



**MOOSE
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**MULTICULTURAL
COUNCIL INC.**

Celebrating 40 Years History of the MJMC

To celebrate our 40th Anniversary this year Kevin Dennison, Administrative Assistant at the MJMC, took on a project to go through the numerous photo albums located at our main office and to put together a photo history of our organization. Tracing back to 1974, Kevin learned all about how the MJMC began as a sub-committee to the Canada Week Cele-

brations, discovered the origins of the Motif Multicultural Festival, learned the story of how we obtained and built Happy Valley Park and found details of how each of our current services came into existence.

Kevin began scanning newspaper clippings and photos from our albums in early December of last year. He uploaded them all onto

our Facebook page then, on January 28, 2014, he was invited out to the Moose Jaw Public Library to present his findings to the public. Attendance was good and the event was covered locally by the Moose Jaw Times Herald, Discover Moose Jaw and the Moose Jaw Express. Kevin was a guest during the Heartland at Noon show on 800 CHAB Radio Moose.

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Stop by our main offices at 60 Athabasca St E to look through the albums yourself!

Cultural Groups Elect Executive

Sam Petrescue has been elected president of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council for the coming year.

Four other executive officers were also chosen Wednesday at a meeting of the group. They include: Chad Thakkar, vice-president; Mrs. Shirley Giofu, secretary; John Ogebowski, treasurer; and V. Khakhar, director of social activities.

Ten ethnic groups are represented in the local organization which hopes to launch a program this year for construction of a multi-cultural centre in Moose Jaw.

Detailed plans for this project as well as election of other officers will be considered at the next executive meeting to be held Oct. 17, 74



SAM PETRESCUE

City's multicultural council now offering host program

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council has a new office and a new co-ordinator. Linda Dirksen, in the position for the past month, will co-ordinate a number of projects for the Multicultural Council.

The office number is 693-5233, or Dirksen can be reached by potential volunteers at her home number of 693-4099.

One of the programs Dirksen will be responsible for overseeing is the host program, something relatively new to Moose Jaw, she said.

The shuffles have been doing it up to now with their own church sponsored refugees and with government sponsored refugees, and we'll work with them," she said.

The host program will be set up to assist government-sponsored refugees who come to Moose Jaw.

Dirksen said individuals or groups will come together to give emotional support and friendship to new Canadians. They could take them on field trips, like grocery shopping," she suggested.

The idea is for volunteers to help the new Canadians settle into Canadian society.



CO-ORDINATOR LINDA DIRKSEN ...works in new multicultural office.

match them with the immigrants to give them extra help, in addition to the host class they take at Alexander School," she said.

The Multicultural Council will work with both the library program and the adult basic education programs in Moose Jaw.

Knowledge of the learner's mother language is not a requirement for volunteering for the host program, Dirksen said.

Workbooks will be supplied to help tutors, and some training can be made available. No monetary commitment is required for volunteers in the program.

Dirksen said a volunteer program will be set up to help with this task. "We'll try to



Naser Pashazi, centre, with his family—wife Selvet, left, son Leonard and daughter Rita, right. (Ottawa Journal photographer)

May 1, 1999

Local resident pitching in as Kosovo refugees arrive

By ALLISON DECKER Times Herald Reporter

Political strife brought ethnic Albanian Naser Pashazi from his home in the Kosovo region of Yugoslavia to Moose Jaw.

Now a war is taking him to Halifax.

Pashazi will travel to Halifax, N.S. today to act as a translator for about 2,000 Kosovo refugees expected to arrive in Canada this week.

He said authorities at the federal immigration department he would be

Albanian, along with his wife, Selvet, his daughter, Rita, 5, and his son, Leonard, 3, arrived in Moose Jaw six months ago after a brief stay in Toronto. The couple had a baby boy, Adrian, since arriving in Canada.

They fled the Kosovo region of Albania almost two years ago after Serbian police beat Pashazi and raided his home for participating in a labour strike with other market vendors.

After living in various areas of Europe for two years, the family immigrated to Canada.

And while they are happy to be safe here, the Pashazis' thoughts are constantly with their family and friends in Kosovo, a region that NATO has been bombing to force Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic to sign the Paris peace agreement.

"I think the Canadian government and the Canadian people. They helped my country," he said. He said the family has been watching CNN non-stop since NATO entered the Kosovo region.

"I have problems with my daughter. She wants to watch cartoons," he said, jokingly.

