canadians.

An To and Laura Morin are two of our volunteers. Here are their stories.

Laura Morin

Laura Morin is a Community Librarian at the Lois Hole Branch of the Edmonton Public Library (EPL), and a dedicated English as a Second Language volunteer.

She says: “Volunteering in EMCN’s supportive and friendly environment is a very gratifying experience. I like chatting with the students, hearing their stories and sharing meaningful conversations.”

Last March 13, EPL celebrated its 100th birthday and Laura helped 17 students get a library card. Now they know where their local library branch is and have learned about activities such as the special Spring Break programs for children.

Laura has connected EMCN’s community of English learners to the rich cultural life that Edmonton’s library system offers. Like so many EMCN volunteers, she goes beyond the ordinary by breaking down barriers, making meaningful connections and helping people feel at home in their new city.



ESL student Nazret Welde with volunteer Laura Morin

An To

A Vietnamese social work student, An To has brought energy, good humour and insight to her volunteer role at EMCN. She is gaining valuable work experience while supporting clients and staff at reception and in Volunteer Services.

"Volunteering is a great experience. I help EMCN newcomer volunteers connect to their very new volunteer experiences in Canada. I do not have my family here, but I discovered there is a lot of fun in helping others. I can communicate with different people and learn about the unique cultures of their countries. This has brought me many surprises, and I even learned about my own culture too! Gradually through volunteering, I found a place that I can belong to and even though I am in a new country, I do not feel alone. "

“I found a place that I can belong to and even though I am in a new country, I do not feel alone.”



Volunteers (cont.)

EMCN's Volunteers & Volunteering Partners

This year, **290** people volunteered for **11,408** hours as Job-Search Assistants, Mentors , Homework Tutors, ESL Tutors, Receptionists, Community Workers, Childcare Workers and many other roles.

Our partners in this work were:

Community Service Learning
(University of Alberta)

First Baptist Church

United Way

City of Edmonton Office
of Biodiversity

EPCOR

Nigerian Students Association

Concordia University
International Students Office

World of Story



World of Story

Singers and musicians celebrated "World of Story" in City Hall recently. This is an annual project culminating with the City Hall event to promote first language family literacy through the sharing of stories and songs from around the world.

This year's World of Story featured a creation story from the Mayan tradition from Central America. As well we organized a sing-along where we selected children's songs in French, Somali, Spanish, Amharic, Arabic, and Chinese. Supported by EMCN's choir to promote transmission of childhood songs, these songs generated enthusiasm and interest on the part of the 300 attendees in City Hall many of whom knew these songs well.

Youth & Children

Youth Benefit from EMCN's Programs Too

It's not just adults who benefit from EMCN's range of programs. School age students receive a lot of support too. Mohammed Mohammed, who's a student at Queen Elizabeth High School, is originally from Djibouti. In 2011 he started getting involved with a range of EMCN programs offered in partnership with his school. These include a homework club, culture club at Queen Elizabeth High School, and a 5-day mentorship training to develop leadership and mentorship skills in High School youth.

He says: "When I was in my home country, I helped out children by coaching soccer. When I arrived in Canada I wanted to work as a volunteer and help others."

EMCN's work in the schools creates rich opportunity for newcomer youth to find their voice and contribute their best. Mohammed has blossomed through EMCN programming at Queen Elizabeth High School, and was chosen to be part of the 5-day intensive mentorship training where the expectation was to pass on their learning on to students through regular volunteering. Mohammed has been especially dedicated to his contribution through volunteering. He reflects on his experience:

"I like to work with kids and help people too. I like to teach them how to play soccer and basketball. I like to help with homework and to work together to build team and friends and community."



Our Partners and Supporters

There are many different groups, individuals and organizations that make services for family, youth and children possible.

