

Issue 19

Winter 2014 Edition

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International Dinner Fundraiser



On September 9, 2014, Moose Jaw Multicultural Council, St. Andrew's Church and SaskTel Pioneers partnered in hosting our first annual International Dinner Fundraiser. The dinner was an immense success, raising \$1304.74 toward the purchase of "My Canada" Citizenship Test Practice Software for use by current and prior clients, as well as other newcomers. In a tremendous show of support, nearly 135 locals came out to the event, which was hosted in the social hall of St. Andrew's Church, located at 60 Athabasca Street East. Thanks to the ticket sales, as well as a few individual donations, MJMC was able to purchase the "My Canada" software, along with its licensing, on November 10.

Staff Farewells & Welcomes



Adomasika Ampofo-Addo, who joined MJMC this past spring, has left her position as Employment Coordinator to attend school. Though she was only with us for a short while, we wish her all the best in her new pursuit and will miss her around the office.

Taking over as our new Employment Coordinator is Robyn Watson-Flegel. Please join us and welcoming her as she takes on this essential role!

To anyone who was dealing with Adomasika before, please note that the email address and phone number for our employment coordinator has not changed. She can still be reached via phone at 693-4677 or via email at employment@mjmcinc.ca.

Spanish Language Classes

We are once again looking to offer our highly requested Beginner's Spanish Language classes at MJMC during the Spring Season of 2015. We are currently taking contact information for a call back list. If you are interested in taking the classes and would like your name on this list, to be called back as soon as dates and cost of the class are finalized, please call us at **(306) 693-4677** or email reception@mjmcinc.ca.

If you're looking to brush up on your Spanish before vacation time next summer, fall or winter, consider getting your name on the call back list ASAP!



Carol Moran Receives 2014 TESL Saskatchewan Award of Merit



We're extremely excited to share that Carol Moran, one of our Language Instructor for Newcomers (LINC) teachers, was chosen to receive the 2014 Teaching English as a Subsequent Language (TESL) Saskatchewan Award of Merit!

Since 1991, the TESL Saskatchewan Award of Merit has been presented to members for outstanding service in their field and going beyond standard expectations in their career. Over the past 23 years, approximately 20 individuals across the province have received this distinction but Carol is the first Moose Javian to be recognized.

Not only does Carol teach full-time at MJMC, she also regularly tutors students during the evenings, on the weekend, and offers Citizenship Preparation Classes at several times throughout the rest of the year. Additionally, she has been instrumental in the organization of fundraisers, potluck luncheons, and a variety of social events for LINC class students. She has also built and fostered the development of strong partnerships with various community groups such as

SaskTel Pioneers.

Two of our other outstanding LINC teachers at MJMC, Doug Cassidy and Laura Butt put forward Carol's name for the award.

Congratulations, Carol! We are all very proud of you and we are honored to have you working with us!

Multicultural Week Art Contest Winners

AGE GROUP 5-8

1st Place: Jazzmyne

2nd Place: Ava Wall

3rd Place: Nevaeh

AGE GROUP 9-12

1st Place: Parys LaMontagne

2nd Place: Star Cabral

3rd Place: Caleb Gagne

AGE GROUP 13-17

1st Place: Hannah Cooper

2nd Place: Karsten Elder

3rd Place: Mewni Rousseau

AGE GROUP 18+

1st Place: Clayton Clysdale

2nd Place: Halimo Rure & Sifa
Bezelngrwa

3rd Place: Mawa & Mohammed

All of the winning and runner-up submissions were displayed at the Newcomer Welcome Center for the last two weeks of November.



SAISIA Immigration Summit

This past September 25, several staff members were in Regina to attend SAISIA's Saskatchewan Settlement and Immigration Summit. MJMC staff who were unable to attend the event in person were able to watch a live stream at the Newcomer Welcome Center. The summit was a two-day long event that aimed to address key issues with, and explore the context of, integration and settlement in Saskatchewan. Other topics included the role of immigrant serving agencies and how well immigrants are settling in other regions.



Citizenship Preparation Classes



A total of 8 individuals participated in this year's fall Citizenship Test Preparation classes between September 15 and October 8. We wish them all the best of luck on their upcoming examinations for Canadian citizenship! MJMC will be offering this preparation class again in Spring of 2015. Keep an eye on our official site, Facebook page, and around our offices for more information after the winter holidays. Should you have any questions about the classes, contact Carol Moran via email at carol.moran@mjmcinc.ca

World Suicide Prevention Day

This past fall saw a great deal of public awareness and education happening in Moose Jaw through the efforts of local organizations and businesses, such as W.J. Jones & Son Funeral Home, with Moose Jaw's first Journey to Hope walk.

