



MOOSE JAW MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL Annual Report

2008-2009



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PRESIDENT' S MESSAGE

Another busy year has passed for the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council and its members with ongoing expansion within our organization. We most recently have acquired additional space on the main floor of St. Andrew's Church for our reception and administrative staff due to the expansion of our licensed daycare services. These renovations should make for a better front line communication centre for the public to access our services and programs. We are also looking forward to celebrating the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council's 35th anniversary in the fall of 2009.

This year, in conjunction with our 35th anniversary celebrations, we hope to make Motif 2009 a memorable festival with daily special out of town entertainers and two guest groups in attendance. Be sure to attend and take in three fun filled days of culture and cuisine.

The Council continues to be active in representation to the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCOS), the Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages (SOHL), attending local Citizenship Ceremonies, HOST program activities and community events.

This past year we actively pursued and received a charitable number for us to access funding otherwise unattainable unless we were a charitable organization. This has been a great asset for our organization.

A special thanks to the members of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Board of Directors, who gave of themselves to actively serve in many aspects within the Council. Your participation is greatly appreciated. To the many dedicated ethnic groups and their volunteer members who continue to work at Motif a special thanks goes out for their continued support and contribution. To all the staff of the Multicultural Council, who are the back bone of the organization in the day to day operation, who work and also volunteer their time, a personal thank you for being such a dedicated team. With people like those who have committed their all to this organization, we can only look ahead to a flourishing future.

To all - Happy 35th anniversary - let's celebrate, recalling old friends, meeting new acquaintances, and looking forward to many years of growth and development ahead.

Mary Tkach Vangsnes
President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As Moose Jaw Multicultural Council concludes another year I would like to reflect on some of the highlights:

- MJMC launched a new website www.mjmcinc.ca in addition to a new branding that was reflected on business cards and program brochures. We also installed a sign on Athabasca Street to clearly mark where our office is located.
- We received our long awaited charitable number in 2008. The number will allow MJMC to access other sources of funding that were only available to charities and to write charitable receipts for donations.
- We received 55 government assisted refugees and 53 immigrants from countries such as Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kosovo, Sudan, Afghanistan, Ukraine, China and Philippines.
- In October 2008 I became an accredited settlement practitioner at the mentor level. This was an honour as the process recognized a combination of education, training and years of experience. It also offers credibility in a field of work that is struggling to become professionalized. The provincial umbrella organization SAISIA (The Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies) is continuing to support the accreditation of settlement workers in the province to set a standard of service delivery for newcomers to Canada. I would like to thank SAISIA for their support both financially and professionally.
- January 2009 kicked off the 35th anniversary of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council and Motif. Both started in 1974 with a handful of volunteers with a vision and a lot of determination. MJMC has grown to a successful settlement agency with an array of services and programs. In 2008-2009, MJMC employed 39 people. Motif has also been growing over the past 35 years. In 2008, Motif sold over 3000 bracelets.
- MJMC signed another lease with St. Andrew's Church to rent an additional 1500 square feet on the main floor. The additional space will accommodate all of the admin staff and office workers and allow us to expand our licensed daycare. We look forward to the renovations starting in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
- In March 2009, MJMC mailed out brochures to 35,000 homes in Moose Jaw to promote our programs and services and to celebrate 35 years in the community.

In conclusion I would like to thank the board of directors, staff and volunteers who make this agency the success that it is. I would like to wish MJMC and Motif a successful 35th anniversary and hope that we continue to prosper for many years to come.

Tara Blanchard
Executive Director

MJMC Mission Statement

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council:

welcomes and integrates newcomers to Canada, and

develops harmonious relations among Canadians,

Through programs and activities that recognize, respect and promote the positive aspects of cultural diversity, and that seek to discover, encourage and develop commonalties among peoples.

Background

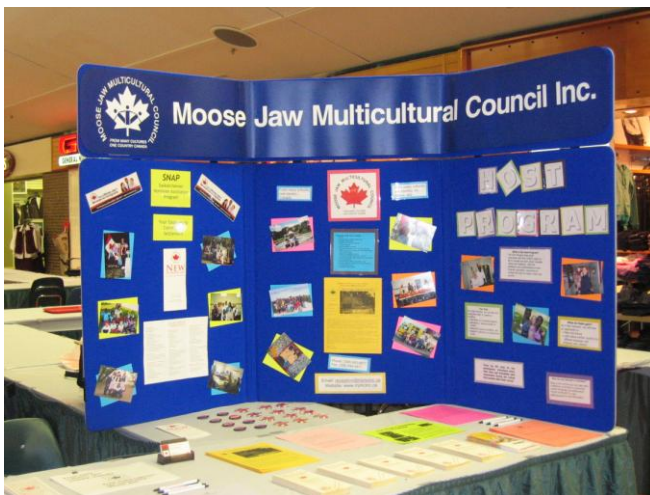
The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council is a non-profit organization and acts as an umbrella organization for other cultural groups in the city of Moose Jaw and surrounding areas. The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council was formed in May 1974 and is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Objectives

- To provide direct settlement, adaptation and integration services to all refugees and immigrants in Moose Jaw and district.
- To discourage racial and cultural discrimination by encouraging an understanding of and an appreciation for our cultural diversity.
- To act as a forum from which immigrants and refugees issues and concerns can be collectively raised.
- To promote awareness and understanding between the newcomer to Canada and the community.
- To promote co-operation and mutual understanding amongst Canadians.
- To promote and to encourage the retention of language and cultural traditions as essential components of Multiculturalism.
- To act as a consultant for cultural and ethnic groups or any other groups with an interest in ethnic and cultural matters.
- To represent the interests of member groups in Provincial cultural, ethnic, and folk arts events and festivals.

Community Presentations

On May 29, 2008 Tara Blanchard facilitated a presentation for grade eight girls. The girls came from a cross-section of all of the elementary schools in Moose Jaw. Tara presented on immigrants and refugees in Moose Jaw, explaining why immigration was important to our community and province and the process for immigration into Canada. Tara also spoke about the role of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council in the community. Each girl was given a Canada flag lapel pin, a Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan lapel pin, and brochures on human rights, racism and MJMC.



On September 4 and 5th MJMC participated in the Moose Jaw Parks and Recreation Fall Registration Event at the Town & Country Mall.

On September 6th MJMC attended 15 Wing Open House on behalf of Moose Jaw Multicultural Council. One hundred people attended the event.

On October 30, 2008 an Employer Open House was held at MJMC to expose employers and prospective employers to SNAP services provided by MJMC. Thirteen people attended.

On November 17, 2008 a Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) Employer General Information Session was held at MJMC. There were presentations on Foreign Worker Program, SINP and SNAP. Ten people attended.

MJMC participated in the Community Service Expo on February 26, 2009. Over seventy five people attended the event.

MJMC attended an Employer Evening at SIAST on March 12, 2009. Our SNAP and Employment Coordinators were both on hand with displays and were available to take questions from any interested employers.

Conferences & Meetings

Saskatchewan's Immigration Forum Saskatoon, April 11, 2008

Tara Blanchard attended the Saskatchewan Immigration Forum that was sponsored in part by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. The goal of the forum was to bring together key stakeholders involved with temporary workers and nominees. There were presentations from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, businesses that were bringing in nominees to fill labour shortages and a best practices presentation from the government of Manitoba. At the end of the forum, breakout groups were held to address specific questions about issues surrounding the arrival and settlement of immigrants in our province.

