



Community Report 2023

What does EMCN do?

We help newcomers to our community thrive in all areas of life – learn about life in Canada, learn English, find work, succeed in school, connect with community.

What does that mean?

What does EMCN *really* do?

- » We help people get settled and comfortable in their new home, everything from finding a place to live to getting kids enrolled in school to figuring out grocery stores and filing taxes. Whatever is needed to help people find their footing.
- » We teach people how to speak and understand English, in person and online.
- » We offer free and subsidized childcare to make it possible and affordable for parents and families to get settled, go to school or get job training, and look for work.
- » We help people get ready to find work by improving digital literacy, working on résumés, practicing for job interviews and connecting them with employers.
- » We help people understand Canadian culture and customs so they can feel comfortable and confident.
- » We help people struggling with their mental health with support from therapists who have specialized training in trauma and who speak multiple languages.
- » We help overcome barriers to success for the most vulnerable or marginalized within newcomer groups, like people whose health is impacted by trauma, women and girls, persons with LGBTQ+ identities, seniors, and persons with disabilities.
- » We help people connect with other folks in their community so they form networks of support in their new home.
- » And so, so much more.

Programs 2022/2023

» Settlement Services

- Settlement and Orientation services
- Complex Case Management
- Enhanced Settlement Workers in School (ESWIS)
- Rainbow Refuge (LGBTQ+)
- Edmonton Newcomer Zonal Outreach (ENZO)

» Language Services

- Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)
- Community-based English as Another Language (EAL)
- Advanced Consulting for Education TESOL (ACE Teacher Training)
- Care for Newcomer Children (subsidized childcare)
- Community-based Care for Newcomer Children
- Parenting & Literacy

» Employment Services

- Job Ready
- Constructing Futures (Project Management bridging training)
- Careers In Business
- Newcomer Essential Skills Training (NEST)
- Connecting Ukrainians to Employment (CUE)
- In Motion & Momentum+

» Therapeutic Services

- Counselling for Individuals, Children and Youth, Couples, and Families
- Crisis Intervention
- Equine Therapy
- Play Therapy

» Community Programs

- Putting Down Roots (Capacity building for Ethnocultural Community Groups)
- SKY Club (Skills for Kids & Youth)
- Civic Engagement by Newcomer Youth
- Safe Families (Family Violence Prevention)
- Immigrant Women's Integration Network (I-WIN)
- Global Girls
- Seniors' Conversation Circles
- Global Garden
- Wintergration
- Volunteer Services



EMCN Leads the Way

We like to try new things and be responsive to what our community needs. EMCN listens to the community members and advocates for innovative programs that make our city stronger.

Did you know?

- » EMCN offers multilingual, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed therapeutic and counselling services with no limit on number of sessions, including play, art, and equine therapy.
- » EMCN works to heal and empower individuals moving through crisis or facing systemic barriers to equity and inclusion, such as those impacted by trauma, women and girls, persons with LGBTQ+ identities, seniors, and persons with disabilities.
- » EMCN was the first Canadian agency to secure federal funding to develop a new Enhanced Settlement Workers in Schools (ESWIS) program. This program works with youth faced with complex challenges, including their parents, teachers, schools, and community supports in the process. EMCN's ESWIS service delivery model is being adopted by other agencies across Canada.
- » EMCN pioneered support for LGBTQ+ newcomers and refugees in Canada with our Rainbow Refuge program being the first of its kind in Alberta and only the third to start up in Canada. This has helped position Edmonton internationally as a community that welcomes people who are persecuted for their sexual orientation or gender identity in their country of origin.
- » EMCN created the **Recognizing Immigrant Success in Edmonton (RISE) Awards** in 2003 to celebrate immigrants' achievements, showcasing that Edmonton is a better place to live because of the contributions of newcomers.

Message from the Board Chair

Harman Singh Kandola, *Chair*

Helen Ngan-Paré, *Vice Chair*

Sunny Chattha, *Treasurer*

Daniela O'Callaghan, *Secretary*

Bin Lau, *Past Chair*

Dr. Jennifer Braun, *Past Chair, ex-officio*

Amina Abdille, *Girls on Boards Program Young Director*

Barry Andres, *Director*

Kirsha Campbell-Murray, *Director*

Don Douglas, *Director*

Paola Matallana, *Director*

Ejike Ohuegbe, *Director*

Allison Peters, *Director*

Dear EMCN Community,

This year has been a remarkable journey of growth, collaboration, and unwavering dedication to our mission of creating a welcoming and inclusive Edmonton.