- Alberta Advanced Education, Family Literacy Initiative Fund
- Catherine Donnelly Foundation
- Region 6 Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services Authority
 - RBC Foundation
 - Telus
- The United Way of the Alberta Capital Region
 - Winspear Fund
- Wildrose Foundation
- Dedicated Volunteers
 - Generous Donors
- Newcomer Youth, Parents, and Communities
- Queen Elizabeth High School
- Rundle Elementary School



Program Statistics

Service/Program Name	Outputs	Funding Source/Amount
Child and Family Services	Parenting and Literacy: 87 moms, 111 children Recreation program: 35 children ages 3-7, swimming and skating World of Story: 300 participants at City Hall on January 27, 2013 LINC Childcare Centre: 260 children	Alberta Learning CFSAs, Region 6 United Way FCSS Alberta Learning Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Settlement in Schools	Individual support of children and youth: 177 unique individuals Family Support: 137 families supported Group youth support (Homework club, girls' club and culture club): 121 youth Balwin Summer Program: 70 children and youth	Citizenship and Immigration Canada Alberta Human Resources EPSB CFSAs, Region 6
Health and Wellbeing	Individualized support: 532 Language for Life: 38 parents Youth Finding their Way: 25 youth	SCIF United Nations
Global Voices Choir	25 regular participants Performed for three events: (World Refugee Day, University of Alberta International Student celebration, World of Story 2013)	ECALA
Volunteering	335 volunteers 9578 hours 2/3 of EMCN'S volunteers are newcomers	

Settlement Services	Served 993 clients	Citizenship and Immigration Canada Alberta Human Services
Housing Works Support	Supported 15 families	Capital Region Housing Corporation
REACH Family Violence Collaboration Project	Worked with 25 children at St. Francis School Homework Club 35 community participants to learn about aspects of family violence prevention New Year's Eve Celebration: 150	REACH Edmonton
Employment Services	Served 1340 clients out of our three locations	Citizenship and Immigration Canada Alberta Human Services
AFA Employment Bridging Programs	97 students graduated or are currently enrolled in our Bridging Programs	Alberta Human Services
CESI Employment Services	CESI: served 750 individuals	Alberta Human Services
CIIP	449 on-line newcomers received settlement and employment support through this pre-arrival settlement program	Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Community Development	639 newcomers supported through community develop programs	Citizenship and Immigration Canada Alberta Human Services FCSS
Language Programs	LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada): 1192 Community EAL: 910	Citizenship and Immigration Canada ECALA
ACE TESOL Certificate Program	18 participants	
Learning the Language Learning the Land	130 participants	ECALA
Temporary Foreign	1351 clients	Alberta Human Services

10347 unique clients

Funding Report

The Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers relies on funding and donations from individuals and groups to provide services and supports for newcomers to Edmonton. As a not-for-profit organization, EMCN continually strives to engage with donors and ensure their support is recognized and honoured.

Donor loyalty is essential for the sustainability of our agency, as reliable support allows EMCN to actively continue programming that supports newcomers in their journey through integration. EMCN endeavours to ensure every donor understands the true impact and benefit of their contributions, and wholeheartedly welcomes both individuals and organizations to participate in the success of our communities.



Support for the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers comes in many ways, and both large and small contributions are integral in perpetuating EMCN's capacity to add value to Edmonton.

Two notable organizations have found gratification in backing EMCN throughout the past fiscal year. Edmonton Community Foundation has generously contributed to the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, as their team recognizes the value and experience EMCN brings to Edmonton:

"Edmonton Community Foundation is proud to support the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for

Newcomers and the good work you undertake in our community. We have long been impressed with EMCN's capacity to help newcomers from every background and country as they face the challenge of making Edmonton their home.



Edmonton
Community
Foundation

recruitment of board strength and the hiring of a dynamic executive director have further positioned EMCN for growth and success.”

Martin Garber-Conrad
CEO, Edmonton Community Foundation

As well, The Stollery Charitable Foundation has open-heartedly supported EMCN. Understanding the importance of agencies like ours The Stollery Charitable Foundation believes in continuing to support the work that we do:

“Edmonton is an increasingly diverse city, attracting newcomers from around the world. The Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers plays a critical role in helping to ensure that those newcomers are welcomed into our community and are able to participate fully in our society. The work of EMCN strengthens and enriches our city. This is a wonderful fit for the granting mandate of the Stollery Charitable Foundation, which is to support local charities that work to improve our community – particularly those that focus on building strength, celebrating diversity, and advancing human rights.”



