

Quarterly Newsletter

January- March

MCA Office Hours
Mondays - Thursdays

9AM - 5PM

MCA Office Closures
Monday, February 17

Fridays

9AM - 4 PM (by appointment
only)



IN THIS ISSUE

pg. 2 - 4 -- Upcoming MCA Events
pg. 5 -- MCA Programs and
Services
pg. 6 -- Cultural Awareness Facts -
Deaf Culture
pg. 7 -- Community Events
pg. 8 -- Community Resources
pg. 9- 11-- Multicultural Calendar
(January- March 2025)
pg. 12-- MCA Member Marketplace

“Diversity is not about
how we differ. Diversity
is about embracing
one another’s
uniqueness.”

—Ola Joseph



Artist Highlight: Lasha Barbosa

Lasha Barbosa, an artist, mentor, and advocate from Fort McMurray, Alberta, uses her creative talents to inspire others, especially within the ASL community. A brain tumor survivor and non-verbal adult, Lasha is dedicated to helping others overcome adversity

Feline Fantasia: A Tribute to the Parisian Salons

This piece symbolizes a celebration of art, culture, and diversity. "Feline Fantasia" not only pays homage to the cultural significance of art salons, as places where diverse ideas and artistic expressions were shared, but just as the salons of old brought together people from various walks of life to exchange culture and knowledge, this artwork invites viewers to appreciate the beauty of diversity and communication in all its forms.



Upcoming Events



MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
OF WOOD BUFFALO

2025
MULTICULTURAL
EXPO

MULTICULTURAL EXPO

EXPERIENCE THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF FORT
MCMURRAY AT THE LARGEST CELEBRATION OF
CULTURE IN THE REGION!

Feb 1st from 11am to 6pm - Come out to enjoy

Cultural Performances

Art & Fashion

Global Cuisine

Family-Friendly Activities

ONLY
\$5

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [MCAWB.ORG/EXPO](https://mcawb.org/expo)

February 1
2025

Syncrude Sports
and Wellness Centre

SPONSORED BY:



CNOOC



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

McMURRAY
REGIONAL LAW OFFICE



Volunteers Needed



HELP US
BRING THE
MULTICULTURAL
EXPO TO LIFE!

SIGN UP
[MCAWB.ORG/EXPO](https://mcawb.org/expo)



Upcoming Events

CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

Don't miss this **FREE** opportunity to enhance your cultural competency and learn valuable insights into navigating our diverse world.

January 21 - 9:00am to 12:00pm

February 20 - 9:00am to 12:00pm

March 25 - 1:00pm to 4:00pm

(20 Participants Per Session)

Room 1311 - Syncrude Sports and Wellness Centre
(9908 Penhorwood St.)

To register email: marie.weavers@rmwb.ca



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO



MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
OF WOOD BUFFALO



Registration Open

FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

More information at
MCAWB.ORG/FLP

LEVEL ONE: EVERY TUESDAY, STARTING FEBRUARY 11

LEVEL TWO: EVERY WEDNESDAY, STARTING FEBRUARY 12



Upcoming events

MULTICULTURAL COOKERY IS BACK!

Multicultural Cookery connects you with the diverse cuisines of our region. Join our monthly sessions to learn from your community members who are passionate about sharing their culture.

Next class will be held in February



March 21, 2025

International Day

**For The Elimination Of Racial
Discrimination**

We must stand together to protect and defend the rights of all individuals.

As humans, regardless of cultural race, background, colour, or other distinctions of any kind, we are all entitled to the same rights and freedoms. Let us come together today so that we can forge ahead a better and brighter future for all.

More information at
mcawb.org/speak-up-against-racism



MCA Programs and Services

NOTARY CLINIC for Immigrants

Upcoming Dates:

January 25

February 22

**Syncrude Sport & Wellness
Centre (Room 1312)**



Notary Clinic

The MCA offers a free Notary Clinic on the last Saturday of every month to help immigrants and newcomers notarize their documents.

The Clinic helps with documents such as

- Travel document applications
- Police record certifications
- Commissioning documents

And more!

For more details, please call us at **(780) 791-5186** or email us at welcome@mcawb.org. You can also check out our website at mcawb.org/notary-clinic for information on what to bring, what we can notarize, and other details.

Translation Services



The Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo offers translations of documents for **Individuals & businesses in over 45 languages**



Translate documents for **Legal, Medical, Business, Personal, Technical, Education, Material** and more!

Interpretation Services



Community Interpreters assisting individuals and businesses through cross-cultural communication in **over 25 languages**



Face-to-face or over-the-phone interpretation available



24 Hour Availability*



Certified Interpreters Available



MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
OF WOOD BUFFALO

**Interpretation &
Translation Services**

(780) 791-8960

iaandt@mcawb.org

Visit mcawb.org/language-services for more information!