First and foremost, my deepest gratitude to the Gupta family and Rohit Group for their incredibly generous gift. Their support has not only provided essential resources but they shared how it reaffirmed their belief in our vision and the importance of setting newcomers up for success. With their help, we are poised to make an even greater impact in the lives of those who have chosen Edmonton as their new home.

I also want to recognize the exceptional EMCN leadership team. Their commitment, expertise, and passion have been instrumental in driving our organization forward. Together, we have implemented innovative programs, forged new partnerships, and strengthened our support systems for newcomers. Their dedication is truly commendable, and I am grateful for the privilege of working alongside them.

As we celebrate our achievements, it is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to three exceptional board members. Bin Lau, our esteemed past board chair, has provided invaluable guidance and wisdom throughout their tenure. Don Douglas has brought fresh perspectives and a passion for our mission, making a lasting impact on our organization. Jennifer Braun, who graciously extended her term as an ex-officio member, has shared her expertise and dedication, leaving an

indelible mark on our work. We extend our deepest appreciation to each of them for their outstanding contributions to EMCN.

Looking forward, we are energized for the future of EMCN and for Edmonton. We will soon launch our new Strategic Plan, timed well as our city continues to attract newcomers from diverse backgrounds who we are privileged to welcome into our community. With your support, we are eager to expand our programs, foster meaningful connections, and provide opportunities for newcomers to thrive.

To our generous donors, dedicated volunteers, passionate staff, and supportive community members, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. You continue to build a city where everyone feels valued, respected, and like they belong here.

As we embark on the next chapter of our journey, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to creating a more inclusive and vibrant Edmonton. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of newcomers and contribute to a stronger, more welcoming community for all.

Thank you for your unwavering support.



Sincerely,
Harman Singh Kandola
Board Chair

Message from the Executive Director

Meghan Klein, *Executive Director*

Darryl Diletzoy, *Director of Finance & Operations*

Laurie Hauer, *Director of Programs & Services*

Melani Orr, *Director of People & Communications*

Cristina Wong, *Executive Coordinator*

Dear Friends,

We are rising strong! Post-pandemic, there is a resurgence of activity in our spaces while we also maintain virtual and hybrid programming. We've relocated our EMCN Refugee Donation Centre next to the C5 Food Market, launched new programs like the Culinary Skills Training Program and EmpowerHER, and provided support to evacuees from the Ukraine-Russia conflict through settlement programs and the Connecting Ukrainians to Employment program.

I deeply appreciate our leadership team, staff, and volunteers who are, as ever, the heart and soul of serving EMCN's mission. Thank you to our Board of Directors, with special appreciation to Bin Lau and Jennifer Braun, two Past Chairs stepping off our Board, and to Harman Kandola for his steadfast leadership as Chair and inviting us all into a bigger vision of what EMCN can become.

The community supports EMCN in many ways, and on behalf of our whole team, we thank our funders from all orders of government, community and family foundations, and employer partners who support our work.

Our donors have chosen to invest in strengthening inclusion and equity by supporting EMCN's work with diverse communities, and for this I am profoundly grateful. Our heartfelt acknowledgment also goes to

Rohit Group and the Gupta family for their exceptional gifts to EMCN. We are honoured to recognize this powerful act of generosity by renaming our 82 Street building to the Gupta Newcomer Resource Centre.

Looking ahead, I am excited to announce we will soon launch our next Strategic Plan, a bold vision for the role EMCN will play in fostering a diverse and inclusive Edmonton as a top choice destination for newcomers from around the world. By 2050, we expect 50% of Edmontonians will be newcomers. That is an energizing prospect. It's a future we're still preparing for and it's coming fast.

Together, we have positively impacted the lives of thousands of individuals and families. I am honoured to lead this remarkable organization and look forward to the continued growth and innovation of EMCN with your ongoing engagement and support.

