



MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrate | Educate | Integrate



**Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo**

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@MCA4WB



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[bit.ly/mcawb-YouTube](https://bit.ly/mcawb-YouTube)

# 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 inne wohnen.

### 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 हैं, 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 namin ang 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.






MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

**CELEBRATE**

**EDUCATE**

**INTEGRATE**





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**5**

## **Introduction**

Who we are  
Organizational Structure  
Strategic Plan  
Board and Staff  
Messages  
Year in Review

**12**

## **Our Work**

Services  
Programs  
Events  
Outreach

**22**

## **Finances**

2024 Financial Update  
Acknowledgements

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

## 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.

## Vision

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

## Values

**Diversity:** MCA celebrates the diversity of people from all over the world who live and work in the RMWB, highlighting multicultural contributions through our programs.

**Integrity:** MCA upholds integrity by ensuring all programs are run with honesty, accountability, and transparency.

**Inclusivity:** MCA fosters inclusivity by making sure people from all cultures feel welcome and supported with the resources they need to succeed in Wood Buffalo.

**Mutual Respect:** MCA promotes mutual respect, creating a welcoming environment for people from all backgrounds.



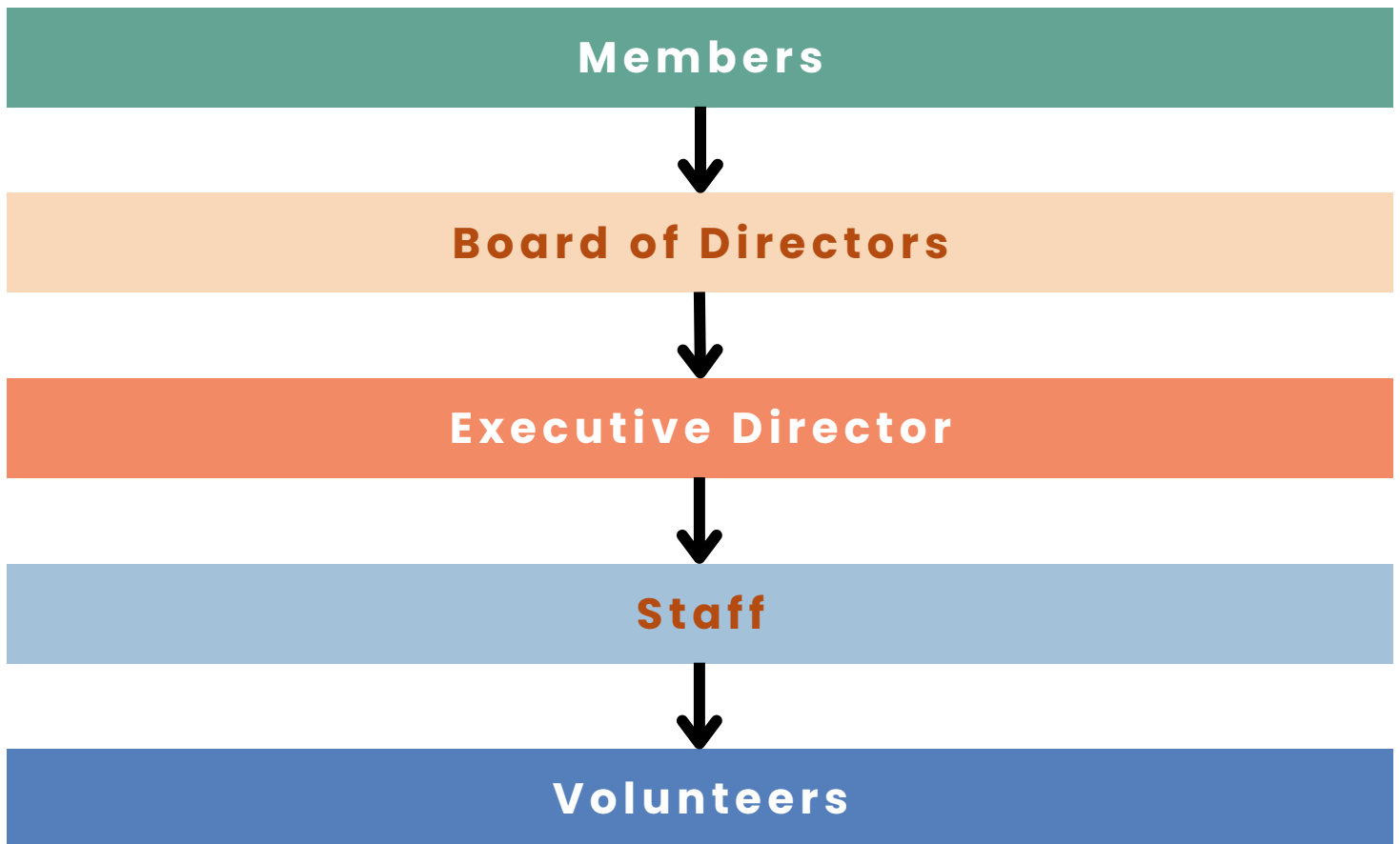
# MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

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 **3781** 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.