Doug Stollery
President, The Stollery Charitable Foundation

The Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers staff and clients appreciatively thank all of our loyal donors and contributors, as it is through your unconditional support that we are able to affect change and positively contribute to the futures of our prosperous and growing city.

Amy Stevens
Coordinator, Fund Development
Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers

RISE Awards

RISE – AWARDS OF SUCCESS AND INCLUSION

Over the last ten years, the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers has hosted an annual event, the RISE Awards, which Recognizes Immigrant Success in Edmonton. The awards are a way to celebrate and acknowledge the social and economic contributions of newcomers to Edmonton, and to support and recognize employers throughout the city who support best practices and cultural diversity within their workplaces.

This year, the awards were held on May 8th, marking the tenth anniversary of the event. The RISE Committee recognized the importance of celebrating this milestone and acknowledging the increasing role that newcomers play in the social and economic wellbeing of Edmonton. As well, the Committee saw it was important to celebrate the collective accomplishments of newcomers and the employers who support them. So, to acknowledge these changes, the RISE Committee decided to amalgamate the traditional two-event celebration into a single, more notable gala. The goal was to host the Awards like never before and to bring in a larger, more diverse crowd, ranging from corporate executives and sponsors, to local community members. If everyone came together at once, the celebration would be bigger and better than ever!

The event was attended by the Hon. Lieutenant Governor, Colonel (Retired) Donald S. Ethell , Premier Alison Redford, MLAs from Edmonton and Calgary and the Mayors of both Strathcona County and Edmonton.



Recognizing Immigrant Success in Edmonton



The entertainment, sprinkled throughout the evening, was flawless: It began with Punjabi dancing, was followed by an African drumming group and Chinese dancers, and ended with traditional Acholi dancing and singing. As well, a video that followed one Edmonton newcomer's story was showcased, and highlighted the support he received from EMCN throughout his settlement journey. The video, produced by Northlands, outlined the different services EMCN offers newcomers and presented the success of one man who was supported by those services. The five-minute film featured staff, students, and supporters of the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, and summarized the essence of the agency beautifully!



The outstanding keynote speaker, Stephen Lewis



Some of the wonderful entertainers at the event

As an added bonus, the RISE Committee secured an outstanding keynote speaker, Stephen Lewis, for the evening's address. As one of Canada's most renowned orators, Stephen captivated the crowd and spoke to the significance of agencies such as EMCN in the settlement process of newcomers. Mr. Lewis reiterated time and again that newcomers are becoming individuals of continued importance in the productivity and stability of our communities, and it is important that they receive the utmost support in their time of transition. With humor, sincerity, and honesty, Mr. Lewis articulated the importance of locally-born Canadians remembering that newcomers arrive in Canada with their own histories and experiences that are equally as valuable as those of born-Canadians.

The primary reasons for the event, and the stars of the evening, were the award winners themselves:

RISE Awards (cont.)

Receiving the award for Community Leadership in an Organization was The Cultural Navigators, a group that promotes healthy family relationships within newcomer communities. Its work has increased the partnership between Edmonton Police Services and ethno-cultural communities, and has been the basis of capacity-building within cultural groups throughout the city.

WorleyParsons was acknowledged for its inclusion efforts, and was awarded the Outstanding Workplace Award. Having recently added a Diversity and Inclusion Advisor to its team and playing host to a Cultural Awareness Committee, WorleyParsons was recognized for working to increase its workplace's cultural understanding and inclusion .

Rawle Teeka was the next to receive recognition. His work to increase sexual health awareness within male newcomer populations earned him the Individual Community Leadership Award.

Titilope Sonuga was recognized with the Arts, Culture, and Athletics Award for her excellence in spoken word poetry, and Ashwani Bhugra earned an Individual Achievement Award, honouring his progress and success since moving to Canada.



Mustafa Ali was the well-deserving recipient of the Youth Achievement Award. Accepting his award with an articulate, concise speech crediting his older brother for supporting him, Mustafa was honoured for his work with immigrant youth and his role in their success.