Cultural Awareness Deaf Culture

Sign Language: A Rich History and Thriving Culture in Canada

Sign language and Deaf culture have a long and impactful history in Canada. In the past, Deaf communities were sparse and largely isolated. This began to change with the founding of Canada's first school for the Deaf in Québec in 1831, sparking the development of a rich and vibrant culture. Schools for the Deaf became hubs for connection, education, and the preservation of sign languages such as American Sign Language (ASL) and Langue des Signes Québécoise (LSQ).



Over the years, these institutions helped foster a sense of identity and pride, while Deaf-led organizations and events solidified a shared cultural heritage. Today, Deaf Canadians continue to celebrate their unique contributions to the country's cultural mosaic, advocating for the recognition and preservation of their language and culture.



"I truly believe American Sign Language is important because, from the beginning, when a child is born, if they learn ASL, they have full access to information"

- Christine Sun Kim

In the modern era, the Deaf community has made significant strides in advancing accessibility and awareness. Legislative changes, such as the formal recognition of ASL and LSQ in some provinces, and advancements in technology have improved opportunities for inclusion.

However, there's still work to be done. Individuals can support the Deaf community by learning sign language, attending cultural events, and advocating for accessible spaces and services. Engaging with Deaf culture is not only enriching but also a meaningful way to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society.



Community Events

Would you like your event featured in the next MCA newsletter?

Contact communications@mcawb.org to learn how!



MALANKA 2025

January 18th, 2025

The Fort McMurray Ukrainian Cultural Society invites you to attend their Malanka, or Ukrainian New Year's Eve, celebration. This vibrant tradition marks the start of the new year with joy, music, and community. The event will feature spectacular cultural performances, including traditional Ukrainian dance, music, and storytelling.



LEADERSHIP IS AN ATTITUDE January 21

Join Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development and Tourism for their Workforce Connect Series, featuring industry thought leaders and facilitated workshops designed for local employers. This series for local employers tackles key challenges like recruitment, retention, and resource awareness, while providing actionable insights and tools to support workforce needs.



Community Resources

Would you like your event featured in the next MCA newsletter?

Contact communications@mcawb.org to learn how!



ELL Conversation Group

Every Wednesday

The weekly English Language Learners (ELL) Conversation Group at the Wood Buffalo Regional Library is geared towards TFWs and other non-permanent residents (18+) who want the opportunity to practice and improve their English.

The focus is on speaking, reading, and writing, with a different topic covered at each relaxed and informal session.

No registration required.



Multicultural Calendar

January 2025

You can also find our Multicultural Calendar on our website at any time by visiting mcawb.org/multicultural-calendar!

Monthly Observances

- Disability Employment Awareness Month (USA)
- Women's History Month (Canada)
- Black History Month (UK)
- Latin American Heritage Month (Canada)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ✓ New Year's Day International ■ Independence Day Haiti, Sudan ▲ Gantan-Sai Japan, Shinto	2 ▲ St. Basil's Day Greece ■ Berchtold's Day Switzerland ■ National Science Fiction Day	3	4 ■ Independence Day Myanmar ■ National Ribbon Skirt Day ● World Braille Day
5 ▲ Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday Greece ■ National Bird Day	6 ✓▲ Christmas Armenia, Christian ▲ Epiphany Christian ▲ Three Kings' Day Christian	7 ✓▲ Christmas Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox	8 ■ Seijin No Ji Japan	9	10	11
12 ■ National Curried Chicken Day	13 ✓▲ Lohri Hindu, Sikh ■ St. Knut's Day Finland, Sweden ■ Mahayana New Year	14 ▲ New Year - Eastern Orthodox Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox	15 ✓■ Martin Luther King Jr. Day USA ■ Pongol India ■ Makar Sankranti India, Hindu	16	17 ■ World Religion Day	18
19 ▲ Timkat / Theophany Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox ▲ Sultán (17th Month) Bahá'í ■ National Popcorn Day	20 ■ Martyrs' Memorial Day Azerbaijan	21 ■ Makar Sankranti India, Hindu	22 ■ Anniversary Day - Wellington New Zealand	23	24 ■ Day of Unification Romania ● International day of education	25 ■ Thaipoosam Cavadee India, Mauritius ■ Robert Burns' Night Scotland, Ireland
26 ■ Australia Day Australia ■ Republic Day India	27 ● International Holocaust Remembrance Day	28 ■ Anniversary Day - Auckland New Zealand ■ National Lego Day	29 ● Lunar New Year	30 ■ Sadeh Iran, Zoroastrian	31 ■ National Hot Chocolate Day	



Multicultural Calendar

February 2025

You can also find our Multicultural Calendar on our website at any time by visiting mcawb.org/multicultural-calendar/