# 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



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## Staff and Board

### MCA Board of Directors

<b>Dango Gogo</b>	Board President
<b>Robert Cree</b>	Board Vice President
<b>Brian Fung</b>	Board Treasurer
<b>Annalee Nutter</b>	Board Secretary
<b>Purva Sharma</b>	Board Director
<b>Elliott Pierre</b>	Board Director
<b>Rene Wells</b>	Board Director
<b>Luis Gonzalez</b>	Board Director

### MCA Staff Members

<b>Shannon Lloyd</b>	Interim Executive Director
<b>Rasha Hassan</b>	Events Manager
<b>Aysha Kadour</b>	Welcome Centre Coordinator
<b>Aileen Adorable</b>	Projects Coordinator
<b>Precious Emelogu</b>	Language Services Coordinator
<b>Chase Gargus</b>	Communications Coordinator
<b>Taylor Aviles</b>	Programs Coordinator
<b>Alexandra Hurley</b>	Rural Indigenous Outreach Coordinator
<b>Rima Kadri</b>	Ella Tutor
<b>Fatima Omairi</b>	Ella Tutor
<b>XiaoXia Guo</b>	Ella Tutor
<b>Kamala Regulagadda</b>	Ella Tutor
<b>Kauthar Hemeid</b>	Ella Tutor
<b>Zaila Jama</b>	Ella Tutor
<b>Fatima Hamayed</b>	Ella Tutor
<b>Naimat Ayobami- Akanbi</b>	Ella Tutor
<b>Israa Hamid</b>	Ella Tutor







## Letter from the President

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (MCA), I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated sponsors, partners, volunteers, and staff. Your unwavering support and tireless efforts are the backbone of everything we accomplish. To the residents of the Wood Buffalo Region and every individual who has participated in or contributed to our programs and events, we thank you for your continued belief in our mission. Together, we are creating a community where diversity, inclusion, and rich cultural heritage are not just celebrated but woven into the very fabric of daily life.

This past year has been one of the remarkable achievements for the MCA. From hosting successful cultural festivals, workshops, and training sessions to expanding services that welcome newcomers and connect them with opportunities, I am proud of the impact we have made in fostering a more inclusive and vibrant multicultural community. Our work this year has been a powerful reminder that when we come together, our differences become strengths, and our shared vision of a truly multicultural society comes to life.

Guided by our 2022-2025 strategic plan, we made intentional strides in empowering youth, engaging newcomers, and collaborating with Indigenous communities. These efforts have laid the groundwork for even greater accomplishments ahead. As we continue to refine our practices and set ambitious goals, I am confident that the MCA will exceed our expectations and fulfill our vision for a stronger, more united region.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the future of this organization and the opportunities we can create for our communities. Our mission to promote equity, inclusion, and respect, remains at the heart of everything we do. Each year brings us closer to a future where every individual resident feels valued, every culture is celebrated, and every voice is heard and represented in our community. With your continued support, we will strengthen our impact and build a thriving, harmonious multicultural community in the Wood Buffalo Region.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.

**Dango Gogo**

MCA Board President



## Letter from the Executive Director



As I reflect on my time serving as the interim Executive Director of the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (MCA), I want to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to step into this role. It has been an incredible learning experience for which I am thankful for the trust placed in me to lead during this period. It is truly a privilege to have had the chance to contribute to the MCA in this capacity.

This year, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo experienced several significant transitions within our team. We celebrated our staff who took leave to grow their families and welcomed new faces to our organization who brought fresh perspectives, skills, and energy to our organization.

Through innovation, strategic partnerships and the unwavering commitment of our team, we have been able to maintain the critical services that support newcomers, foster cultural awareness, and create opportunities for meaningful community engagement. This year, we saw great success in our Financial Literacy and Indigenous Financial Literacy programs. Our staff conducted the programs in Anzac, Conklin, and Fort Chipewyan, from which a collective number of 55 Indigenous participants attended and received certificates of completion.

We also focused on our Interpretation & Translation department, specifically on growing our team and expanding the service to a larger audience. This year we recruited 11 new translators and interpreters combined and saw Slovenian added to our growing list of over 50 languages that we service. We reached out to new marketing strategies, such as promoting through video advertising, and have seen significant growth in clientele.

