



MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Celebrate | Educate | Integrate





# TREATY 8 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## ENGLISH

The Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory. We honour and respect the history, languages, ceremonies, and culture of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people who call this territory home, and whose histories, languages, cultures, and traditions continue to influence our vibrant community. We are committed to reconciliation, respect, partnership, and learning from the rich cultures and histories that continue to shape the Wood Buffalo region.

## FRENCH

L'Association multiculturelle de Wood Buffalo reconnaît respectueusement que nous sommes situés sur le territoire du Traité no 8. Nous rendons hommage et exprimons notre respect à l'histoire, à la langue, aux cérémonies et à la culture des peuples des Premières Nations, Métis et Inuits qui considèrent ce territoire comme leur foyer, et dont les histoires, les langues, les cultures et les traditions continuent d'enrichir notre communauté dynamique. Nous nous engageons envers la réconciliation, le respect, le partenariat et l'apprentissage des riches cultures et histoires qui continuent de façonner la région de Wood Buffalo.

## SPANISH

La Asociación Multicultural de Wood Buffalo de manera respetuosa reconoce que estamos en el territorio del Tratado 8. Honramos y respetamos la historia, los lenguajes, las ceremonias y la cultura de los Primeros Pueblos, las personas Metis e Inuit que llaman hogar a éste territorio, y cuyas historias, lenguas, culturas y tradiciones continúan influenciando nuestra vibrante comunidad. Estamos comprometidos con la reconciliación, el respeto, la colaboración y el aprendizaje de las ricas culturas que siguen moldeando a la región de Wood Buffalo.

## UKRAINIAN

Мультикультурна асоціація Wood Buffalo з повагою визнає, що ми знаходимося на території Договору 8. Ми шануємо та поважаємо історію, мови, церемонії та культуру корінних народів, метисів та інuitів, які називають цю територію своїм домом, і чий історії, мови, культури та традиції продовжують впливати на нашу яскраву громаду. Ми прагнемо до примирення, поваги, партнерства та навчання у багатих культурах та історіях, які продовжують формувати регіон Вуд-Буффало.

## AMHARIC

ይህ የብዙ ባህልማህበር (MCA) የውድ በፋሉ እዚህ ትሪት 8 ግዛት እንደምንገኝ በታላቅ ክብር እውቅና ይሰጣል። የፈርስትኔሽን, መቲስ እና ኢንዩት ህዝቦች ታሪክ, ቋንቋዎች, ስነ ስርዓቶች እና ባህል በእክብሮት ክብር እንስጣለን።እዚህ ግዛት ቤታችን ብለው የሚጠሩት ታሪካቸው, ቋንቋቸው, ባህላቸው እና ወጋቸው ለኛ ንቁ ማህበረሰብ ተፅእኖ ማሳደሩን ይቀጥላል። እኛም በቁርጠኝነት ለእርቅ,ለክብር, ለሽርክና እና ለትምህርት ከሀብታም ባሕል እና ታሪክ ለውድ ባፍሉ ክልል በቀጣይነት መቅረቡን ይቀጥላል።

## 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.

## TIGRINYA

እዚ ማሕበር ሕብረባህልታት (MCA) ናይ ውድ ባፍሉ ኣብ ትሪት 8 ከም እንርከብ ብእክብሮት ኣፍልጦ ንህብ። ንናይ ፈርስትኔሽን, መቲስን ኢንዩትን ክብርታት, ታሪኽ, ቋንቋታት, ኣካባብራ በዓልን ባህሊን ብእክብሮት ክብሪን ህብ። ነዚ ግዝእት እዚ ገዛና ዝብሉ ታሪኮም ቋንቋኦም ባህሎም ልምዶም ኣብ ናትና ንጡፍ ማሕበረሰብ ይፀሉ። ንሕና ድማ ብተወፋይነት ንዕርቂ, ንክብሪ, ንሽርክነትን ንትምህርትን ካብቲ ሀብታም ባህልን ታሪኽን ብቐፃሊ ንዝባወጽበፍሉ ቅርጺ ምቅራጽ ይቅጽል።

## ARABIC

جمعية وود بوفالو متعددة الثقافات تعترف باحترام بأننا نقع في أراضي المعاهدة رقم 8. نحن نكرم ونحترم تاريخ، ولغات، واحتفالات، وثقافة شعوب الأمم الأولى (First Nations) والميتيس (Métis) والإينويت (Inuit) الذين يعتبرون هذه الأرض وطنهم، والذين ما زالت توارثهم، ولغاتهم، وثقافتهم، وتقاليدهم تؤثر في مجتمعنا النابض بالحياة. نحن ملتزمون بالمصالحة، والاحترام، والشراكة، والتعلم من الثقافات الغنية والتاريخ التي ما زالت تشكل منطقة وود بوفالو.

