



MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrate | Educate | Integrate



**Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo**

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# MEET THE MCA TEAM

At MCA, we are proud to work with a talented and dedicated group of staff members and Board of Directors. Each person brings a unique aspect to the organization in achieving cultural diversity and awareness in the RMWB.

## MCA Board of Directors



**Dango Gogo**  
President



**Robert Cree**  
Vice President



**Brian Fung**  
Treasurer



**Annalee Nutter**  
Secretary



**Purva Sharma**  
Board Member



**Elliott Pierre**  
Board Member



**Rene Wells**  
Board Member



**J.D Girado**  
Board Member

## MCA Staff Members



**Muna Ali**  
Executive  
Director



**Rasha Hassan**  
Events &  
Communications  
Manager



**Shannon Lloyd**  
Programs  
Manager



**Ashley Makey**  
Communications  
Coordinator



**Aysha Kadour**  
Welcome  
Centre  
Coordinator



**Precious Emelogu**  
Language Services  
Coordinator



**Aileen Adorable**  
Projects  
Coordinator



**Heather Hagerman**  
Indigenous & Rural  
Outreach  
Coordinator



**Natasha Gregorek**  
ELLA Coordinator



**Rima Kadri**  
ELLA Tutor



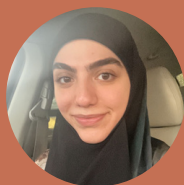
**Alexis Sali**  
ELLA Tutor



**Fatima Omari**  
ELLA Tutor



**Zaila Jama**  
ELLA Tutor



**Fatima Hamayed**  
ELLA Tutor



**Chase Gargus**  
ELLA Tutor



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**3** Treaty 8 Acknowledgement

**4** Message from our President

**5** Message from our Executive Director

**6** About MCA

**7** Membership, Volunteering & Organizational Structure

**9** Strategic Plan (2022-25)

**10** Programs

**12** Events

**18** Services

**21** Indigenous Outreach

**24** Financial Update (2022-23)

# TREATY 8

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



### ENGLISH

We respectfully acknowledge that we are meeting on Treaty 8 Territory. We honour the traditional lands of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples who have lived, travelled and gathered here for thousands of years. It is their footsteps that have marked these lands before us. Let us together steward these lands today and for the future.

### FRENCH

Nous reconnaissons respectueusement que nous nous réunissons sur le territoire du traité 8. Nous honorons les terres traditionnelles des peuples des Premières Nations, des Métis et des Inuits qui ont vécu, voyagé et se sont rassemblés ici pendant des milliers d'années. Ce sont leurs traces qui ont marqué ces terres avant nous, gérons ensemble ces terres aujourd'hui et pour l'avenir.

### SPANISH

Reconocemos con respeto que estamos reunidos en el territorio del tratado Octavo, honramos las tierras tradicionales de las Primeras Naciones, los pueblos Metis e Inuit quienes han vivido, viajado y reunido aquí durante miles de años. Son sus pasos los que han marcado éstas tierras antes que nosotros, administremos juntos éstas tierras hoy y para el futuro.

### GERMAN

Wir erkennen mit dem höchsten Respekt an, dass wir uns auf dem Gebiet des Treaty 8 befinden. Wir würdigen das traditionelle Land der First Nation, Metis und Inuit Volksgruppen, die hier seit tausend von Jahren leben, reisen und sich versammeln. Es sind ihre Schritte, die dieses Land vor uns gekennzeichnet haben. Lasst uns zusammen dieses Land heute und in der Zukunft innewohnen.

### HINDI

हम सम्मानपूर्वक स्वीकार करते हैं कि हम संधि 8 क्षेत्र पर मिल रहे हैं, हम प्रथम राष्ट्र, मेटिस और इनुइट लोगों की पारंपरिक भूमि का सम्मान करते हैं जो हजारों वर्षों से यहां रहते हैं, यात्रा करते हैं और एकत्र हुए हैं। यह उनके पदचिह्न हैं जो हमसे पहले इस भूमि पर चिह्नित हुए थे, आइए हम एक साथ इन भूमियों को आज और भविष्य के लिए संभालें।

### ARABIC

نحن بنعترف ونحترم ونقر تعايشنا سوي علي ارض المعاهده الثامنه. نحن نقدر ونحترم السكان الأصليين للارض والميتيس والانويت الذين عاشوا فيها وسافروا وتجمعوا فيها قبلنا من ملايين السنين. نحن الان نخطوا ونمشي علي خطاهم ونعترف بفضلهم علي الارض الممتلئة بعلامتهم وبفضلهم. ولذلك فلنجتمع سويا ونعمل علي المحافظه عليها في كل وقت الان وفي المستقبل.

### TAGALOG

Kami ay magalang kilalanin ang aming pagtitipon-tipon sa teritoryo ng treaty 8, pinapahalagahan naminang tradisyonal na lupain ng mga First Nations, Metis at Inuit na nabuhay, naglakbay, at nagtipon dito nang libo-libong taon. Ang kanilang yapak ang unang tumatak sa mga lupang ito bago tayo, magsama-sama tayong maging katiwala nitong lupa ngayon at sa hinaharap.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (MCA), I would like to thank our sponsors and partners who have helped fund and form the foundation of our events and programs. I would also like to thank our staff and our hardworking volunteers who never fail to show up and put all their energy into our mission. Finally, I would like to thank the residents of the Wood Buffalo Region and anyone who has ever contributed or attended our programs or events. We are incredibly grateful for your unwavering support and contributions as we continue our mission of

creating a multicultural community where diversity, equity, and representation are celebrated every day.

This amazing year was filled with many successful events, programs, and services provided to the Wood Buffalo Region. I am honored to witness the impact of these programs and services in fostering an inclusive and vibrant community. The accomplishments of 2023 serve as a testament to the transformative power of unity, diversity, and the shared vision of a multicultural society.