Saskatchewan Settlement Spring Forum Saskatoon, April 21 & 22, 2008

Tara Blanchard, Patricia Davies and Cara McDavid attended this conference that was coordinated by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, Immigration Division. Some of the highlights of the conference included:

- New Canadians panel who shared their experiences immigrating to Canada
- A best practices presentation
- Understanding culture shock
- Recruiting, retaining and motivating volunteers
- Roundtable discussions on defining community settlement

Canadian Council for Refugees Conference Winnipeg May 22-24, 2008

Tara Blanchard, Patricia Davies, Cara McDavid and Stefanie Palmer attending the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) conference in Winnipeg May 22-24, 2008. The theme of this consultation was "Our past, our future, our children" Each year MJMC welcomes many refugee children so the theme applied to our mandate. Some of the conference sessions included: refugees and immigrants caught in precarious employment; refugee & immigrant women as leaders; preparing for the settlement of the Butanese camps in Nepal, settlement and integration begins in the field; and youth & education. The staff who attended gained a wealth of information, learned of new practices and brought back brochures and resources. We also had a chance to network with government, sector staff, volunteers and officers from overseas.

TESL Canada Conference Moncton, May 29-31, 2008

Carol Moran and Laura Butt attended the TESL Canada conference in Moncton, May 29- 31, 2008. It was interesting and informative. The theme was "Uncovering Discourse". The keynote speakers were Scott Thornbury and Jeremy Harmer. Scott Thornbury spoke about using connected discourse as a starting point for instruction, not just the goal. He did a humorous analysis of a series of e-mails where the tenor changed from formal to barely civil. He also discussed register and genre and their importance. Jeremy Harmer raised the question, "Is there such a thing as proper English, or is every kind just as worthy of being taught?" His answer was that of course we cannot teach all the slang every group is developing nor do we need to, but the English being taught must reflect the purpose and location of the student. Both speakers were interesting and had good stories.

There were 45 workshop choices with very few repeats. They ranged from humour in the classroom, to racism to management to group work dynamics. It was difficult to choose because there were usually several workshops of interest. Some highlights were Teaching Listening Strategies, the value of recasts, and considering peoples' identities as you teach language. Visiting between sessions was also highly valuable as were the publishers' displays.

The tours were fascinating, too. We had an educational tour Thursday morning where we saw several ESL classrooms of various age levels. There was one in a bilingual high school. That afternoon, we had a tour of a French drama theatre which had been set up as a village on a previously unused island. The name of their most popular story was from a book, La Sagouine, about an old Acadian washer woman and her life and neighbours. We also walked on the boardwalk at Bouctouche, where there is a unique habitat because of the dunes. When the conference finished, some of the teachers took more time and toured PEI. They saw Green Gables, which was a highlight since some of their students had recently finished reading Anne of Green Gables as a class. They saw the table where the document of confederation was signed in 1867. This part of the trip was also highly educational and valuable. The teachers are better equipped to explain maritime industry and culture as well as Canadian history

The conference and the tours have been most helpful. The many ideas, examples and proven theories give new life to classroom planning and interaction with students. The conference was funded by MJMC's LINC budget for professional development but also subsidized by a \$500.00 grant from the Jake Kutarna Professional Development Fund of the Saskatchewan Council for Educators of Non-English Speakers (SCENES). It was valuable and worthwhile.

ESL Service Review and Planning Workshop Moose Jaw, June 6, 2008

The three LINC teachers from Moose Jaw Multicultural Council Inc. attended the ESL Service Review and Planning Workshop. The Community Partnerships and Settlement (CPS) unit of Saskatchewan Immigration invited them to participate in a two-day planning retreat on adult ESL service delivery for newcomers. This in-depth planning workshop was held to discuss needs and service gaps in Saskatchewan. The purpose of the retreat was to gather information to begin the process of developing a comprehensive service delivery framework for the province.

LINC Administrators Conference Toronto June 10-12, 2008

Tara Blanchard attended this conference on behalf of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council. This is an Ontario initiative and is usually only open to Ontario service providers but there were extra seats available so an invitation was extended to other parts of Canada. Lynn Neithercut from Citizenship & Immigration Canada and Laura Sheppard from the Regina Open Door Society also attended from Saskatchewan.

The three day conference offered many exciting plenary sessions, workshops and networking opportunities but these are a few of the highlights.

Mental Health Needs & Protocols for Newcomers was an informative workshop that gave the participants a wealth of information regarding the mental health needs of newcomers. The facilitator, Branka Agic, brought a unique perspective to the workshop as she had come to Canada as a refugee from Bosnia. She spoke of the stigmatism attached to mental illnesses and how they varied from culture to culture. She also gave tools the workers could use to ensure that the students were given an opportunity to learn in safe and non-threatening environment.

Also noteworthy was a keynote presentation by Naomi Alboim. Her topic was the *Emerging Trends in Canadian Immigration Policy: Planning for the Future*. Ms. Alboim spoke of the fact that in 2025, 100% of the population growth in Canada will come from immigration. Organizations working with newcomers need to establish sustainable, quality programming that is available to all newcomers. She also shared encouraging statistics such as the fact that 84% of all newcomers are happy with the decision they made to relocate to Canada.

Other key messages from the conference included more flexible time schedules for students attending LINC. Opening LINC to other immigration categories such as temporary foreign workers and allowing a longer time period for newcomers to enroll in LINC.

Small Centre Toolbox Meeting St. John's, October 8 & 9, 2008

In 2001, there was a national advisory committee formed to create the small centre toolbox for attraction and retention of immigrants in smaller centres. The toolbox is packed full of ideas for

smaller centres to create a welcoming community for newcomers. The toolbox contains information the categories of immigration, strategies for building support in the community for newcomers and how to retain newcomers when they have arrived.

Tara Blanchard recently joined the National Advisory Committee to represent Saskatchewan. The committee is made up of service providing organizations and federal & provincial government employees. For a copy of the Small Centre Toolbox manual please contact the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council at 693-4677 or visit their website at <http://www.icavictoria.org/toolbox.htm>

11th Annual Metropolis Conference Calgary, March 19-22, 2009

Tara Blanchard was invited to present at the 11th annual Metropolis Conference in Calgary. The presentation theme was "Beyond the Metropolis Small-Town Migration in Canada". Tara's presentation was "Attraction and Retention in a city under 35,000". Tara spoke of the programs and services at MJMC, retention rates for the past two years, why we think we retain newcomers and some information about the City of Moose Jaw. Tara co-presented with five other panelists, two presented data from research on rural resettlement, one represented the government of Alberta and the last two were from settlement agencies in Brooks and Lethbridge. There were a variety of other sessions available at the conference such as research and presentations on immigrant health, integration, education and government policies. The Prairie Metropolis centre is one of five research centres involved in immigration, integration and diversity research. Metropolis was established in 1996.

CLB Feedback Regina, March 12, 2009

On Thursday, March 12, 2009, Carol Moran and Laura Butt went to the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) National Consultation. This was the practitioners' chance to give feedback about the CLB. We discussed making them more useful for high school ESL programs, making extra tracks within pre-benchmark and how they could be made useful for trades and professions. There were many good things mentioned about the benchmarks.

Orientation to CLB 5-10 Exit Assessment Tasks Regina, March 13, 2009

On Friday, March 13, 2009 Carol Moran and Laura Butt went to the SIAST campus in Regina to participate in an orientation to CLB Exit Assessment Tasks. The new book was available and we took our copy from MJMC. Dan Danforth led the orientation time. It included an explanation of the scope and use of the tasks and how to administer them. There was also a time of practice. Dan showed us the scoring grids and had us use them as we looked at several writing exemplars. Then Dan would tell us the true level. We also listened to several examples from speaking tasks and predicted, with varying degrees of success, what level they represented. We dealt with levels 5-6 separately from levels 7-10. It was valuable training and gave us more confidence for evaluating the higher levels.

Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council provide immediate essential settlement and orientation services for government sponsored refugees within their first 4 – 6 weeks of arrival in Canada. This year, 54 government assisted refugees received RAP services through the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council

Direct Immediate Settlement Services:

- Reception for government sponsored immigrants and refugees at the Regina Airport and their transportation to Moose Jaw.
- Arrangements were made for an interpreter and community residents at reception, if required.
- Upon arrival in Moose Jaw, temporary accommodations and the immediate needs such as food or medical attention were attended to.
- A brief orientation regarding the city, their location, food store, and who to call if a problem arises were explained.
- The following day, the Newcomer was assisted to cash their cheque at the bank and shop for any items they were in need of. The Newcomer was brought to our office and the steps that will be taken to settle them in our community were outlined. Any concerns were addressed and sorted out by our staff. Major issues were referred to the Citizenship & Immigration office in Regina. Interpreters/translators were used at this time if required.
- We provide space and an interpreter/translator for the Citizenship and Immigration Canada Counselor to do documentation with government-sponsored newcomers.
- There was on going support and solution-focused counseling for refugees and interpreters/translators were called when there was a communication barrier.
- For all government sponsored refugees, assistance was provided in locating an apartment or house suitable to their family size and within the Federal Government rental rate guidelines.
- Arrangements were made for the purchase and delivery of furniture and household articles.
- Assistance was provided with the utility hook-ups: this includes gas, electricity, water, and telephone.
- Assistance was provided to move to permanent accommodation and introductions were made to the landlord and tenant rules and regulations were outlined, (if required, translation was provided).
- We were available for dealing with their physical and mental health needs. Counseling, referrals, arranging for doctor and dental appointments, and medical lab work were

coordinated through our office. Arrangements were made to accommodate medical appointments in Regina through the Moose Jaw Volunteers Drivers' Association.

- Arrangements were made to enroll the children in school and assist the family in enrolling children in our daycare if required.
- Newcomers were escorted to a local bank to set up an account and apply for a banking card.
- Through referrals, the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council developed linkages between the newcomer and available resources in the community. Referrals include the economic, social, cultural, and health areas, which are crucial to initial and long term settlement success.
- Workshops were held to inform newcomers about Canadian society. They included financial budgeting, immunization, and other health issues, block parents, etc.
- We assisted newcomers to fill out an application to attend English language training. We notified Canada Immigration and arranged a space and time for newcomers to be tested for their eligibility to enroll in language classes.
- Students were assisted in arranging for transportation to English classes such as where and how to take a bus.

Immigrant Settlement Adaptation Program (ISAP)

In 2008-2009 settlement staff provided 1132 services under the ISAP program. Services were provided in areas such as information, orientation, home visits, referrals, translations, interpretations and solution-focused counseling. There were 69 new ISAP clients and 302 continuing clients.

Longer Term Settlement Services:

- Our Council members invited newcomers to take part in the Council's activities and to contribute to the Community's Canadian life style and customs.
- Our office has a resource library that Newcomers can access. We have books, videos and computer software on Canada, looking for a job in Canada, English as a Second Language, the health care system, etc. Many of our resources are available in different languages.
- The first Tuesday of every month Public Health sets up at the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council to immunize and educate the clients on communicable diseases. The third Thursday of each month Public Health came to the centre to do a presentation for our students, topics include such things as: nutrition, reproductive health, parental skills, to name a few.

- Our staff assisted newcomers (within their first year in Canada) in completing their first income tax return at no cost to the client.
- Community volunteers and staff supported new Canadian families emotionally and encouraged them with friendship, counseling, and patience as they adjusted to Canadian society.
- We integrated newcomers into Moose Jaw's Community life. Our volunteer participation sets a good example for Newcomers as they attempt to settle in Canada.
- We were also responsible for communication between newcomers and Citizenship & Immigration Canada.
- Newcomers accessed our office for assistance in filling out applications for Canadian Citizenship, passports, travel documents, and the Permanent Residence Cards.
- Our clients received many generous donations over the year from Moose Jaw and the surrounding community. During the year, we received many donations of clothing and household items.
- Job search tips were provided relevant to our community. Preparation of a resume, and information as to a Canadian employers' expectation of an employee were outlined. We stress not only how to find a job, but what to do to keep it.
- Our computer lab has ten computers available for Newcomers to access a variety of English language software, which is available to students.
- Newcomers are welcome to work on the computers to improve their English skills, prepare for the Canadian job market or prepare to return to school.
- We assisted all classes of immigrants with filling out applications such as Saskatchewan Health Cards, Social Insurance Numbers, Child Tax Benefit and GST.

A welcome package is provided to all newcomers and contains the following materials:

A yearly calendar
 Saskatchewan Health pamphlets
 A Newcomer's Introduction to Canada
 Moose Jaw Multicultural Council brochures
 Canada Food Guide
 Settlement Worker's Business Card
 City bus route map
 Moose Jaw city map

Moose Jaw Tourist information
 Canadian Human Rights Commission (translated copies)
 SGI pamphlet (Keep Them Safe)
 Know Your Rights booklet
 Colour photocopy of Canadian currency
 Address book
 Local emergency phone numbers
 Information on Canada's income tax system
 How To Become a Canadian Citizen pamphlet
 Canada Flag lapel pin for each member of the family
 International Women's Day bookmark
 Canadian National Anthem bookmark
 Nutritional labeling information
 Directory of Places of Worship
 Energy Efficiency in the Home booklet
 Hepatitis C booklet (translated copies)
 Host Program Brochure
 Summer Safety brochure
 Home Fire Extinguishers pamphlet
 "Knowing is the best medicine" pamphlet
 Canada's physical activity guide for children booklet
 Canada's Physical Activity Guide
 Names and address of pharmacies that honour IFH claims
 Gathering Information pamphlet (translated copies)
 Parenting in Canada (translated copies)
 Living in Canada pamphlet
 Taking Good Care of Yourself in Canada
 Cashing Your Government Cheque for Free
 Choosing the Right Banking Service Package
 Life Skills Manual
 Settling in Saskatchewan
 Life Skills for Women Manual

Saskatchewan Nominee Assistance Program (SNAP)

Saskatchewan Nominee Assistance Program gave professional guidance and support to employers who are recruiting immigrant workers; planned and implemented settlement; and created community and workplace integration plans. These plans support the successful settlement, integration and retention of newcomers arriving in Moose Jaw. We have worked in coordination with 18 employers

Enhanced Assessment and Referral Program (EARP)

Enhanced Assessment and Referral- (EARP) new clients may participate in this intake process that will identify any barriers that may keep newcomers from achieving goals such as language training or employment. In the past year we have provided this service to 31 newcomers and provided additional services to 50 clients.

Host Program

During the fiscal year the Host program matched 79 refugees to 41 volunteers. Here are some of the highlights.



Ladies Night is continuing every month with different activities such as crafts and games. Some of our activities have included planting vegetable seeds, playing Bingo, and making greeting cards and jewelry.

Conversation Circles are being held regularly on Tuesdays at the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council. It is a time for informal English Language practice. We cover a wide range of topics such as holidays, sports, food and current events.

The Annual Summer Host BBQ on June 14, 2008 was held at MJMC due to inclement weather. Eighty-five people attended. We had lunch together, did some table games and coloring pages. The children all took home some bubbles.

On October 25, 2008 the Annual Host Halloween Party was held. All of the staff, students, and volunteers were invited. We had a great afternoon of games and goodies. Seventy people joined the festivities. Everyone left happy and full of sugar.