When newcomers choose Edmonton as their new home, our whole community becomes stronger, healthier, and more vibrant. **Together, we thrive.**



With gratitude,
Meghan Klein
Executive Director

Rohit Group and the Gupta Family invest \$2.5 million in EMCN to support newcomers

“At Rohit, we believe in helping people feel better about where they live.”

In 2019, EMCN was growing and expecting to keep getting bigger. We moved into a larger office space downtown at 112 Campus, which we called Central. No sooner did we arrive, we were forced to leave, our stuff still packed in boxes, as we adapted to working from home when the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world.

About a year into our tenancy at 112 Campus, Rohit Group of Companies purchased the building. The Rohit Group was founded and operated by Radhe and Krishna and their son, Rohit Gupta. The company had a well-earned reputation for being a community builder in every sense of the word.

Rohit Gupta, who is now the President of Rohit Group brought an idea back to his family and their leadership team for an opportunity to do good in the community that would have ripple effects for years and decades to come.

They made the decision as a family and as a business to give an unconditional gift of hope and resilience to Edmonton's newcomers and the community as a whole: Rohit Group of Communities and the Gupta family generously donated \$2.5 million over 5 years to support EMCN's work with newcomers.

“The Centre for Newcomers represents a great partnership because it is foundational for us. It ties back into my parents being new immigrants, like a lot of our team members today,” said Rohit Gupta. “My personal belief is the better we can do to help people land softly in Canada, the higher the likelihood that we will create a platform to help them harvest the best out of Canada, and for Canada to harvest the best out of them and the relationship.”

This gift, spread across five years, allows EMCN to continue delivering programs and services, uninterrupted and unimpeded, so immigrants and refugees get support on the path toward a happy and successful life in Edmonton. Their gift enables EMCN to rise strong.



Gupta Family cheque presentation to EMCN with Mayor Sohi.

EMCN Names its Building the Gupta Newcomer Resource Centre

The gift from the Gupta family and Rohit Group offered EMCN the perfect opportunity to not only show our appreciation for this generous gift and also to name our newly-purchased building something meaningful.

Welcome to EMCN's Gupta Newcomer Resource Centre!



Building Mock-up



Radhe & Krishna Gupta

We All Have a Story that Shapes Who We Are

At the public announcement of their gift on March 13, 2023, in the newly named Gupta Newcomer Resource Centre, Krishna shared her story of coming to Canada as a young woman and the various challenges she faced and overcame on the road to being a successful business owner. Her husband Radhe beamed with obvious love and pride by her side as she shared her part of their story of being newcomers themselves, many years ago.

“The community has given us so much,” says Krishna. “We're so blessed to be able to give back in a variety of ways. That for me is the greatest joy of the business.”

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Arun Shourie and Harpreet Singh for giving the gifts of their expertise and support

Connecting Newcomers to Employment

1,526
Newcomers

Accessed employment services and helped nearly 400 people find employment last year.

406
Ukrainians

Connecting Ukrainians to Employment (CUE) program served 406 Ukrainians, and over 70% secured employment.

409
Job Ready Clients

Served 409 clients and 223 secured employment

100%
Program Completion

Newcomers Essential Skills Training (NEST) program served 44 participants in 3 cohorts, with 100% successful training program completion.

22
Graduates Employed

Careers-in-Business (CIB) program served 30 participants, with 22 graduates employed. Current cohort will end in 2023 and is the last CIB program with 15 participants currently in work placement.

84%
Program Completion

Constructing Futures program served 25 participants with 2 cohorts, with 84% successful training program completion.

Thank you to EPCOR for Building Hope and Strength

This year we had our first Hope and Strength Campaign, which raised \$118,000 to support refugees, including evacuees from Ukraine. People of Edmonton care a lot and we welcomed dozens of new donors to the EMCN family.

Thank you, EPCOR! Your generous matching donation was the catalyst for this upswell of community support.