## URDU

ملٹی کلچرل ایسوسی ایشن آف ووڈ بیفالو احترام کے ساتھ یہ تسلیم کرتی ہے کہ ہم معاہدہ ۸ کے علاقے پر واقع ہیں۔ ہم فرسٹ نیشنز، Métis اور Inuit قوموں، جو اس علاقے کو گھر سمجھتے ہیں، کی تاریخ، زبانوں، رسومات اور ثقافتوں کی عزت اور احترام کرتے ہیں۔ یہ تاریخ، زبانیں، ثقافتیں اور روایات ہماری مشترک برادری کو مسلسل متاثر کرتی ہیں۔ ہم ووڈ بیفالو کے خطے کی ترقی جاری رکھنے کے لیے یکجہتی سے مفاہمت، احترام، شراکت داری اور ان کی تعلیم الشان تاریخ اور ثقافتوں سے بھیجنے کے لیے پرعزم ہیں۔



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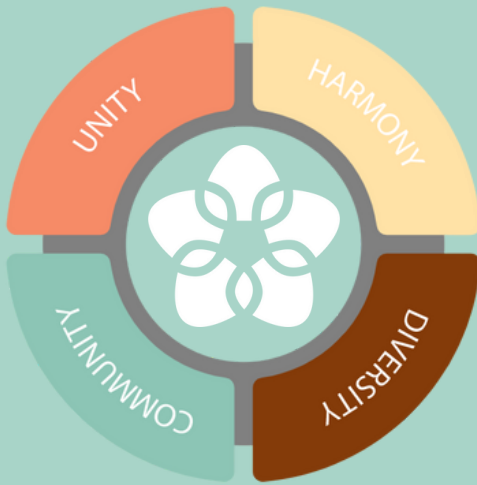
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# Who we are

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

## OUR VISION

### Wood Buffalo – Unity in Diversity

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

### 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

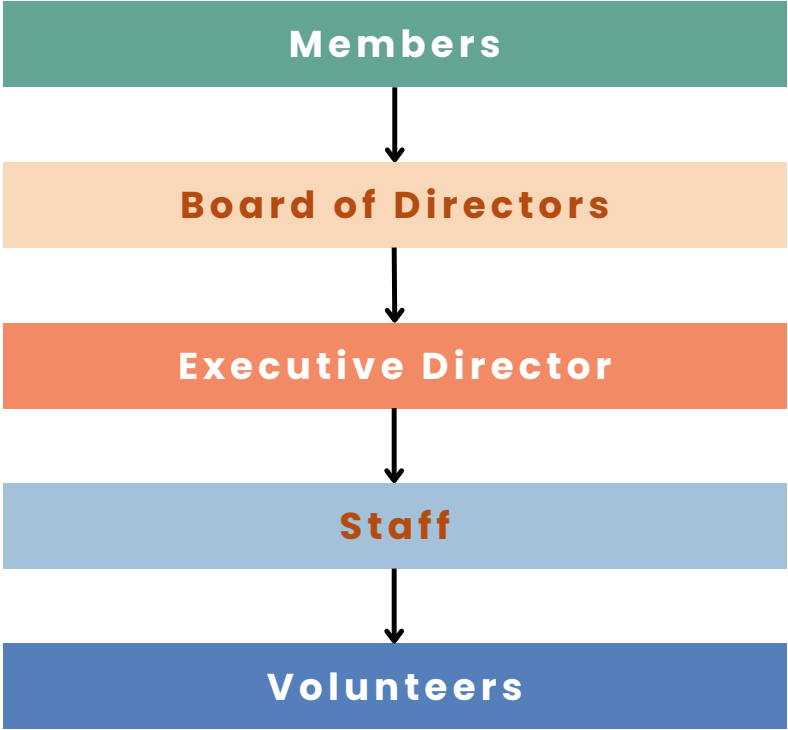
MCA membership is open to organizations (voting) and individuals (non-voting) to share the benefits of early-bird registrations and program discounts. MCA has an ever-growing member and volunteer base.

Since the last Annual General Meeting (AGM), we have had 2638 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 2025 - 2028

## 1 Connect & Strengthen Relationships with Regional Communities

- Increase and further develop anti-racism programs and training across multicultural communities
- Invite cultural groups from all regional communities to participate in programs, events, services, board meetings and presentations. This is to include rural communities such as Anzac, Conklin, Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay, Janvier, etc.
- Develop Multicultural Senior's Outreach Program
- Establish communications plan to ensure the public knows of MCA Membership packages and benefits
- Engage and connect with regional schools to promote multiculturalism
- Connect with all cultural groups within the region

## 2 Strengthen Rural Connections

- Continue Developing Indigenous Outreach services, programs and events such as the Financial Literacy Program for Indigenous Youth.
- Invite all cultural groups to participate in events, services and programs
- Encourage intercultural communication and collaboration between diverse cultural communities

## 3 Staff and Board Succession Planning

- Develop staff and board succession plans
- Establish board self evaluation and reflection
- Ensure new board members have access to board orientation, onboarding materials, and succession plans
- Continue current services, programs and events, and aim to develop more in order to encourage the celebration, integration and education of multicultural communities
- Continue regular staff evaluations, meetings and performance plans

## 4 Increase Funding and Find Resources for Operations

- Maintain and intentionally grow our funding so that MCA can continue to provide and develop more programs, services and events that can help to bridge service gaps in the community
- Provide accessible communications in order to build awareness of the MCA's unique programs, services and events to the community such as Language Services, Interpretation, Translation, Cultural Awareness Training, ELLA, etc.

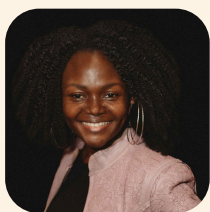
## 5 Establish the Welcome Centre as RMWB's main point of contact for newcomers to the community

- Communicate that the Welcome Centre is the initial point of contact for all resources and services in the region
- Establish new partnerships and strengthen current partnerships with local organizations, service providers, and cultural groups that can address newcomers needs.