The Annual Host Christmas Party was held on December 6, 2008 at SIAST. There were carnival games for the children as well as face painters. We enjoyed some refreshments and then welcomed our extra special guest Santa. Ninety people enjoyed the festivities.



Volunteers

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council benefits from many volunteers that give selflessly of their time in areas such as our board of directors, Happy Valley Park, the LINC program, evening language classes and the Host program.

The LINC program recorded 439 volunteer hours that were spent assisting teachers and tutoring students.

This year MJMC was fortunate to have placements from Canada World Youth and Katimavik. Luciana Fernandez and Julia Turner from Canada Youth worked primarily in LINC, but helped out in the daycare. We had two rounds of Katimavik participants starting with Daphanee Ouellet and Michael Derenioski (September 6 - January 9, 2009) and finishing with Jason Wong and Lyndsi Peel.(January 19-March 27, 2009) Our Katimavik participants also worked in our LINC classes and daycare. In addition, they also helped out with the rest of the Katimavik participants at our annual Halloween party, Holiday Party and our Winter Family Fun day.



Summer Program for Newcomer Children

This summer I, Kailee Brennan, was responsible for planning the Moose Jaw Multicultural Center's school-aged summer program. It was an incredible experience that taught me so many things. While it was a huge job, I'm so glad I was given this opportunity. It took a lot of hard work and preparing, but the program was a success.

Throughout the summer, we did several crafts. One day, we made pictures with bubbles and food coloring. Another day, we made "tie-dye" butterflies out of coffee filters and clothes pins. The girls were always excited to show off their crafts to their mothers at the end of the day. Although the boys often complained that they didn't want to make a craft, once they got started they would spend just as much time as the girls perfecting their masterpieces.

We also visited Crescent Park often. The children enjoyed many mornings on the playground or playing catch in an open area. The park also has a paddling pool and water park where the children loved to spend a warm afternoon. A sunny day couldn't go by without the kids asking if we would be making a trip to the park.

We not only visited the park, but were able to go on several field trips throughout the summer. With the Multicultural Center located in the center of the city, we were able to walk to many of our activities. On one occasion, we took the city bus to the north of town, where we rode on Moose Jaw's Trolley, touring the city. That same day, we were able to go mini-golfing, our only other activity located quite a distance from our building.

The children also got to visit the Tunnels of Moose Jaw on two occasions. The first time, the children got to tour the tunnels under Main St. and learn about Moose Jaw in the 1930s. On their second visit, the children were taken on the Passage to Fortune and were taught about Chinese immigration. These tours were something that most of the children really enjoyed. However, there were a few that spoke very little English, and didn't totally understand that we were just on tour, and not in real life. They were a little bit nervous.

We tried to work in a little bit of routine into our schedule, so the children knew what to expect and had their favorite activities to look forward to every week. Every Monday was Movie Monday, and we would spend the afternoon watching a movie. This was one of the children's very favorite activities. On Thursday mornings we played soccer at a nearby outdoor arena. The boys loved playing soccer! For the most part, the girls enjoyed it too. The girls that didn't want to play often became the loudest cheerleaders I've ever seen. We also spent the first ten or fifteen minutes after lunch reading to the children, and the kids wrote in their day camp journal at the end of every day.



The YMCA is also a short walk away, and we used their facilities on many occasions. They have a rock wall that the kids enjoyed using, and an area where we were able to play games. Later in the summer, we even played some games of basketball in their gym upstairs. Again, the boys especially had such a good time.

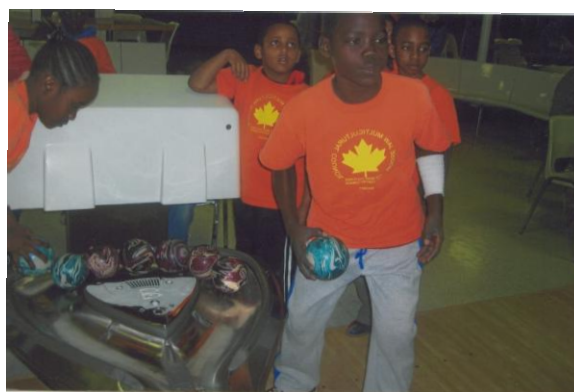
The art museum is located in the Library, which is only across the street. Some of our children participated in different art programs that were held there on certain days during the break. We were able to get a tour of the art museum, and following the tour each of the children got to do their own watercolour painting.

We tried to incorporate a lot of educational games and activities. On the last week of day camp, we had a live burrowing owl come to visit, along with a presentation on endangered species. We also spent a day talking about bike safety, and the children watched an educational video from the library. We spent different weeks talking about personal hygiene, proper nutrition and family dynamics. During our time spent on family dynamics, each child was given their own blank poster to write/draw about their family. This was one of my favorite projects as each child was so excited to tell us about their own family. The following week, the children presented their posters to the class and told the others about their unique family.

We faced some challenges throughout our time with the kids this summer, one being language. While the majority of our children spoke very fluent English, we had a couple that spoke very little, and even a family that spoke none at all. We worked very hard with these children to teach them some basic words and phrases. We talked about body parts, and played Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes. By the end of the summer, they weren't exactly speaking in full sentences, but their language skills had improved greatly.

We finished off the summer with a movie on a big screen at a church nearby. The children ate pop corn and cookies, and then returned to the Multicultural Center where they had a pizza party before heading back to school on the following Monday.

While we faced some obstacles, this summer went amazingly well. The children had a lot of fun, while still learning a lot of things. It was a great experience for them. It was great to have a budget that allowed for them to participate in such a wide variety of activities.



School Break Program

MJMC coordinated a school break program February 17-20, 2009 for children whose parents are attending daytime language classes. The program focused on language building, crafts social and life skills. In total 15 children attended and enjoyed the crafts, games and occasional movie.



Daycare Centre



Over the course of the past year, there have been lots of memorable moments, great learning opportunities and tons of fun and laughter.

We promote a “child centered curriculum”. We work hard to make their play time into a growing and developing time and encourage their play to support math, language, science, literacy and art. We assist the children in their growth and help them relate to others and develop socially. We encourage the children to explore and experiment in their world, so that they can

understand their world and make sense of the environment in which they live.

The children are always eager to learn, do creative projects and play with their friends. The children are always practicing their English by reciting the alphabet, days of the week, counting to ten and singing songs. They are always eager to practice writing their names; listen to stories and to do any activity that involves gross motor skills.

Our days begin with some free play. They can choose to play with the centers we have set up; housekeeping, dress up clothes, art, nature/science, writing table, the library/cozy book area and fine motor activities (puzzles, lego, blocks). We also engage the children in gross motor activities (playing games, riding bikes, playing with balls), and make use of the good weather to provide outdoor activities. Crescent Park provides a world of exploring for the children and we make use of this area as much as possible. We also provide an art experience for the children several times a week. The children are provided with opportunities to engage in creative art and in teacher planned activities.

Our daily program offers an afternoon kindergarten program to add and enrich our kindergarten children in their English skills. A few other children who do not nap in the afternoon also participate in these activities. We participate in educational games, computer skills, puzzles and we add a gross motor element for the children that have not participated in our a.m. activities.

Each lunch we participate in a dental hygiene program and we assist the children in life skills, such as toileting, dressing, tooth brushing, and proper hand washing.



The Moose Jaw Public Library had invited us to attend their Parent and Child Activities once a month. This was a great opportunity for the parents to read books to their children, sing, do art and play with the materials available. There was a great response from all parents and children.

We also had the opportunity to be involved with a Turning Pages program. A facilitator would come on site and invite the children to attend a story reading and an art project with their parents. The children always appeared to have a great time doing these types of activities with their moms and dads.