RISE guests were all encouraged to wear traditional clothing to reinforce the wonderful multiculturalism of our community



Mayor Stephen Mandel with EMCN Executive Director, Erick Ambtman, at RISE

Finally, Sofia Yaqub was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for her longstanding contributions to Edmonton. Having founded and chaired many immigrant-serving agencies, Sofia was well-deserving of the recognition. Although she was humble in her acceptance of the award, the praise she received was well-earned and certainly appropriate.

It took many contributors to make this year's RISE Awards possible. The 2013 RISE Awards received more sponsorship and media coverage than ever before and was attended by a record-breaking crowd. This recognition and acknowledgement throughout the city truly demonstrates the increasing interest in and the need for immigrant-serving agencies in Edmonton. With this coverage and awareness, along with the contributions of hardworking staff and community members alike, it is certain that the RISE Awards will continue to grow in size and reputation for years to come. The RISE Awards raise awareness of the essential role newcomers and employers play in the continuing prosperity and social well-being of Edmonton.

Partnerships

EMCN is blessed by the many rich partnerships that have evolved over the years as we collaborate to combine talents and expertise to deliver programs and services for newcomers. Below are the projects that have benefited from collaborative partnering:

Program/Project/Event Partner(s)/Sponsor(s):

RISE (Recognizing Immigrant Success in Edmonton)

Government of Alberta; City of Edmonton; CTV; Northlands; WorleyParsons/CoSyn; Edmonton Regional Immigrant Employment Council (ERIEC); Norquest; NAIT; Servus Credit Union; Safeway; McElhanney; KPMG; CGA/CMA Alberta; The Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta

Learning the Language, Learning the Land: Camping for Newcomers

Parks Alberta; Jasper National Park; Elk Island National Park; Brewster Bus Lines; Mountain Equipment Co-op; Scouts Canada; City of Edmonton; OMNI

Language Services

City of Edmonton; First Baptist Church; Aga Khan Foundation; LINC Projects Office

After-school and Summer Programming for Children and Youth

REACH Edmonton—Schools as Hubs; Family Centre; Action for Healthy Communities; YMCA; Edmonton Public Library; Islamic Family Social Services Association; City of Edmonton

REACH Immigrant and Refugee Initiative

Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op; Changing Together; Catholic Social Services

Community Development Partnership Working Group

Alberta Culture; Action for Healthy Communities; Multicultural Coalition; City of Edmonton

Entrepreneurship Training

Wildman Institute; Business Link—Immigrant Entrepreneurs Mentorship Program

Partnerships

Community Kitchen

First Baptist Church; Alberta Health Services

Employment Bridging Programs

NAIT; The Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta; CGA/CMA Alberta; Edmonton Region Immigrant Employment Council (ERIEC); McElhanney; WorleyParsons/CoSyn; KPMG; Deloitte; Landmark Group; Judy Saylor; PCL; Flint Energy; Enbridge; Sherrit; Rotaflow Controls; Engineers without Borders

Temporary Foreign Worker Program

Catholic Social Services; Temporary Foreign Worker Advisory Office; Act Alberta; Edmonton Community Legal Centre, Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op; Edmonton Immigrant Services Association (EISA)

Welcome Centre for Immigrants (WCI)

Catholic Social Services; Indo-Canadian Women's Association; Edmonton Community Foundation; City of Edmonton

Housing Works

Capital Region Housing Corporation

Practicum Work Experience

Grant MacEwan University Nursing, Child and Youth, and Social Work Programs; Norquest College Social Work Program; University of Alberta Social Work Program

World of Story

Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op; ASSIST Community Services

Health and Wellbeing Services

Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op; Edmonton Catholic School Board (St. Elizabeth School); REACH Edmonton; Government of Alberta; Child and Family Services (Human Services); Addiction and Mental Health; Edmonton Public School Board; City of Edmonton; Catholic Social Services; Changing Together; Oromo Community; The Good Food Box





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Phone: 780-424-7709 Fax: 780-424-7736

EMCN Career and Employment Services

8914 - 118 Avenue, Edmonton AB T5B 0T6

Phone: 780-421-7400 Fax: 780-428-4252

EMCN at the Welcome Centre for Immigrants

#335, Tower II, Milbourne Market Mall (38 Avenue and
Millwoods Road), Edmonton AB T5K 3L6

Phone: 780-462-6924 Fax: 780-466-6594

Working together for full participation.