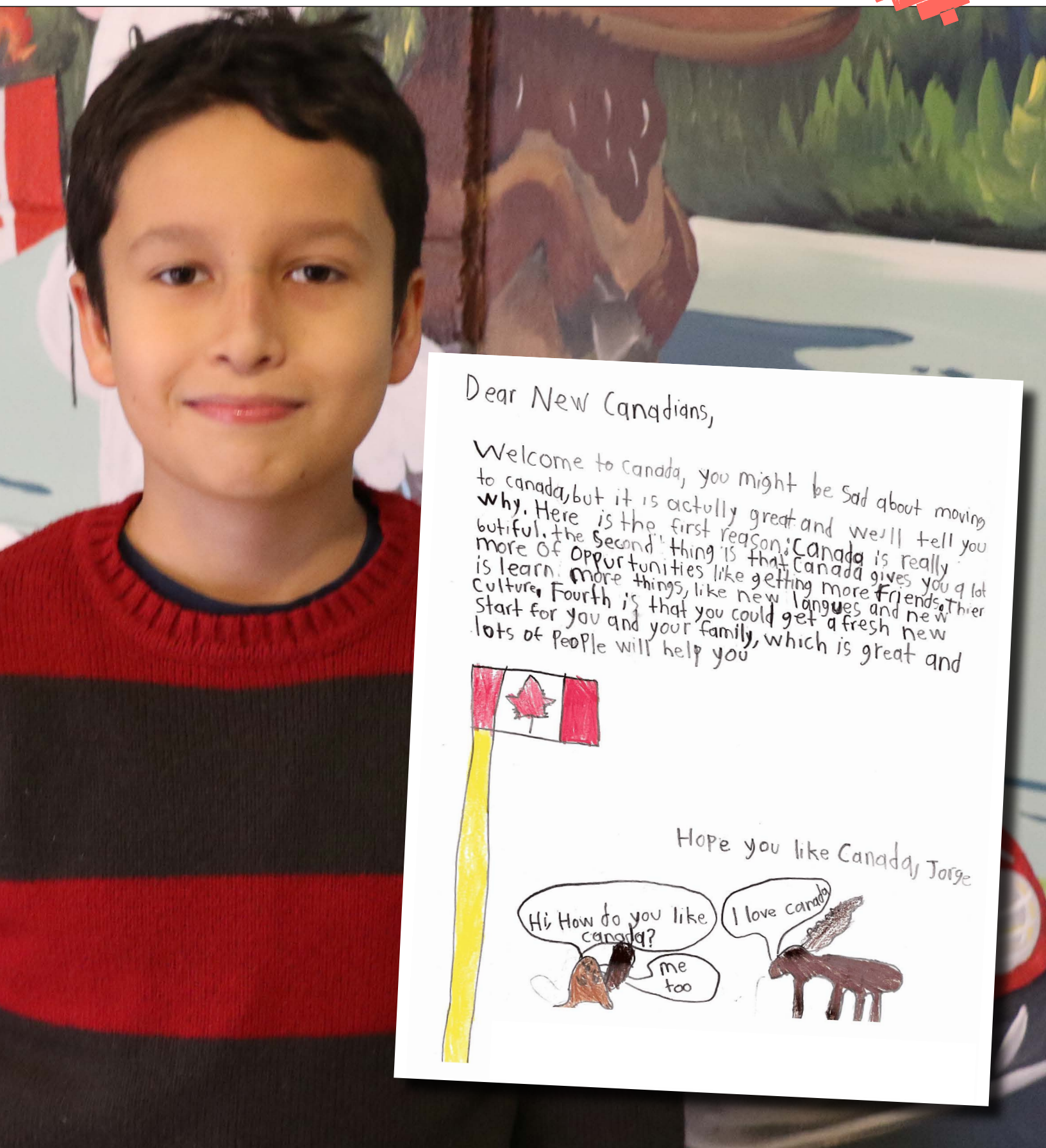


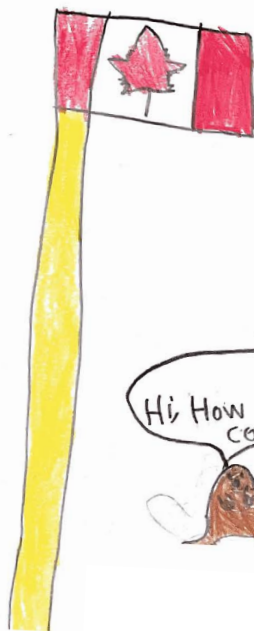
# Our Love Letter to Ptbo

## Gratitude Report 2021



Dear New Canadians,

Welcome to Canada, you might be sad about moving to Canada, but it is actually great and we'll tell you why. Here is the first reason: Canada is really beautiful. The second thing is that Canada gives you a lot more of opportunities like getting more friends, there is learn more things, like new languages and new culture. Fourth is that you could get a fresh new start for you and your family, which is great and lots of people will help you.