This year, we proudly enhanced our Cultural Awareness Training program, making significant updates to the curriculum to better serve our diverse community. To ensure these sessions are accessible, we expanded partnerships with local organizations, allowing us to offer even more sessions and reach new audiences. These collaborations reflect our commitment to fostering inclusivity, understanding, and respect across Wood Buffalo.

For the first time in several years, MCA also organized the Canada Day Pancake Breakfast, which was an outstanding success, bringing together over 600 attendees. We are deeply grateful for the insight and knowledge of our Indigenous community and the support of local Elders whose guidance has been invaluable in helping us infuse this, and all our events, with the spirit of reconciliation and unity.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff and Board of Directors, our generous sponsors and donors, our incredible partners, and the members of this vibrant community for your continued support. It is because of you that we can further our mission of fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment in the Wood Buffalo Region.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to advocating for fair representation and equal opportunities for all in the Wood Buffalo Region. Together, we will continue to promote unity in diversity, ensuring that every voice is heard, and every culture is celebrated.

**Shannon Lloyd**

MCA Interim Executive Director

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## Year in **Review**

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**8935**

**People Served**

**53**

**Programs/Events**

**78**

**Members**

**17**

**Partnerships**



## Interpretation and Translation Services

**“Fast response. Perfect customer service. All my questions were addressed properly in a very timely manner”**

Translation Services Customer

In 2024, our Interpretation and Translation (I&T) department facilitated over 200 translations and 90 interpretations. The top five most requested languages were Amharic, Arabic, Ukrainian, Spanish, and Dari. I&T has also collaborated with key organizations such as the YMCA, the Docket Court, and the Fort McMurray Public School District (FMPSD) to provide over 80 combined interpretation services. We are also excited to announce our partnership with the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Alberta (ATIA) to provide a Certified Translator Training Program to local multilingual individuals in the Wood Buffalo region. This initiative is designed to enhance the professional skills of linguists in our community, enabling them to offer high-quality translation services that meet national and international standards.

ATIA is the only member organization for Alberta within the Canadian Translators, Terminologists, and Interpreters Council (CTTIC) and is affiliated with the International Federation of Translators (FIT). Through this partnership, participants in the training program will have the opportunity to obtain certification that is recognized both nationally and internationally. Our aim is to certify over 20 local individuals through this program.

**in 2024**  
Over **200** Translations  
Over **90** Interpretations

### Most requested languages

**Amharic, Arabic, Ukrainian, Spanish and Dari**

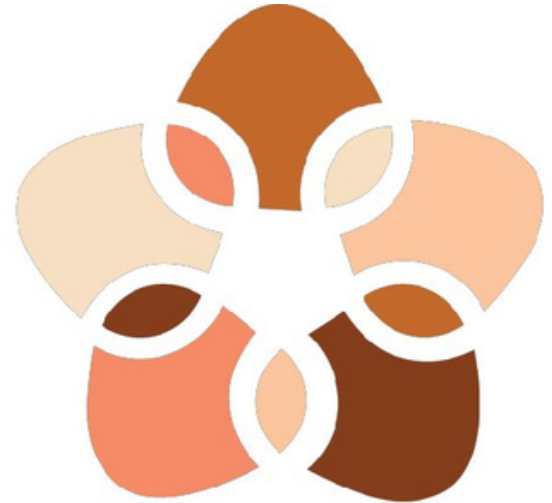
By expanding the pool of certified translators in the region, we hope to better serve the diverse linguistic needs of our community. We are currently partnering with the Cultural Interpretation Services for Our Communities (CISOC) to reintroduce our Community Interpreter Language and Interpreting Skills Assessment Tool (CILISAT) training program. This initiative is aimed at enhancing the professional skills of bilingual and multilingual individuals in the Wood Buffalo region, empowering them to serve as certified community interpreters. CISOC is a renowned organization dedicated to providing high-quality interpretation services and training programs across Canada. The CILISAT is a recognized testing system that assesses the language proficiency and interpreting skills of individuals in community settings. Our aim is to certify over 45 individuals through this program. By doing so, we will significantly expand the pool of qualified interpreters in the Wood Buffalo region, addressing the growing demand for language services in our increasingly diverse community.