# MCA STAFF AND BOARD

## Board of Directors



**Dango Gogo**  
President



**Robert Cree**  
Vice-President



**Brian Fung**  
Treasurer



**Annalee Nutter**  
Secretary



**Purva Sharma**  
Director



**Rene Wells**  
Director



**Elliott Pierre**  
Director



**Miranda Beaton**  
Director



**Luis Gonzalez**  
Director

## Our Staff



**Muna Ali**  
Executive Director



**Rasha Hassan**  
Events &  
Communications  
Manager



**Shannon Lloyd**  
Programs Manager



**Ashley Makey**  
Communications  
Coordinator



**Precious Emelogu**  
Language Services  
Coordinator



**Aileen Adorable**  
Welcome Centre  
Coordinator

## ELLA Tutors

**Rima Kadri**

**Xiaoxia (Grace) Guo**

**Kauthar Hemeid**

**Kamala Rao Regulagadda**

**Fatima Omairi**

**Taylor Avilas (April 2024 – March 2025)**

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This year marks a milestone of deep significance, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (MCA). Four decades of service, dialogue, and bridge-building stand as a testament to what can happen when people of different cultures choose to see one another not as strangers, but work and live together as neighbours.

As we reflect on this legacy, we do so with gratitude for the visionaries who established this organization in 1985, and for the countless volunteers, community partners, sponsors, and residents who have carried it forward. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend sincere appreciation to every individual and organization that has contributed to MCA's journey. Your dedication has strengthened our collective identity and sustained the spirit of cultural inclusion and integration that continues to define our region.

The 40<sup>th</sup> year is more than a celebration of the past; it is an invitation to renew our mission and vision. The work of cultural inclusion and integration is never finished. Each generation must reaffirm its commitment to equity, respect, and representation. As a Board, we have focused on ensuring that MCA's foundation remains strong, anchored in integrity, fiscal responsibility, and strategic foresight. We continue to prioritize good governance, leadership development, and transparent stewardship so that the MCA can serve the next forty years with the same courage and conviction that have guided us thus far.

With the adoption of our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, we are entering a new chapter that builds on this legacy. The plan challenges us to think boldly about the future, to expand our reach across cultural and rural communities, deepen our partnerships with Indigenous peoples, and strengthen our efforts in anti-racism education and intercultural understanding. The Board's role is to safeguard this vision, ensuring that the MCA continues to lead with accountability while remaining responsive to the evolving needs of our community. We will also continue to champion sustainability, not just financial sustainability, but the sustainability of purpose, leadership, and trust. Strong governance, transparent reporting, and thoughtful succession planning remain central to how we measure success. The MCA must remain not only a service and program provider, but a standard-bearer for fairness, empathy, and cultural inclusion in our region.

To our Executive Director and the dedicated staff, thank you for your passion and unwavering commitment. To my fellow Board members, your wisdom, diligence, and integrity are deeply appreciated. And to the residents of Wood Buffalo, thank you for forty years of trust, partnership, and shared belief in the power of unity in diversity. In the years ahead, we will continue to build bridges across cultures, deepen partnerships grounded in mutual respect, and create spaces where belonging is not just promised, but practiced. Together, we will celebrate our diverse cultures in Wood Buffalo with joy, educate each other with humility, and integrate with courage.

**Dango Gogo**  
MCA Board President



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable progress the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo has made as we celebrate 40 years of serving an increasingly diverse and dynamic region. Reaching this milestone has given us the opportunity to honour our history, recognize the strength of those who built the foundation we stand on today, and look ahead to the next chapter of growth and impact.. This year marked a meaningful turning point for our organization as we introduced our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, an ambitious roadmap that positions the MCA to respond thoughtfully and proactively to the evolving needs of our community. The creation of this plan was a collaborative effort grounded in the voices of our stakeholders, and it will guide our work as we strengthen regional relationships, expand newcomer supports, and deepen our commitment to equity, inclusion, and meaningful representation. Throughout 2025, our team worked tirelessly to deliver programs and services that reflect the values at the heart of our mission. Our Welcome Centre continued to grow as a trusted access point for newcomers seeking guidance, language supports, and community connection.

The expansion of our interpretation and translation services allowed us to reduce language barriers for residents across the region, while the ongoing success of the ELLA program reaffirmed the importance of early, accessible language support for newcomer youth. This year also brought significant growth across several of our core programs. Our Indigenous Financial Literacy Program saw an outstanding 147% increase in participation, allowing us to support more youth in rural communities as they built essential financial skills in budgeting, credit, investments, and income tax. We were equally encouraged by the continued expansion of our Cultural Awareness Training, which experienced a 71% increase in participation. Guided by community feedback, we strengthened and adapted the curriculum to better reflect the evolving needs and challenges faced by residents across the region. These successes demonstrate not only the impact of our programs, but also the community's deep desire for learning, empowerment, and meaningful cultural understanding.

None of this work would be possible without the dedication of our staff, the leadership of our Board of Directors, and the generosity of our partners, sponsors, and volunteers. I am deeply grateful for your unwavering support and belief in the MCA's mission. Your contributions allow us to continue building a community where every individual feels welcomed, supported, and empowered to thrive. As we look ahead to the next chapter, I am excited for the opportunities before us. Guided by our new strategic plan, we will continue strengthening our programs, expanding our reach, and creating spaces where cultural diversity is both celebrated and woven into everyday life. Together, we are shaping a future where the Wood Buffalo region reflects the richness, resilience, and unity of all who call it home.