Our strategic plan for 2022-2025 was used as a blueprint for everything we did in 2023. This year, we ensured to encourage youth, newcomers, and Indigenous groups. The MCA will continue to implement new practices to fulfill our goals well before 2025.

I, along with the rest of the MCA, greatly look forward to the future of this organization and the potential of opportunities we can create for the communities around us. Our mission to promote equity, inclusion, and respect within the multicultural communities of the Wood Buffalo Region remains at the forefront of our efforts. With each passing year, we will continue to enhance our impact, ensuring that every individual feels valued and represented. The journey ahead is filled with promise, and I am truly excited as we work towards a future of unity, diversity, and thriving multicultural communities.

**Dango Gogo**  
MCA President

# MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As the Executive Director of the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo, I would like to thank our diligent staff & Board of Directors, our generous sponsors & donors, our wonderful partnerships, and our gracious members for supporting us through the years. We are thankful for both the Wood Buffalo community and your never-ending support towards our cause.

The team here at the MCA have worked hard to bring informative and celebratory programs and events. 2023 brought the return of the long-awaited in-person Multicultural EXPO, previously done online due to the COVID restrictions.

This year, over 3,500 individuals attended and we had 225 vendors, performers, and activity booths. In-person events have always been best at bringing our community together, and I am so happy to see everyone participating and commemorating our return. This year also saw the return of our ever-popular Multicultural Cookery, featuring cooking classes where participants could learn about various cultural cuisines. This year we saw 9 different cultures, such as Indigenous, Colombian, Filipino, French, Jamaican, Lebanese, and Canadian Holiday Baking.

This year also saw the 10th anniversary of our annual Financial Literacy program. The program was made to help newcomers understand the Canadian financial system, and this year we saw 33 new participants in attendance. Our notary clinic saw 92 unique clients and over 320 documents were notarized this year, many coming from newcomers, which is why this service is so important to us. This year also saw the implementation of the Financial Literacy program for Indigenous Youth, bringing our Financial Literacy program to the rural areas of Wood Buffalo.

Looking at this year, I am very proud of what our team has accomplished, and I am grateful for all our board members. Every member brings such diverse perspectives and experiences to the table. Each member is crucial to our organization, and I am very excited for what is yet to come from our team. While this year has been very successful for our strategic focus, we must continue to push for fair representation and equal opportunity in the Wood Buffalo Region. The support we receive from everyone is what has made our goals achievable. I look forward to what we achieve in the years to come.

**Muna Ali**  
MCA Executive Director

# ABOUT MCA

The Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (MCA) was established in 1985 as a way to support cultural groups and newcomers through various programs and events, as well as to foster cross-cultural awareness and understanding.

## Our Vision

A community where everyone feels a sense of belonging, and where respect, diversity, openness, equity, and representation are celebrated.



## Our Mission

The Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo leads the way in promoting equity, inclusion, and respect by advocating for the integration of diverse perspectives to ensure meaningful representation in all levels of community life. We create an environment where everyone can contribute to their full potential for the prosperity of our community.

## 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 the RMWB. All programs and activities celebrate and educate the multicultural contributions from our citizens.

**Integrity:** MCA values integrity. All 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.

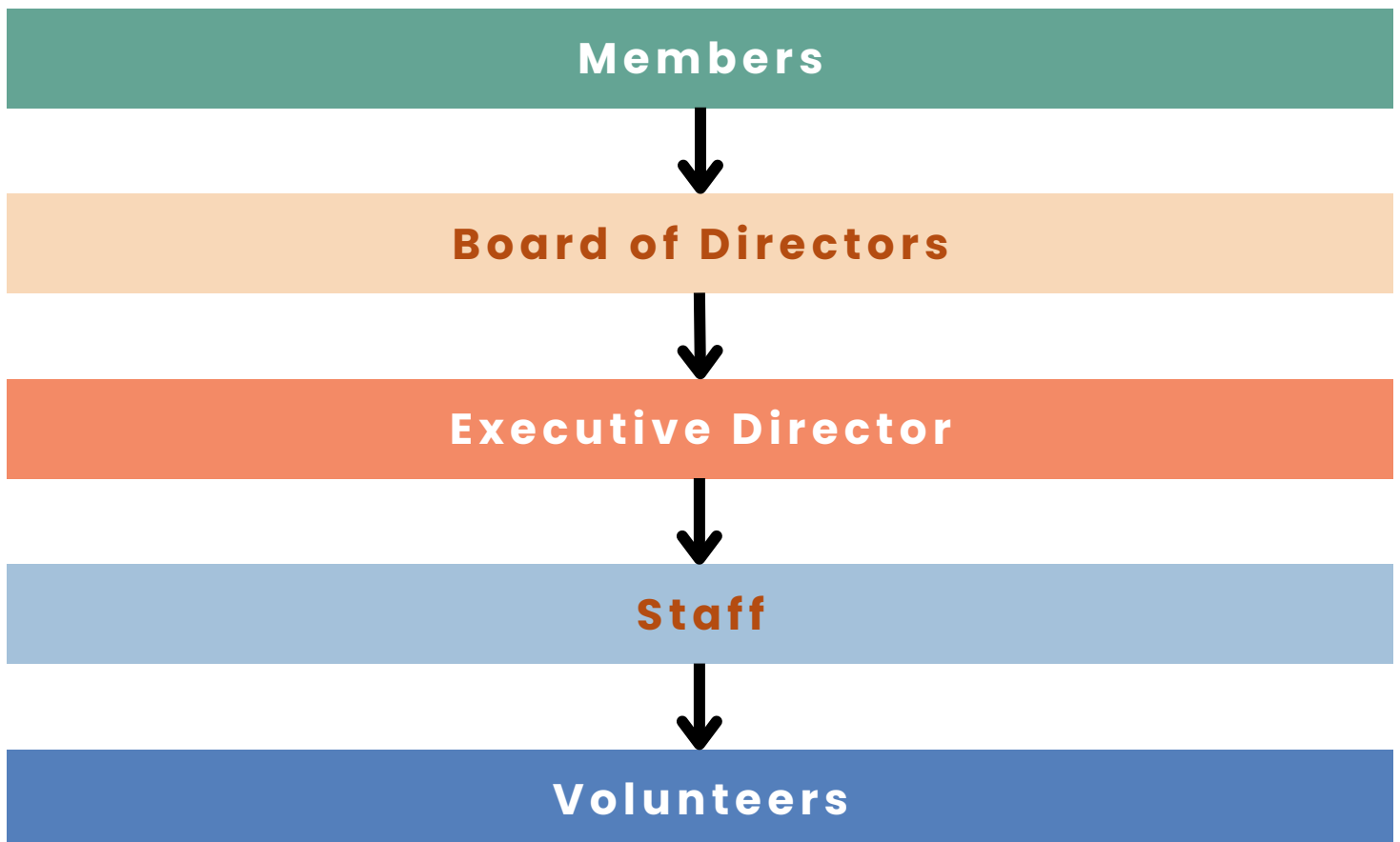
# MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