One of the highlights for the children this year was around the Christmas holiday. The whole school went to a tree farm; picked the tree they liked, cut it down, and brought back to the agency to decorate. While visiting the tree farm, the children were able to see the reindeer. The children talked about the reindeer for a long time afterwards.



We began a new baking unit with the children and provided the opportunity for them to help us bake their snacks. The children have been excited to participate, and we baked several items throughout the year.

As of March 1, 2008, our daycare centre will renew their license. We received 3 different grants this year which allowed us to update and purchase new linoleum for our floor, purchase new educational and environmental toys, purchase an air conditioning unit, and financial assistance for the staff for tuition reimbursements. Several staff made use of the funding and continued on to take several classes to update their ECE levels.

With the purchase of a new camcorder and camera for the Daycare, we have spent many hours documenting and recording the children's activities. This has been a great asset in communicating with the parents and providing them with samples of our daily activities. The parents are always delighted to receive a recent photo and we write the children's stories to attach to their photos, artwork and communication books.

Our licensed hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, for toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarten children. Two snacks and lunch are provided during this time. The children love their new space, along with new materials that help them grow and learn.

This fiscal year, we received 9 new children to add to our enrollment. Our total enrolment varied from 12-18 children. We have had 4-6 toddlers in attendance and have had to add another fulltime staff to accommodate the ratio needs. January 1, 2009, we had 6 toddlers and 10 preschool children, and 3 kindergarten children.



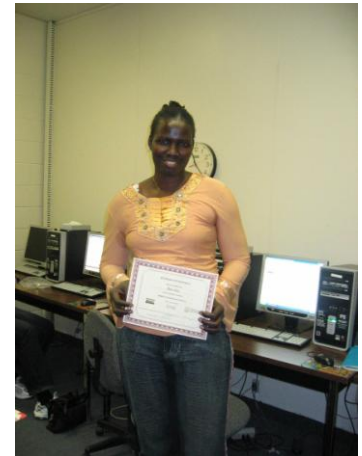
Career and Employment Preparation Program

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council in partnership with Canada Saskatchewan Career and Employment Services offers newcomers to Canada and local employers a unique opportunity in regards to working in Canada and hiring newcomers to Canada. As a part of the EP Program participants attended a 12 week Work Preparation Program, which provides a strong basis for successful integration into the labour market. The course include education on skills development, Canadian workplace culture, resume creation, and job search skills. Participants also complete basic computer training, first aid & CPR A, and WHMIS to better prepare them for employment.

In 2008 21 participants entered the EP Program; 13 of which are working, 4 which are enrolled in educational training, 3 are still in progress and 1 has moved out of province. Along with those 21 enrolled participants the program has also helped approximately 20 newcomers with: individual career counselling, resume creation, job search assistance, employer referrals and labour market information.

In May and November 2008, 10 individuals were certified in OHS Standard First Aid/CPR Level A/AED Certification. In May and December 2008, 14 people received a certificate in WHMIS Training and in April and November 2008, 15 people completed the Basic Computer Training Class.

This year we have worked closely with over 20 employers and have given them support through on-site visits, translation services and regular contact. We hosted an open house on October 30th to provide information about the services that we offer. The open house was open to all employers in Moose Jaw and the surrounding area. We have already gained great relationships with most who attended and are excited to work with them in the new year.



Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)

The LINC program has three classes that operate Monday-Friday, 9:00 am -3:00 pm. We offer instruction from LINC I to LINC V.

Ashdown's Tour

The LINC 1 clients have been studying about banking and paying bills. From questions about 'cheaper' and 'expensive,' the class also looked at standard appliances and those with special features. To better understand terms like 'ceramic cook top,' we visited Ashdown's Furniture Store. The clients had many questions about the varying prices and the many features. Following the visit to Ashdown's, we went to Coffee Encounters to enjoy a farewell coffee with our high school student from Avonlea. Ryan had been with us once a week since March 5, 2008 and the clients had appreciated his help when he was in the classroom.

Boh's Cycle Tour

The LINC 1 learners studied the names for the parts of a bicycle, bicycle maintenance and safety. Friday, April 18, 2008, they visited Boh's Cycle and Sporting Goods Shop. The staff at Boh's demonstrated correct helmet fitting and bike maintenance. They showed the learners different accessories for their bikes. Following the shop visit, the learners went to Tim Horton's where they ordered and paid for their treats individually. Once seated, they talked about the change they received and their visit to the bike shop.

Warren Michelson's Visit

Our MLA for Moose Jaw North, Warren Michelson, came for a tour of the MJMC facilities. He addressed the LINC students in the gym and invited questions. He was relaxed and informal. Patricia Davies voiced some questions of interest to the students and some students had questions of their own. Mr. Michelson invited people to visit his office if he could assist them in any way. This was some students' second contact with him because they had met him when we went to visit the legislature building in Regina. Students get a better understanding and orientation to politics when they can put names with faces and positions. This meeting helps build a framework for our units on politics. Students had more questions and comments for their own teachers after the assembly. They were interested and glad to be informed on the whole subject of provincial politics.

World Refugee Day

To celebrate World Refugee Day we organized a picnic in the park. On Friday, June 20th, we headed down to River Park for our picnic and afternoon of fun and games. We had sandwiches, watermelon, cookies, and juice. The food was delicious, and we had a good time socializing together.

We organized a few fun games, such as a sack race, three legged race, egg relay, and our favorite, the tug-of-war. In the afternoon we played soccer, volleyball, croquet, and Frisbee. It was a beautiful day that was enjoyed by all.

Turning Pages

The following is a combined effort by some LINC 1 learners. They are writing about the Turning Pages Class taught by Glenda James and sponsored by Family Literacy. The learners enjoy a six week session each summer. They benefit greatly from the opportunity and the encouragement to read with their children.

We are learning to read English with Glenda.
 She brought many, many book to our class.
 Glenda comes to see us every Tuesday.
 We read a book with a story.
 Then we make a craft.
 Each student takes home five books to read to their children.
 Sometimes our children read our books too.
 We bring our books back to class.
 Then we get a present.
 Turning Pages class is good.
 Thank-you for helping us read English.



Free Bus Tour September 16, 2008

During the week of September 15 to 19, Moose Jaw Transit offered free bus travel. Our LINC program took advantage of this and rode to South Hill and back. We got off at the community garden and showed newer students the gardens. Some students who have been here longer showed us their plots and many vegetables. It was a vocabulary lesson for some, a broader view of community opportunity for others and a lovely outing for all.

Then we walked to the bowling alley and played a game. It was a new experience for many students and another option for year round exercise and family recreation. We wanted to show them this option before winter.

Thanksgiving Lunch

This year Thanksgiving Day was celebrated on Friday, October 10th, the last day of school before the holiday weekend. Our yearly feast has become a very special time for the students and staff of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council.

All the students roll up their sleeves and do their part in contributing to the meal. All the food is prepared on site, so it becomes a great learning experience for everyone. No matter what culture or tradition our students come from, when it is all said and done, they all know how to cook a real Canadian Thanksgiving dinner!



Laura's class prepared the vegetables, including: sweet potato casserole, peas, carrots, Harvard beets, turnip casserole, and broccoli salad. Doug's class cooked the turkey, stuffing and gravy. The stuffing and roasting process was demonstrated to all the students so that they would be able to do the same at home. Carol's class baked apple and pumpkin pies, whipped the cream, cooked the potatoes, and arranged the tables beautifully.

With everyone contributing their efforts we had lots of good food to eat, lots of fun preparing it, and even more fun eating it! Thanks to all the staff and students who pitched in and worked so hard.