**Muna Ali**

MCA Executive Director

# 2025

A year in

# Review

7100 people served

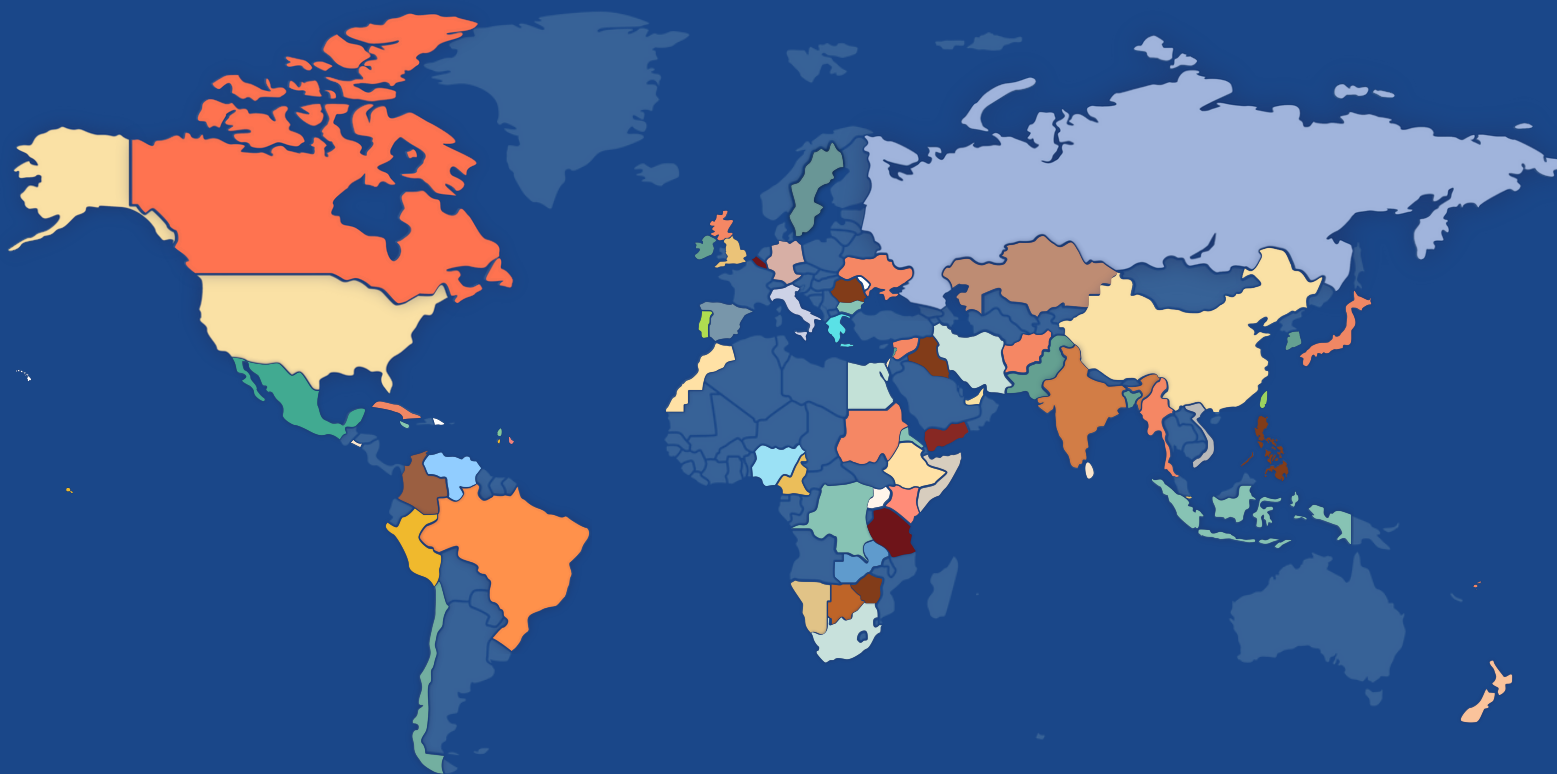
52 programs/events

78 members

17 partnerships

**In 2025, MCA's Programs, Events and Services have reached individuals and groups from the following countries/regions:**

Afghanistan	Cuba	India	Moldova	Scotland	Tahiti
Bangladesh	DR of Congo	Indonesia	Morocco	Singapore	Taiwan
Barbados	Dominican Republic	Iran	Namibia	Somalia	Tanzania
Belgium	Egypt	Iraq	New Zealand	South Africa	Thailand
Botswana	El Salvador	Ireland	Nigeria	South Korea	Uganda
Brazil	England	Italy	Pakistan	Spain	Ukraine
Bulgaria	Eritrea	Jamaica	Palestine	Sri Lanka	United Arab Emirates
Cameroon	Ethiopia	Japan	Peru	St. Lucia	United States
Canada	Fiji	Kenya	Philippines	St. Vincent	Venezuela
Chile	Germany	Khazakhstan	Portugal	Sudan	Vietnam
China	Greece	Lebanon	Romania	Sweden	Yemen
Colombia	Hawaii	Mexico	Russia	Syria	Zambia
					Zimbabwe





# SERVICES

## Interpretation and Translation

**“[The MCA] provided translation services for us and were professional, responsive, and thorough throughout the process. Their attention to detail and commitment to accuracy made the experience seamless, and the final product was excellent.”** – Jessica Lipton (YMM Airport)

In 2025, the Language Services department, also known as the Interpretation and Translation (I and T), facilitated over 200 translations and over 85 interpretations. Over 20 languages have been requested for translation and interpretation, with the top five most requested languages were Amharic, Tigrinya, Arabic, Spanish, Ukrainian and Somali.

