



MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Celebrate | Educate | Integrate



Annual Report

December 2020

Board Of Directors

President..... Dango Gogo
Vice President Robert Cree
Treasurer Muhammad Ehtisham
Secretary..... Robert Skulsky
Director Luis G. Gonzalez
Director Muna Ali

Staff Team

Therese Greenwood
Executive Director

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Admin & Finance Officer

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*Interpretations, Translations and
Communications Coordinator*

Kendyl Collette
Events & Volunteers Coordinator

Anurag Mathur
Programs & Development Manager

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* Report Cover photo by: Steven Bonisteel

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MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Message from our President

www.mcawb.org



Board President, *Dango Gogo*

On behalf of the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo Board of Directors, I wish to thank our dedicated staff, our wonderful volunteers, and our many members for their tremendous efforts on behalf of the MCA during what has certainly been a tumultuous year.

MCA has certainly faced many challenges in 2020. Like most of the world, we began working at home in mid-March with the arrival of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In April, the Fort McMurray Spring Flood forced the closure of the building that housed our offices, leaving our staff to continue working at home for most of 2020, with no access to office equipment, files, and the other supports we take for granted in our workplaces.

I am proud to say that MCA was able to successfully provide the programs and events planned for 2020, while at the same time introducing new events in response to the needs of the times. From March 30 to April 6, the MCA hosted a virtual potluck event that gave community members the opportunity to share their favourite family dishes remotely. Every culture has a “go-to” comfort food and we invited our community to come together online to share these dishes. The potluck was part of a series of online events called “Multicultural YMM: Messages From Home” that celebrated games, songs, and other traditional aspects that connect families. Events like the virtual multicultural potluck help communities stay connected, create cross-cultural understanding, and

build resiliency. MCA was delighted to receive recognition for this virtual event from the Alberta Northern Lights Volunteer Program and Leela Sharon Aheer, the provincial Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women.

Other successful virtual events followed. In April, our English Language Learners Assistance program transitioned to a virtual format, allowing local students stability and accessibility to services. A particular highlight was our Canada Day Songbook project, which was a Top Three finalist for an Arts Council Wood Buffalo Award of Excellence for Cultural Collaboration.

Throughout the year, our volunteers continued their great support of MCA. It was inspiring to see the many volunteers who participated in our live events prior to the pandemic. It was also inspiring to see the many volunteers who came forward in the days, weeks, and months following the pandemic and the spring flood to make sure that our residents had access to important health and safety information, that our community continued working together on important issues of inclusivity, and that the rich cultural life of Wood Buffalo continues to thrive.

This year during our annual Volunteer Recognition, we recognized the contribution of two special groups. The first was the Immigrant Advisory Table (IAT), a volunteer committee representing different countries and cultures who bring a diverse perspective and an immigrant's experiences. In 2020, the IAT took on the Cultural Equity Building project supported by the Alberta Human Rights Commission and coordinated by the MCA. Over countless hours, the committee designed and administered the Discriminatory Barriers Survey, aimed at helping put in place projects that will fight discrimination in our community.

The second group was the eleven translators who aided with translating approximately 210 documents, many of them dealing with important safety information, into nine different languages during the pandemic as well as the flood to ensure our diverse community had adequate support to understand complex notices and documents.

Thank you to our volunteers, members, staff, and Board for continuing to be a vibrant part of the rich multicultural life of our community.

Message from our Executive Director



Executive Director
Therese Greenwood

In February, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo kicked off 2020 on a high note, with one of the highest turnouts for our annual EXPO event. MCA saw 2,373 attendees at our seven-hour event, including 281 volunteers, all there to experience the

dance, fashion, music – and course the food – of more than 40 cultures. The day started off with a traditional blessing from our Vice President, Elder Robert Cree, a welcome by our President Dango Gogo, and, for the first time, a Treaty acknowledgement in five of the non-Indigenous languages spoken in our the community.

In the months that followed, nothing could dampen the Wood Buffalo region's fervent interest in diversity and multiculturalism, not the global pandemic that began in March, and certainly not the April flood that saw the MCA's offices closed for the next eight months.

The first challenge MCA met head-on was the delivery of our English Language Learners Assistance (ELLA) program. Our new program manager Anurag Mathur worked tirelessly to transition this key program to an online format that worked for our school district partners, helping students and their families find stability in learning and easing worries about falling behind.

Buoyed by the success of transitioning ELLA to a virtual format, MCA staff members embraced the challenge of finding solutions to continue our core programs, events, and services. Throughout 2020 we worked to transition everything from Financial Literacy to Alberta Culture Days in a

variety of online and COVID-safe classroom formats. Due to the hard work and commitment of the MCA team, we were able to provide all of our annual core offerings with participation levels that matched those of the previous year.

