

Newsletter Date
January – March, 2017

Community Connections Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

- January 28th
Volunteer
Information
Session
- March 8th
International
Woman's day
event
- March 21st
International
Day for the
Elimination of
Racial
Discrimination

In this Issue:

Feature Family	1
Country Spotlight	2
Feature Volunteer	2
Volunteer Now	3
Program Showcase	4
Newcomer	
Steering Committee	4



Message from Community Connections Coordinator



-Melissa Mitchell

As we take a look back on the previous year it is clear that 2016 was one of MJMC's busiest years in assisting Newcomers. Through this past year we made many new partnerships within our community and are so thankful for how our community came together to welcome the 146 arrivals to Moose Jaw. We would like to thank the community of Moose Jaw for their support and wish everyone a 2017 full of happiness!



Featured Family

Our featured family is Paulin Apipila and his wife Machozi Jeannine Dhesi who arrived in Moose Jaw on November 25, 2014 along with their children Paula and Emmanuela who were born in South Africa.

We sat down to talk to Paulin about his experience coming to Canada.

Paulin says that "the biggest change has been the cold weather with snow, the lowest temperature that we experienced in South Africa during the winter is 8°C. Think of coming to a new country where you have no friends or family. This was not a very comfortable issue with my wife; she kept asking what we will do to survive in this place. From my side, I had to be positive in my answers even when I was not sure of the outcomes. We remember the first lady who welcomed us at the airport (MJMC- Melissa Mitchell) how wonderful she was. We thought if we are going to meet with people like that then we will have new friends and networks in the community. We are Grateful to MJMC employees for the first support that they provided to us."



South Africa

Population 54,956,900

Capital Cape Town

Currency South African rand (ZAR)



Democratic Republic of Congo

Population 81,680,000

Capital Kinshasa

Currency Congolese franc (CDF)

I'd like to challenge everyone in the community to take some time out to meet and to volunteer with our newcomers to Moose Jaw - and experience the warmth, friendliness, and kindness that they have to offer.

- Sharon Brewer



Andy and Sharon Brewer

Country Spotlight

This month we are featuring two countries. South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

South Africa

The Republic of South Africa (RSA) is the southernmost country in

Africa. South Africa is the 25th largest country in the world by land area, and with close to 53 million people, is the world's 24th most populous nation. The remaining population consists of Africa's largest communities of European, Asian and multiracial ancestry.

South Africa has a

generally temperate climate, due in part to being surrounded by the Atlantic and Indian Oceans on three sides.

DRC

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a country located in Central Africa. It is the second-largest country in Africa by area and eleventh largest in the world. With a population of over 80 million, the Democratic Republic of Congo is the most populated officially

Francophone country and is extremely rich in natural resources. Besides the capital, Kinshasa, the other major

cities, Lubumbashi and Mbuji-Mayi, are both mining communities. DR Congo's largest export is raw minerals, with China accepting over 50% of DRC's exports.

For more information on these countries visit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Volunteer Hall of Fame

Our feature volunteers are Andy and Sharon Brewer, a husband and wife duo who enjoy giving back to the community. Andy started volunteering in 2011, and then in 2012 he began as a substitute teacher in the Language classrooms at MJMC. Sharon became interested in the organization shortly after Andy did and she started by helping out with donations and visiting with the newcomers. They've created new friendships and provided invaluable support to newcomers in Moose Jaw. Thank you Andy and Sharon for your dedication to MJMC and our clients!

We had a chance to sit down with Andy and Sharon who shared their volunteer experience with us.

What has been your experience over the years volunteering with MJMC?

Andy - Working with the newcomers has been very positive and enjoyable. I enjoy listening to their stories. Given the hardships that many of them have come through, I'm always struck with the resilience and good humour that they show. I've also been impressed by the deep sense of gratitude that these people feel for the privilege of having been able to come to Canada, something which, in turn, has given me a new appreciation for the freedoms and opportunities that we enjoy in this country but all too often simply take for granted.

Volunteer Hall of Fame continued

What would be some advice that you would give to new or potential volunteers?

Andy – When you volunteer with the Multicultural Council you don't just give, you also receive. As willing as you are to give, you must also be equally as willing to receive. I've learned so much from all the newcomers I've met and from the various cultures that they represent and have brought with them into the school and community. Patience, sensitivity and understanding are other main keys when working with these people.



Here is an Example of the Gratitude and good humor Andy was speaking of.

We are so grateful for all of our past, present, and future volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, check out our volunteer opportunities online at www.mjmcinc.ca

Volunteer Now

We have many opportunities for volunteering at the MJMC. If you are interested, contact Melissa Mitchell to fill out an application. Volunteers are required to have a current criminal record check and participate in a volunteer orientation.