## Welcome Centre

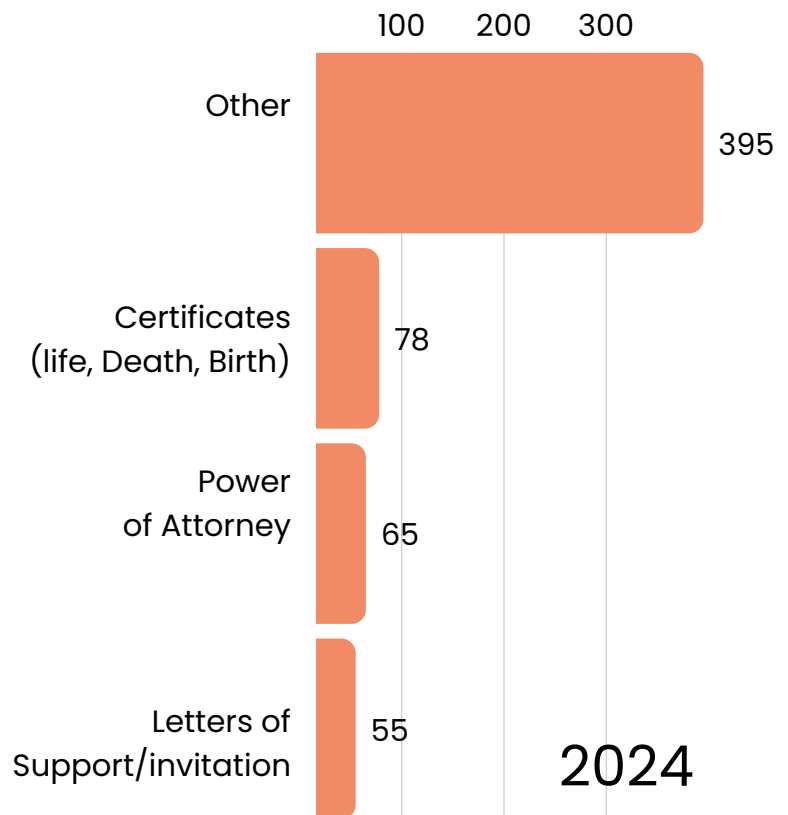
The Welcome Centre is a free resource center run by the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo and is designed to help guide newcomers with access, referrals and information on the various newcomer support services offered within the Wood Buffalo region.

In 2024, the Welcome Centre has served **50 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. Since the last Annual General Meeting, the Notary Clinic has served **183 clients** with **593 documents**, saving the Community approximately **\$59,300 in notary fees**. This year, most of the clinic's clientele have been Canadian Citizens (42%) and Permanent Residents (25%), with the remaining 33% as clients of other immigration status (work visa, student, etc.)



Distribution of Notarizations by Document Type



## Financial Literacy Program

**“Attending the Financial Literacy Program has helped me “big time” in dealing with my finances and the goals that I have set for myself and my family.”**

Ann Morehouse (Client Advisor and Entrepreneur)

In partnership with Jay Falcone, Prospero Financial Solutions Ltd, and RBC, the Financial Literacy Program is designed to equip individuals with basic and advanced financial literacy skills. The program is divided into levels 1 and 2, and covers a variety of topics from budgeting and credit to investments and real estate.

Through the Financial Literacy Program, individuals will gain knowledge in personal financial management and the Canadian banking system, which is especially important to learn as a newcomer to the region. However, many different individuals can benefit from the content in this course, as it serves to bridge gaps in financial knowledge and aide in financial planning.



“As the facilitator of our popular Financial Literacy Program, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of the students and MCA Staff for their active participation and dedication. This engagement and enthusiasm truly make the program a success! The best part has been witnessing the incredible impact it has had on all participants —empowering individuals to take control of their financial futures and make informed decisions. Together, we are building a more financially savvy community, and I am excited to see how each graduate of the Program will continue to thrive. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this journey!”

Jay Falcone  
Financial Literacy Instructor

## Indigenous Financial Literacy

The Indigenous Financial Literacy (IFL) program educates our Indigenous youth on basic and intermediate financial concepts, with a goal of closing the educational and financial gap faced by rural Indigenous communities. Concepts such as budgeting, credit, investments, and income tax are taught through the program, equipping students with knowledge that is crucial to navigating adulthood.

**55** Students completed the program

**3** Rural Schools Served



## Multicultural Cookery

The Multicultural Cookery Program offers a unique opportunity to explore diverse cuisines and cultures through interactive cooking sessions. This year, the program featured 6 exciting public sessions and 3 private sessions, showcasing Mexican, Venezuelan, Palestinian, Trinidadian, Egyptian, and Moroccan dishes. Over 100 participants joined the experience, learning to create authentic meals while gaining insight into the rich culinary traditions of these regions. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our community volunteers for generously sharing their cultural foods and knowledge, making this program a delicious and enriching experience for everyone involved.