MCA membership is open to organizations (voting) and individuals (non-voting) to share the benefits of early-bird registrations and program discounts. MCA has an ever-growing member and volunteer base.

Since the last Annual General Meeting (AGM), we have had **3,330** volunteer hours logged.

## 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.

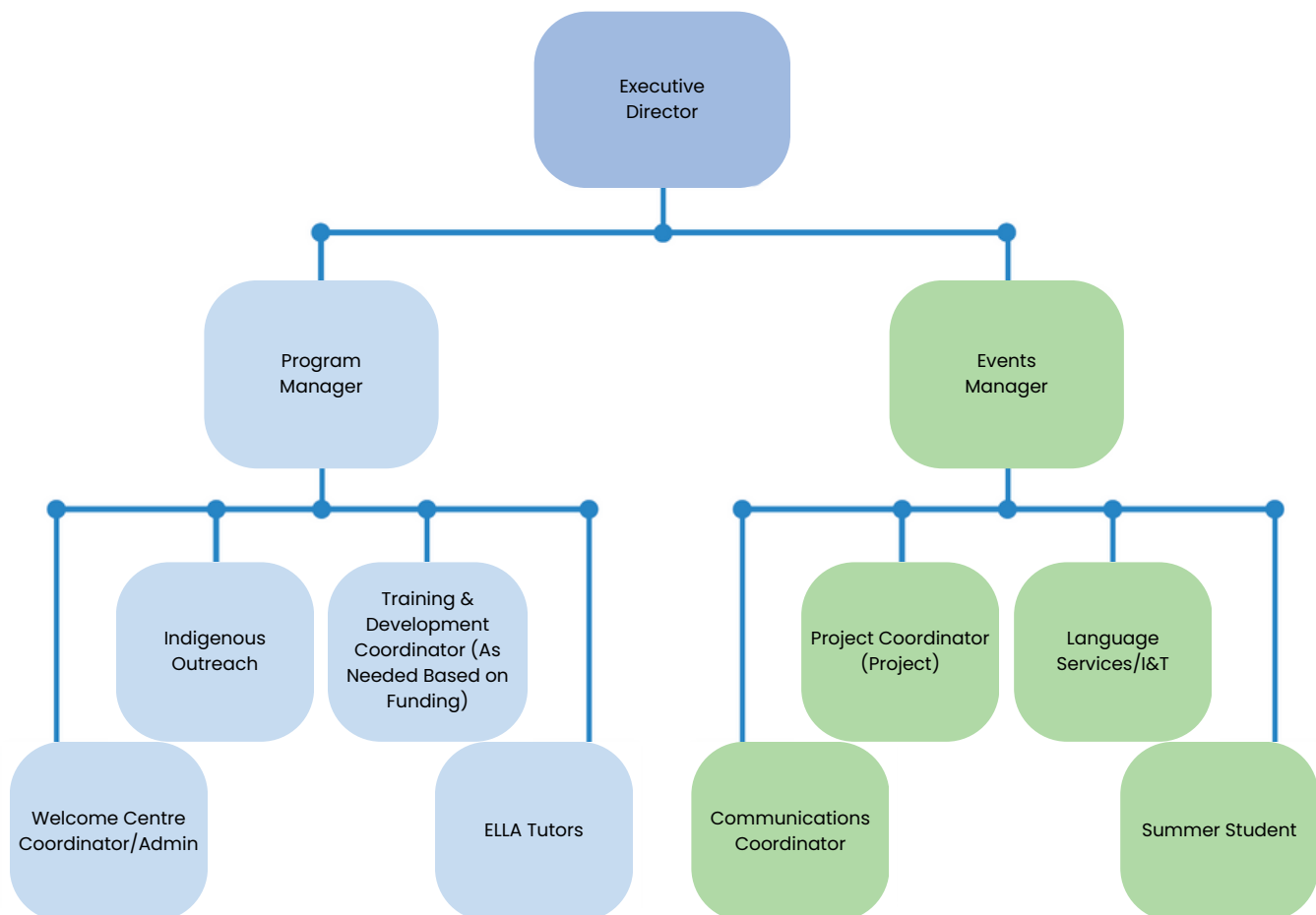




# Objectives

- Advocate for cultural diversity and meaningful inclusion throughout the RMWB.
- Support everyone in preserving and revitalizing language, tradition, and culture.
- Promote cultural sharing between individuals, groups, industry, businesses, government, and other sectors of society
- Educate and enable transitions to equity, meaningful representation and institutional change.

