



COALITION OF
MANITOBA CULTURAL COMMUNITIES
FOR FAMILIES, INC.

Enabling cultural community voices through
excellence in engagement and empowerment.

www.cmccfamilies.ca

With thanks to:



ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 2020

November 19, 2020

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ANNUAL REPORTS

Florence Okwudili, Chair of the Board

Hello everyone I am Florence Okwudili, the first chair of the Board of Directors for CMCCCF. It is my honour and privilege to provide you a brief but succinct report at our first annual general meeting of our organization.

Rather than reporting on our programs and initiatives, which Steve will do shortly, I would like to talk about why we exist and where we came from for those of you who do not know much about us.

Our history goes back more than 10 years ago when we were actually a network of individuals from more than 30 cultural communities working with the General Child and Family Services Authority (GA). Many of us here tonight were active members of the New Canadian Initiative.

Many of us were part of the Reference Group to this initiative. For many of those years we worked in partnership with the GA, by providing our voices, our input, and our ideas to ensure that cultural communities were important to the child welfare system.

For many years we believed that we were. We participated in developing community presentations on the child welfare system, we co-created the video called “Sounds Through the Wall”, and many other projects with the GA and its agencies. We had two members of our communities who were on the board for the GA. Of course, we want to thank the leadership of the general authority for their trust in the cultural communities to bring their voices forward to better the outcomes for our communities’ families and children.

Three years ago, many of us from communities decided that it was time for us to become independent and to bring forward the diverse voices of all cultural communities to engage many other human service systems, including health, mental health, community safety, settlement and integration, and of course the child welfare system.

Now bringing this timeframe forward, we are very proud of our role and our developing expertise of cultural community engagement. (in person and online)

We have now developed a robust platform, including a new community engagement facilitator’s program to apply new technologies in engagement.

With Covid, we are experimenting with a number of new engagement technologies to ensure that we hear the diverse voices of our communities on a number of current and future community challenges.

Also, we are focusing our attention in engagement to bring forward the positive and affirming aspects of community life by reflecting on the assets of our communities. Three of our communities were involved as demonstrating this approach to community building. Thank you, our partners, from the Eritrean/Ethiopian, Filipino and South-Asian Muslim communities.

The way we see the importance of our work is to focus on how we can ensure that our cultural communities will remain healthy, and that their focus is the wellbeing of all of our families and their children.

In accomplishing this outcome, I know that we share the hopes and dreams of our diverse cultural community network, by playing a very critical role in strengthening the cultural and social fabric of Manitoba for all of its citizens and residents.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my fellow board members, community members, our staff, volunteers, allies, and financial contributors and funders, including the Winnipeg Foundation for their support for our organization as it slowly but surely is growing to meet the needs and aspirations of many of our cultural communities together.

Martin Itzkow FRSA, CEO

My report will be very short as we have the panel presentation very soon, which I think will be so important.

Since this is my first formal report for CMCCF, and more of this will be available within the final document which will be on the website soon. I want to share with you the context of why we exist and why this is now so important as a network-based organization in our community.

This report will build on the comments made by Florence, and our programs and services which Steve will speak to in short order.

CMCCF came about because of a very important experience almost 10 years ago. As you may not be aware, we emerged from a very intense period when cultural communities came together to engage the child welfare system. It was a period where these diverse voices were heard and listened to, for what I believe was the very first time. That was a lengthy process.

My vantage point was particularly powerful and unique. My specific role was to act from the inside of the child welfare system at the same time as I was acting on the outside, reflecting the voices of diverse communities.

It provided me with the insight to recognize that most human services and their leadership needed (some were willing) to be more open. They needed to understand and integrate new perspectives and diverse worldviews, anchored in the “lived experiences” of new Canadians of all ages.

As this was taking place and at the same time we were emphasizing that service providers recognize and validate the courage demonstrated by new Canadians who came to Canada to secure their lives here, originally living with scarcity, but now hoping for lives of abundance.