\$118,000
Funds Raised to Support Refugees

Client Success Story - Connecting Ukrainians to Employment

“The program was helpful in helping me in securing my job at Altex Industries. But I got more from the program than the job. It isn’t easy to get a better job opportunity in Canada, even for qualified, educated people like me. I want to thank the people at EMCN. These people are very thoughtful, supportive, and helpful to us Ukrainians. This program helps us to get the job that they are qualified for more easily.” - Andriy (not his real name)



Andriy (not his real name) came to Canada from Ukraine in January 2023. Andriy speaks and writes English fluently and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Manufacturing Engineering with more than ten years of work experience in manufacturing and data analysis.

Andriy came to EMCN’s Connecting Ukrainians to Employment (CUE) program because he needed to get a ‘survival’ job—a job to address the immediate financial needs of his family. His wife is learning English in a Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) program and his two children are in school.

In addition to looking for support in updating his résumé and searching for a job, Andriy was curious to learn more about the Alberta labour market, networking, how to

conduct a job search, safety courses, how to prepare an impressive ‘Alberta standard’ cover letter, and how to put his best foot forward in Canadian workplace culture. An Employment Counselor in the CUE team discussed Andriy’s experience, interests, and employment goals, and helped connect him to other job search and upskilling resources.

Andriy is optimistic, open, and proactive. When looking for work he searched for a role that would allow him to meet his family’s basic needs while also utilizing his skills and talents. With a newly revised résumé, the CUE Employment Placement Specialist helped Andriy apply to HelloFresh (Altex Industries). He was hired as a Production Supervisor and has been working full-time since February 7, 2023.

Building Community

Global Garden:

- +** 53 unique individuals (23 garden members, 30 participants in larger group events) took part in 52 sessions/activities
- +** Harvest surpassed expectations in 2022, and included vegetables, herbs, and flowers. For many gardeners, produce from the garden supplemented their usual grocery purchases and helped lower their food expenses. A few of them even had enough produce to share with neighbours and friends.



Global Garden successfully carried out its 6th growing season overall, and 4th in partnership with Edmonton Urban Farm.

Global Girls:

- +** 38 unique individuals took part in 33 sessions/activities

Immigrant Women's Integration Network (I-WIN)

- +** Served 168 clients
- +** Offered 252 sessions in virtual and hybrid formats

Putting Down Roots – Ethnocultural Capacity Building:

- +** 82 unique individuals (community leaders and members) from 15 ethno-cultural community groups took part in 36 meetings/workshops

English Language Learning Adventures

- 38 Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) classes
- 13 Community English as Another Language (EAL) classes
- 1,057 unique learners
- 23,000 instructional hours
- 378 graduates
- 55% of our LINC learners are refugees
- Opened 2 new ECALA classes and 4 new LINC classes

Care for Newcomer Children (CNC) in-house and community-based

- Partnered with 94 daycares
- CNC clients - onsite: 70 children, 62 parents
- CNC clients - online: 15 children, 13 parents
- Community Based CNC – 468 children and 289 parents.
- Community Based CNC – of the 289 clients we helped, over 96% were females. This highlights the significant role we played in supporting women and addressing their childcare needs within our community.
- Community-Based CNC – We proudly served families from 33 different countries and with 19 different languages, catering to their unique cultural backgrounds and experiences.

ACE TESOL Certificate Course

- 1 course held
- Supported 6 practicum student teachers

Creating a home in Edmonton

01. Settlement Services has served more than 700 Ukrainian clients within 8 months that arrived through Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET).

02. Conducted 3,894 assessments – that help us better understand clients' strengths and needs.

03. Provided settlement information and orientations for 3,013 clients over 3,535 sessions.

04. 445 clients referred to the Christmas Bureau – 22% of them were Ukrainians

05. 174 tax filings submitted for clients – 53% of clients supported filed their taxes for the first time



It Takes a Community of Support: Navigating School as a Refugee with Physical and Cognitive Impairments



In 2018, with his parents and seven siblings, Tariq (not his real name) came to Canada via Lebanon, originally from Syria. While living in Lebanon as a young boy, Tariq was hit by a car, a severe accident causing permanent physical and cognitive damage. Tariq required assistance with his daily life like getting dressed and navigating stairs. He also needed constant supervision—another fall could be detrimental.

Tariq had no formal education before coming to Canada. This made his transition to Canadian high school and society very challenging.