Our Cultural Awareness Training program, specially designed for the Wood Buffalo community, also continues to be in high demand in a virtual format, as our local workforce continues to grow in cultural diversity. It is a pleasure to work with local businesses and non-profits who are honing their communication skills and cultural interaction practices to be on the cutting edge of customer service and employee engagement.

My personal 2020 favourite was the Canada Day Songbook project. We had no idea what the community response would be to our call to action asking residents to celebrate the national holiday with an O Canada sing-along. We were stunned by the enthusiastic response as citizens practiced safe social distancing while celebrating together through an online platform. People of all ages and backgrounds showcased their culture by dressing in traditional cultural attire, decorating with red and white, and singing O Canada in the language of their choice. Each of the videos remains posted on MCA's You Tube channel. We are particularly proud of the overall video which featured 20 different languages and was showcased at the municipal Canada Day "drive-in" celebration at Macdonald Island Park for all the community to see.

Our pride in diversity and enthusiasm for cultural sharing will be a key piece in the resilience and recovery of our region in the months and weeks ahead. We are fortunate to live in a community that values the inclusion of all persons, and where individuals and groups contribute to our cultural heritage by sharing their cultures, building bridges, and growing harmoniously in Canadian life.

Vision

Unity in Diversity

Mission

To foster an environment in which individuals and groups may contribute to the cultural heritage of Alberta, encouraging communities to share their cultures, build bridges, and grow harmoniously in Canadian life.

Our Values

Our values define how we serve and build relationships with our multicultural community, as well as our workplace.

Diversity: MCA values the diversity and differences among persons from all over the world who live and work in RMWB. All programs and activities celebrate and educate the multicultural contributions from our citizens.

Integrity: MCA values integrity, all its programs and activities are distinguished by a commitment to honesty, accountability, and transparency.

Inclusivity: MCA values the inclusion of all persons in our community, all programs and activities ensure that every culture feels at home in Wood Buffalo and supports integration to ensure our cultural community members have the skills and resources necessary to be successful in our community.

Mutual Respect: MCA values mutual respect, all programs and activities promote a welcoming environment for all cultures, and people from around the world.



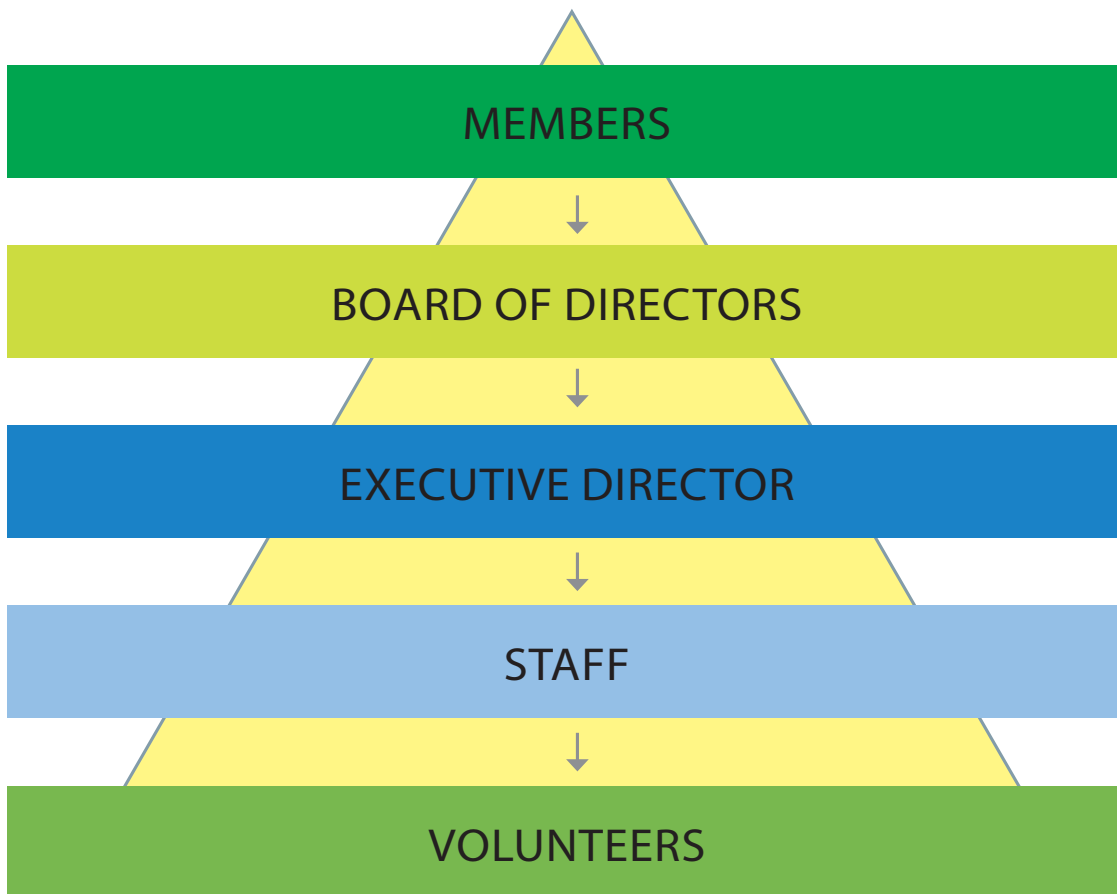
Board Members: Robert Skulsky, Muna Ali, Robert Cree, Dango Gogo, Luis Gonzales, and Muhammad Ehtisham