I do have to take a minute to thank Jay and the staff of the General Child and Family Services Authority and the provincial department, which helped us navigate the child welfare system more deeply. We found many opportunities to engage, to mutually learn from each other, while respecting that cultural communities and their families were the experts of their lives.

We shared a critical learning. It was important that diverse human services needed to take the time to listen, to hear, to be introspective, and to see opportunities to share their values, visions, and ownership of their services with many cultural communities. This was a time of re-invention and co-creation.

Now, we are at an inflection point in this time of Covid. We as community need to focus our attention and our resources to actively engage other human service systems, including health, education, settlement and integration, and justice, among many more. As CMCCF the network, we strive to bring the voices of cultural communities to service providers and policy makers.

In that regard, we also desire to co-create many approaches to mutually learning from one another. We are clear of our resolve to ensure that we learn from each other, and most importantly how human systems may improve their services, while communities focus on their health and wellbeing. This is where cultural communities will be able to enhance their internal capacities to strengthen their families, resulting in a strengthened community.

In that regard, we believe that we as an organization is needed more than ever before. It is unfortunate that we are living in communities where racism, discrimination, hate and fear permeate. We consistently hear that when many of our cultural communities seek some human services in our province.

In this time of great division, reduced interest in immigration to our country, and less interest in multiculturalism, we must ensure that the diverse voices of cultural communities are heard. As CMCCF, we are strengthening our engagement methodologies between community, service providers and policy makers in convening many conversations of trust, respect, and dignity for all. Our hope is that cultural communities will not be limited to only be the consumers and recipients of services, but the co-creators and teachers of how cultural context plays an important role.

I would like to thanks our funders, those who have contracted for our online and face-to-face engagement services, our allies and our communities who continue to share this journey of discovery and growth with us in Manitoba.

Most importantly, I want to thank Steve who has been travelling with me along this path, the board of directors as a whole and as individuals, and our committee members as we learn much from each other.

Recently Maryam and Mihiret have joined us. They bring a sense of vitality and new energy to the organization. Also, I wish to thank Judy, Donald, Judith for their services supporting the growth of CMCCF. Also, I want to thank CMWI as our host and sponsoring organization. Without their assistance and guidance for a fledgling organization, our successes would have been limited. Thank you Yasmin and Zulaika.

In conclusion and on behalf of CMCCF, I would like to thank all of our cultural communities which have consistently provided clear and consistent guidance, advice, insight, and compassion and caring to all of us within CMCCF family. Without these voices we could not be of service to their families to achieve our vision of healthy cultural communities and healthy families. Thank you.

Community Engagement and Allies Facilitator, Steven Feldgaier Ph.D.

Supporting cultural community voices through excellence in engagement and empowerment

The CMCCF has as its primary mission the goal of striving for excellence in community engagement. This goal is based on the fundamental principle that in all cultural community engagements, everyone wants to be heard, respected and involved! In striving to reach this goal the CMCCF makes every effort to ensure that its community engagements provide opportunities for diverse participation, a welcoming of differing views, and an affirmation that all voices are important. These engagements are also in keeping with both the CMCCF's priority for social inclusion and its Flourishing model of Wellbeing.

In aspiring to this excellence in engagement the CMCCF provides opportunities for community members to be directly involved in the planning and organizing of these engagements, in carrying out these activities either virtually or in-person, and in collecting and analyzing the 'data' obtained. The CMCCF also utilizes a range of tools and technologies in carrying out these engagements and is also training community members to serve as both virtual and 'in-person' facilitators for these events.

Whether it be engagements solely involving various community members or activities also involving service providers, systems, policy makers and others, the CMCCF continues to evolve in ensuring that these activities are relevant, meaningful, and driven by community interests.

With its goal of striving for excellence in community engagement, it is also very important for CMCCF to provide opportunities and training for community members to become skilled

community engagement facilitators. These facilitators are key to ensuring that all engagement activities are undertaken in a spirit of respect, safety, and mutual learning. CMCCF facilitators also ensure that discussion is open and all voices are made welcome. It is with these goals in mind that this handbook and its associated training have been developed.