In 2022, EMCN received a referral and a social worker from the ESWIS team met the family and Tariq. We supported the family through language and cultural interpretation; guidance on how to navigate the systems and processes

associated with school and supports for disabilities; educated the family how to advocate for Tariq's needs, and directed the family to community resources.

We facilitated communications between the Community Learning Skills (CLS) program in school and supported Tariq's family with the help of an Arabic interpreter. Throughout the year, the ESWIS team was there, communicating with Tariq's family, the school, and the bussing company, providing school supplies and transportation for Tariq.

In the beginning, Tariq's transition to the new school and CLS program was hard. We continued convening meetings with the family, teachers, and interpreter, as well as arranging visits for Tariq's father to attend and observe Tariq's classes in action. ESWIS home visits continued too, and finally, Tariq arrived home with a smile on his face.

Now that Tariq is in the right learning environment, Tariq will continue the CLS program until 2025. Our ESWIS team has equipped the family with an understanding of the resources that will help transition Tariq to adulthood. Tariq feels comfortable and, most importantly, happy, and his family is more relaxed knowing that they are not alone.

Breaking Stigma: Embracing Therapy and Finding Strength

Client Testimonial – Psychotherapy



"EMCN has been a rock for many immigrants, and I am privileged to be one of its many beneficiaries.

Therapy is not something people like me of African descent embrace - especially with the stigma attached based on our beliefs. Today, I am empowered and an advocate of getting therapy especially one as tailored as I have enjoyed with EMCN Therapy services. It has been a journey but one I would take again knowing I would come up the other end a better version of myself.

To my therapist: Thank you for seeing and hearing me. You have a unique way of always making me see the positive

side to things without downplaying the reality. My belief of therapy prior to meeting you was the client reclining in a chair while the therapist took notes but that was not the experience I had. You were hands-on, literally on my journey with me whether it meant going to court with me, school meetings, taking challenging elevator rides, taking calls off your work hours, reading me stories, gifting me a rock, or even reminding me to breathe!

Suffice to say this is the most support I have gotten from any one person- Thank you for all you do!"

Therapeutic Services

Served 980 clients:

645

were female

280

were male

55

were LGBTQ+

40%

were children/youth

693 Ukrainian clients were supported since July 2022



Learning Through Play

We worked with two groups of University of Alberta Play Leadership Community-Services Learning students over the winter. They created and facilitated play activities for children to help foster social and emotional development for the children.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers!

Donation Centre

Alain	Humura	Marien	Raichs
Anzelane	Songa	Mark	Shields
Barbara	Lyon	Moe	Davis
Braedyn	Brosda	Nadia and co-worker	Subryan
Busayo	Ogunsola-Adebanjo	Navalpreet	Kaur
Carina		Norma	Crispin Martinez
Charles	Ingles	Peace Buaba	
Cindy	Hunt	Rahma	Isse
Corrine	Sumka	Reshma	
Dianne	Davis	Ricky	Sommerfeld
Dorothy	Nabuuma	Roopjeet	Warring
Faysal	Bello	Roy	McDiarmid
Hanifah		Ryan	Scott
Harkirat	Singh	Sevina	Cardinal
Harpreet	Kaur	Shahla	
Hassina		Shelley	Corcoran
Henry	Heidebrecht	Shelly	Kucway
Holly	Jackson	Sneha	Pathrose
Jacqueline (Jacky)	Zapanta	Tien	Vu
Jaskaran	Singh	Vasu	
Jemila (Jameela)	Essa	Wendy	Mather
Jinbo		Yannick	Rouette
Joel	Corcoran	TD Group	
John	Marion	Stantec Group	
Jose	Garcia	Beulah Alliance Church Group	
Juvilyn	Douglas	Ashif	Mawji
Katherine		Zainul	Mawji
Kseniia	Smyrnova	TELUS	
Kyle	Sahuri		
Lilly	Laventure		
Linda	Schartner		
Lorraine	Reed		
Lynne	Heidebrecht		
Marian	Brennan		