# Staff Organization Chart



# STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-25

## Strategic Goals

**MCA is committed to providing the highest level of community service. Together with our many volunteers, stakeholders and partners, we look forward to having a major impact on the quality of life for all citizens of the Wood Buffalo region.**



**MCA ensures fiscal sustainability and internal controls so that continued quality events, programs and services can be delivered.**

- Financial inventory and opportunities
- Develop operating capacity and capability to deliver on funded programs
- Keep our funding in place
- Match growth in number and depth of programs to anticipated influx of new immigrants
- Find a permanent home that also has space diversity that the community can access
- Keep strategic plan alive - not set aside with new ideas/work/etc.
- New board members orientation



**MCA ensures, encourages, and promotes that youth, Newcomers, and Indigenous groups have meaningful representation and equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of community life.**

- Create youth advisory committee/mentorship opportunities
- Enhance the engagement with the youth
- Youth programs through Welcome Centre
- Define/expand relationship with the Indigenous community
- Continue and enhance our partnership with the Indigenous community
- Build and expand relationships with Indigenous community
- Welcome Centre becomes drop-in hangout centre
- Expand and redefine Welcome Centre to cultural navigator service
- Position MCA to be prepared for more incoming newcomers - more staff at Welcome Centre



**MCA strengthens its partnerships and relationships with stakeholders to be recognized as a partner of choice for cultural diversity, multiculturalism, equity and inclusion.**

- Continue to partner
- Continue to find ways to collaborate with like-minded organizations (reduce competition/duplication of services)
- Continue our relationship with the municipality
- Seek out new partnerships
- Purposeful involvement with key sectors enabling the transitioning
- Lead community in developing anti-racism training
- Advocate for outcomes of "you do you" for everyone
- Educate corporate and civil organizations in the promotion of equity and creation of safe spaces



**MCA seeks ongoing feedback through internal and external evaluations to continually adapt, develop and improve.**

- Develop a way to get real-time feedback from the community to match MCA offering with the emerging needs
- Regular member/user benchmark surveys
- Enhance annual signature event
- Promotional initiatives that enhance public awareness

# 2023 PROGRAMS



MCA's programs aim to help educate members of the Wood Buffalo region on what it means to be a part of a Multicultural Community.

These programs also aim to help equip people with the tools they may need to integrate and thrive in our community.

## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

In 2023, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo is pleased to announce the development of two new programs: Anti-Racism Training, and Financial Literacy for Indigenous Youth in rural communities.

Throughout the year, 7 focus groups were held in the community, 1 cultural collaboration with Rehoboth Alliance (37 participants in attendance), and 2 presentations for LINC newcomers that overviewed service delivery information (24 in attendance).

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The English Language Learners Assistance (ELLA) Program aims to build confidence in newcomer youth students so that they can actively participate in class and school activities. ELLA helps children with their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.

Due to language barriers, 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 typically offered during school hours with a maximum of 2-to-1 students-to-teacher ratios for half an hour sessions.

Throughout the year, the ELLA program has continued to receive tremendous response as tutors were able to assist 325 children and youth from grades 1 - 12 from 7 local schools with English language learning.

## FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Participants of the Level 1 Financial Literacy Program gain knowledge in banking, budgeting, credit, debit, taxes, insurance, government support programs, avoiding frauds & scams, and investing. Level 2 covers financial goals, net worth, company stocks, private offerings, real estate investing, and cryptocurrency.

The sessions provided 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 2023 Financial Literacy Program held 2 sessions that saw a total of 33 participants in attendance.

The MCA also hosted Financial Literacy for Indigenous Youth in rural communities, including Conklin, Fort McKay and Fort Chipewyan. Throughout the year, 60 students in these areas participated in these rural sessions.

## CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

MCA's Cultural Awareness Training (CAT) provides workshops to the community that aim to address cross-cultural differences, as well as potential causes of misunderstanding and conflict. These workshops are tailored to each participating group in order to provide tools and strategies that can help address cross-cultural challenges.

In 2023, the CAT program provided 6 workshops to over 70 individuals from different community agencies, including social/non-profits, Municipal and corporate departments, and educational institutions.

## IN 2023...

**325**  
newcomer  
students were  
assisted  
through the  
**ELLA PROGRAM**



The **FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM** saw **33** participants attend sessions



**6** workshops held and over **70** individuals participated in **CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING**



# 2023 EVENTS



The Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo hosts a number of annual events which seek to help the Wood Buffalo Community celebrate diversity, learn about different cultures and to further help integrate people into the community.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

In 2022, MCA return to in-person events and gatherings, including their Annual General Meeting to inform and update the community of the 2021-22 activities from the MCA.

This event took place on November 28 at the Oilsands Discovery Centre and started with MCA's annual Volunteer and Board Appreciation, with a presentation of the 2021-22 year, followed by a multicultural performance that featured 11 local artists.

## VOLUNTEER AND BOARD APPRECIATION 2022

In 2022, the Volunteer and Board Appreciation took part alongside MCA's AGM on November 28 at the Oilsands Discovery Centre, starting with a buffet-style dinner, musical performances by local artists.

During the formal ceremony, volunteers were presented with locally created Thank You plaques, and a giftbasket.



## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2022

Human Rights Day is observed annually on December 10th 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, 2022, the MCA hosted an in-person Conversation Café at the YMM Airport which featured a panel discussion between 9 local resident panelists and dignitaries from diverse backgrounds within the Wood Buffalo region. The theme of the 2022 panel discussion kept with the United Nation's 2022 Human Rights Day theme of "Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All". The event featured presentations from 7 local Wood Buffalo students, and saw 50 participants in attendance.