CMCCF Engagements and Activities

All CMCCF engagement activities are also premised on the Coalition's core values of respect, mutual learning and teaching, generosity, and a commitment to active participation.

Engagements can take many forms and may involve community members only, specific ethnic-cultural communities more directly, community members along with service providers and policy makers, and targeted community engagements with specific systems (child welfare, health, mental health).

In 2019, the CMCCF Board of Directors established the Advisory Council on Community Driven Wellbeing Initiatives to provide guidance, support, and expertise relevant to the various initiatives undertaken by the Coalition. This Advisory Council comprises both members from a diverse range of cultural communities who bring their wisdom, lived experience, and knowledge of their communities as well as members from the academic realm (researchers/scientists from the University of Manitoba as well as the private sector) who bring their relevant expertise and skill sets to these initiatives.

The past two years have been very busy ones for CMCCF as it continues to grow and strengthen its fundamental mandate. During this period the Coalition has hosted well over 30 events and activities with well over 500 participants taking part in total. Feedback from participants has been consistently very positive and supportive of the ongoing work of the Coalition. The success of these activities is also directly linked to the many members of the CMCCF who continue to give of their time and expertise to ensure these engagements are relevant and meaningful to our various cultural communities.

With the reality that the past eight months has seen the province come face to face with the global pandemic and our cultural communities have had to face many new challenges and hardship, the CMCCF has begun to explore alternative technologies to utilize in order to continue to maintain contact with community members and to also provide online opportunities to bring together diverse community members.

Some Engagement and Activities Highlights

Cultural Community Mapping

Over the past two years, three different cultural communities (i.e., Ethiopian/Eritrean, Filipino, and Southeast Asian Muslim) have held a series of learning events where community members have met and have identified their interest to gain the skills, knowledge and tools to map their community assets, core values, and aspirations for the future. These three communities have

begun to collect “data” which is serving to provide community members with a deeper knowledge of the way that their communities view their future and the ways they wish to move forward to live their core values in the broader Manitoba community of communities. These activities will continue in the coming year with cultural communities going forward to identify their own ways of seeing community wellbeing and acting together to achieve this outcome.

Presentations to Cultural Communities regarding Child Welfare

A series of learning events was convened by CMCCF with diverse cultural community members from various communities in discussing the child welfare system. These learning events were geared to supporting community members in better understanding the system and in becoming informed of their rights as parents within the system. The ***Sounds through the Wall*** video (previous New Canadian Initiative) was the tool used to present key information. This video, developed several years ago as a co-creation between cultural communities and child welfare, lends itself well to sparking dialogue by those in attendance. Upwards of ten such events were held in 2018-2019.

As several of these learning events relied on the use of interpreters, given that English was an additional language for many in attendance, formal evaluation feedback was not always undertaken. However, anecdotal feedback at these sessions indicated that those in attendance found the information helpful and were pleased that they had attended. Participants were keen to ask questions and to share their views about the system.

For several of the remaining learning events more formal feedback was obtained. In these instances, participants overwhelmingly agreed that the workshops were both helpful and very easy to understand. In addition, those in attendance were quite strong in voicing their view that the presentations addressed issues that were of concern to them and that they had learned new things which they previously hadn't known. Many participants also expressed their appreciation for CMCCF in holding these sessions and encouraged the Coalition to continue to hold future sessions on other topics as well.

CMCCF Panel Discussion: Bridging to the Future 2030

On November 23, 2019 CMCCF hosted a panel discussion with future leaders of three different cultural communities. This learning event provided an opportunity to hear the voices of a younger generation and to dialogue with them about their thoughts about the future of their communities ten years from now. The event was well attended and included several generations of community members. There was lively discussion and many positive comments made. Participants overwhelmingly reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed that the event met their expectations and got them to think much more about their community. People also reported feeling positive about the future of their community. Finally, participants indicated very strong support for the work of the CMCCF.