Hope you like Canada, Jorge



# New Beginnings for New Canadians Thanks to a Huge Team Effort!

## You Helped Newcomer Youth Unlock Their Potential

Amidst the pandemic, students were feeling lonely. Their spirits were down and there seemed to be no way to connect due to gathering restrictions. In November 2020, six bright high school students decided they wanted to challenge themselves and help others. They came together as the New Canadians Centre's Young Leaders (NCCYL) where they gained leadership experience, engaged in discussions, and led projects to help make positive impacts in their local communities.

Through weekly virtual meetings, training, and projects, NCCYL members were able to help other young new Canadians, while building leadership skills in the process. The members talked about their experiences when they arrived in Canada and the hardships of moving to a new country as a young person. The ideas were big, but due to the pandemic, there was a need for creativity and improvisation with the ever-changing rules during this time.

The group realised that the participants were intimidated by virtual events, and faced a lot of screen fatigue. They decided to start a homework help group on Zoom that provided tutoring and paired students with others who needed assistance with a particular subject.

Newcomer youth wanted to find a way to share their experiences and help other young new Canadians feel more comfortable and less lonely as they settle in our community. After many brainstorming sessions, the group agreed on creating a Guidebook filled with personal stories of settlement, advice, resources, and reassurances on living in Canada. The book is written by newcomer youth, for youth!

Available as an online resource, NCCYL members hope that it will be distributed at schools in the fall. Applying their leadership skills, they advocated for its distribution by presenting at



*Preshta Garg, Lubna Sadek (NCC Youth Worker), Ian Nazario, Saoirse Aherne, Sami El Moussa, Lujaina Kamar, and Aya Darrouba (top left to right)*

both Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board and Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board where it has been well-received.

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*"Having this virtual group with cool people where we help other newcomers was really great. It was fun and rewarding, and it was good for my mental health too, especially during COVID-19 there weren't any extracurricular, and sports were on and off, so having this was a great opportunity, and I really hope students benefit from our project."  
- (participant reflection)*

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The work ethic and commitment of the NCCYL has been recognised. In Spring 2021, the six members of the group were jointly-awarded the New Canadians Centre's Youth Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of their dedication and impact.

**Thank you for helping to inspire committed young leaders to use their experiences to help others!**

### INSIDE: READ MORE STORIES ABOUT YOUR GENEROSITY

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PAGE 5 A Newcomer Children's Book was born from a story about pizza!

How you can help encourage new Peterborough and Northumberland residents



# Bahar and other Newcomer Women Hatch Their Business Ideas

"Nothing is too hard to start." These words shared by Bahar exemplify the optimism and motivation shared by all the women participants of the Home-Based Business Incubator (HOBBI) program.

The 10-week skills training program, funded by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough, aimed to provide aspiring immigrant women entrepreneurs with the tools, knowledge, skills, and confidence to launch their own home businesses.

The women participated in 20 dynamic workshops over the course of 10 weeks on a vast array of topics including Assessing Your Skills & Strengths, Business Ideation, The Target Market, Value Proposition, Marketing & Communications, Product Pricing & Sales Models, Stress Management and Self-Care, Networking, and How to Pitch Your Business.

Every guest workshop speaker generously offered to continue sharing their time and expertise, providing their contact information for more support and guidance. This was a real testament to the helping and welcoming nature of the Peterborough community

The workshops concluded with a panel of local entrepreneurs, many of whom are newcomers themselves: Renato Zegarra from The Wellness Chef, Charmaine Magumbe from Zingha, Rosie Salcido from Facesby2, Inna Trotchine from A Taste of Russia, and Lesley Robb from SwellMade Co. The five panelists shared their own journeys and provided guidance and generous advice.

In July, 11 participants successfully completed the program. NCC's Skills Development Specialist Sabrina Kuipers will continue to meet participants monthly for further training, support,

and fun check-ins. Participants also have the opportunity to access seed funds to support them in the launch of their businesses.