## ARCTIC WINTER GAMES 2023

The 2023 Arctic Winter Games were held in Fort McMurray from January 29 - February 4.

The Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo took part in the celebrations of the games by hosting a "Culture of the Day" showcase during the event at MacDonald Island Park. Each day, different cultural performances were held in the main Hall of MacDonald Island's main facility. The showcased cultures throughout the event were: African, Indian, Indigenous, Irish, Latin American, Filipino, Scottish, and Ukrainian.



## MULTICULTURAL EXPO 2022

2023 saw the return to a live event for MCA's annual Multicultural EXPO that took place on February 11.

The event was held in the Nexen Field House at MacDonald Island Park and featured multicultural performances, food, fashion, and artisans that attendees were able to enjoy. The event also featured a Welcome Fair for newcomers to access and be introduced to local community services.

This year's EXPO once again opened with a Parade of Nations that featured 50 individuals representing 35 different countries. Over 3,500 attendees were present at the event, with 415 volunteers putting in 2,905 hours. There were 59 cultures represented by 225 participants throughout the performances, food vendors, and cultural showcases.





## SPEAK UP AGAINST RACISM

Every year on March 21, the United Nations recognizes the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In acknowledgement, the MCA partners with local schools each year in order to host a workshop for teachers & students where participants learn tools to help them speak up against racism and promote inclusion.

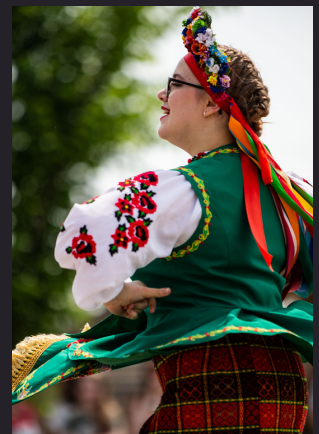
In 2023, the MCA hosted 6 Speak Up Against Racism Workshops to 420 elementary and highschool students from 6 different schools. These workshops aim to engage the younger generation to speak up against racism and promote diversity, integration and unity within the school and among students. Through the workshops, these students will be given information as well as the opportunity to apply what they learned in the workshop.



## CANADIAN MULTICULTURALISM DAY 2023

2023 marked the second annual Multiculturalism Day Festival, hosted by the MCA at Heritage Village Park. This event was held on June 3, 2023 and celebrated diversity in Wood Buffalo through food and performances. Over 3,200 people attended the event, with 14 vendors and 85 cultural performers were present, representing 27 cultures.

The Multiculturalism Day Festival is held in acknowledgement of Canadian Multiculturalism Day, which is observed every year on June 27.





## **CANADA DAY 2023**

The Multicultural Association kicked off their Canada Day celebrations with an online trivia on both Facebook and Instagram. During the last two weeks of June, five questions were posted that related to Canada and Wood Buffalo (ex. What is the largest national park in Canada, to which the answer was “Wood Buffalo National Park”).

The MCA had also conducted a two-day scavenger hunt from June 30th to July 1st at MacDonald Island Park. This scavenger hunt consisted of ten different locations within the recreation center with ten different Scavenger Hunt Posts. The posts included interesting facts about Wood Buffalo’s Iconic people, locations, and symbols.

On Canada Day, the MCA partnered with the Heritage Society of Wood Buffalo to celebrate at Heritage Park. The star of the celebration was a free & fresh pancake and Bannock breakfast offered in the morning, where over a thousand visitors came to enjoy. The event also included free access to the Heritage Park displays, family activities, and musical entertainment. The event had the generous help of about 40 volunteers with over 200 hours of volunteer service.

## **WORLD MEETS IN WOOD BUFFALO 2023**

As part of Alberta Culture Days, the Multicultural Association hosted 7 free cultural art workshops to the Wood Buffalo Community, as well as Cultural Art Exhibition featuring local cultural artists.

This event took place throughout the month of September, with the workshops hosted at MacDonald Island in both the Borealis and Yoga studios, and the cultural exhibition was featured in the Kirschner Family Community Art Gallery. The workshops were attended by over 110 participants.



## MULTICULTURAL COOKERY 2023

With the return of in-person events in 2022, the MCA was able to continue their Multicultural Cookery into the 2022-23 fiscal year.

In these cookeries, hosted by MCA, local cultural culinary artists facilitate and guide Wood Buffalo residents through making 3 – 4 course cultural meals, including, but not limited to: Appetizers, Main Course, Desserts, etc.

Since November 2022, MCA hosted 9 Multicultural Cookeries that featured cuisines from different cultures, including Colombian, Filipino, French, Indigenous, Jamaican, Lebanese, and Canadian Holiday Baking. These cookeries saw over 250 people in attendance.



# 2023 SERVICES

The Multicultural Association provides a number of services that assist the local Wood Buffalo community and aims to help overcome language barriers.

## INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION

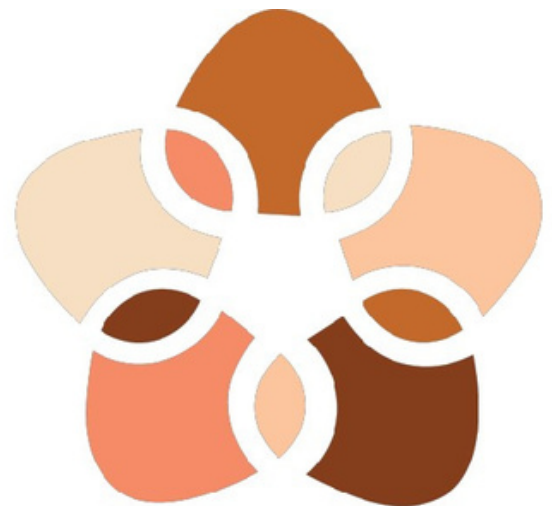
The MCA offers Interpretation and Translation (I&T) services to help overcome language barriers in the Wood Buffalo community through certified and non-certified document translations as well as interpersonal interpretation.