More specific feedback from a number of individual participants included:

The most important thing I learned today:

“Cultural-immigrant communities are not homogeneous”

“The community matters”

“How we can strengthen our community”

For my community to flourish in the coming years it will need to:

“Be involved”

“Come together”

“Be more involved with other communities”

“Unite and work together with other communities”

“Truly want to change their view on ‘who’s in charge’”

The strengths of my community in 2030 will be:

“Cohesiveness and a broadened approach”

“Producing more young leaders”

The Challenges for my community in 2030 will be:

“Do we have the right resources – viewpoints to succeed”

“Dealing with individualism – the longer people stay here they become more individualistic”

***CMCCF Learning Event Bringing Together Community Members,
Service Providers, and Policy Makers***

This mutual learning event, held on January 30, 2020, was developed to bring together community members, service providers, and policy makers in the first of a series of mutual learning sessions to get to know each other better, to explore and share values and to strive to find ways to work together in a mutually respectful manner.

Feedback from the evaluation undertaken at the end of the learning event clearly showed that overwhelmingly all who participated felt that this learning event was beneficial and met their expectations. Participants also strongly agreed that the activities undertaken that evening were enjoyable and enlightening and provided everyone with excellent learning opportunities. Many of the participants also reported that there were things that they had learned in the session that they now felt that they could now apply in either their personal and/or work life. There was also strong direction from those in attendance that they would be interested in participating in additional mutual learning events.

Individual participants also noted the following:

“The communities and service providers need to work together”

“I have a lot to learn as a service provider”

“There are a lot of communities that want to share their values”

“Look at our strengths not just the needs”

“There is a shared mindset when there is open communication”

“The Values exercise helped to join different voices together”

CMCCF hosts Sarah Kirby from the Centre for Healthcare Innovation

On February 1, 2020, the CMCCF hosted a mutual learning event for community members to come and meet with Sarah Kirby from the Centre for Healthcare Innovation (CHI). Ms. Kirby is leading an important new initiative within the provincial health system that is looking at ways to embed ***Patient Reported Outcome Measures*** (PROMS) in both health research and healthcare delivery. These measures, once implemented, will be an important new way of providing patients with a more direct voice in expressing their perspectives regarding the outcomes of the health services that they receive. The event proved to be most interesting with excellent dialogue taken place between Ms. Kirby and community members. Ms. Kirby had previously approached the CMCCF as a result of her desire to begin developing a relationship and dialogue with community members so that the voices of cultural communities would be heard as this initiative moves forward. Feedback provided by many of the community participants indicated that they almost unanimously either strongly agreed or agreed that the event: met their expectations; that they learned new things as a result of the event; that they now better understood PROMS; and also strongly supported CMCCF in continuing to work with Ms. Kirby in order that communities have an ongoing avenue for sharing their views regarding this project.

As a result of the positive outcome for this learning event, CMCCF is currently involved in discussions with Ms. Kirby regarding next steps in moving this project forward. As well, a community member in attendance at the session also agreed to join Ms. Kirby’s Advisory Committee so that an additional voice from community will be heard during ongoing project deliberations.

Mental Health Education for New Canadian Families

In partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association, the CMCCF has recently begun a series of engagements with cultural community members to ascertain the need for new resources that might better inform new Canadians regarding mental health promotion and wellbeing, mental illness and family supports. Community members have provided very helpful input into the topics that should be considered for such resources as well as the ways in which these materials should best be delivered.

Wisdom of Hardship

Over the past few months, the Coalition has served as the host for bringing together a team of passionate and committed people from Canada, Hong Kong, Austria, England, Scotland, and Sweden to develop a new initiative called the Wisdom of Hardship. CMCCF in partnership with our global contacts launched the Wisdom of Hardship, a series of inspiring stories from those who have overcome adversity prior to the COVID 19 pandemic. The series explores the values that helped them weather profound change and learn lessons that could potentially help others through the current crisis. A series of stories is now posted on the CMCCF website

(cmccfamilies.ca) and I encourage you to check them out. In conjunction with this initiative the Wisdom team hosted an international webinar on World Values Day (October 15, 2020) that brought people together from various countries to discuss their personal values and learn from each other.