SKY Club

Adela	Arias
Aiden Jacob	Baloca
Alejandra	Padros
Alvin	Mok
Ana	Alvarez
Ana Cristina	Romero Bringaz
Andrew	Jimaga
Asma	Kanafani
Betiel	Ghebretatios
Breanna	Bland
Brett	Ostapowich
Caryn	Tong
Chloe	Yuan
Cristian	Kerns
Dina	Dumonceaux
Dineli	Fernando
Eamon (Kitty)	Tan
Ellie	Peacock
Esther	Yangi
Esther	Lee
Fatima	Subaita
Gemma	Thomas
Hymns	Chu
Jack	Davis
Jazmin	Palacio
Jordon	Imgrund Harvey
Katia	Youssef
Lemlem	Haile
Luke	Kim
Manjot	Malhi
Mark	Shields
Michelle	Balicki
Padros	Alejandra
Paige	McAra
Paige	Offord
Princess	Ford
Queha (Harry)	Jung
Sarah	Coffin
Sheetal	Sandhu
Smiley	Arora
Tajdeep	Sekhon
Taylor	Vance
Theresa	Faitakis
Tirhas	Tirhas T.
Toby	Linneberg
Tyler	LeDrew
Vivian	Dempsey
William	Zhang
Yaana	Patel
Kiera	Melenka
Abbi	Needham
Maya	Millsap
Sarah	Lobreau
Abi	Reghuram
Jacelyn	Antoniuk
Sam	Urquhart
Brad	Sakundiak

Conversation Circles

Amerah	Campbell
Ahmed	Abdulhafid
Alaa Al Hamidi Al Ali	Al Ali
Alyssa	Mcphail
Ana	Matallana
Ann	Sullivan
Christine	Duong
Cindy	Ou
Cindy	Srinivasan
David	Strayer
Donna-Jean	Zubko
Erin	An
Fatima	Abulkarim
Hamza	Al Ali Alobid
Hanae	Elaazzizi
Iltham	El Bakkouchi
Imran	Almousa
Islam	Abdulkarim
Jaira	Vidok
Julie	Mazurek
Kashmala	Durrani
Kathy	Garnsworthy
Kokob	Meherteab
Maya	Bezubiak
Megan	Posyluzny
Molly	Wan
Ngan	Tran
Pratibha	Gupta
Rayya	Aggarwal
Robin	Hunter
Sarah	To
Souad	Al Ali Alobid
Srijita	Banerjee
Tianzi	Dou
Vadish	Aggarwal
Zi Han	Bi



Settlement Services

(tax clinics & Christmas Bureau)

Amarpreet	Bhandohal
Belay Duessa	Worku
Chao (Kari)	Ma
Coleen	Timbangcaya
Ebi	Zuofa
Elaine	Lin
Ellah (Bitna)	Oh
Hasra	Ali
Ibilola	Adegun
Lien Le	Kavanagh
Lina	Hadad
Mann	Al-Abdullah
Marie	Isidore
Meena	Khunt
Ohonya	Saturlino
Pratibah	Gupta
Reshma Hari	Krishnan
Sakaria	Ismail
Sita Mai Winnie	Ajiduah
Yulia	Annand
Nima	Mohamed
Anisa	Amiri
Ebieri	Esuiku

Global Garden

Brenda	Beekman
John	Chou

Health and Wellbeing / Therapeutic Services

Jaylen	Blundell
Sebrine	Addus

Employment Services

Siavash	Deghhani
Jennifer	Easaw
Michelle	Vafaei
Zainah	Shahadeh

IT Department

Mustafa	Al-Juboori
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English Services

Annie	Mackintosh
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World Refugee Day

Jemila (Jameela)	Essa
Amina	H

Edmonton Heritage Day

Abdiweli	Mohamoud
Asad	Qandhari
Balvir	Virdi
Deanna	Mendoza
Hari	Rijal
Harika	Chanana
Jacqueline	Scott
Kalapana	Nepal
Kris	Di Silva
Kulwinder	Kapoor
Ling	Ge
Melani	Orr
Nima	Mohamed
Ram	Krishna Sharma
Tracy	Williams
Veronica	Vasquez



Heartful Helpers, EMCN Volunteers

EMCN received helping hands from 200 volunteers, contributing more than 4,077 volunteer hours to EMCN.



C5 Collaborative: Uniting Communities, Catalyzing Change

In 2015, five non-profits joined forces to form the C5 Collaborative. The leaders from EMCN, Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, Boyle Street Community Services, Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre, and Terra Centre for Teen Parents united with a common goal: to create a stronger community through collective action.