Opportunities include:

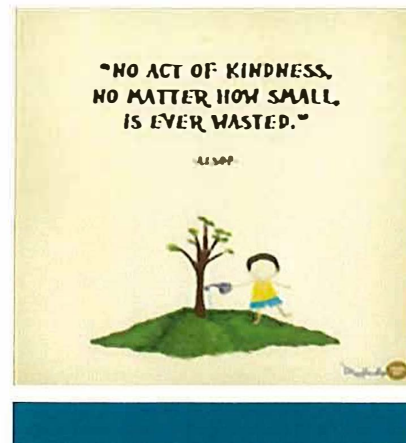
- ★ Community Café Facilitator, Discussion Group Leader, or Welcomer
- ★ Translator, Interpreter-Language(s)
- ★ Client Computer tutor
- ★ English Tutor
- ★ Daycare Volunteer

- ★ Administrative Volunteer
- ★ Computer/Technology Assistant
- ★ Mover without a vehicle
- ★ Mover with a vehicle
- ★ Donations Organizer

Become a HOST Volunteer

HOST is designed to match resident Canadians with Newcomers to Canada, to help them grow and learn in Canada. Newcomers come to Canada to build a new life for themselves and their families. Volunteers for HOST program will help guide matched Newcomer families to

experience life in their new community. Volunteer HOSTs are carefully matched with newcomers. It's an exciting chance to learn, grow and make new friends.



Program Showcase

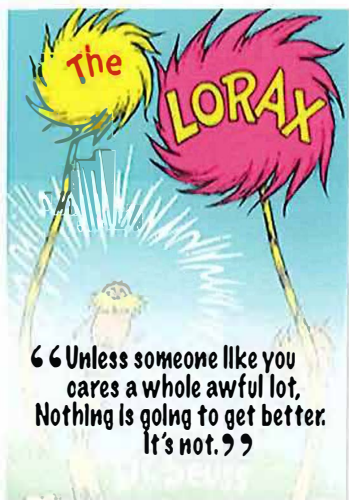
Men's Group

We are excited to introduce a new Community Connections Program starting soon!

The Men's Group is for men of all ages from the community. The focus of the group is to encourage community engagement, peer support, friendship building and practicing English.



We hope to see you there!



Our purpose is to keep connected, understand what is happening in the region and to address gaps.

NEWCOMER STEERING COMMITTEE

We are in the process of welcoming a number of new members, while some others are leaving the committee:

- ★ Dalise will be taking maternity leave in Jan. and thus will be passing role of Chair to Melissa. The transition has already begun as Dalise and Melissa work together to implement an efficient and seamless transfer.
- ★ The schedule for meetings was discussed and it was decided that, we will continue meeting every third Monday of every second month. Next meeting is January 16th 2017.
- ★ The committee discussed the survey results and identified our three top priorities to move forward with. Members decided that the main focus at this time is on one task focusing on three different audiences and focuses: Concentrating on building bridges in the community between newcomers and agency's to be informed about each other.
- ★ We finished with a time of networking where we were able to hear what is going on in each other's agencies and realms. A list of upcoming events was also shared.

Upcoming Events

January

January 28th 1-2:30 pm
Volunteer Information
Workshop
Newcomer Welcome
Center



February

February 23rd
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Introduction to Men's
Group



March

March 8th
11:00 – 1:00 pm
International Woman's
Day



March 21st
International Day for the
Elimination of Racial
Discrimination.



Ongoing Programs

Community Café

Thursday Night – 7:00pm to 8:00pm
Newcomer Welcome Centre – 432 Main St. N

Jan 12, 26

Feb 9, 23

March 9, 23

Get to know your Community. Meet new People. Practice your English.

Women's Group

Tuesday Morning- 11:00am to 1:00pm
Church of God basement – 50 Hochelaga St. E

Jan 10, 17, 24, 31

Feb 7, 14, 21, 28

March 7, 14, 21, 28

Children Welcome. Practice English. Support and Friendship.



60 Athabasca Street East
Moose Jaw, SK S6H 0L2

PHONE:
(306) 693-4677

FAX:
(306) 694-0477

E-MAIL:
community.connections@mjmcinc.ca

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.mjmcinc.ca

Final Thoughts...

Yet again the community came together and supported our International Dinner Fundraiser raising \$1881.50 which will help with many events throughout the year as well as special items and events for the LINC classes.

2017 is going to be another exciting year and I am very excited to see what is in store for MJMC.

THANK-YOU ☺



About Community Connections...

Limited social networks continue to be a barrier to integration by both newcomers and the general public. Newcomers need support to understand their adopted community, form social connections and contribute to their new community. The Community Connections program is popular with local volunteers and newcomers in the Moose Jaw area. The program allows newcomers to meet new people, improve their English, and get to know more about their community. The program also assists the public in understanding the needs of and barriers that many newcomers may face through public speaking engagements, awareness campaigns, promotional resource development, and intercultural communication and integration training for community agencies and the general public.



**MOOSE
JAW**

**MULTICULTURAL
COUNCIL INC.**