Fire Station Tour

On Thursday morning, October 16rd, all our students and their children headed up to the Fire station.

We were met by three fire fighters for our informational tour. First, we were shown the control room where 911 emergency calls are received. We were told when to call 911 and the personal information that we needed to give over the phone. One student was even allowed to phone 911 to see what would happen. This is also something we practice in class to make sure the students are able to effectively convey their address and other personal information.

The fire department responds to many kinds of calls including fire, car accidents, boating accidents, and even pets getting stuck in trees. We were shown the fire trucks, including a new ladder truck, and all the equipment the fire fighters have at their disposal to respond to emergencies. Some of the students tried on the fire fighters jackets, oxygen tanks and helmets. They were surprised at how heavy all the equipment is! The firefighters also showed us a new piece of equipment they have that helps them see through smoke and locate people and objects.

It was a very interesting and important tour for all the students. Hopefully, our students will never need to call for the fire department's assistance, but if they do, I think they will be able to respond appropriately.

Public Speaking at Prince Arthur School

The LINC 3 students and Daphne, the Katimavik volunteer, went to Prince Arthur School with their teacher. Ms. Uteley had us split into two groups and each group visited several classrooms. Each student had several opportunities to tell about their experience learning to read, show a sample of their writing and answer questions. The LINC students spoke well and were well received. The

children had good questions and were attentive and curious. It was a valuable chance for our students to do public speaking in English and for them to see a school in session in Canada.

Shuffleboard

The MJMC LINC students were invited to play shuffleboard with the St. Andrews Shuffleboard Club. Several seniors came to teach the students the rules, scoring and techniques of the game. We did not play very long before there was good competition and lots laughter. The groups seemed to enjoy the game and the company.

Coffee Encounters

The beginner class learned about menus, prices, ordering, paying and tipping in a two week session. After studying the vocabulary and practicing the phrases needed, the students role played all of the above. To use all this information and to investigate this type of workplace, we went to Coffee Encounters. Each student ordered their own items and paid by themselves. While drinking tea and eating ice cream we questioned the waitress about her hours of work and she volunteered information about her pay and working conditions. On the way out of the coffee house everyone wanted to leave a small tip!

Come See Come Saw Tour

On Friday, December 12, the LINC classes took a city bus chartered for the occasion to "Come See Come Saw". They picked out a Christmas tree and cut it down, posed for many pictures and pulled the tree back to the buildings on a sleigh. Everyone had a chance to watch it being shaken, drink hot chocolate and eat cookies. It is a good example of outdoor fun in a Canadian winter. It is a cultural experience, and helps them fight winter blues and culture shock. Students were cheerful and interested and happy to participate.

Music Festival

On Thursday March 26, 2009, Students and teachers of the LINC program attended the Moose Jaw Music Festival at Zion United Church. We heard children play the piano. They had been studying in the "Heart of the City" music program at Prince Arthur Community School. Several of the children who played were from families with present or past ties to the Multicultural Council. Students were introduced to the idea of music lessons for children and how the music festival works.

The Budget Address

On Wednesday March 18, 2009, three students from the LINC 3 class and Stephanie and Laura went to the Legislature in Regina. An MLA had invited us and made five tickets available for the budget address. The students enjoyed seeing the parliamentary process at work and hearing the financial plans. They found the language challenging but were glad for the chance to see and hear everything. They commented on the heckling and the concentration of the speakers. Some of them had seen the legislature empty before but it was a new experience to see it full of action.

Evening English Classes

The Evening English classes take place Monday-Thursday, 7:00-9:00 pm and Saturdays, 1:00-3:00 pm. The evening classes had 38 students enrolled over the past year. We had many eventful classes, here are a few highlights:

- Dealing with the weather! – always fun to hear the student's stories and see their reactions to the extreme heat and cold.
- Assisting students to prepare and celebrating when they passed tests such as driver's tests, SIAST exams etc.
- Class trips – we went bowling , to a movie, to many coffee shops, walks, the parks etc. All outings or trips were unique and always ended the day feeling great.
- Played softball – this was one of the best days, as we had a game of softball (very modified and flexible of course) and ended it with some traditional ball park franks and chips! Many students had never touched a glove or bat, so you can imagine how entertaining we all were to each other.
- Volunteers – Thank you to Rob Carnie & Joy Kindrachuk who formally volunteered and to a few friends who joined in the outings or would stop by with an interesting topic to show or speak about, or just join us in a conversation circle. Their contributions were invaluable to the students who enjoyed having someone other than me to interact with!
- Overall the best highlight would have to be seeing a student grasp an idea, word, or even letter and permanently keep that in their English life!!!! Or seeing them on the street and they apply what you have taught them in class in that moment.

The childminding also went well this year. The children played and had craft time while their parents were in class. Over the year 19 children were enrolled in the program.

Media & Communication

Newsletter

- A four to six page quarterly newsletter was produced informing our members and the community about multicultural issues, cultural information, member group activities, immigration updates, and community events. Over two hundred and fifty copies were distributed at each publication.

Displays

- Set up throughout the year to profile some of the many services and activities the council provides in the community.

Translators/Interpreters

- The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council has a list of volunteer translators/interpreters that speak 27 different languages. They are available to assist when the need arises. Various human service organizations have requested the resource list. This list was updated and added to throughout the year.

Media Coverage

- The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council took advantage of many free public service announcements throughout the year. Press releases were sent out for all events. Every effort was made throughout the year to inform the public of our goals and activities.
- Moose Jaw Multicultural Council brochures and posters were distributed throughout the year.
- The Council participated in the Moose Jaw Exhibition Parade with a float and members walking along in ethnic clothing.
- Times Herald coverage was excellent throughout the year of special events and occasions. MJMC participated in numerous interviews and paid advertising.
- The local radio stations also interviewed MJMC and attended special events and occasions.
- The community event calendar on Shaw Cable.

Special Events & Functions

MJMC Bake Sale

On April 17, 2008 the MJMC held a bake sale at the Royal Bank. Lots of delicious baking was donated from the member groups and the staff at MJMC. The bake sale raised \$228.85 for the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council. We would like to thank all who donated their time and wonderful baked goods. Special thanks to Sylvia Stephanson, Dagney Marshall, Loretta Wright, Anne Chambers and the Royal Bank for their assistance.

Accreditation

Tara Blanchard recently became one of Saskatchewan's first accredited settlement workers at the mentor level. The mentor level is the highest level achievable through this process. The accreditation was done through the Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (AAISA). AAISA has pioneered professionalization of the settlement sector by developing the accreditation model and training modules. The Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies (SAISIA) signed an agreement with AAISA to have settlement workers accredited in Saskatchewan through the Alberta model. SAISIA also paid the \$750 fee for Tara to receive the accreditation package. The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council has been a member of SAISIA since 1989 and Tara currently serves on the board of directors as secretary. To become accredited at the mentor level Tara had to meet the following competencies: a minimum of seven years experience, a minimum of 200 hours of documented training that had to be linked to 45 of 57 categories related to settlement work, a self-evaluation in 9 core functions that was approved by the Executive Director or designate, five examples of leadership with references and case studies for any training areas that were not documented. Tara's entire package was 65 pages in total. Tara worked on the accreditation on her own time at home. One other employee from the Regina Open Door Society was also accredited at the mentor level. Tara will become part of a team in Saskatchewan that will mentor and assist other settlement workers to complete packages for accreditation. There is a national taskforce for professionalization of the settlement sector and hopefully someday there will be a national standard for all settlement workers in Canada.