Monthly Observances

- National Indigenous Month (USA)
- Oct-Nov Iroquois Harvest Ceremony (Iroquois Indigenous)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ St. Brigid's Day Ireland■ Abolition of Slavery Mauritius■ Black History Month■ LGBT History Month
2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Imbolc/Imbolg Pagan, Wicca■ Groundhog Day Canada, USA■ Kitchen God Celebration China	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Basant Panchami Hindu■ Setsubun Sai Japan	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Independence Day Sri Lanka● World Cancer Day	5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Mulk (18th Month) Bahá'í■ Waitangi Day New Zealand■ National Chopsticks Day	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Independence Day Grenada	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Boy Scout Day Canada
9 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Carnival Parade Brazil	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ National Foundation Day Japan	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day) Jewish■ Lincoln's Birthday USA	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Pancake Tuesday UK, England● Kindness Awareness Week International	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Valentines Day	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ National Flag Day Canada■ National Day Serbia● World Argiculture Day
16	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Family Day	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Independence Day Gambia	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ ■ Family Day Canada✓ ■ Presidents Day USA■ Washington's Birthday USA■ Louis Riel Day Indigenous Canada	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none">● World Day of social justice	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Int'l Mother Language Day International	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Abu Simbel Festival Egypt■ Girl Guides Thinking Day Canada, USA■ Independence Day Saint Lucia■ National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Heisei Emperor's Birthday Japan	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Independence Day Estonia	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Intercalary Days (through Feb 28) Bahá'í■ People Power Day Philippines■ National Day Kuwait	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Pink Shirt Day	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Independence Day Dominican Republic	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ ▲ Losar (New Year) Buddhist, Tibet■ Anti-Bullying Day Canada■ Kalevala Day Finland■ First Day of Ramadan	



Multicultural Calendar

March 2025

You can also find our Multicultural Calendar on our website at any time by visiting mcawb.org/multicultural-calendar/

Monthly Observances

- Universal Human Rights Month (UN)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Chalanda Märs Switzerland■ St. David's Day Wales■ Baba Marta Bulgaria■ Independence Day Bosnia● World Day of Prayer International▲ Alá (19-Day Fast Begins thru March 19) Bahá'í
2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ World Teen Mental Wellness Day	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Clean Monday (Great Lent Begins) Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox■ Great Prayer Festival Tibet, Buddhist	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Shrove Tuesday Christian	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) Christian	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Independence Day Ghana	7	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Int'l Women's Day UN
9 <ul style="list-style-type: none">DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS International	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Independence Day Lithuania	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Girl Scout Day Canada, USA■ National Day Mauritius	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓▲ Purim Jewish✓▲ Holi Sikh, Hindu	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Hola Mohalla Sikh▲ Butter Lamp Festival Buddhist, Tibet	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Gahambar Hamaspathmaedem (15 - 20) Hindu■ Memorial Day Hungary
16	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ St. Patrick's Day Ireland	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Flag Day Aruba	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ St. Joseph's Day Christian	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none">SPRING EQUINOX International✓▲ Now Ruz (New Year) Afghanistan, Bahá'í, Iran, Islam, Ismaili, Zoroastrian● Day of the Francophonie International● International Day of Happiness■ French Language Day	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Poutuerangi Indigenous/Maori, New Zealand● Int'l Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination UN	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none">EARTH HOUR
23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">● World Meteorological Day UN	24	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Annunciation Christian■ Evangelismou Greece	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Independence Day Bangladesh	27	28	29
30 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Mothering Sunday UK, Ireland■ Last Day of Ramadan	31					



Member Marketplace

Community Resources and Organizations



United Way Fort McMurray & Wood Buffalo

www.fmwbunitedway.com
info@fmwbunitedway.com
780.791.0077



RMWB Pulse Line 780.743.7000



YMCA of Northern Alberta northernalberta.ymca.ca

**Immigration &
Settlement Services**
newcomers@northernalberta.ymca.ca



Wood Buffalo Housing wbhousing.ca info@wbhousing.ca 780.799.4050



Wood Buffalo Food Bank woodbuffalofoodbank.com ea@woodbuffalofoodbank.com 780.743.1125



The Hub Family Resource Centre thehubfrc.ca inquiries@thehubfrc.ca 780.743.9225



McMurray Regional Law Office www.donscottlaw.ca info@mcmurrayregionallaw.ca 780.750.9888



of Northern Alberta Girls Inc. girlsincofnorthernalberta.org 780.790.9236



Fort McMurray Airport flyymm.com 780.793.8979



Fort McMurray Public School District www.fmpsdschools.ca info@fmpsds.ab.ca 780.799.7900



KidSport kidsportcanada.ca/alberta/wood-buffalo/ woodbuffalo@kidsport.ab.ca 780.790.9236



CMHA - Wood Buffalo woodbuffalo.cmha.ca adminassistant@woodbuffalo.cmha.ab.ca 780.743.1053



Fusesocial www.fusesocial.ca 780.791.9333