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"I thought I knew it all until I joined HOBBI. So much to learn. It's impactful and a great place to share ideas and build capacity. Great program facilitator and guest speakers. I have learned so much and I now feel like I can conquer the business world. My business ideas are reinforced and I can't wait for what the future holds." – Grace, HOBBI Participant

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Through this training program, a resilient, motivated, and determined group of immigrant women came together, supported each other through the pandemic, and found the confidence and empowerment to come out the other side as entrepreneurs. We are so proud of our HOBBI members and look forward to seeing their businesses develop and launch locally in the Peterborough and Northumberland regions.

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"This program was so needed for me. I like it and it is teaching me so many things that I didn't know before. I am hoping to use the knowledge to reach my dreams. I thank everyone who contributed to bringing this to the table, I needed this so much." – Charlotte, HOBBI Participant

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**Our thanks to the supportive community of organisations and entrepreneurs who are helping immigrant and refugee women to realise their potential!**



Home-Based Business Incubator (HOBBI) participants

**You Helped to Shine the Light on “the Magic of Beginnings”  
in Our Community**

When Shahed Khaito arrived in Canada in February 2019, she had already started high school three times in Syria and Lebanon without receiving a diploma.

Soon after her arrival in Peterborough, the New Canadians Centre's Settlement Workers in School team introduced her to the Canadian School system and helped her to enrol in the English Language Learner Program at Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School. She also attended New Canadians Centre programs and workshops such as screen-printing and the Youth Group.

At first, Shahed felt displaced and disoriented, but the community connections she made through the New Canadians Centre, and the encouragement from her teacher Mrs. Vanessa Woodacre to pursue her love of art and filmmaking kept her going.

“When I was 15, I decided if I will survive, I will learn how to make films to show people the facts and the stories I witnessed during the war. In our world, soldiers in tanks are scared of words and art more than anything else.” - **Shahed Khaito, Director’s Note for “Live Broadcast”**

In 2020, Shahed graduated from Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School and began post-secondary studies at George Brown College in filmmaking. Faced with the challenge of integrating in another new environment, Shahed found strength in Mrs. Woodacre's encouraging words "Small Beginnings, Big Endings".

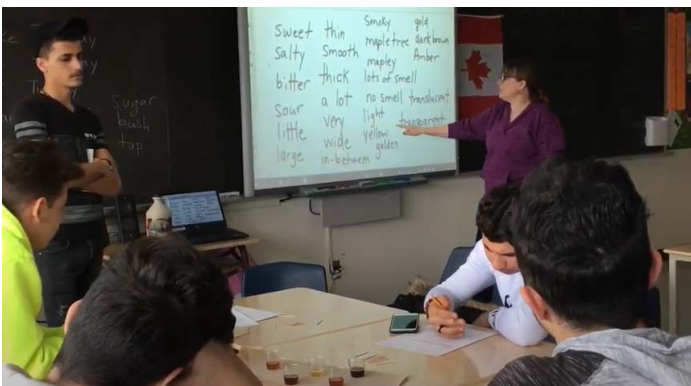
Shahed has immersed herself in the local film scene. She has directed “The Magic of Beginnings”, a tribute to Mrs. Woodacre’s dedication to support English language learners. Her short “Live Broadcast” is a deeply personal story inspired by her family’s

lived experience of watching soccer under siege in Syria. At the start of the pandemic, Shahed documented Peterborough's efforts to sew masks and other personal protective equipment for the hospital. She is also part of the Common Threads Collective, a group of local artists working in partnership with the New Canadians Centre to activate and present a newcomer story through community art and performance.



This summer, Shahed directed “The Hands That Feed Us”, a short film that describes the Seasonal Agricultural Worker program from the perspective of a migrant farm worker and a farmer. Her films have been screened abroad and locally at the ReFrame Film Festival and other events.

In a short time, Shahed has blossomed into an engaged community member where she is using her skills, talents, and passions to bring people together, even when we're apart. Shahed is a representation of the tenacity of newcomer youth and the welcoming community of supporters like you in Peterborough.



*Still image from "The Magic of Beginnings"*



*Still image from documentary on local efforts to sew PPE*

## A Book Inspired by Newcomer Children Starts from A Story about Pizza!

NCC's Communications & Community Engagement Specialist Bhisham Ramoutar heard a story from a colleague about some new young clients who had just tried pizza for the first time in their lives. Pizza: something that many children in North America know and adore. But for these kids, it was new, and ... they weren't very excited. These children also experienced many other firsts as they settled: learning English, going to school, large supermarkets, snow and winter.