Canadian Citizenship Ceremony

On December 16, 2008 the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council and The City of Moose Jaw Race Relations Committee in cooperation with Citizenship & Immigration Canada held a citizenship ceremony for 33 newcomers to Canada from 16 different countries. Citizenship testing took place at the Multicultural Council and the swearing in ceremony was held at the City of Moose Jaw Council Chambers.

Special guests attending the ceremony were as follows:

Judge Harold Gilleshammer

Ms. Stephanie Brassard – Citizenship & Immigration officer

Mr. Ray Boughen, Member of Parliament for Palliser

Mr. Warren Michelson – MLA Moose Jaw North

Ms. Deb Higgins – MLA Moose Jaw Wakamow

Mr. Dale McBain – Mayor of Moose Jaw

Ms. Regina Sagal-Henry, Chair of the City of Moose Jaw Race Relations Committee

Mr. Bob McKenty – Moose Jaw Lion's Club

Ms. Cristina Hasapis – Vice President Moose Jaw Multicultural Council



Ms. Stephanie Brassard was the clerk of the ceremonies which were graciously hosted by the City of Moose Jaw Race Relations Committee. The ceremony was called to order by Constable Derek Dagenais-Guy who was dressed in the traditional red serge uniform.

Judge Gilleshammer's remarks welcomed Canada's newest citizens and reflected on what it means to be a Canadian citizen. He added that our multiculturalism policy makes Canada unique from

many countries around the world. Following the swearing in under the "Oath of Citizenship" our special guests delivered greetings of congratulations. Our new Canadians received their certificates, a Canadian flag and pin. Evan's Florist's graciously donated red and white carnations that were presented to each new citizen.



Following the ceremony everyone who attended was invited to a reception provided by the City of Moose Jaw Race Relations Committee and beautifully prepared and served by the International Women of Moose Jaw.

Moose Jaw Multicultural Council Board of Directors

Executive

Mary Tkach Vangsnes Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club	President
Cristina Hasapis Hellenic Association of Moose Jaw	Vice President
Debbie Kreklewich Prosvita Ukrainian Culture Society	Treasurer
Russ McKnight Scottish Society	Secretary

Directors

Yvonne Bernard Caribbean Association of Moose Jaw
Anne Chambers Romanian Canadian Society
Carolyn Dormer Irish Club of Moose Jaw
Colleen Garrioch International Women of Moose Jaw
Russ McKnight Moose Jaw Scottish Society
Deign Salido Philippines Community of Moose Jaw
Vanessa Schnell Irish Club of Moose Jaw
George Whyte Moose Jaw Jamaican Association

Past President

Robert Fielding Prosvita Ukrainian Culture Society

Staff

Tara Blanchard	Executive Director
Linda Dirkson	Executive Assistant
Janet Zinkhan	Administrative Assistant
Doug Cassidy	LINC Teacher
Carol Moran	LINC Teacher
Laura Butt	LINC Teacher
Diana Brennan	Daycare Director
Christina Kelly	Assistant Daycare Supervisor
Indanah Boechler	Daycare Staff
Gladys Ortiz	Daycare Staff
Tatyana Morris	Daycare Staff
Trisha Cave	Daycare Staff
Stephanie Cossette	Daycare Staff
Dave Fox	Accountant
Sarah Thirsk	Settlement Worker
Ken MacTavish	Settlement Worker
Patricia Davies	Volunteer & Immigrant Coordinator
Stefanie Palmer	Employment Program Coordinator
Wayne Dirkson	Maintenance
Karina Zelaya	Spanish Instructor
Ghawhar Shahidzadeh	Cleaner
Carla Pompu	Childminding Staff (Evening)
Jesse Kindrachuk	Evening English Teacher
Leo Shull	Happy Valley Park

School Break Program Staff (February 2009)

Kailee Brennan Kelly Hunter Jaydene English

Summer Program Staff

Kailee Brennan Kristy Ma Jaydene English

Substitute Teachers

Dawnica Mathieson Helen Todd Cheryl Reynolds Amanda Gerdes
Linda Henry Hilda Reed

Farewells

Darcy Pryor Melvina Dzialo Suzy Blacklaws Cara McDavid
Kathy Symanyk Cheryl Riendeau Stacey Michel Joyce Balzer
Rebecca Hansen Katie Stirton Ashley Dennison Laurie Hunt
Jillian Orb

Member Groups

Member groups that are part of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council are:

- Caribbean Association of Moose Jaw
- Latin American Community of Moose Jaw
- East Indian Association
- International Women's Society of Moose Jaw
- Irish Club of Moose Jaw
- Moose Jaw Hellenic Group
- Moose Jaw Jamaican Association Inc.
- Moose Jaw Romanian Canadian Society
- Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club
- Moose Jaw Scottish Society Inc.
- Philippines Community of Moose Jaw
- Prosvita Ukrainian Culture Society
- Southern Plains Métis Local 160
- Moose Jaw Sudanese Community
- Moose Jaw Afghanian Community

Group Reports

Romanian Club

Members of the club cleaned and planted flowers in the garden plot at Happy Valley Park. A cash donation and help was given to the Multicultural Society for their bake sale. Also help was given at Motif.

The members of the club had a picnic in July and ended the year by having a Christmas party which was enjoyed by all.

Throughout the year members attended as many Multicultural meetings as was possible.

This report was submitted by
Sophie Gieni

Moose Jaw Scottish Society

Members of the Scottish Society met at various places for six meetings in 2008. The Society had eleven paid members. The average attendance at meetings was seven.

The Society has been unable to add new members. Those attending are senior plus!

The year wasn't profitable as there was no Scottish booth at Motif 2008. The White Hackle Pipe Band was unable to recruit volunteers. The Society thanks the McFergus Scottish Country Dancers who provided entertainment for Motif 2008.

During the year members attended or assisted at:

- Robbie Burns Night in January
- International Women's Day in March
- Highland Games in May
- The White Hackle Pipe Band competed in Winnipeg, Moose Jaw, and Regina
- Multicultural Council Annual Meeting in June
- Hometown Fair Parade in June
- Canada Day celebrations
- Motif 2008 in July
- Remembrance Day, November 11

The Society members, with Marion Tolley as chairperson, who arranged meeting places, did enjoy meetings on the first Monday of the month- except July and August.

New members would be most welcome!!

Report submitted by Gladys McKenzie- Secretary.

Moose Jaw Chinese Association Report

The Chinese community had a meeting in the Spring of 2008 and agreed that the Moose Jaw Chinese Association was important to maintain. So a new executive committee was put in place in June 2008 and consists of:

President:	Mr. Gale Chow
Vice-President:	Mr. Ark Yee
Secretary:	Ms. Judy Quon
Treasurer:	Mr. Kim Chow
Vice-Treasurer:	Mr. Chi Fong

The Association raised money (\$7845.05) for the Red Cross Chinese Earthquake Relief Fund in June by setting up donation stations in various local Chinese restaurants, through advertising, and by setting up a booth that sold Chinese food during the city's Sidewalk Days.

The Association also donated money to the Moose Jaw Health Foundation to go towards purchasing equipment for the hospital.

A Chinese New Year's Banquet was held January 28th at Jade Garden to welcome in the Year of the Ox. There were 130 people in attendance. They were treated to a mouth-watering 10 course meal.

In between each course, prizes were drawn and different traditions of the celebration were explained. Everyone received a red lucky money envelope as with tradition.

The Association is currently working on putting together a Moose Jaw Chinese directory and hope to have it out by the Spring of 2009.

They will also be working on a mission statement which will reflect the changing goals and needs.