## Cultural Awareness Training

**“I loved the videos and examples included. It was great to learn about different cultures!”**

Our Cultural Awareness Training (CAT) program strives to promote inclusivity and diversity within the community of Wood Buffalo. Through our CAT workshops, participants expand their knowledge on what it means to have cultural competency and gain practical skills to navigate our multicultural landscape. Organizations in Wood Buffalo can now also take our CAT program under the Workplace Inclusion Charter (WIC), which is part of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo’s (RMWB) commitment to promoting inclusivity in our community. Through our training, signatories simultaneously work toward their WIC goals and learn how to foster positive cross-cultural interactions within their organizations.

**10** Local organizations served

**80** Unique Participants



## English Language Learning Assistance Program

**“The teacher is so good and explains everything so I understand. He knows how to teach, especially those who are new and gives us positive energy.”**

ELLA Student  
Composite Highschool - Grade 10

Our English Language Learner Assistance (ELLA) program is designed to help newcomer youth students overcome language barriers and build confidence in their ability to communicate in English. The program works to build essential reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, which are vital to active participation in school and classroom activities.

There has been an overwhelming demand for the continuation and expansion of our ELLA program in Wood Buffalo, due to the positive response we have received from students, parents, and teachers. Through our ELLA program, students who regularly attended their sessions were noted by our tutors and the students' teachers to have made improvements to reading, writing, and/or speaking skills by the end of the school year. Students were also noted by our tutors as eager to learn and improve their English comprehension through our ELLA program.

**In the  
2023- 2024  
academic year**

**7  
Tutors  
Employed**

**8  
Schools  
Serviced**

**+300  
Students  
Served**





## Multicultural Expo

On February 3, 2024, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (MCA) hosted its annual flagship event, the Multicultural Expo, which celebrates the rich cultural diversity in the Wood Buffalo region.

The event featured a Parade of Nations with 52 participants from 33 countries, a Youth Talent Show with 14 acts from 30 youth, and 28 cultural performances by over 100 performers.

The event also featured 44 booths, including cultural cuisines and newcomer services, and welcomed 4500 attendees. We are deeply appreciative to our over 388 volunteers who contributed over 2,716 hours towards the events success and to our sponsors.



## Multiculturalism Day Festival

On June 1, 2024, the MCA proudly hosted its 3rd annual Multiculturalism Day Festival, welcoming over 2,000 attendees. The event celebrated diversity with 18 unique cultural performances, including 8 that were new this year.

Guests enjoyed 17 food and drink vendors and explored the Welcome Fair, featuring 15 organizations supporting newcomers.

Highlights included a vibrant cultural fashion show, henna art, face painting, balloon art, and a raffle for those in traditional attire. The first 50 attendees received swag gift bags, adding to the excitement. By fostering cultural awareness and connection, the festival continues to unite and celebrate the region's rich diversity.



## Canada Day Pancake Breakfast

The 2024 MCA Canada Day Pancake Breakfast was a resounding success, welcoming over 600 attendees to enjoy delicious pancakes and bannock in celebration of community. 50 families participated in a Canada Day Trivia Scavenger hunt and over 600 Canada flag and other MCA merch items were distributed. With the assistance of 6 dedicated volunteers and the invaluable support of community elders, the event fostered a spirit of reconciliation and unity. The elders' contributions helped emphasize the importance of coming together to honour Canada's diverse cultures and shared histories.



## Alberta Culture Days

The 2024 Alberta Culture Days was a remarkable celebration of diversity and creativity, with every workshop selling out! Attendees explored a variety of cultural expressions, including the vibrant Latin Dance led by Cecilia Sara, a dynamic Bollywood Dance Workshop with Munia Chatterjee, an expressive ASL Art by Lasha Barbosa, and insightful Indigenous Teachings from Elders Bernadette Dumais and David Cree. Each session offered a unique opportunity to engage with different traditions and foster understanding. We are deeply thankful to our talented facilitators, whose dedication made these experiences unforgettable, and to our community for their enthusiastic participation, making this year's Alberta Culture Days a resounding success. We extend our thanks to Arts Council Wood Buffalo and the Government of Alberta for funding these events.



## Speak Up Against Racism

In recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21st, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (MCA) hosted “Speak Up Against Racism” (SUAR) workshops across six regional schools. Led by Elizabeth Ly, founder of Power of Humanity Consulting, the workshops reached over 450 students, with each school hosting more than 75 participants.

The sessions covered essential anti-racism and empathy-building topics, including “The Bully and Bystander” on bullying dynamics, “Building Empathy and Nurturing Healthy Friendships” on fostering inclusion, and “DeleteHate” on recognizing and combating hate and bias. By encouraging students to recognize discrimination and embrace diversity, the workshops empower youth to build respectful and inclusive communities. Parents and guardians signed photography consent forms for students under 18.