In 2023, the Interpretation and Translation unit saw over 200 translations completed as well as over 80 interpretation bookings. Overall, 23 languages have been requested for interpretation and/or translation, with the top most requested languages for translations were Arabic, Ukrainian, Russian, Spanish and German. The top requested languages for interpretations were Arabic, Dari, Pashto, Spanish and Somali. MCA has worked with the YMCA resettlement program and Docket court to help provide over 60 combined interpretation services.

## WELCOME CENTRE

The Welcome Centre is a free resource center run by the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo and is designed to help guide newcomers with access, referrals and information on the various newcomer support services offered within the Wood Buffalo region.

In 2023, the Welcome Centre has served 41 clients, many of whom were recent immigrants to the region.




## NOTARY CLINIC

The Notary Clinic is a free service hosted by the MCA for newcomers and immigrants in the Wood Buffalo region. This service is run in partnership with McMurray Regional Law Office, who help to provide volunteer Commissioner of Oaths that assist each client with notarization needs. This service helps to notarize documents such as travel applications, police records, commissioning documents, witnessing visa applications, certified copies, Powers of Attorney, travel consents, proofs of life, and more.

Since the last Annual General Meeting, the Notary Clinic has served 92 clients with 321 documents, saving the Community approximately \$33, 544.50 in notary fees. This year, most of the clinic's clientele have been Canadian Citizens (50%) and Permanent Residents (27%), with the remaining 23% as clients of other immigration status (work visa, student, etc.)


## IN 2023...



over **200** translations and over **80** interpretation requests completed in **23** languages