The C5 collective has become a driving force in the community, advocating for social policies that would make a difference. C5 has solidified their reputation as a knowledge community resource. Building relationships at all levels of government, they make sure that the voices of 30,000+ marginalized community members are heard in the development of policies that revolve around critical issues like housing, food security, mental health, and children. The C5 is a powerful voice advocating on behalf of those who often struggle to be heard.

One of the first joint initiatives was the creation of the Ubuntu program in partnership with Children's Services. But C5's impact didn't stop there. The C5 took their commitment further by opening a community hub in the vibrant and diverse northeast

Edmonton neighbourhood. This Hub became a welcoming, safe space for all community members, offering a wide range of essential services under one roof. People can access employment support, find assistance with housing, shop at the C5 Community Market for groceries, obtain parenting guidance, and seek solace through mental health resources and counselling. The C5 Hub became a lifeline for individuals and families facing barriers in their lives, a place where they could find the support they need. In recent years, C5 has expanded to offer youth programs from the Clareview Recreation Centre and the Essentials Food Market. EMCN moved its Refugee Donation Centre next door to the Market so people can shop for food and household essentials in one location.

Taking information from program participants' feedback,

C5 shares essential data and recommendations with decision-makers in all orders of government to help inform policies with real experiences that reflect the voices of those impacted by the government's decisions.

The C5 Collaborative is a shining example of what can be accomplished when organizations unite with a shared vision. The community spaces and programs initiated by the C5 help to remove or reduce the obstacles that stand in the way of people serving their most basic needs. By doing so, C5 fosters an environment where the community can unite, celebrate and share their cultures, and lift and rally around each other.

Together, C5 continues to pave the way toward a brighter, more inclusive future.



EMCN Celebrates Community Champions: Recognizing Outstanding Contributions in the Immigrant and Newcomer Space through the QEII Platinum Jubilee Medal.

When EMCN was given the opportunity to recognize and celebrate five community members who have made significant contributions to the immigrant and newcomer space, we embraced it!

The committee recognized the accomplishments of **Aimee Symington, Don Baergen, Gurpeet Bolina, Imoleayo Adeyeri, and Sebastian Barrera**, and highlights the invaluable work being done to support and uplift newcomers in the community. The Honourable, Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, and Meghan Klein presented these deserving community members with a medal and a plaque at the gorgeous Government House.

EMCN's celebration of these individuals aligns perfectly with the essence of the QEII Platinum Jubilee Medal, which aims to acknowledge individuals' exceptional achievements and public service. By recognizing the contributions made by individuals in the immigrant and newcomer space, EMCN showcases the importance of fostering inclusivity and providing essential support to those starting their lives in a new country.



EMCN was proud to learn that four of its staff members had been recognized by other organizations for their outstanding contributions in four different areas:

- **Sara Buczynski and Basel Abou Hamrah**, were acknowledged for their tireless efforts in creating inclusive and safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ newcomers through EMCN's Rainbow Refuge program. Their unwavering commitment to fostering acceptance and providing vital resources made a profound difference in the lives of many individuals.



- **Deanna Mendoza**, another remarkable individual within the EMCN team, was honoured for her

innovative approach to childcare. Deanna revolutionized childcare practices for newcomer families through her dedication and forward-thinking initiatives, ensuring children receive the best possible care while their parents navigate their new lives in Canada.



- **Meghan Klein**, the Executive Director of EMCN, was recognized for her exceptional work in building an enriching community. Meghan established programs and initiatives that promoted integration, cultural exchange, and community engagement. Her efforts helped newcomers feel a sense of belonging and created lasting bonds between individuals from diverse backgrounds. Through their tireless efforts, all these individuals have positively impacted the lives of many people and communities, helping them feel welcomed, supported, heard and empowered as they navigate their new lives in Canada.

Financials

Our completed audited financial statements are on our website.