Some of the CMCCF Membership Meetings, Leadership and Board Meetings, Community to Community Learning Engagements, & CMCCF-CFS Community Presentations in 2018-2019		
Time Frame	Themes <small>(please note not in chronological order)</small>	Activity and Participation
November 17, 2018	Community to Community Workshop: "Giving Voice to Culture and Values: Building A Cohesive Coalition by Sharing Values and Visions"	First Community to Community Workshops; Participation: 20 Election of the First Board of Directors (8)
April 3, 2018, May 3, 2018, June 7, 2018, August 23, 2018, Sept. 20, 2018, October 25, 2018, November 22, 2018, December 13, 2018, and February 2019	Leadership and Board Meetings	Leadership: Participation: 7 X 6 Board of Directors: Participation: 8 X 3
April 19, 2018	Community Membership Meeting	Special Guest: Daphne Penrose, "The Children's Advocate" Participation: 28
May 24, 2018	Community Membership Meeting	Annual Celebration and Special Guest: Ray Karasevich, President of MITT *Cultural Communities Education and Training for their children) Participation: 30
June 21, 2018	Community Membership Meeting	Meeting with the Department of Families Executive Team

**Some of the CMCCF Membership Meetings, Leadership and Board Meetings,
Community to Community Learning Engagements, & CMCCF-CFS Community
Presentations in 2018-2019**

Time Frame	Themes (please note not in chronological order)	Activity and Participation
		Participation: 30
January 30, 2019	CMCCF Presentation	WRHA, Public Health Nurses Participation: 25
March 27, 2019	CMCCF Presentation	Presentation to the “Families in Canada Conference sponsored by the University of Manitoba and the Vanier Institute, Topic: “Inclusion is not Enough; Cultural Communities Engaging Systems” Participation: 80
<i>January 24, 2019</i>	Introductory Planning Session: Community Asset Mapping Café, Gap and Needs Analysis	Introductory Planning session to CMCCF membership Participation: 11
<i>February 28, 2019</i>	2 nd Planning Session: Community Asset Mapping Café, Gap and Needs Analysis	Community Information Session, Participation: 30
<i>March 14, 2019</i>	3 rd Session – Training Session: Community Asset Mapping Café, Gap and Needs Analysis	Community Training, Participation: 18
<i>March 23, 2019</i>	Community Asset Mapping Café, Gap and Needs Analysis	Eritrean and Ethiopian Communities through Excel Family Resources Participation: 30
<i>March 30, 2019</i>	Community Asset Mapping Café, Gap and Needs Analysis	Muslim-Indian Communities through CMWI Participation: 25
<i>(April 4, 2019)</i>	Community Asset Mapping Café, Gap and Needs Analysis	Filipino Community through CMWI Participation: (TBA)
<i>December 3, 2018</i>	CMCCF-CFS Community presentation	Presentation to the Muslim Communities through CMWI; Participation: 20

**Some of the CMCCF Membership Meetings, Leadership and Board Meetings,
Community to Community Learning Engagements, & CMCCF-CFS Community
Presentations in 2018-2019**

Time Frame	Themes (please note not in chronological order)	Activity and Participation
<i>February 23, 2019</i>	CMCCF-CFS Community presentation	Presentation to the Muslim Communities through CMWI; Participation: 24
<i>March 16, 2019</i>	CMCCF-CFS Community presentation	Presentation to the Sudanese Community; Participation: 14
<i>March 23, 2019</i>	CMCCF-CFS Community presentation	Presentation to the Rwandan Community; Participation: 14
<i>March 30, 2019</i>	CMCCF-CFS Community presentation	Presentation to the Filipino Community; Participation: 12
<i>March 30, 2019</i>	CMCCF-CFS Community presentation	Presentation to the Nigerian Community; Participation: 14

