



NEW
CANADIANS
CENTRE
PETERBOROUGH

Our Love Letter to You Gratitude Report 2023



We go through our lives leaving footprints, some big, some small. Today, we celebrate you for leaving beautiful footprints and deep impressions in the lives of new immigrants and refugees.

Through your generosity, compassion and acts of kindness, your footprints make our community a welcoming place for all to thrive.

With gratitude
and appreciation,

Team NCC

**Your footprints of
love and kindness**



Sharing Culture and Building Community this Summer: The New Canadians Centre's Multicultural Festival

Throughout the week, we were inspired by the enthusiasm of all who participated. Newcomers were proud to share their culture and were met with open hearts and minds! These experiences left deep impressions on our journey towards being a welcoming community for all.



On the Multicultural Food Crawl Food Sampling Day, community members had a chance to eat their way around the world in downtown Peterborough.



We all joined hands and feet to explore new movements through Zumba, Salsa, and K-pop Dance.



People of all ages were excited to learn how to play the traditional game of Cricket!



We learned more about Vietnamese culture through quizzes and games. Everyone was excited to learn new recipes!



Through a Community Conversation on World Refugee Day, we raised awareness of the resettlement journey for refugees and discussed how people could help.



Multicultural Craft Day was a big hit with creative activities from Mexico, Vietnam, Venezuela, China, Libya, Japan, and Ukraine!

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From Migrant Worker to Citizen: A Journey of Perseverance

Lambert Reid first came to Canada from Jamaica to work at an apple farm in Wicklow, Ontario, in 1982.

We were very fortunate to meet Lambert when the New Canadians Centre facilitated the Migrant Workers program in the Northumberland area many years ago.



Lambert worked at the farm for over 35 years, moving from farm worker to foreman, and is candid in sharing his experiences.

"We worked hard to support two lives, one here in Canada and another in Jamaica."

When Lambert experienced challenges with his health, he had to stop his work on the farm.

In spite of that, he continues to be an active member of the community. Lambert plays a big role in supporting agricultural workers by encouraging them to attend events and helping with transportation to appointments and health clinics.

In 2008, Lambert decided to start on his journey towards becoming a Canadian citizen. After



many hurdles, he reached his first milestone by becoming a permanent resident.

In 2019, Lambert worked with NCC staff to complete the application and sponsored his wife to come to Canada.

Shortly after, we worked together to put together his citizenship application. The pandemic prolonged the process but Lambert had high hopes.

He was so happy when he finally attained both his wife's permanent residency as well as his Canadian citizenship this year!

Lambert's story is featured in the "Immigration: Our Stories, Our Community" video exhibit produced by Cobourg Museum Foundation. The exhibit can be viewed at the Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre.

He hopes that his story can help motivate others who are walking through difficult times. Your generous support is key in this process.

We wish Lambert and his family the best and cheer them on!



Our Women's Group had a great day volunteering at the Northumberland Fare Share Food Bank

You are stronger than your challenges and your challenges make you stronger

My name is Aanya, and I am part of the New Canadians Centre's Young Leaders' Council (NCCYL).

My life in Canada wasn't the typical immigrant tale of facing adversity before achieving self-discovery.

However, I realized that my experiences were unique to me, just like everyone else's stories.

I was born in India and moved to Singapore at the age of 11. After living there for three years, I moved to Canada at the age of 14. I was apprehensive about the move but had to do so for a long-term settlement.

I thought my life in Canada would be like what I saw in American high school movies, but I was proven wrong.

Dealing with the Canadian winter and being the new girl in school was tough, but I eventually found my calling through volunteering.

It was through volunteering that I learned about NCCYL and became part of the organization as the City of Peterborough Liaison.

Since then, I have gained valuable experiences and skills in leadership, representation, and communication.



Each experience has shaped me in ways I never imagined for myself, including speaking in front of a crowd, podcasting, and attending leadership conferences.

Remember that everyone goes through struggles in life, but it's how we deal with them that shapes us into who we are.

Aanya is a grade 11 student at Adam Scott CVI and arrived in Canada over 2 years ago. She keenly shares her experiences, learnings, and thoughts through her new podcast - The Random Podcast - on Spotify.



Quote me: "Thank you!"



Titus Ngouepo is a 16-year-old student with an inspiring story.

Titus was born in Congo but fled to Kenya with his family in search of peace and safety. In Kenya, they lived in a refugee camp with limited access to basic necessities.

"Getting out of the harsh conditions in Kenya is something to say hallelujah to."



What started as a daunting journey to Canada, a new country with unfamiliar weather, language, and culture, has now become a turning point in Titus' life.

Because of the opportunities it offers, Canada has brought out the best in Titus. He is now a student at Lakefield College School. He also worked as an Assistant Camp Director at Junior Achievement (JA) Northern & Eastern Ontario.

The support from the New Canadians Centre and the Peterborough community has been essential in the transition to life in Canada for Titus and his family.

As an independent and empowered individual, Titus has shown an interest in law and entrepreneurship.

He wants to achieve this goal to help his family, who has never had a member attend university or gain a professional job.

To Titus, it is essential to make one's past a treasure that you do not get rid of because it helps to provide continuous growth.

Without support from staff, volunteers and community members, Titus feels that this would be a different story that we are sharing with you.

"I am the living evidence of your powerful donation. Quote me: thank you!"

Together, let's support newcomers like Titus who have braved tough circumstances to start a new life in Canada.

With your help, we can help them to achieve their dreams!

Together, We're Better

Emily Warren, her husband Matt, and their spirited 6-year-old, Brookey, support new immigrants and refugees with their whole hearts.

In 2016, as Syrian refugees sought a new home in Canada, Emily and Matt heeded a call within. "We fell in love with the people," Emily recalls, igniting a bond that propelled them into action.

When their daughter arrived, the family's passion did not waver. Brookey's enthusiasm bridged language gaps, using games as a universal way to connect.



Emily, deeply rooted in Peterborough, chose to make her hometown a better place for all. This year, she has rented a storage unit to store donated furniture and household items, and deliver them when newcomers find a place to call their own.

Emily is one of over 300 volunteers who support the work of the New Canadians Centre each year. "More want to help than not [and] it can be as small or big a commitment as you want it to be".

**Through the Volunteer Program,
Emily and her family make meaningful
connections with fellow volunteers and clients
at the New Canadians Centre.**

They learn about new cultures and help immigrants and refugees navigate various aspects of a new life in Canada.

Emily has inspired her family, friends, and parents and children at her home daycare to join her in her efforts to build community. They show that compassion knows no bounds. Even the youngest contribute by growing sunflowers to fundraise for a charity. Little hands, big impact!



**"Whatever we pay attention to
is what we get more of".**

Emily and her family inspire us all through their belief that unity makes us thrive.

Please join us in spreading love and kindness to welcome newcomers home.

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, Fund Development Officer**
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Review our 2022-2023
AGM report to see how your
support meant the world
to us in a time of great need