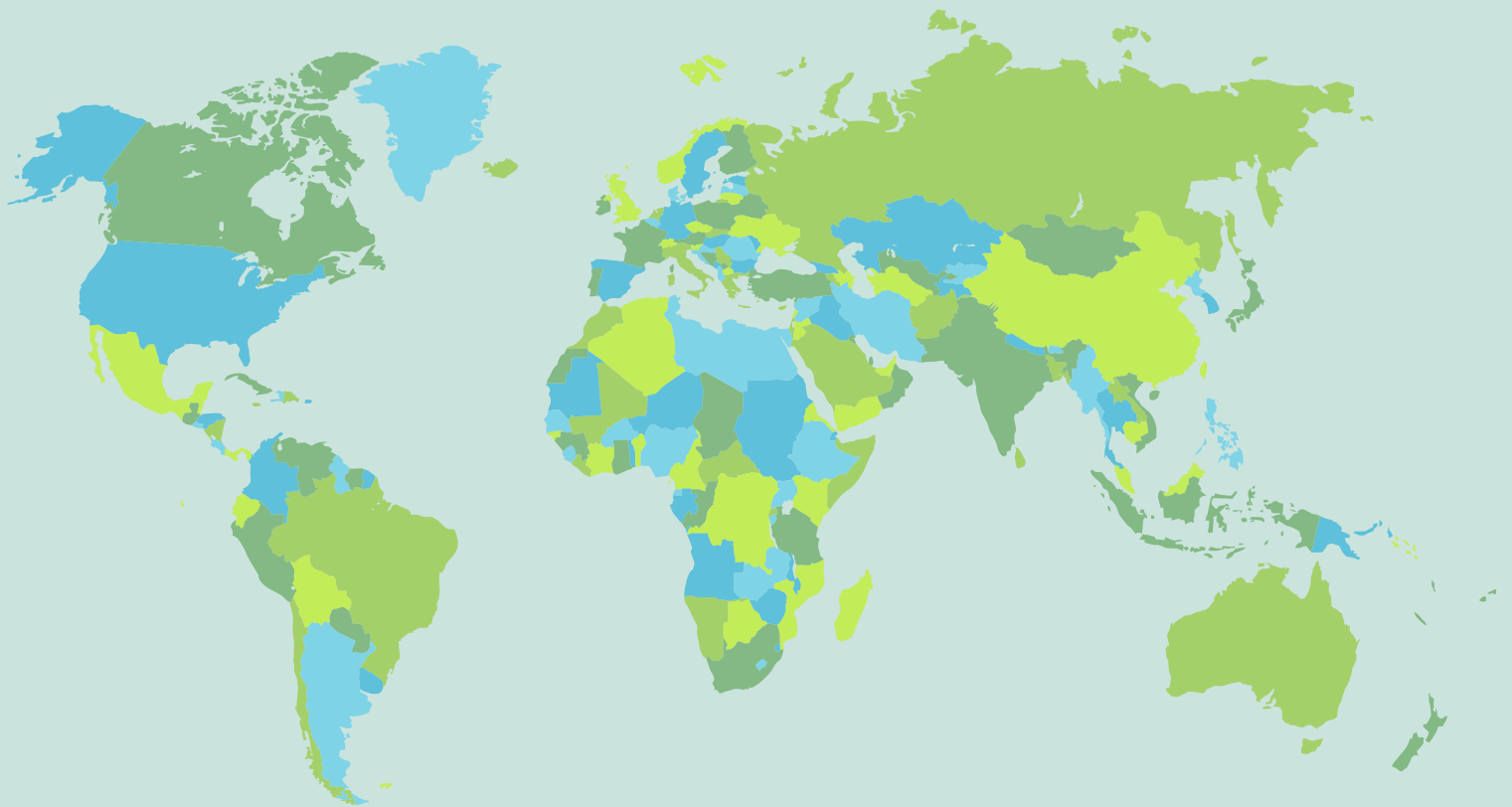


## Human Rights Day

On December 10, 2023, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo hosted its annual Conversation Café, marking the 75th anniversary of Human Rights Day. Held at Keyano’s Recital Theatre, this year’s theme, Youth Standing Up for Human Rights, featured speeches, a panel discussion, and a moving poetry presentation. Attended by 70 participants, the event provided a platform for youth to engage with dignitaries and experts, exploring their roles in safeguarding human rights.