Membership and Volunteering

MCA membership is open to organizations and individuals to share the benefits of early-bird registration, voting rights, and program discounts. MCA has an ever-growing member and volunteer base. Since the last Annual General Meeting (AGM), we had over 3,300 volunteer hours logged from over 520 volunteer positions that were a part of our programs and events. As well, over 50 countries of origin were represented in the list of groups and individuals to access MCA's programs, events, and services..

Organizational Structure

The MCA is governed by a board of directors whose mandate is to provide strategic leadership to the organization. They are responsible for developing policies on code of conduct, conflict of interest, meeting management, policy development, recruitment of Executive Director, strategic planning, as well as board recruitment, evaluation, and succession planning.



Strategic Plan 2017-2022



Strengthening MCA Culture

- MCA places value on employee wellness and personal growth;
- MCA empowers our employees/volunteers with the skills and resources they need to be successful in their roles;
- MCA respects diversity and different points of view;
- MCA encourages and celebrates employees who reach beyond the status quo.



Embracing Sustainability

- MCA uses financing responsibly;
- MCA builds a strong balance sheet with diverse revenue sources;
- MCA budgets sensibly, optimizing resources.



Meeting Stakeholders' Needs

- MCA will strengthen the administrative support and educational resources to build capacity for our cultural groups;
- MCA will strengthen coordination and convene important conversations and connection between cultural groups;
- MCA will support ethno-cultural groups to develop and preserve their individual cultures and communities;
- MCA will function as an information liaison unit for ethno-cultural groups;
- MCA will coordinate and facilitate communication between individuals, groups, industry, businesses and government.



Creating Community Connections

- MCA acts as a trusted organization and provider of safe convening space;
- MCA is an organization with deep knowledge and experience in the field of multiculturalism, diversity, and inclusion;
- MCA is a voice that constructively contributes to policy discussions about newcomers and individuals of diverse background, their special needs, and their connectedness with community;
- MCA has team of individuals that people can turn to for services, training, consultation and advice;
- MCA is an organization that welcomes and strategically engages volunteers, stakeholders, and cultural groups in Fort McMurray to enrich the community;
- MCA is an advocate and influencer of the importance of multiculturalism and anti-racism.

Programs

English Language Learners Assistance Program

The English Language Learners Assistance (ELLA) Program builds confidence in newcomer students so that they can actively participate in class and school activities. It helps children with their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Due to the language barrier, newcomer students in Wood Buffalo often struggle in school and frequently do not have sufficient homework support at home, as their parents may also be learning English. The program is usually offered during school hours with a maximum of 2-to-1 students-to-teacher ratios for half-hour sessions.

2020 was a challenge as schools were closed as a result of the pandemic between March and June. With this new school year, ELLA Tutors were not allowed in school following the pandemic guidelines from provincial government. In response, between April to June 2020, the ELLA Program continued tutoring students online.

During the new school year, the MCA changed the approach to a more flexible delivery model: 1) During school hours, some schools with sufficient staffing arrange for students to have online access and the ELLA tutors teach online. 2) In schools not having sufficient staffing resources, tutors teach students online after the school hours (in the evening). The ELLA program has been getting tremendous response to this model as it appears to meet the needs of a maximum number of students.



173
newcomer
children
assisted



Financial Literacy

Participants of the Level 1 Financial Literacy Program gain knowledge in banking, budgeting, credit, debt, taxes, insurance, government support programs, avoiding fraud & scams, and investing. Level 2 covered financial goals, net worth, company stocks, private offerings, real estate investing, and cryptocurrency. The sessions are highly interactive and provide newcomers with tools to help them and their families understand the Canadian financial system. Participants are provided with workshop material that serves as a great resource and document for future reference.

The 2020 Spring Session was cancelled due to pandemic. However, Fall session was held with different approach. MCA rented Keyano recital theatre to conduct Financial Literacy program In-Person. Following all the pandemic guidelines this program was a huge success, with 26 participants in attendance.



26
participants

Programs



Cultural Awareness Training

Most of the scheduled training were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A total of 3 sessions were held with 37 participants. MCA has successfully transitioned this training to virtual format and is looking forward to facilitate this training to more agencies in the community.