Pashazi has not spoken to his parents, siblings or other relatives he believes are still in Kosovo for more than a month. He said they are more affected by Serbian soldiers than they are by NATO bombs.

There might be some happiness for the Pashazi family. Members of Selvet's family, who escaped to Macedonia, are among those refugees coming to Canada and the Pashazis hope they will eventually come to Moose Jaw.



Staff Farewells and Welcomes

It is bittersweet that we have had to say goodbye to a few staff members over the past several months. While we wish them the best of luck in their new pursuits, they will certainly be missed as members of the MJMC! Leaving the organization are:

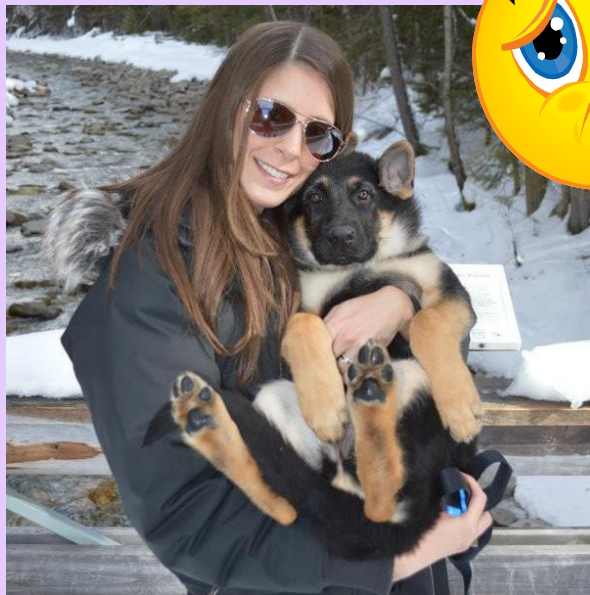
- Monica Taylor, *Employment Coordinator*
- Catherine Hammer, *Settlement Advisor* at our Newcomer Welcome Center

Haley Gordon, one of our seasoned *Settlement Workers*, has recently taken a leave of absence and will not be returning to her position until the Fall season of 2014. Dannee VanTassel, who was previously filling in for Christa Sandford as our SWIS Elementary Worker, is now filling Haley's position.

We're excited to officially have Christa Sandford back from maternity leave to resume her role as SWIS Elementary Worker!

Recently hired for the Employment Coordinator position in our main offices is Adomasika Ampofo-Addo. She has now been with the organization for nearly a month and is quickly finding her stride!

Saurov Rokaya joined us as the Daytime Cook for our Daycare center this past January but has since been taken on as Information Advisor at the Newcomer Welcome Center located at 432 Main Street. Lilly Selvaraj, who previously served in that position will now replace Catherine Hammer as Settlement Advisor. Finally, Dakota Leggott has been brought on as our SWIS Rural/Elementary worker. She will be responsible for aiding newcomer families situated in the rural areas of Moose Jaw and district with getting their children set up in the school system.



MJMC Recognized as Pioneer at 2014 Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards



The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council is extremely proud to announce that on April 17th, we were presented the Pioneer Award on behalf of the Moose Jaw District Chamber of Commerce at the 2014 Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards.

The Pioneer Award "is designed to recognize pioneer

and cornerstone business leaders in Moose Jaw & District who have demonstrated excellence over an extended period of time and whose business has contributed to the economic well-being of Moose Jaw and district. "

The MJMC is honored to receive this award after 40-years of service as the city's

only Settlement Services Agency. We look forward to continued success in aiding newcomers to Canada, promoting the positive aspects of cultural diversity and discouraging discrimination in all forms while fostering awareness and understanding between newcomers to Canada and the community.



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Newcomers Stand Up to Bullying

This past February 26, Language Instruction for Newcomer (LINC) students donned pink attire and shared anti-bullying messages as part of the annual Pink Shirt Day campaign.

Pink Shirt Day strives to educate the public on bullying in schools, workplaces, homes, and over the Internet. The organization encourages people to “wear something pink to symbolize that we as a society will not tolerate bullying anywhere.”

Bullying can have quite the affect on newcomer families and children

who may face varying degrees of harassment, intimidation, discrimination and racism because of their ethnicity on a daily basis. By encouraging them to participate in the event, and engaging in conversation on the issue, we hope to help them understand just how physically, emotionally and psychologically damaging bullying can be to women and men of all ages, in many different environments.