The MCA continues to work towards expanding the pool of certified translators in the region and is always hiring local translators and interpreters across a wide variety of languages in order to better serve the diverse linguistic needs of the region. We are also excited to announce the finalization of 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.

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.

**in 2025**

Over **200** Translations  
Over **85** Interpretations  
**Most requested languages**

**Amharic, Tigrinya, Arabic,  
Spanish, Ukrainian and Somali**

The MCA is also continuing to partner 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.

At this time, 5 interpreters have been put through the CILISAT system are set to complete their certification by the end of 2025.

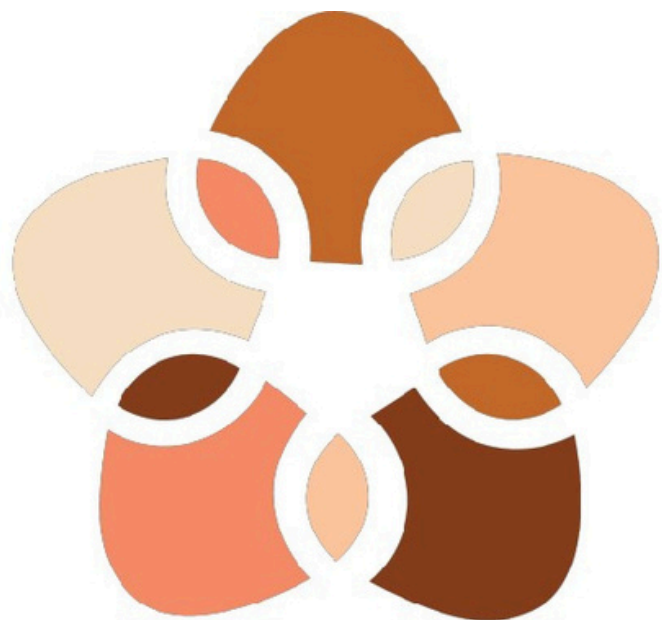
**“Very nice customer service and nice personality!”**

– Language Services Customer

**“Great service and pricing.”**

– Language Services Customer

# SERVICES



## Welcome Centre

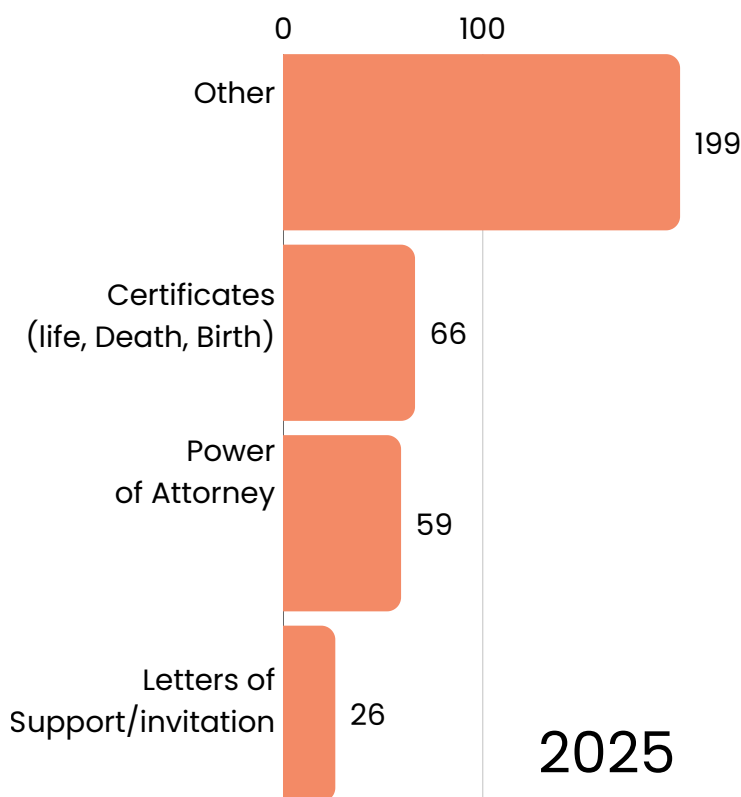
The Welcome Centre is a free resource center run by the MCA and is designed to help guide newcomers with access, referrals and information on the various newcomer support services offered within the Wood Buffalo region.

In 2025, 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, immigrants and low-income families in the Wood Buffalo region. This service is run in partnership with McMurray Regional Law Office, who help to provide volunteer lawyers that assist each client with notary needs. This service helps to notarize documents such as travel consents, police records, commissioning documents, witnessing visa applications, certified copies, travel consents, proofs of life, and more.

This year the Notary Clinic served 125 clients with 350 documents, saving the Community approximately \$24,320.00 in notary fees. This year, most of the clinic's clientele have been Canadian Citizens (49%) and Permanent Residents (23%), with the remaining (28%) of clients being of other immigration statuses (work permit, visa, student, etc.)