"I would definitely recommend this workshop to a colleague. I would recommend the content to anyone, it was very informative"

"The facilitator was very well informed, I was surprised at some of the things I did not know about some cultures."



3
workshops

37
individuals

Events

Annual General Meeting 2019

The Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo's Annual General Meeting was held on November 23, 2019, at the Redpoll Centre. Last year, the MCA announced the winners of the Sana Elache Legacy Awards with Britainea Young as the recipient of the Community Engagement Award and Fajar Khan as the recipient of the Student Empowerment Award. Moreover, the MCA also bid farewell to past board treasurer Doug Nichols.

Human Rights Day 2019

Human Rights Day is observed annually on December 10 in commemoration of the day in 1948 when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. On December 10, 2019, the MCA held a Human Rights Day Conference with the theme "Honoring Diverse Voices". Starting at 9 AM and going until 3 PM, various speakers from the local Indigenous and Newcomer Communities gathered to discuss common issues regarding representation, preserving traditional knowledge, as well as cultural sensitivity in writing and art.

The free public event was held in the Grand Ballroom of Shell Place where local participants discussed issues in the form of panel discussions and keynote speeches, with a conversation café held in the afternoon.

The panelists included in the discussions were Elder Robert Cree, McMurray Métis CEO Bill Loutit, Somali community member Jama Ali, Pradeep Mehta, Fred McDonald, Julia McDougall, and Sharon Heading. Guest speaker and professional Cree and French-Canadian writer, Wayne Arthurson, also

presented his keynote speech, and joined in with panel discussions.

The day also included performances by Indigenous and Newcomer artists, as well as a free lunch and dessert served during the conversation café. The event was held with the assistance of funding from the Alberta Ministry of Culture and Tourism and in partnership with the Athabasca Tribal Council and Arts Council Wood Buffalo.



Events

Volunteer and Board Appreciation Dinner

On October 30, 2019, MCA held their annual Volunteer and Board Appreciation Dinner at Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts (SECPA). It was a full night with 54 people in attendance.

The night started off with a blessing by Elder Robert Cree, followed by remarks by Board President Dango Gogo. It was also when MCA bid farewell to Board Treasurer Doug Nichols and thanked him with a nice gift for all he has done for the organization and community.

A free dinner for participants was served, which was a selection of finger foods from Cedar's Bakery, as well as sushi plates. Eva La Prairie also graced the entertainment stage with her voice.

This event was a change from years prior, as volunteers were also treated to a free presentation the multiculturally themed play, *Freeing Heaven's Secrets*, which follows the

story of Scheherazade, a young blind girl on her deathbed, who promises her father that she will visit him in his dreams, and tell him what her heaven is like. On her journey to the other side, Scheherazade passes her blindness onto the audience, and gifts herself with sight, inviting the audience to experience her heaven through the element of sound alone. *Freeing Heaven's Secrets* was the debut performance of new Fort McMurray theatre company, *Symmetree Theatre*, whose mandate is to share stories about marginalized members of society, where the main conflict does not stem from the fact that they're marginalized. It is called "Symmetree" because the company endeavours to share stories that are "reflections" ("symmetry") of society on stage, in ways which advocate for and promote social "growth" ("tree"). MCA thanks Luay for generously donating this family-friendly performance, which received warm reviews from the volunteers.



Events



Multicultural EXPO 2020

The Multicultural EXPO 2020 was held on February 8th from 11am-6pm at the Nexen Field House. This year saw over 2373 participants who experienced over 50 cultures that were showcased through dance, food, fashion, and music.

This year's EXPO began with a Multicultural Association welcome, including a blessing from Robert Cree, local Elder and MCA Vice President and the treaty acknowledgement was done in 5 languages - English, Arabic, French, Spanish and Tagalog.

The Parade of Nations was a choreographed five-minute flag ceremony with over 40 participants representing 40 nations.

The event also included a 30-minute Multicultural Fashion Show where 52 participants from 9 different cultures were able to showcase their unique, international attires for the audience to see.

The Youth Talent Show took place between 2pm-4pm and saw 22 different acts from 50 local youth.

The EXPO 2020 stage displayed 14 different cultural performances from over 90 performers. These groups displayed unique international performances that kept the stage viewing area filled all day.

Overall there were 40 booths displayed, 10 of which displayed cultural cuisines, 5 showcasing culture through activities, and 16 hosting cultural display or handicraft booths. 9 were social profits and local organizations.

There was a total of 281 volunteers who dedicated approximately 2118 hours from start to finish.



Events

Anti-Racism Measures

In June of 2020, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo released a Statement of Solidarity with Anti-Racism actions in Wood Buffalo. Board President Dango Gogo, Treasurer Muhammad Ehtisham and Executive Director Therese Greenwood attended the YMM Solidarity March at Jubilee Plaza which saw hundreds of Wood Buffalo residents gather to acknowledge racism in Wood Buffalo and across Canada.