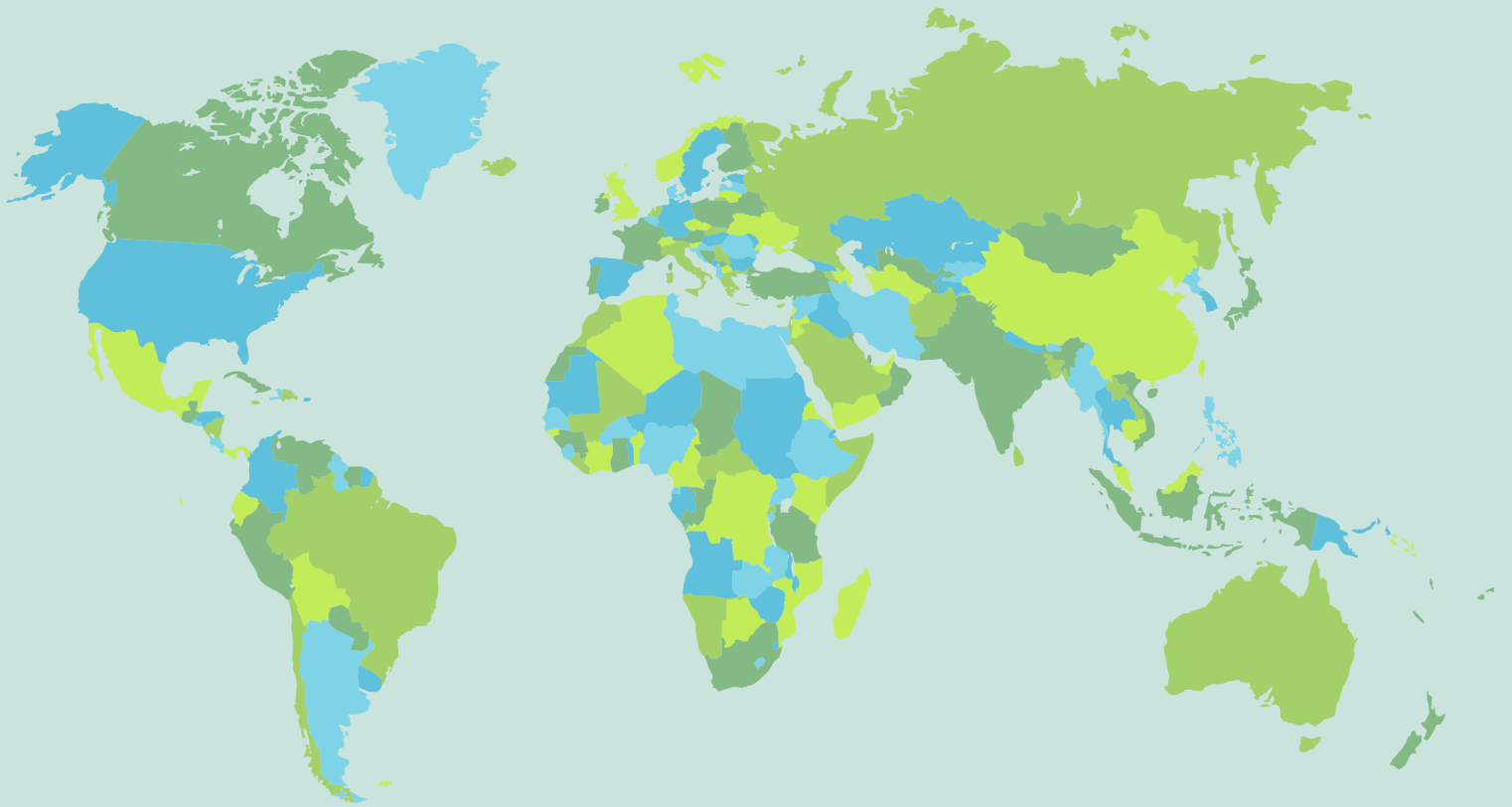


**41** newcomer clients were assisted through the **WELCOME CENTRE**



**321** documents were notarized for **92** individuals

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



- |               |           |              |                |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|
| Afghanistan   | Fiji      | Mauritius    | Singapore      |
| Bangladesh    | France    | Mexico       | Somalia        |
| Barbados      | Germany   | Morocco      | South Africa   |
| Botswana      | Guyana    | Namibia      | South Korea    |
| Cameroon      | India     | Nepal        | Spain          |
| Canada        | Indonesia | Nigeria      | Sudan          |
| Chile         | Iran      | Norway       | Sweden         |
| China         | Iraq      | Pakistan     | Syria          |
| Colombia      | Ireland   | Palestine    | Thailand       |
| Côte d'Ivoire | Italy     | Panama       | Ukraine        |
| Djibouti      | Jamaica   | Philippines  | United Kingdom |
| DR Congo      | Japan     | Russia       | U.A.E          |
| Egypt         | Jordan    | Saudi Arabia | Venezuela      |
| Eritrea       | Kenya     | Scotland     | Yemen          |
| Ethiopia      | Lebanon   | Serbia       |                |

2023

# INDIGENOUS & RURAL OUTREACH

The Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo works with various local Indigenous groups to help preserve cultural practices as well as to bring awareness and understanding of Canadian Indigenous Cultures.

## RED DRESS DAY - MAY 2023

On Red Dress Day, communities across Canada acknowledge and work to raise awareness of the ongoing crisis of violence towards Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit People. This day of acknowledgement takes place every year on May 5, typically by hanging a red dress outside, as in Indigenous culture, red is the only colour that spirits can see.

In 2023, The MCA hosted Red Dress Doll workshops at 2 different schools throughout the Wood Buffalo region to raise awareness about the above issues. In these workshops, 100 students made paper dolls wearing Red Dresses that were then hung outside in acknowledgement of Red Dress Day.



## FOUR DIRECTIONS JOURNAL WRITING

In 2023, the MCA looked to reach out to rural communities to bring access to wellness projects and awareness.

Throughout the year, MCA's Indigenous and Rural Outreach was welcomed in Conklin and Anzac to bring a four-directions writing workshop to the communities. This workshop focused on the concept that wellness can be seen as a subjective, multi-element that considers the physical, mental, social, emotional, developmental and activity dimensions that contribute to one's overall wellbeing. Participants of the workshop were given tools to reflect on their day-to-day life and emotional balance through journal-writing, which included the medicine wheel (or 4 directions). The workshops saw a total of 25 participants in attendance, and included mental health information sessions provided by CMHA North Zone.

## GUNA YOGA

In 2023, the MCA, in collaboration with Shantal Heskett of she achieve studio, went out to rural communities in Wood Buffalo to provide Yoga Wellness Workshops to the rural communities.

These workshops featured Guna Yoga, a form of yoga that has also been practiced in other cultures such as Taoism, Buddhism, and Hinduism. In these workshops, participants focused on mindful meditation to help learn techniques on bringing balance to one's life.

Four workshops were presented, with 2 sessions in Janvier and 2 sessions in Fort McKay throughout the months of August and September. The workshops saw a total of 20 people in attendance. All ages and levels were welcome to join, as these workshops focused more on meditation/relaxation yoga.

## ORANGE SHIRT DAY

September 30th recognizes the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada, also known as Orange Shirt Day, which is a now recognized statutory holiday by the Canadian government in order to raise awareness about the history and legacy of the the residential school system in Canada.

In acknowledgement of this day, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo hosted an Orange Shirt Day contest at 6 schools, where students between grades 3 - 5 designed a t-shirt graphic after learning more about Orange Shirt Day and the history of Residential Schools. The winner of this contest was Bernadette from St. Gabriel school, whose design was added to MCA's Orange Shirt. These shirts were made available to the public to wear for September 30th, and approximately 500 were sold via donation towards MCA's Indigenous and Rural Outreach programs.



## INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY

November 8th is recognized each year as National Indigenous Veterans Day.

This day is a day of remembrance in which we acknowledge and commemorate the many important contributions of Indigenous veterans in the First and Second World Wars, as well as the Korean War.

In 2023, the MCA acknowledged the contributions of Indigenous veterans by having a gathering of 220 local students from 4 different schools in the region. The event started with a Remembrance Day ceremony and was followed by an Indigenous Veteran's Day project where students created flags dedicated to 60 selected Indigenous Veterans. These flags were then made available for public display from November 8 until November 11 at the Fort McMurray Legion.





# 2023

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	400,237	466,697
Restricted cash (Note 3)	13,874	32,874
Accounts receivable	28,361	14,504
Goods and services tax receivable	9,002	7,383
	451,474	521,458
<b>Capital assets (Note 4)</b>	<b>24,163</b>	<b>29,477</b>
	475,637	550,935
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accruals	60,437	66,971
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	170,908	335,407
	231,345	402,378
<b>Commitments (Note 6)</b>		
<b>Net Assets</b>		
General fund	96,694	72,443
Capital fund	24,163	29,477
Internally restricted fund (Note 7)	123,435	46,637
	244,292	148,557
	475,637	550,935