Distribution of Notarizations by Document Type



# PROGRAMS

## Financial Literacy Program

**"Even though I had a basic understanding of finances, with Jay's help, I was able to lay down a foundation for taking my finances more seriously. I can say with certainty this was one of my best decisions."**

Simon McKean (Maintenance Supervisor)

Each spring, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo hosts the Financial Literacy Program in partnership with Jay Falcone, Prospero Financial Solutions Ltd., and RBC.

This program is divided into two levels designed to educate residents on Canada's banking system and financing management at a basic, as well as an advanced level. Both

levels cover 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.



In 2025...

The **Level One** program saw **16 participants** attend **8 sessions**

The **Level Two** program saw **9 participants** attend **10 sessions**

## 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.

136

**Students  
completed  
the program**

3

**Rural  
Schools  
Served**

# PROGRAMS

## Multicultural Cookery

The Multicultural Cookery Program provides participants with the unique opportunity to learn more about culture through interactive cultural cooking classes. This year, the program featured 4 sessions, that saw over 50 participants learning to create authentic meals while gaining insight into the rich culinary traditions of Singapore, Canada, Mexico, Sweden, New Zealand, Scotland and China. The MCA extends their heartfelt thanks to 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 found that the workshop was well paced and informative, and the handouts were great!"**  
**"Thank you for taking time to show what changes are happening [in the world] and what there is available in Fort McMurray."**

The Cultural Awareness Training (CAT) Program strives to promote inclusivity and diversity within the Wood Buffalo community. Through CAT workshops, participants expand their knowledge of what it means to have cultural competency and gain practical skills to navigate various multicultural landscapes.

In 2025, the Cultural Awareness Training program was updated to reflect current issues and demographics in the Wood Buffalo region. Survey feedback was also taken in order to ensure that MCA is able to meet the needs of the community.

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.

17

**Sessions hosted in the community (public, partnered & professional)**

151

**Unique Participants**



# PROGRAMS

## English Language Learners Assistance Program

**"I like the way the teacher explains about details in English.  
It helped me a lot to increase my English level."**

ELLA Student - Westwood Community Highschool - Grade 12

**"I like the program because they help, teach, and help me to  
go through tough stuff."**

ELLA Student - Fort McMurray Islamic School - Grade 4

The 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 the 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 ELLA 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 ELLA tutors as eager to learn and improve their English comprehension through the ELLA program.

In 2025, the ELLA program helped to service 8 schools between 2 RMWB school districts. The program was able to see 13 students able to graduate out the the program, with one being a high school graduate.

**In the  
2024-2025  
academic year**

**5**

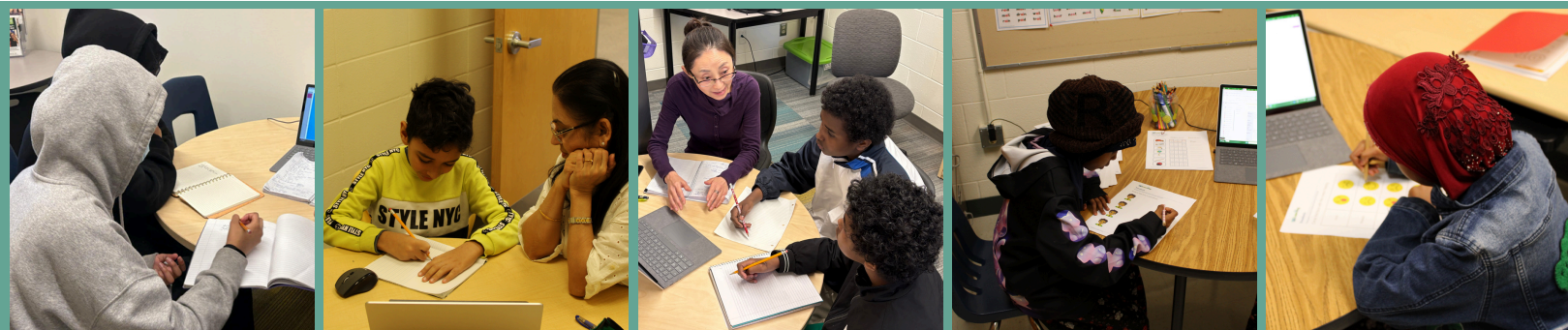
**Tutors  
Employed**

**8**

**Schools  
Serviced**

**174**

**Students  
Served**



# EVENTS

## Multicultural Expo

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (MCA) hosted its annual flagship event, the Multicultural Expo, a celebration of diverse cultures represented in the Wood Buffalo region. This year marks 14 years since the events initial launch in 2011.

This year's event featured a Parade of Nations with 55 participants from 30 countries, as well as 41 cultural performances that showcased over 144 performers from diverse cultural backgrounds.

The event also featured 50 booths, including cultural cuisines and newcomer services, and welcomed over 3500 attendees. The MCA is deeply appreciative to event sponsors, as well as the 181 volunteers who contributed 2,172 hours towards the events success.

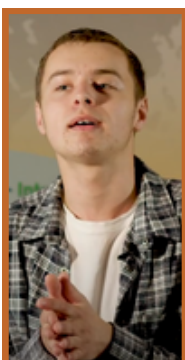


## Multiculturalism Day Videos

June 27<sup>th</sup> each year marks National Multiculturalism Day in Canada. Every year, in acknowledgement of the day, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo aims to acknowledge the positive stories of multiculturalism within the Wood Buffalo community.