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	Slovenia
Chile	Iran	Norway	Sudan
China	Iraq	Pakistan	Sweden
Colombia	Ireland	Palestine	Syria
Côte d'Ivoire	Italy	Panama	Thailand
Djibouti	Jamaica	Philippines	Ukraine
DR Congo	Japan	Russia	United Kingdom
Egypt	Jordan	Saudi Arabia	U.A.E
Eritrea	Kenya	Scotland	Venezuela
Ethiopia	Lebanon	Serbia	Yemen



## Rural Indigenous Outreach

The Indigenous Rural Outreach position is vital to the Multicultural Association’s mission of fostering inclusivity and understanding. This role helps bridge cultural gaps by connecting rural Indigenous communities with MCA programs and events and by ensuring that truth and reconciliation remains a focus of all of our events and initiatives.

## National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

In honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Alexandra Hurley, our Rural Indigenous Outreach Coordinator, led discussions with grade 5 students at Dr. Clark and Father Beauregard Schools about the history and impacts of residential schools. Students shared thoughtful responses on fostering inclusion, displayed on Every Child Matters trees. We thank the schools for their commitment to reconciliation.



## Indigenous Veterans Day

On November 7th, the MCA hosted 110 grade 4 students from Dr. Clark and Our Lady of the River Schools at the Fort McMurray Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion to commemorate Indigenous Veterans Day. The event featured teachings on Indigenous, and war history, a flag-making workshop, and a performance by the Wood Buffalo Singers. Special thanks to our Rural Indigenous Outreach Coordinator, the Legion, Military Museum curator Kevin Rogers, Indigenous Navy Veteran Shane Whitmore, and our sponsors, RBC and RMWB, for their support.



2024  
**Financial  
Update**

The Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo's financial landscape continues to evolve as we expand programs and funding streams to better serve our community. Baker Tilly RSG LLP has audited the Association's financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2024 and have confirmed that our financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the Association's financial position and operations.

The following pages include our Financial Statements, providing a transparent view of our fiscal health and accountability.

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

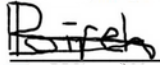
## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

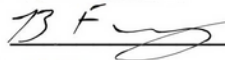
### Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 618,023	\$ 400,237
Restricted cash (Note 3)	36,399	13,874
Accounts receivable	106,877	28,361
Goods and services tax recoverable	6,459	9,002
	<b>767,758</b>	<b>451,474</b>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Note 4)</b>	<b>19,944</b>	<b>24,163</b>
	<b>\$ 787,702</b>	<b>\$ 475,637</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 32,030	\$ 29,940
Wages payable	41,557	30,497
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	462,911	170,908
	<b>536,498</b>	<b>231,345</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
GENERAL FUND	133,329	96,694
CAPITAL FUND	19,944	24,163
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUND (Note 7)	97,931	123,435
	<b>251,204</b>	<b>244,292</b>
	<b>\$ 787,702</b>	<b>\$ 475,637</b>

#### ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Year Ended March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Municipal grant funding	\$ 539,910	\$ 539,910
Cultural performance, training, and translation	216,313	97,372
Sponsorships and fundraising	105,753	204,215
United Way funding	117,230	100,000
Casino revenue	45,398	3,541
Program revenue	16,332	5,937
Donations	8,734	1,930
Provincial, federal, and other grant funding	5,150	125,284
Memberships	110	223
	<b>1,054,930</b>	<b>1,078,412</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and benefits	649,204	595,219
Professional fees	132,790	86,586
Events expense	79,587	117,792
Advertising and promotion	41,284	46,506
Office supplies	39,234	25,730
Rent	29,733	33,464
Programming costs	26,349	30,776
Travel and accommodations	17,135	2,376
Amortization	7,261	8,978
Training	5,926	18,570
Telephone and utilities	5,235	5,378
Insurance and licenses	4,603	4,489
Bad debts	3,175	268
Equipment rental	2,858	2,858
Meals and entertainment	1,402	1,142
Bank charges and interest	1,242	1,544
Donations	1,000	1,000
	<b>1,048,018</b>	<b>982,676</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 6,912</b>	<b>\$ 95,736</b>



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended March 31, 2024

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Internally Restricted Fund	2024	2023
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	96,694	24,163	123,435	<b>244,292</b>	148,557
Excess of revenue over expenses	6,912	-	-	<b>6,912</b>	95,735
Additions to property and equipment	(3,041)	3,041	-	-	-
Amortization of property and equipment	7,260	(7,260)	-	-	-
Interfund transfers <i>(Note 7)</i>	25,504	-	(25,504)	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	133,329	19,944	97,931	<b>251,204</b>	244,292

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Cash receipts from customers	\$ 1,268,417	\$ 900,056
Cash paid for program service expenses	(375,861)	(381,277)
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(649,204)	(600,575)
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	243,352	(81,796)
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITY</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(3,041)	(3,664)
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW</b>	240,311	(85,460)
Cash - beginning of year	414,111	499,571
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 654,422	\$ 414,111
<b>CASH CONSISTS OF:</b>		
Cash	\$ 618,023	\$ 400,237
Restricted cash (Note 3)	36,399	13,874
	\$ 654,422	\$ 414,111

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2024

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#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (the "Association") is a not-for-profit organization in the province of Alberta. The Association has a mandate to foster and promote equality, social justice, and institutional change. The Association encourages communities to share their cultures and grow together in Canadian life.