International Women of Moose Jaw

Feb. 13/08 Potluck supper

Feb. 23/08 meeting

March 13/08 IWD Celebration

Motif 2008 participated July 11, 12, 13

Meeting to prepare for Citizenship Ceremony luncheon Dec. 16/08

Dec 16/09 set-up for ceremony luncheon

January 11/09 meeting to prepare for IWD Celebration

January 25/09 meeting to prepare for IWD Celebration

Held IWD Celebration March 8/09

Caribbean Association of Moose Jaw

The Annual General Meeting was held on April 27, 2008. Initial planning was done for Motif 2008.

Additional meetings were held in May and June, to finalize plans for Motif.

Motif 2008 was held on July 11, 12 and 13. The menu at the Caribbean Association both included jerk chicken, curried chicken, rice and peas, shish kebabs, beef patties and vegetable patties. A variety of West Indian drinks as well as domestic drinks was served, and Caribbean shaved ice was also served by Sno-Biz , operated by the Brent Abbott family, in association with our booth. On Saturday, July 12, the Caribe Folk Arts Dance Troupe from Regina, co-sponsored by the Caribbean Association and the Moose Jaw Jamaican Association, performed on the Motif stage.

A Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue was held for Club members and their families on August 24, at the home of Alan and Daphanie Dill.

At the September meeting, our group decided to make a major donation to the Haiti Hurricane Relief Fund of the Canadian Red Cross, following four devastating hurricanes in that already impoverished country.

A special meeting was held on October 5 to plan for a joint fundraising banquet (Caribbean Night) with Church of Our Lady, planned for November 29. Additional planning was done at the regular October and November meetings.

The Caribbean Night was held on November 29, at the Church of Our Lady Community Hall. The event was very successful, featuring Caribbean food and drinks, and a variety of music, including Caribbean dance music. All those who attended enjoyed the evening.

The Family Christmas Party was held on December 14 at the Central Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. The Club provided supper for members and their families, and gifts were distributed to members' children of elementary school age.

In February of 2009, the Caribbean Association said farewell to one of its long-time members. Irvine Weekes, originally from Barbados, was a founding member of our group, and worked tirelessly as a volunteer for many years. Irvine will be greatly missed.

In March of 2009, the Caribbean Association made its annual donation to Kinsmen Telemiracle.

The Executive of the Caribbean Association would like to express its appreciation to all its members for their hard work over the past year. We would also like to thank the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council and its member groups for their continued cooperation.

From the Executive:

Dr. Ramdath Changar, President

Yvonne Bernard, Vice-President

Ken Pilsworth, Treasurer

The Irish Club of Moose Jaw

Hi from all the members of the Irish Club.

This year we have again sponsored a family at Christmas, and sent off Christmas shoe boxes to kids overseas.

Some of our members have travelled to Ireland, Cuba, Bali, and Canada's East and West Coasts this winter.

We are looking forward to Motif again this year, and are starting to plan this year's menu – there are some pot luck tasting meetings coming up soon!

We have used some of the proceeds of Motif 2008 to make donations to the Scout Hall and the Moose Jaw Hospital.

We are excited to be working with all of you this year.

Carolyn Dormer – President

Vanessa Zaidon – Vice President

Dawn Akins – Hicks-Secretary

Gladys and Rollie Pasquet – Treasurers

The Moose Jaw Jamaican Association

- The Moose Jaw Jamaican Association has had yet another good year. We started off the year by having our annual Easter Hop which was very successful, at the Elks Hall for the last time.
- In June we had a visitor from Toronto and we also had a big birthday party for one of the Members.
- Then comes July and Motif, the best time of the year. We served a variety of food, drinks, and desserts from the Caribbean, such as jerk chicken, jerk pork, curried chicken, white rice, and beef patties. For dessert you have your choice of coconut square, coconut cookies, coconut cake, and mango bread. To help quench your thirst you would have a choice of Pineapple, Ginger Champaign drinks and of course our award winning pop "Ting", Jamaica Punch and Red Stripe Beer, bringing again another good week-end. We had visitors from Calgary and Toronto, then came the sad part, a member of the club's mother had passed away and he went to Jamaica.
- We had our Christmas party which went very well, our President, George Whyte and wife Jean spent their Christmas in Calgary with their children and grandchildren, their daughter and grandchildren were also visiting from Texas.
- All in all we all had a wonderful year.

Submitted by Lucille Beach-Gordon.

Moose Jaw Hellenic Group

2008 and 2009 was another busy period for the Greek group Arkadia mostly on a local level. We were very pleased to give back by performing at events which we consider to be very important to us. The events include Regina Multicultural Society's "Spring Free From Racism" event, which featured entertainment from numerous different cultural groups. Arkadia also performed in Regina at the 3rd annual "Opa Cosmo" event, which is a fundraiser for the Cosmopolitan Centre in Regina. 2009 is already shaping up to be a busy time for the band with 2 shows lined up for Saskatoon, Regina's Mosaic Festival and the Gravelbourg Summer Solstice Festival.

Cristina Hasapis President for the Moose Jaw Hellenic Group

MJMC Funders

- Citizenship & Immigration Canada
- The Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour
- Ministry of Education
- Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages
- Community Initiatives Fund
- Student Employment Experience
- Moffat Family Fund
- City of Moose Jaw

Affiliation & Committees

- Canadian Council for Refugees
- Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan
- Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce
- Moose Jaw Housing Committee
- Moose Jaw Race Relations Committees
- Moose Jaw Regional Economic Development Agency
- Moose Jaw Settlement and Integration Coordinating Committee
- Partners Against Violence
- Regional Intersectoral Committee
- SaskCulture
- Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages
- Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies (SAISIA)
- Saskatchewan Council of Educators of Non-English Speakers
- Saskatchewan Literacy Network

Happy Valley Park

In 2008, MJMC received funding from The City of Moose Jaw to build a shed at Happy Valley Park. Due to the construction boom, MJMC could not find a contractor and the shed was not built. The funds were carried forward and the shed is slated to be built in spring 2009. We hope that the shed will reduce the vandalization and theft that occurs in Happy Valley Park. Special thanks to the many volunteers and groups that planted flowers, trimmed trees and helped to beautify the park.

Motif

Executive

Russ McKnight
Scottish Society

Chair

Carolyn Dormer
Irish Club of Moose Jaw

Secretary

Debbie Kreklewich
Prosvita Ukrainian Culture Society

Treasurer

Directors

Yvonne Bernard
Caribbean Association of Moose Jaw

Anne Chambers
Romanian Canadian Society

Deign Salido
Philippines Community of Moose Jaw

George Whyte
Moose Jaw Jamaican Association

Mary Tkach Vangsnes
Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club

Leo Shull
Prosvita Ukrainian Culture Society



Motif Staff

Festival Assistant
Carmen MacKinnon

Motif Children's Cultural Area Staff
Nevin Abhoy Kayla Ma Kelly Boisclair

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SaskEnergy

Special Thanks

C& S Builders
Culligan Water
River Valley Growers

Thank to all of the volunteers who make Motif possible.

Draw Prizes

Curves
Emerald Glass
Evans Florist
Fabutan
Herbal Magic
Kinsmen Sportsplex Centre
Moose Jaw Multicultural Council
Moose Jaw Warriors
Mr. Sub
Renate's Tea Time
Supreme Basic's
Taco Del Mar
Temple Garden's Mineral Spa
Tunnels of Moose Jaw
Western Development Museum

Advertising

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Joe's Place
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Contact Information

Street Address:

60 Athabasca Street East
Moose Jaw, SK
S6H 0L2

Post Office Box:

PO Box 1751
Moose Jaw, SK
S6H 7K1

Phone:

306.693.4677

Fax:

306.694.0477

Email:

reception@mjmcinc.ca

Website:

www.mjmcinc.ca