“We have the most multicultural community in Canada and I always say that is one of our strengths in this region, but that can also be a weakness if we do not stand up,” said Dango Gogo, President of the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo who spoke at the event. “You and I are the change and the change needs to happen now.”

Dango Gogo also attended Fort McMurray Matters on behalf of the Multicultural Association to discuss the need for inclusion in Fort McMurray as well as the Solidarity March.



Canadian Multiculturalism Day 2020

This year Multiculturalism Day occurred during the Canada Day Song Book campaign. Tying the two events together, the MCA featured two special videos to celebrate the vibrant and diverse cultures that exist within the Wood Buffalo Region.

The first video featured Ashkaya Lakshmi (on behalf of the Sanatan Mandir Cultural Center of Fort McMurray) who performed O Canada in 11 different Indian languages as well as English and French. MCA also showcased multiculturalism displayed in our region's schools and embraced by youth in the second video. Rory O'Hearn, a music teacher École St Paul, was able to get his students to come together virtually to create an O Canada rendition featuring Cree, French and English.

Cookery

The Multicultural Cookery Program taps into Wood Buffalo's generous and diverse population, typically encouraging volunteers from different cultures to teach their home country's cuisine. The program is typically run monthly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic only one lesson was able to take place this year and featured a cooking lesson in Italian.



Events

Virtual Canada Day Song Book

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and physical distancing requirements, the traditional Canada Day Bannock and Pancake Breakfast as well as the Municipal parade were put on hold for 2020. In place of these events, MCA created a new virtual event called the “Canada Day Song Book” which featured local community members singing O Canada in a variety of languages.

The MCA's first Canada Day Song Book campaign premiered 25 videos of residents singing ‘O Canada’ on Facebook and YouTube. Among the videos, the national anthem was sung in 20 languages and over 150 community members participated, with the entirety of the videos being filmed in Wood Buffalo. Each of the individual videos submitted were edited and compiled to create one unified multilingual national anthem and the campaign, in its entirety was viewed 67,610 times. The event was nominated and shortlisted as nominee for a Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Award in the Creative Collaboration category.

The unified multilingual national anthem was featured on both nights of the drive-in movie at MacDonald Island Park reaching approximately 2700 people in attendance. MCA also released exclusive Canada Day message videos from MLA David Yurdiga, MP Tany Yao and MP Laila Goodridge.

The full Canada Day Song Book playlist can be viewed on the MCA's Facebook and Youtube.

Additionally, 6 stickers were designed that featured the MCA logo and “Happy Canada Day” in various languages including: English, French, Spanish, Hindi and Tagalog. One sticker featured only the logo so that individuals could write “Happy Canada Day” in the language of their choice. The multilingual stickers were featured in 1200 celebratory kits provided complimentary to residents at the RMWB’s Canada Day Pop-up Stations.



Events



Multicultural YMM: Messages from Home

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, MCA recognized a need to keep the community engaged and connected. In response to this need, the MCA established “YMM: Messages from Home”, a four-part online series which encouraged residents to share recipes, art, dance, and games.

On the first event page “Multicultural Virtual Potluck”, residents shared recipes from moose stew and bannock to Dutch green pea soup, offering suggestions to other residents who tried to replicate the dishes. Another week focused on games such as Euchre or Crokinole, suggested to help community members pass the time at home.

This event was chosen by the Premier of Alberta to be profiled as part of the Alberta Northern

Lights Volunteer Recognition Program, which provides ongoing recognition of incredible community volunteer stories.

Alberta Culture Days

In order to accommodate social distancing measures, the MCA re-imagined an event previously held for Alberta Culture Days. “World Meets In Wood Buffalo” was brought online and rebranded as “World Meets ‘Virtually’ In Wood Buffalo”, featuring cultural performance videos from local community members.

In MCA's first World Meets ‘Virtually’ In Wood Buffalo event 11 videos were premiered of resident-created cultural performance videos on the MCA Facebook page, which was viewed a combined 64,800 times within the first week of posting.

Among the videos there was participation from many unique cultures including Métis, Indian, Filipino, Nepalese, Brazilian and Scottish. The virtual event featured cultural performances by residents as young as seven in a variety of art forms including dance, piano and guitar playing.

Participants such as the Divine Group of India, who took part in the physical event two years ago also participated in the virtual event.

The posts combined were reacted to 514 times, commented on 88 times, and shared 82 times within the first week of posting.

The full World Meets ‘Virtually’ In Wood Buffalo playlist can be viewed on the MCA Facebook.



Services

Interpretation and Translation

MCA was able to play a big role in helping to keep people safe during the pandemic and spring flood May 2020.