The Association was incorporated on July 19, 1985 under the Societies Act of Alberta. The Association funds its operations through government grants, contracts, and fundraising events.

#### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are the representations of management, prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPO). The significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the Association are as follows:

##### Revenue recognition

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

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 service revenue is recognized when services are delivered to the customer.

##### Cash and cash equivalents

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

##### Property and equipment

Property and equipment is stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization and is amortized over its estimated useful life on a declining balance basis at the following rates:

Computer equipment	30%
Office furniture and equipment	20%

The Association regularly reviews its property and equipment to eliminate obsolete items. The Association's policy is to capitalize assets when the useful life of the asset is greater than one year and the acquisition cost is greater than \$500. Contributed property and equipment are recorded at their fair value at the date of the contribution if the fair value can be reasonably determined.

##### Contributed materials and services

The operations of the Association depend on both the contribution of time by volunteers and donated materials from various sources. Contributed materials and services are recognized in the statement of operations when the fair value of donated materials and services can be reasonably determined and when materials are used in the normal course of the Association's operations and would have otherwise been purchased.

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

(continues)

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2024

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## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (*continued*)

### 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.

### Financial asset impairment

The Association assesses impairment of all its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost. The Association reduced the carrying value of any impaired financial assets to the highest of: the present value of the 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 the organization.

Any impairment, which is not considered temporary, is included in the 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.

### Measurement uncertainty

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 amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

## 3. RESTRICTED CASH

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

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2024

#### 4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2024 Net book value	2023 Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 52,770	\$ 37,174	\$ 15,596	\$ 20,189
Office furniture and equipment	21,011	16,663	4,348	3,974
	\$ 73,781	\$ 53,837	\$ 19,944	\$ 24,163

#### 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 contributions balance are as follows:

	Balance, beginning of year	Funds received or receivable during the year	Revenue recognized during the year	2024	2023
Municipal grant	\$ -	\$ 809,865	\$ 539,910	\$ 269,955	\$ -
Casino	31,714	49,894	45,398	36,210	31,714
United Way	-	133,852	117,230	16,622	-
Other funds	139,194	236,302	235,372	140,124	139,194
	\$ 170,908	\$ 1,229,913	\$ 937,910	\$ 462,911	\$ 170,908

#### 6. COMMITMENTS

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

2025	\$ 28,738
2026	27,238
2027	27,238
2028	27,238
2029	27,238
	<u>\$ 137,690</u>

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2024

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#### 7. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUND

During the year, the Board of Directors approved the usage of internally restricted funds of:

- a) \$15,975 (2023: \$12,034) for the Expo event;
- b) \$1,000 (2023: Nil) for Multiculturalism Day; and,
- c) \$94,992 (2023: 27,349) for operational expenses.

In addition, the Board of Directors approved the transfer of \$86,464 (2023: 123,435) from the general fund to the internally restricted fund. This amount includes:

- d) \$20,000 (2023: 15,975) for the Expo event;
- e) \$6,364 (2023: Nil) for the I&T Community Initiative;
- f) \$10,100 (2023: 10,553) for Multiculturalism Day; and,
- g) \$50,000 (2023: 94,992) 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 or liquidity risk arising from these financial instruments.

#### 9. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo

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MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

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Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo

## Cultural Awareness Training



MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### About the Training

MCA's 3-hour workshop will prepare you to navigate in today's multicultural society and excel in a culturally diverse workplace. You'll explore cultural values, identity, and effective cultural communication to help you thrive in our diverse community.



#### Empowerment

Gain the knowledge and confidence to navigate diverse cultural settings with ease, empowering you to build meaningful relationships.



#### Connection

Learn how to bridge cultural gaps and foster deeper connections with people from all walks of life.



#### Inclusion

Discover strategies to create inclusive spaces where everyone feels valued and respected, no matter their background.

To learn more, contact us for more information!



[programs@mcawb.org](mailto:programs@mcawb.org)



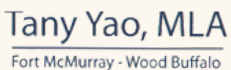
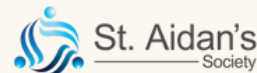
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**780-791-5186**

# THANK YOU

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