The message was clear, suicide awareness and prevention is not only important, but needs to be addressed on a wider scale.

At MJMC our Daycare Director, Caroline Hrenyk, and Administrative Assistant, Kevin Dennison, wore yellow and shared their message of support with the hope of engaging with others in discussion of this important issue.



Transgender Day of Remembrance

'TRANScending Gender' Presentation Educates and Facilitates

By Janet Kilgannon
For Moose Jaw Express

"The purpose of this presentation is to encourage people to question and challenge their perceptions and misconceptions of gender identity and sexual orientation," said Kevin Dennison. Representing the local Transgender Day of Remembrance committee (TDoR), he provided an evening workshop recently at the Multicultural Centre.

"We are no longer thinking in terms of a binary code, of male and female only. There are other places on the gender continuum. Gender issues are no longer just blue and pink. The reality is much more multi-coloured."

"Society determines how 'real men' and 'real women' are supposed to act. Advertisements add fuel to the fire. Beer commercials show confident attractive men in social situations, surrounded by beautiful smiling young women. How many of us live like that every day? Cosmetics and hair-removal ads bombard us. We are made to feel inadequate."

On the other hand, TV and film can illuminate

social issues by featuring characters of varying gender identities in major network shows and movies. It helps move discussions of gender issues along. Laverne Cox's role in 'Orange is the New Black,' Jared Leto in 'Dallas Buyer's Club' and the documentary on Navy SEAL Christopher Beck (now



TDoR committee members Haley Gordon, Kevin Dennison, Falon Dennison.

Kristen Beck) are currently before the public.

This gave Dennison the opportunity to focus on transgender people. "Those whose identity does not match their anatomical parts. We are not all just XX or XY in our chromosomes. You can be XXY, XYY, XX/XO, for example."

Dennison spoke of the challenges facing transgender people. "They experience high levels of homelessness or family conflict and rejection. Once on the street, their safety is at risk and they may become victims of serious violence."

He used the concept of the 'Genderbread Person' to explain what we now know about human sexuality. "Starting with your head, Gender Identity is how you think about yourself. Biological Sex is centred in one's genitals, and refers to your objectively measurable organs, hormones and chromosomes. Gender

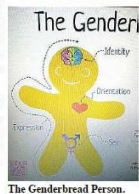
Expression involves your whole body, and is how you demonstrate through the ways you act, dress, behave and interact with others."

"Finally, Sexual Orientation is centred in your heart. It reflects who you are physically, spiritually and emotionally. It also defines who you are attracted to, based on their gender in relation to your own. The goal for transgender people is to safely come out and live as their authentic self."

Dennison will present his work in upcoming sessions at the MJ Library and the Museum Theatre, in 2015.



Illustration of gender diversity.



The Genderbread Person.

Our Administrative Assistant, Kevin Dennison, and Settlement Worker, Haley Gordon, were among three other locals who served on this year's Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) planning committee. MJMC partnered with the committee this past November to provide a space for Kevin to offer a free presentation on the basics of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

The event was a big success with approximately 20 people in attendance. Kevin will next be giving a revised version of the presentation at the MJ Public Library on April 14, 2015.

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

December 24, 2014: MJMC and NWC Closes @ Noon for Holidays

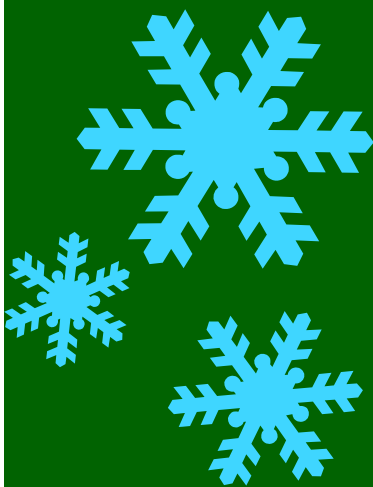
January 2, 2015: MJMC and NWC Opens

February 16, 2015: MJMC & NWC Closed for Family Day

March 3, 2015: MJMC & NWC Closed for Good Friday

March 6, 2015: MJMC & NWC Closed for Easter Monday

March 8, 2015: International Women's Day; Film Screening of "Girl Rising"



Happy Holidays to you all!
From the Board & Staff at MJMC

Visit our official page at www.mjmcinc.ca or follow us on [Facebook](#) for job postings, special event announcements and more!