In 2025, the MCA acknowledged Multiculturalism Day through 5 videos, giving 6 newcomers the opportunity to share their stories of migrating to Canada, the experiences they have had and what being a part of Canada and the Wood Buffalo communities mean to them.

These videos were aired from June 27 until July 1<sup>st</sup>, and can be found on the MCA Facebook page and YouTube channel.





# EVENTS

## Canada Day Pancake Breakfast and Parade

The 2025 MCA Canada Day Pancake Breakfast was a resounding success, welcoming over 2,000 attendees who were able to enjoy delicious pancakes and Bannock in celebration of Canada Day. The event featured 4 cultural performances, showcasing 20 performers from 3 different cultural backgrounds. Afterwards, members of the multicultural community joined the MCA in the Canada Day parade, handing out Canadian Flags, and multicultural stickers. With the assistance of 40 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

Alberta Culture Days is an annual, province-wide celebration of cultural heritage held in September. As part of this celebration, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo hosts their free *World Meets in Wood Buffalo* workshops in celebration of cultural diversity through creativity and artistic expression.

In 2025, MCA's Alberta Culture Days workshops were a resounding success, with majority of the workshops selling out within the first few days of announcement. Participants this year were able to enjoy 6 different cultural arts workshops, including Henna-Inspired Tote Bag making, Traditional Belt Leatherworking, Indian Jewellery, Filipino Tiklos Dance, Botswanan Dikwaere Dance, and Ethiopian Eskista Dance. Overall, the 2025 workshops saw 71 participants in attendance, who were able to be offered a unique opportunity to engage with different traditions and foster understanding.



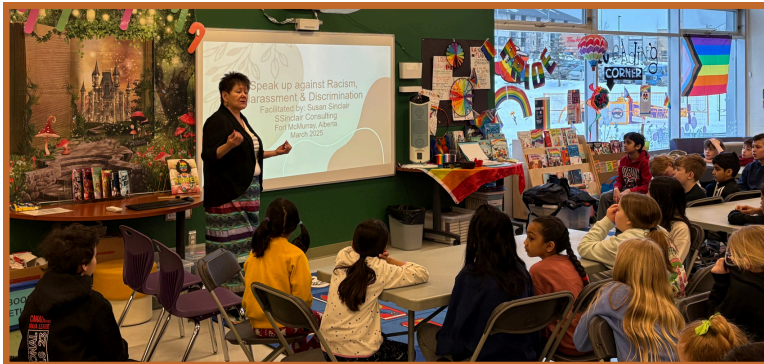


# EVENTS

## 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) hosts annual “Speak Up Against Racism” (SUAR) workshops to local schools across the RMWB. In 2025, six regional schools participated in these workshops. Led by Elder Susan Sinclair, the workshops reached over 450 students, with each school hosting more than 75 participants.

These workshops were hosted over two full days, and explored the holistic approach to personal growth with an emphasis on building self-esteem and life skills, learn how to use their personal power to resolve and prevent these problems, and how to find and use resources to respond to bullying and harassment, including cyber bullying.



## Human Rights Day

On December 1, 2024, in acknowledgment of Human Rights Day that takes place annually on December 10, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo hosted its annual Conversation Café, marking the 76th anniversary of Human Rights Day. Held in the Elements Room at Keyano College, with the 2024 theme of *“The Right to Physical and Mental Health”*, this event featured speeches, a panel discussion, and a moving poetry presentation. Attended by 50 participants, the event provided a platform for youth to engage with dignitaries and experts, exploring their roles in safeguarding human rights.



# RURAL & INDIGENOUS OUTREACH

## Rural Indigenous Outreach

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

## Indigenous Veterans Day

As part of the Rural Indigenous Outreach Program, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo hosted a community gathering on Indigenous Veterans Day to honour the courage and sacrifices of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit veterans. Held at the Syncrude Sports & Wellness Centre, the event brought together community members for an afternoon of reflection, learning, and shared remembrance. Elder Robert Cree and Kevin Rogers, Instructor at Keyano College and Curator of the Military Museum of the RMWB, shared powerful insights and stories that deepened collective understanding of Indigenous contributions to Canada's military history. Supported by RBC, the event emphasized the importance of ongoing dialogue and education as part of MCA's commitment to truth and reconciliation. Through initiatives like this, the Rural Indigenous Outreach Program continues to build meaningful connections and foster respect, understanding, and cultural awareness across the Wood Buffalo region.



# 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

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, 2025 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.



# 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

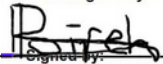
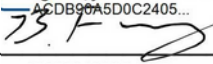
## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 665,846	\$ 618,023
Restricted cash (Note 3)	-	36,399
Accounts receivable	32,100	106,877
Goods and services tax recoverable	12,523	6,459
	710,469	767,758
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Note 4)	34,517	19,944
	\$ 744,986	\$ 787,702
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 42,243	\$ 32,030
Wages payable	31,531	41,557
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	439,391	462,911
	513,165	536,498
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
GENERAL FUND	172,006	133,329
CAPITAL FUND	34,517	19,944
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUND (Note 8)	25,298	97,931
	231,821	251,204
	\$ 744,986	\$ 787,702

### ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ President  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer

