

Quarterly Newsletter

January- March

MCA Office Hours
Mondays - Thursdays

9AM - 5PM

Fridays

9AM - 4 PM (by appointment only)

MCA Office Closures
Monday, February 17



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“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



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

February 1
2025

Syncrude Sports
and Wellness Centre

SPONSORED BY:



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO



Volunteers Needed



**HELP US
BRING THE
MULTICULTURAL
EXPO TO LIFE!**

**SIGN UP
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

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 Ressources

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	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	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 ■ St. Brigid's Day Ireland ■ Abolition of Slavery Mauritius ■ Black History Month ■ LGBT History Month
2 ▲ Imbolc/Imbolg Pagan, Wicca ■ Groundhog Day Canada, USA Kitchen God Celebration China	3 ▲ Basant Panchami Hindu ■ Setsubun Sai Japan	4 ■ Independence Day Sri Lanka ● World Cancer Day	5	6 ▲ Mulk (18th Month) Bahá'í ■ Waitangi Day New Zealand ■ National Chopsticks Day	7 ■ Independence Day Grenada	8 ■ Boy Scout Day Canada
9 ■ Carnaval Parade Brazil	10 ■ National Foundation Day Japan	11	12 ▲ Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day) Jewish ■ Lincoln's Birthday USA ● Kindness Awareness Week International	13 ■ Pancake Tuesday UK, England ● Valentines Day	14	15 ■ National Flag Day Canada ■ National Day Serbia ● World Agriculture Day
16 ■ Family Day	17 ■ Independence Day Gambia	18	19 ✓ ■ Family Day Canada ✓ ■ Presidents Day USA ■ Washington's Birthday USA ■ Louis Riel Day Indigenous Canada ● World Day of social justice	20 ● Int'l Mother Language Day International	21	22 ■ Abu Simbel Festival Egypt ■ Girl Guides Thinking Day Canada, USA ■ Independence Day Saint Lucia ■ National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
23 ■ Heisei Emperor's Birthday Japan	24 ■ Independence Day Estonia	25 ▲ Intercalary Days (through Feb 28) Bahá'í ■ People Power Day Philippines ■ National Day Kuwait	26 ■ Pink Shirt Day	27 ■ Independence Day Dominican Republic	28 ✓ ▲ 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!](http://mcawb.org/multicultural-calendar)

Monthly Observances

- Universal Human Rights Month (UN)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  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  World Teen Mental Wellness Day	3  Clean Monday (Great Lent Begins) Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox  Great Prayer Festival Tibet, Buddhist	4  Shrove Tuesday Christian	5	6	7	8  Int'l Women's Day UN
9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS International	10	11  Independence Day Lithuania	12  Girl Scout Day Canada, USA  National Day Mauritius	13  Purim Jewish  Holi Sikh, Hindu	14  Hola Mohalla Sikh  Butter Lamp Festival Buddhist, Tibet	15  Gahambaramaspathmaedem (15 - 20) Hindu  Memorial Day Hungary
16	17  St. Patrick's Day Ireland	18  Flag Day Aruba	19  St. Joseph's Day Christian	20 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  Poutuerangi Indigenous/Maori, New Zealand  Int'l Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination UN	22 EARTH HOUR
23  World Meteorological Day UN	24	25  Annunciation Christian  Evangelismou Greece	26	27	28	29
30  Mothering Sunday UK, Ireland  Last Day of Ramadan	31					

✓ Schedule Consideration

▲ Religious Day

■ Cultural/National Day

○ UN and International Days

*Bahá'í and Jewish days begin at previous sundown



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.**
girlsincnofnorthernalberta.org
780.790.9236



Fort McMurray Airport
flyymm.com
780.793.8979



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



KidSport
[kidSportcanada.ca/alberta/wood-buffalo/](http://kidsportcanada.ca/alberta/wood-buffalo/)
woodbuffalo@kidSport.ab.ca
780.790.9236



CMHA - Wood Buffalo
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