It got him thinking: how do immigrant and refugee children navigate these new experiences – the good and the bad? How do they make meaning as they experience migration? How is this experience different from what their parents go through? What can we learn from them?



A year later, the idea of a book was born - a book filled with stories, shared by children, where others can see their own stories of coming to Canada as a child reflected.

"Building A Home" is written and illustrated by artist Casandra Lee, herself a new immigrant to Canada. Its rich narrative is inspired by the candid accounts and beautiful artwork shared by six children from Syria, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Pakistan now living and going to school in Nogojiwanong-Peterborough.

Thanks to the grant from the United Way of Peterborough & District's David Goyette and Victoria Pearce Art Fund and to your generous donations, anyone can download "Building a Home" for free on our website [nccpeterborough.ca](http://nccpeterborough.ca). A limited number of print copies of the books will also be available for distribution.

We hope that you will share this story and bring people together!

## How you can welcome immigrants and refugees who are new to Peterborough and Northumberland

How did your family build a home in Canada?

What would you like to tell immigrants and refugees who are new to our community and facing the prospect of starting from the ground up?

We would love to hear from you and to share these stories and advice with families to inspire and encourage them.

In the last 40+ years, we have counted on you to shape our community to welcome new immigrants and refugees to Peterborough and Northumberland. In this challenging year, with your assistance and encouragement, we have adapted our programs to respond to the most pressing needs related to social isolation, digital literacy and access.

Thanks to your generous support, you've helped newcomers establish and maintain long-time friendships and important connections that inspires language learning and a sense of belonging.

Your encouragement will make a world of difference to someone who feels alone.



Send us a letter in the mail or email your story to any member of our Philanthropy Team (Andy, Yvonne or Paris). You can also call us at 705 743 0882 and we can follow up with you.



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Stewardship & Engagement Officer

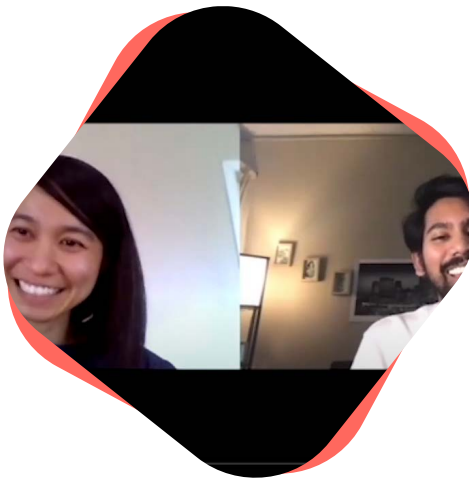
[paris@nccpeterborough.ca](mailto:paris@nccpeterborough.ca)



# Together, Even When We're Apart: NCC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2021



Transitioned all language & social groups to virtual platforms within two weeks of the first lockdown in March



Produced #AskNCC and #TechTutorial videos to help clients navigate information online



Organised Digital Literacy Training for adult English language learners at PACE



Facilitated an 8-Week Family Literacy in Peterborough (FLiP) Program in the summer for vulnerable families



Supported 200+ clients with job search, employment planning, and applying for CERB and EI

**We connected  
with 1008 newcomers  
to Canada from  
96 source countries**

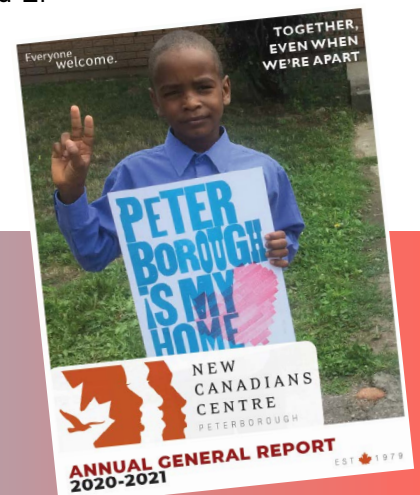
**6482 interactions  
with clients  
458 clients participating  
in activities**

**Because of You,** the New Canadians Centre has been inspiring, encouraging and helping newcomers feel like they belong for more than 40 years.



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For more information on how you can help,  
contact **Paris Nguyen, Stewardship & Engagement Officer**  
[paris@nccpeterborough.ca](mailto:paris@nccpeterborough.ca) | 705-743-0882 | Cell: 705-761-8019



Review our **2020-2021 AGM report**  
to see how your support meant the world  
to us in a time of great need