The 2020 Spring Flood brought a large increase in the number of requests for the translation of important safety and response messaging, from the RMWB, School Districts, Red Cross, and service agencies such as the Food Bank. MCA also participated directly in a variety of response and recovery committees directed at newcomers, youth, seniors, etc, particularly during the evacuation, working with the Red Cross and the RMWB.

Nonprofit and governmental agencies made extended use of this service to provide up-to-the-minute safety and emergency messaging, particularly in the downtown where many Newcomers were residing at the time of the flood. During this time, MCAs translation services translated 210 messages into 10 different languages

The RMWB's 2020 funding of the MCA's Translation and Interpretation Unit was a key element in the success of this service in meeting the challenges of community messaging during two simultaneously declared States of Emergency. Without this funding, this essential service could not have met demand.

In addition to translation of information, the MCA used its communications tools to reach diverse community populations with this important messaging. Although our offices were closed due to the flood, MCA was able to meet all requests for support.



Notary Services

The Notary Clinic for Immigrants is a free service for newcomers and immigrants in the Wood Buffalo region. In partnership with Don Scott Law Office, the MCA is able to host the Notary Clinic on the last Saturday of each month. This service is offered from 10AM – 12PM, with a committed team of volunteers from Don Scott Law Office helping each client with their needs. This service helps notarize documents such as travel document applications, police record documents, commissioning documents, witnessing visa applications, certified copies, Powers of Attorney, travel consents, proofs of life, and more.

In March, the Notary Clinic was put on hold due to the situation around the global pandemic, and was reopened in September, transitioning its original location at the Bob Lamb Building to the Keyano Theatre and Arts Centre – as a result of the 2020 floods affecting the original location. Despite this brief hiatus, the Notary Clinic was able to serve 45 clients with 292 documents, saving the community over \$23,000 in notary fees. This year, most of the Notary Clinic clientele have been Canadian Citizens (60%), Permanent Residents (35%), with the remaining 5% being visitors and residents with work permits.

292 documents notarized for
45 clients

MCA's Programs, Events, and Services have reached individuals and groups from the following countries:



Bangladesh	Fiji	Japan	Palestine	Swaziland	Zimbabwe
Canada	France	Kenya	Panama	Sweden	
China	Ghana	Lebanon	Philippines	Thailand	
Colombia	India	Mexico	Romania	Ukraine	
Ecuador	Indonesia	Moldova	Russia	United Kingdom	
Egypt	Iran	Nepal	Scotland	U.S.A.	
Eritrea	Ireland	Nigeria	Serbia	Venezuela	
Ethiopia	Italy	Pakistan	Somalia		

Collaborations

The Welcome Centre

The Welcome Centre is a Newcomer Interagency Network (NIN) initiative with MCA acting as the fiscal agent. It is a free service for newcomers who have any questions about accessing support services in town in the areas of “work”, “live”, “learn”, and “play”. Our Welcome Centre Coordinator and Welcome Ambassadors connect newcomers with newcomer-serving organizations in town, eliminating frustrations experienced by newcomers when they find that they are being moved from one organization to another in order to find which service is best catered to their given circumstances. The Centre is located on the second floor of the Wood Buffalo Regional Library. Since December 2019, the Centre has reached 150 new clients. NIN-member agencies actively donate 13 hours/week to support the operations of the Centre and the library provides us with a space donation in-kind.

The Newcomer Interagency Network (NIN)

The Multicultural Association is also a member of the NIN Steering Committee. The NIN is a network of organizations and employers in the RMWB committed to working together to enhance the lives of newcomers to our community. The Network helps improve referral processes, identifies gaps, needs, and duplications in newcomer services, and provides consultations to government, businesses and organizations on newcomer matters. Further, the NIN agencies work collaboratively on initiatives and projects to help address the gaps whenever possible. The NIN steering committee includes the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Wood Buffalo Housing Development Corporation, Keyano LINC and the YMCA of Northern Alberta.

Financial Update

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Assets		
Current		
Cash	382,561	249,053
Restricted cash (Note 3)	12,220	5,327
Accounts receivable	994	2,420
Goods and services tax receivable	2,805	3,886
	398,580	260,686
Capital assets (Note 4)	7,456	10,802
	406,036	271,488
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accruals	44,735	31,638
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	158,878	90,323
	203,613	121,961
Commitments (Note 6)		
Subsequent events (Note 9)		
Net Assets		
General fund	123,853	120,053
Capital fund	7,456	10,802
Internally restricted fund (Note 7)	71,114	18,672
	202,423	149,527
	406,036	271,488

Approved on behalf of the Board

signed by "Dango Gogo"
Director

signed by "Muhammad Ehtishe"
Director

Financial Update

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo Statement of Revenue and Expenses