**Total Participation for these listed events: *445 Individuals (approximately)*
Active Citizenship Hours: *1000 Hours***



Coalition of Manitoba Cultural Communities for Families Inc.
Financial Statements (unaudited)
Year Ended March 31, 2020

Coalition of Manitoba Cultural Communities for Families Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 41,665	\$ 13,248
Accounts Receivable	4,097	7,500
Other Receivable	413	442
	<u>\$46,175</u>	<u>\$21,190</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 46,175</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 21,190</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Deferred Contributions (note 2)	\$ 45,762	\$ 20,748
Other	413	442
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 46,175</u>	<u>\$ 21,190</u>
NET ASSETS	0	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 46,175</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 21,190</u></u>

Coalition of Manitoba Cultural Communities for Families Inc.
Statement of Revenues & Expenditures
Year Ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
REVENUES		
Contributions	\$ 25,525	23,810
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 25,525	23,810
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Communication & Marketing	\$ 1,603	1,401
Education & Awareness	12,221	3,247
Equipment & Supplies	3,445	3,787
Facilitator	7,763	15,375
Meetings	492	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 25,525	\$ 23,810
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 0	\$ 0

Coalition of Manitoba Cultural Communities for Families Inc.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 0	0
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
NET ASSEST - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

Coalition of Manitoba Cultural Communities for Families Inc.

Statement of Cash Flow

Year Ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenses	0	0
Changes in non-cash working capital:	<u>28,418</u>	
	<u>\$ 28,418</u>	<u>0</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	28,418	0
Cash - beginning of year	<u>13,248</u>	<u>0</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 41,665</u>	<u>0</u>

Coalition of Manitoba Cultural Communities for Families Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2020

Summary of significant accounting policies

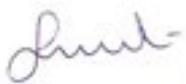
Revenue recognition

- 1 The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Externally restricted contributions are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable

2 Deferred Contributions

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Beginning balance	\$ 21,190	0
<i>Add contributions received or receivable for the year:</i>		
Winnipeg Child & Family Services		15,000
Winnipeg Foundation	38,500	30,000
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority	7,500	0
Canadian Mental Health Association Inc.	4,097	0
Subtotal	\$ 71,287	\$ 45,000
Less: Amounts Recognized as Revenue during the year	<u>25,525</u>	<u>23,810</u>
Ending balance	<u>\$ 45,762</u>	<u>\$ 21,190</u>

Directors Signatures:



Chair of the Board



Secretary-Treasurer

Board of Directors: (2020-2021)

- Eriqueson Tayo-Jones; (Past Chair)
- Inna Ganda;
- Dr. Berhanu Balcha;
- Mengistu Assefa;
- Florence Okwudili; (Chair)
- Kedeen Cummings; (Secretary-Treasurer)
- Simret Daniel; and
- Kathleen Vyrauen

Organization Animators:

- CEO, Martin Itzkow, FRSA
- Community Engagement and Allies Facilitator, Steven Feldgaier Ph.D.
- Coordinator, Research and Community Planning, Maryam Rahimi BSW
- Coordinator, Community Engagement Facilitation – Mihiret Kumbi
- Website, Judy Morfitt

VIRTUAL AGM

OUR POWERPOINT SLIDES



Our AGM Agenda

1. Call to Order – Chair of meeting Kedeen Cummings, Secretary-Treasurer
2. Approval of AGM Agenda
3. Ratification of CMCCF By-Law Number 1 – Mengistu Assefa
4. Annual Report:
 1. Florence Okwudili, Chair
 2. Martin Itzkow, CEO
 3. Steve Feldgaier, Engagement and Allies Facilitator
 4. Zulaika Rahim, Financial Management
 5. Simret Daniel – Nomination
5. Yasmin Ali, Retiring Director Recognition by Florence Okwudili
6. Adjournment
7. Panel Presentation