Overview 2022/2023		2023	2022
1.	Current Assets	\$ 4,307,000	\$ 1,673,000
2.	Restricted Investments	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000
3.	Capital Assets	\$ 7,432,000	\$ 7,950,000
Total Assets		\$ 11,760,000	\$ 9,644,000
5.	Current Liabilities	\$ 4,612,000	\$ 2,787,000
6.	Non-Current Liabilities	\$ 5,718,000	\$ 6,376,000
7.	Externally Restricted Assets	\$ 154,000	\$ 371,000
8.	Endowment	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000
9.	Unrestricted Equity	\$ 1,255,000	\$ 89,000
Total Liabilities and Equity		\$ 11,760,000	\$ 9,644,000
Sources of Funding			
11.	Grants	\$ 15,171,000	\$ 13,919,000
12.	Donations & Fundraising Events	\$ 855,000	\$ 148,000
13.	Other Revenue	\$ 216,000	\$ 207,000
		\$ 16,242,000	\$ 14,274,000
Use of Funding			
15.	People Expenses, Staff and Contracted Services	\$ 12,042,000	\$ 11,120,000
16.	Building and Equipment Expenses	\$ 2,083,000	\$ 1,851,000
17.	Administrative Expenses	\$ 396,000	\$ 442,000
18.	Resources	\$ 333,000	\$ 321,000
19.	Net Depreciation and Amortization	\$ 265,000	\$ 267,000
20.	Finance Expenses	\$ 174,000	\$ 184,000
21.	Total Uses of Funding	\$ 15,293,000	\$ 14,185,000
22.	Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 949,000	\$ 89,000

Thank You to our Donors



Thank you for your generosity! Your gifts support newcomers to build thriving futures here in Edmonton. Your donations directly contribute to making our community more inclusive, more welcoming, and more vibrant.

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Thank You to our Community Investors

Thank you to all corporations, foundations and community organizations for your thoughtful contributions in helping EMCN to continue supporting newcomers to thrive in Edmonton!



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Hoty Management	Red Deer & District Community Foundation
Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose	United Way Alberta Capital Region
Intentional Living	University of Alberta Community Services Learning

Thank You to our Funders



Ways to Give

Since 1981, EMCN has been supporting all newcomers to Edmonton to thrive in Canada. We offer immigrants and refugees welcoming spaces to learn and connect with people, services that help them build a strong foundation here in their new home, and resources they need to integrate and prosper in the community.

For over four decades, we have been able to meet the needs of our community thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

By supporting EMCN's programs and services, you are directly impacting the lives of women and men, children, and whole families in our community.

You are lifting up those displaced by crisis who are bravely starting over.

You are helping create bridges of understanding as people learn to speak English.

You are accelerating the success of those seeking jobs and advancing their careers in a new country.

You are creating human-to-human connections for girls growing up into strong women, for boys and men committed to healthy relationships and homes, for youth to succeed in school while growing up in two cultures, for seniors to converse as they cook and garden.

You are impacting the present and the future of our city by building a more inclusive and vibrant community.

emcn.ab.ca/donate

01. Become a Monthly Supporter

With your monthly gift, you help to create long-term, sustainable solutions to meet the needs of families in our city.

02. Make a Gift in Honour

Make a donation in memory or in honour of someone special, or to celebrate an important occasion.

03. Join Our Legacy Circle

Leave your legacy for future generations through a bequest in your will.

04. Lead a Community Event

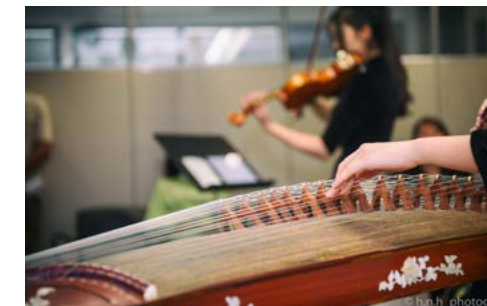
Bring together your family, friends, colleagues and neighbours and host a community event to have some fun while raising funds for a cause you support.

05. Become a Friend of RISE

EMCN hosts the Recognizing Immigrant Success in Edmonton (RISE) Awards event every year. Our aim is to make the event accessible for all and our community sponsors make that possible.

06. Give the Gift of Time

Volunteering gives you the chance to make an impact in your community, learn new skills, and gain experience that can help you grow personally and professionally.



EMCN Community Report 2023

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