For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Revenue		
Municipal grant funding (Note 5)	358,647	282,250
United Way funding (Note 5)	147,536	137,500
Sponsorship and fundraising	49,924	101,056
Casino revenue (Note 5)	31,013	29,292
Program revenue	22,112	13,119
Provincial and federal grant funding (Note 5)	14,910	13,880
Cultural performance, translation and interpretation services revenue	13,740	22,278
Fire recovery	3,374	85,794
Memberships	2,295	2,575
Donations	2,179	2,164
Total revenue	645,730	689,908
Expenses		
Advertising	7,814	17,949
Amortization	3,162	3,486
Bank charges and interest	34	330
Donations	2,065	2,015
Equipment rental	2,907	2,871
Events expense	37,139	61,821
Insurance	5,685	5,291
Meals and refreshments	8,053	19,406
Office supplies	18,244	20,013
Professional fees	17,342	22,562
Programming costs	28,339	26,701
Rent	26,460	25,834
Salaries and benefits	433,224	450,196
Telephone	2,182	3,869
Training	-	1,316
Travel	-	837
Total expenses	592,650	664,497
Excess of revenue over expenses before other items	53,080	25,411
Other items		
Loss on disposal of capital assets	(184)	-
Excess of revenue over expenses	52,896	25,411

Financial Update

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2020

	General fund	Capital Fund	Internally restricted fund	2020	2019
Net assets, beginning of year	120,053	10,802	18,672	149,527	124,116
Excess of revenue over expenses	52,896	-	-	52,896	25,411
Loss on capital asset disposal	184	(184)	-	-	-
Interfund transfers (Note 7)	(52,442)	-	52,442	-	-
Amortization of capital assets	3,162	(3,162)	-	-	-
Net assets, end of year	123,853	7,456	71,114	202,423	149,527

Financial Update

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Cash provided by (used for) the following activities		
Operating		
Cash receipts from operations	715,711	606,785
Cash paid for program service expenses	(160,978)	(196,428)
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(414,298)	(461,705)
Cash paid for interest	(34)	(330)
	140,401	(51,678)
Investing		
Purchase of capital asset	-	(5,137)
	140,401	(56,815)
Increase (decrease) in cash resources	140,401	(56,815)
Cash resources, beginning of year	254,380	311,195
Cash resources, end of year	394,781	254,380
Cash resources are composed of:		
Cash	382,561	249,053
Restricted cash	12,220	5,327
	394,781	254,380

Financial Update

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2020

1. Incorporation and nature of the association

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (the "Association") was incorporated under the authority of the Societies Act of Alberta. The Association has a mandate to foster and promote equality, social justice and institutional change. It encourages communities to share their cultures and grow together in Canadian life.

The Association is a registered charity and thus is exempt from income taxes under the Income Tax Act (the "Act"). In order to maintain its status as a registered not-for-profit organization under the Act, the Association must meet certain requirements within the Act. In the opinion of management these requirements have been met.

2. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations as issued by the Accounting Standards Board in Canada using the following significant accounting policies:

Revenue recognition

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions paid. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Sponsorships revenue is recognized based on the term of the sponsorship contract. Product sales, program revenue and services revenue are recognized when the products or services are delivered to the customer.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include balances with banks and cash on hand. Cash subject to restrictions that prevents its use for current purposes is included in restricted cash.

Capital assets

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. The policy of the Association is to capitalize assets when the useful life is greater than one year and the acquisition cost meets the capitalization threshold of \$500. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution if fair value can be reasonably determined.

Amortization is provided using the declining balance method at rates intended to amortize the cost of assets over their estimated useful lives.

	Method	Rate
Computer equipment	declining balance	30 %
Office equipment	declining balance	20 %

Long-lived assets

Long-lived assets consist of capital assets. Long-lived assets held for use are measured and amortized as described in the applicable accounting policies.

The Association writes down long-lived assets held for use when conditions indicate that the asset no longer contributes to the Association's ability to provide goods and services. The assets are also written-down when the value of future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset is less than its net carrying amount. When the Association determines that a long-lived asset is impaired, its carrying amount is written down to the asset's fair value.

Financial Update

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2020

2. Significant accounting policies *(Continued from previous page)*

Financial instruments

The Association recognizes its financial instruments when the Association becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. All financial instruments are initially recorded at their fair value, including financial assets and liabilities originated and issued in a related party transaction with management. Financial assets and liabilities originated and issued in all other related party transactions are initially measured at their carrying or exchange amount in accordance with *CPA 3840 Related Party Transactions*.

The Association subsequently measures all of its financial assets and liabilities at cost or amortized cost, except for equity instruments that are quoted in an active market which are measured at fair value. Fair value is determined by published price quotations. Changes in fair value of these financial instruments are recognized in excess of revenue over expenses.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are immediately recognized in net earnings. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

The Association assesses impairment of all of its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost when there are indicators of impairment. Any impairment, which is not considered temporary, is included in current year of excess of revenue over expenses.