- See more about the campaign at:
www.pinkshirtday.ca





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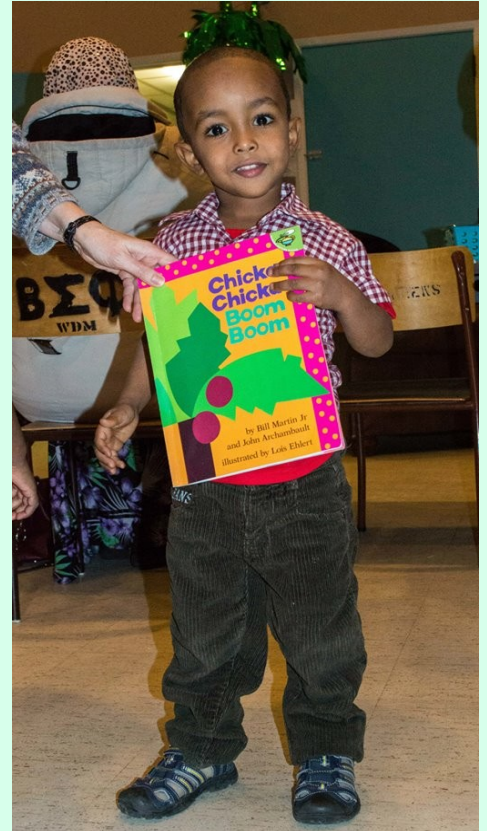
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Family Literacy Day 2014



The MJMC continued its annual tradition of celebrating Family Literacy Day with our newcomer students and clients.

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, by Bill Martin, Jr., and John Archambault, returned as the book of choice following its popularity with participants from last year. Those involved in the celebration for 2014 spent the afternoon reading to one another and partaking in a number of games and activities.





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Giving Thanks to Our Volunteers



Volunteers continue to be a tremendous source of support for our Language Instruction for Newcomers program and Daycare services.

Based on the success of last year's volunteer appreciation tea time, Melissa Mitchell and Danee VanTassel of Settlement Services organized a repeat of the event in the St. Andrew's Church lounge. Both staff and LINC students were in attendance for the gathering to recognize and give thanks to the volunteer work of individuals from Moose Jaw and the surrounding area.



Students took turns speaking about the difference that aid from volunteers has made in their progress with learning about Canada and developing fluency in the English language. Tears were shed, hugs were given and smiles were on everyone's face.

The MJMC is always accepting new volunteers. Those interested in helping newcomers in the classroom or aiding in the Daycare can pick up a volunteer application between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday, at our main offices located at 60 Athabasca Street East. As we require volunteer to provide a criminal record check, you can speed up the application process by requesting one at your local police station prior to filling out the application.

For more information on how you can get involved please feel free to call us during the above listed hours at **(306) 693-4677**.



Newcomers Learn to Crochet



Arts and crafts have long been a large part of not only the community of Moose Jaw but the provincial community of Saskatchewan as well. With major local events such as Park Art, Sidewalk Days, the Craft and Trade Show at the Cosmo Senior Center and the Crescent Park Quilt Festival happening throughout the year, our LINC instructors occasionally like to spend a little time teaching students about the social benefits of engaging one another, and the community, through these creative avenues. Most recently, LINC students learned how to crochet over a couple of hours during the early mornings of February 13, February 25, March 4 and March 11. During this time they were also encouraged to communicate with each other in English and share , they were shown how they could express their culture, experiences and beliefs through arts and crafts and they were given contact information to get involved with a variety of social hobby clubs. Everyone created squares which would eventually become a beautiful blanket which was then raffled to raise money for the Moose Jaw Family First Radiothon.

Spring/Summer 2014

Upcoming Events

- **May 14**: South Central Food Network Committee Meeting at the Newcomer Welcome Center (432 Main Street N)
- **May 15**: City Wide Clean-Up from 8AM-9AM (staff, clients and community members)
- **May 18**: First Nations Sharing Circle; Moose Jaw Pride 2014 (2:00 PM at the Newcomer Welcome Center located at 432 Main Street N)
- **May 21**: Cultural Diversity Committee Meeting at the Newcomer Welcome Center (432 Main Street N)
- **June 21**: World Refugee Day **Staff, Client & Volunteer** BBQ
- **July 3-5**: MJMC at Moose Jaw's Sidewalk Days

Visit our official website at www.mjmcinc.ca for job postings, upcoming events and more information on the organization.