Approved on behalf of the Board

signed by "Brian Fung"  
Director

signed by "Dango Gogo"  
Director

**Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo**  
**Statement of Revenue and Expenses**

*For the year ended March 31, 2023*

	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Municipal grant funding <i>(Note 5)</i>	539,910	539,910
Sponsorship and fundraising <i>(Note 5)</i>	204,215	14,598
Provincial, federal, and other grant funding <i>(Note 5)</i>	125,284	167,481
United Way funding <i>(Note 5)</i>	100,000	75,000
Cultural performance, translation and interpretation services, and training revenue	97,372	12,523
Program revenue	5,937	4,600
Casino revenue <i>(Note 5)</i>	3,541	6,028
Donations	1,930	95
Memberships	223	351
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>1,078,412</b>	<b>820,586</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries and benefits	595,219	586,554
Events expense	117,792	56,456
Professional fees	86,586	66,711
Advertising	46,506	36,864
Rent	33,464	24,262
Office supplies	30,175	28,826
Programming costs	26,332	32,763
Training	18,570	15,507
Amortization	8,978	9,487
Telephone	5,378	5,285
Insurance	4,489	3,975
Equipment rental	2,858	3,073
Travel	2,376	-
Bank charges and interest	1,544	1,978
Meals and refreshments	1,142	2,282
Donations	1,000	1,000
Bad debts	268	-
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>982,677</b>	<b>875,023</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>95,735</b>	<b>(54,437)</b>

**Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2023*

	<i>General fund</i>	<i>Capital fund</i>	<i>Internally restricted fund</i>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Net assets, beginning of year	72,443	29,477	46,637	<b>148,557</b>	202,994
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	95,735	-	-	<b>95,735</b>	(54,437)
Capital asset purchases	(3,664)	3,664	-	-	-
Interfund transfers <i>(Note 7)</i>	(76,798)	-	76,798	-	-
Amortization of capital assets	8,978	(8,978)	-	-	-
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>96,694</b>	<b>24,163</b>	<b>123,435</b>	<b>244,292</b>	<b>148,557</b>

**Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2023*

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Cash provided by (used for) the following activities</b>		
<b>Operating</b>		
Cash receipts from operations	900,056	906,973
Cash paid for program service expenses	(381,277)	(288,541)
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(600,575)	(595,629)
	<b>(81,796)</b>	<b>22,803</b>
<b>Investing</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	(3,664)	(13,203)
<b>Increase (decrease) in cash resources</b>	<b>(85,460)</b>	<b>9,600</b>
<b>Cash resources, beginning of year</b>	<b>499,571</b>	<b>489,971</b>
<b>Cash resources, end of year</b>	<b>414,111</b>	<b>499,571</b>
<b>Cash resources are composed of:</b>		
Cash	400,237	466,697
Restricted cash	13,874	32,874
	<b>414,111</b>	<b>499,571</b>

**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 set out in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook - Accounting, 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. Sponsorship revenue is recognized based on the term of the sponsorship contract. Program and services revenue is recognized when 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.

	<b>Method</b>	<b>Rate</b>
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.

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

**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.

**Financial instruments**

The Association recognizes financial instruments when the Association becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

**Arm's length financial instruments**

Financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in an arm's length transaction ("arm's length financial instruments") are initially recorded at their fair value.

At initial recognition, the Association may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any arm's length financial instrument at fair value. The Association has made such an election during the year.

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 excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

**Related party financial instruments**

The Association initially measures the following financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in a related party transaction ("related party financial instruments") at fair value:

All other related party financial instruments are measured at cost on initial recognition.

At initial recognition, the Association may elect to subsequently measure related party debt instruments that are quoted in active market, or that have observable inputs significant to the determination of fair value, at fair value. The Association has not made such an election during the year, thus all such related party debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

The Association subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market and all derivative instruments, at fair value.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of related party financial instruments are immediately recognized in excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses.

**Financial asset impairment**

The Association assesses impairment of all its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost. The Association reduces the carrying amount of any impaired financial assets to the highest of: the present value of cash flows expected to be generated by holding the assets; the amount that could be realized by selling the assets at the statement of financial position date; and the amount expected to be realized by exercising any rights to collateral held against those assets.

Any impairment, which is not considered temporary, is included in current year excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses. The Association reverses impairment losses on financial assets when there is a decrease in impairment and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognized. The amount of the reversal is recognized in excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses in the year the reversal occurs.

**Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2023*

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

**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.

**3. Restricted cash**

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

**4. Capital assets**

	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Accumulated amortization</i>	<i>2023 Net book value</i>	<i>2022 Net book value</i>
Computer equipment	51,012	30,823	20,189	24,950
Office equipment	19,727	15,753	3,974	4,527
	<b>70,739</b>	<b>46,576</b>	<b>24,163</b>	<b>29,477</b>

**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>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>
Balance, beginning of year	-	32,874	98,000	-	204,533	335,407	237,588
Funds received or receivable during the year	539,910	2,381	24,647	100,000	192,890	859,828	905,882
Revenue recognized during the year	(539,910)	(3,541)	(122,647)	(100,000)	(258,229)	(1,024,327)	(808,063)
Balance, end of year	-	31,714	-	-	139,194	170,908	335,407

**Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

*For the year ended March 31, 2023*

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**6. Commitments**

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

2024	9,002
2025	9,002
2026	6,001
	<hr/>
	24,005
	<hr/>

**7. Internally restricted fund**

During the year, the Board of Directors approved the use of internally restricted funds of \$12,034 (2022 - \$21,030) for the Expo event, \$7,254 (2022 - \$11,915) for the Financial Literacy Program, and \$27,349 (2022 - \$55,374) for operational expenses.

In addition, the Board of Directors approved the transfer of \$123,435 (2022 - \$41,297) from the general fund to the internally restricted fund. This amount includes \$15,974 (2022 - \$12,034) for the Expo event, \$1,915 (2022 - \$1,915) for the Financial Literacy Program, \$10,553 (2022 - \$nil) for Multiculturalism Day, and \$94,993 (2022 - \$27,349) for operational expenses.

**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. Comparative figures**

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with current year presentation.



# THANK YOU

## TO OUR SPONSORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Thank you all for helping us strengthen multiculturalism and inclusion in our community!