Measurement uncertainty (use of estimates)

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period.

Amortization is based on the estimated useful lives of capital assets.

These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary they are reported in excess of revenue over expenses in the periods in which they become known.

Contributed materials and services

Contributions of materials and services are recognized both as contributions and expenses in the statement of operations when a fair value can be reasonably estimated and when the materials are used in the normal course of the Association's operations and would otherwise have been purchased.

Volunteers have made significant contributions of their time to the Association's program and supporting services. Because of the difficulty in determining and supporting their fair value, services provided by volunteers are not recognized in the financial statements.

3. Restricted cash

Restricted cash may not be used for purposes other than those approved by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission.

Financial Update

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2020

4. Capital assets

	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Accumulated amortization</i>	<i>2020 Net book value</i>	<i>2019 Net book value</i>
Computer equipment	15,243	7,977	7,266	10,563
Office equipment	14,486	14,296	190	239
	29,729	22,273	7,456	10,802

5. Deferred contributions

Deferred contributions consist of unspent contributions which are externally restricted. Recognition of these amounts as revenue is deferred to periods when the specified expenditures are made. Changes in the deferred contribution balance are as follows:

	<i>Municipal grant</i>	<i>Casino</i>	<i>Provincial and federal grants</i>	<i>United Way</i>	<i>Other funds</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
Balance, beginning of year	-	5,327	13,564	-	71,432	90,323	174,140
Funds received during the year	358,647	37,906	25,740	163,356	93,784	679,433	584,193
Revenue recognized during the year	(358,647)	(31,013)	(14,910)	(147,536)	(58,772)	(610,878)	(655,510)
Contributions repaid during the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	(12,500)
Balance, end of year	-	12,220	24,394	15,820	106,444	158,878	90,323

6. Commitments

The Association has entered into premises and equipment lease agreements with estimated minimum annual payments as follows:

2021	35,570
2022	26,582
2023	4,430
	66,582

Financial Update

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2020

7. Internally restricted fund

During the year, the Board of Directors approved the use of internally restricted funds of \$28,808 (2019 - \$13,103) for the Expo event, \$4,390 (2019 - \$nil) for the Financial Literacy Conference and \$1,059 (2019 - \$nil) for the Financial Literacy Program.

In addition, the Board of Directors approved the transfer of \$86,699 (2019 - \$15,313) from the general fund to the internally restricted fund. This amount includes \$31,064 (2019 - \$12,496) for the Expo event, \$3,489 (2019 - \$2,817) for the Financial Literacy Conference, \$2,260 (2019 - \$nil) for the Financial Literacy Program, \$41,552 (2019 - \$nil) for operational expenses and \$8,334 (2019 - \$nil) for flexible funds.

8. Financial instruments

The Association, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Association is not exposed to significant interest, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

9. Subsequent events

During the year, there was a global outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus), which has had a significant impact on organizations through the restrictions put in place by the Canadian, provincial and municipal governments regarding travel, business operations and isolation/quarantine orders. The Association transitioned to hosting some events virtually, while holding other events in accordance with the provincial and federal restrictions and regulations.

At this time, it is unknown the extent of the impact the COVID-19 outbreak may have on the Association as this will depend on future developments that are highly uncertain and that cannot be predicted with confidence. These uncertainties arise from the inability to predict the ultimate geographic spread of the disease, and the duration of the outbreak, including the duration of travel restrictions, business closures or disruptions, and quarantine/isolation measures that are currently, or may be put, in place by Canada and other countries to fight the virus. While the extent of the impact is unknown, it is possible that this outbreak may cause reduced revenues from sponsorship and fundraising and donations, as well as staff shortages and increased government regulations, all of which will negatively impact the Association's operations and financial condition.

In addition, on April 27, 2020, the City of Fort McMurray's downtown area experienced a flood. There was no significant damage to the Association's properties, however, it has precluded the Association from returning to their premises. The Association does not expect to incur any significant losses as a result.



MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Thank you

Our Sponsors and Community Partners



United Way
Fort McMurray
and Wood Buffalo



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO



AGLC
Alberta Gaming &
Liquor Commission



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COMMUNITY
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Canadian
Heritage Patrimoine
canadien



Alberta
Human Rights Commission



Canadian Natural



DON SCOTT
MCMURRAY LAW OFFICE

Tany Yao, MLA

Fort McMurray - Wood Buffalo



Fort McMurray
ISLAMIC SCHOOL



FORT McMURRAY
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Fort McMurray
Public Schools



THE HUB
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MCMURRAY
MÉTIS



ATHABASCA
TRIBAL COUNCIL



YMCA of
Northern Alberta

You have helped us strengthen multiculturalism and inclusion in our region!