# 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Year Ended March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Municipal grant funding	\$ 539,910	\$ 539,910
Sponsorships and fundraising	103,148	105,753
United Way funding	79,089	117,230
Casino revenue	67,713	45,398
Cultural performance, training, and translation	44,140	216,313
Provincial, federal, and other grant funding	28,482	5,150
Program revenue	11,557	16,332
Donations	3,295	8,734
Memberships	1,721	110
	<b>879,055</b>	<b>1,054,930</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and benefits	565,821	649,204
Events expense	76,509	79,587
Professional fees	73,099	132,790
Office supplies	49,641	39,234
Rent	34,651	29,733
Advertising and promotion	29,750	41,284
Programming costs	20,221	26,349
Travel and accommodations	16,386	17,135
Amortization	7,803	7,261
Training	5,711	5,926
Insurance and licenses	4,573	4,603
Meals and entertainment	4,319	1,402
Telephone and utilities	3,544	5,235
Equipment rental	3,187	2,858
Bank charges and interest	2,223	1,242
Donations	1,000	1,000
Bad debts	-	3,175
	<b>898,438</b>	<b>1,048,018</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ (19,383)</b>	<b>\$ 6,912</b>



# 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended March 31, 2025

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Internally Restricted Fund	2025	2024
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	133,329	19,944	97,931	<b>251,204</b>	244,292
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses	(19,383)	-	-	<b>(19,383)</b>	6,912
Additions to property and equipment	(22,376)	22,376	-	-	-
Amortization of property and equipment	7,803	(7,803)	-	-	-
Interfund transfers (Note 8)	72,633	-	(72,633)	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	172,006	34,517	25,298	<b>231,821</b>	251,204

# 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Cash receipts from customers	\$ 930,312	\$ 1,268,417
Cash paid for program service expenses	(330,691)	(375,861)
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(565,821)	(649,204)
Cash flow from operating activities	33,800	243,352
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITY</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(22,376)	(3,041)
<b>INCREASE IN CASH FLOW</b>	11,424	240,311
Cash - beginning of year	654,422	414,111
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 665,846	\$ 654,422
<b>CASH CONSISTS OF:</b>		
Cash	\$ 665,846	\$ 618,023
Restricted cash (Note 3)	-	36,399
	\$ 665,846	\$ 654,422



# 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

#### 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 (ASNPO). 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 at the following rates and methods:

Computer equipment	30% declining balance method
Office furniture and equipment	20% declining balance method
Leasehold improvements	5 years straight-line method

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)

# 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

#### 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.

Examples of significant estimates include:

- providing for amortization of capital assets;
- the estimated useful lives of assets;
- the recoverability of capital assets; and,
- the recognition of deferred revenues.

#### 3. RESTRICTED CASH

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



# 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

#### 4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2025 Net book value	2024 Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 52,770	\$ 41,884	\$ 10,886	\$ 15,596
Office furniture and equipment	30,370	18,454	11,916	4,348
Leasehold improvements	13,017	1,302	11,715	-
	\$ 96,157	\$ 61,640	\$ 34,517	\$ 19,944

#### 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	2025	2024
Municipal grant	\$ 269,955	\$ 539,910	\$ 539,910	\$ 269,955	\$ 269,955
Casino	36,210	28,969	65,179	-	36,210
United Way	16,622	96,661	94,249	19,034	16,622
Other funds	140,124	79,432	107,845	111,711	140,124
Provincial and federal grants	-	38,691	-	38,691	-
	\$ 462,911	\$ 783,663	\$ 807,183	\$ 439,391	\$ 462,911

#### 6. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The ongoing operations of the Association depend primarily on the continuation of funding from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Approximately 61% (2024: 51%) of all recognized revenues are funded by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and as such, any contract changes with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo could have a significant impact on the Association's financial position.

# 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

## MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

### Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

#### 7. COMMITMENTS

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

2026	\$ 29,956
2027	29,956
2028	29,956
2029	29,956
2030	2,492
	<u>\$ 122,316</u>

During the year the Association entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Arts Council of Wood Buffalo for office space in a new facility currently being built. The lease will commence when the building is ready for occupancy and replace the current lease agreement. As of the reporting date, no estimated completion date has been provided and no lease terms have been set. Consequently, the annual lease payments of \$40,000 have not been included in the commitments disclosed above.

#### 8. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUND

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

- a) \$20,000 (2024: \$15,975) for the Expo event;
- b) \$19,653 (2024: \$1,000) for Multiculturalism Day;
- c) \$580 (2024: Nil) for I&T Community Initiative; and,
- d) \$50,000 (2024: \$94,992) for operational expenses.

In addition, the Board of Directors approved the transfer of \$17,600 (2024: \$86,464) from the general fund to the internally restricted fund. This amount includes:

- e) \$17,000 (2024: \$20,000) for the Expo event; and,
- f) \$600 (2024: \$10,100) for Multiculturalism Day.

#### 9. 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.



# Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo Interpretation and Translation Services

The **only** organization offering **CERTIFIED** translation and interpretation services in over **50 languages!**



**Parent-Teacher  
Interviews**



**Doctors  
Appointments**



**Passports**



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**... and more!**



MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

**Contact us  
today!**



[mcawb.org/iandt](https://mcawb.org/iandt)



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



**(780) 791-5186**

## 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)



[mcawb.org/CAT](https://mcawb.org/CAT)



**780-791-5186**

# THANK YOU

## TO OUR SPONSORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Canadian Heritage

Patrimoine canadien



Tany Yao, MLA  
Fort McMurray - Wood Buffalo



fusesocial



Culligan Water



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