



MCC MANITOBA REPORT

DARRYL LOEWEN, MCC MANITOBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In this year MCC staff at all levels, in all places and in all roles have been encouraged by our leaders “to provoke one another to love and good deeds.” This admonition reminds us that our love should not only be a sentiment but be expressed in good deeds and that our good deeds should be motivated and guided by love, not by pride or pity. This love is ultimately God’s love and so our mission statement for MCC commits us to “share God’s love and compassion for all in the name of Christ.”

In response to this commitment MCC Manitoba, volunteers, donors, board members and staff generate resources for MCC’s international and domestic programs and participate in several ministries within Manitoba.

Highlights over the past year include ongoing strong donations for relief and peacebuilding in Syria; a surge in sponsorships and resettlement of refugees; the significant contributions of thrift shops; an increase in contributions to MCC’s account at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank; and more learning about reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and settlers.

Our 2016-2020 MCC-wide strategic plan was implemented, with provincially specific activities approved by the MCC Manitoba Board. Strategic goals of expanding efforts to provide access to clean water, food and livelihoods; strengthening efforts to build bridges through innovative peacebuilding; developing new partnerships with churches and supporting communities; increasing opportunities for young adults; leveraging strategic initiatives; and engaging thrift as a key marketing face will be targeted throughout this five year period.

MCC Manitoba has also been host to transition and growth throughout this past year. Peter Rempel graciously assumed the position of Interim Executive Director October 2015 through August 2016 with Darryl Loewen entering the role of MCC Manitoba Executive Director in mid-August. In addition to leadership transitions, a number of new program staff were hired mid-year including Joanna Hiebert-Bergen, Peace and Advocacy Coordinator; Katie Froese, International Volunteer Exchange Program Coordinator; Kerry Saner-Harvey, Indigenous Neighbours Program Coordinator; and Blanca Cota-Mitchel, Program Assistant. An Assistant Director of Donor Relations, Val Block, was hired while several other job descriptions were re-configured within the Communications & Donor Relations department to give focus to deepening relationships with congregations and donors.

As we look ahead to next year, we anticipate reaffirmed relationships with thrift shops through new Memos of Understanding; furthered progress toward an affordable housing project in partnership with Eden Health Care Services; and deepened relationships with congregations, families, and individuals through our local programs and focuses on peacebuilding and advocacy, resettlement, abuse prevention, reconciliation, and more.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers and engagement with us. We hope, pray and trust that MCC Manitoba will continue to be a beacon and instrument of God’s compassion for our world in the name of Christ.