Reports

Florence Okwudili, Chair

Martin Itzkow, CEO

Steve Feldgaier, Programs and Initiatives

Zulaika Rahim, Financial Statement

Certificate of Deep Appreciation

presented to


YASMIN ALI

in grateful recognition for years of service to the Board of Directors
on behalf of the
**Coalition of Manitoba
Cultural Communities for Families, Inc.**

*The smallest act of kindness is worth more
than the greatest intention.*
Laila Lalami



Coalition of
Manitoba Cultural Communities
for Families, Inc.
Building cultural community values through
excellence in engagement and empowerment.
www.cmccfamilies.ca


Florence Okwudili, Chair
November 15, 2020



Panel Presentation:

"Youth Mental Health: Living with Covid & Disruption"

Our Panel Facilitator:

Petera Lucato is a retired Community Liaison Officer of 35 years with Winnipeg School Districts. She is currently the President of the Philippine Heritage Council of MB, President of the Coalition of Filipino Canadians for Stronger Families, Co-Chair of the Bicultural Council of MB-Stronger Together Inc. and an ally of the Coalition of Manitoba Cultural Communities for Families.

Panel Members:

Milnet Zawade is an immigrant woman from Ethiopia and is a Case Manager at Child & Family Services. Milnet holds a Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) degree and has experience working with women who were recovering from addiction, gender-based violence and ending sexual exploitation. Milnet also sits on the board of the Winnipeg East Youth and Families Society. Milnet has been a board member representing the Ethiopian and Eritrean youth in Winnipeg and has helped to plan and implement a number of community events. Milnet feels honored to serve the Ethiopian and Eritrean community and the general Winnipeg population as well.

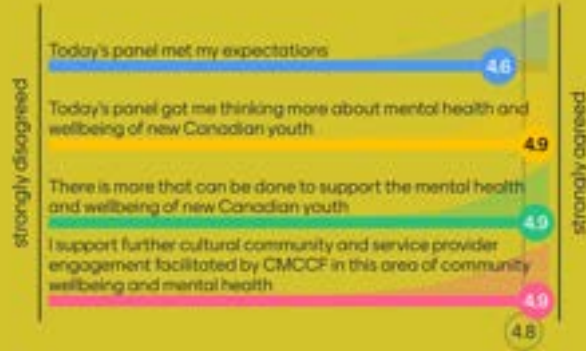
Magi Rabadi is a proud member of the Syrian Community in Winnipeg. Magi attends University of Winnipeg and is studying Human Rights and Conflict Resolution. Magi works with the Kurdish Initiative for Refugees and has helped develop many programs and initiatives for youth and newcomer families. Magi is a strong advocate for refugees in Winnipeg. Magi is the co-chair of Newcomer Ethnocultural Youth Council of Winnipeg. In 2015 Magi was given an appreciation certificate by Hon. Ahmed Hussen, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship for her efforts in supporting newcomers. Among all her dedication to community Magi is also a strong voice for women's rights and empowerment.

Maryam Kahlee is a member of the Kurdish and Muslim community in Winnipeg. Maryam holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Maryam has experience working in community and tackling topics such as mental health. Maryam has a passion for working with youth and advocating for women's rights. Since 2013 she has been the co-chair of the Newcomer Ethnocultural Youth Council of Winnipeg. Maryam has recently joined the Coalition of Manitoba Cultural Communities for Families, as the **Coordinator of Research and Planning** and is looking forward to applying her knowledge and experience to help empower community and see them flourish.

Salma Agabne is a mental health activist and motivational speaker, passionate about mental health, gender equality, human rights, youth and women's empowerment. She is the founder of Peace of Mind Canada and has spoken in educational institutions and community events in cities such as Toronto, Boston, London and Manila. As one of the recipients of the RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award and as a recipient of UNCA Peace Medal, Salma is committed to be a voice for youth, people of colour, and women - while also empowering others to use their voices to create social change.

Your Feedback

Please rate on a scale from 0-5



The most important thing that I learned today is:

Greater need to balance their careers	Specific young people with good knowledge of the current market	Encouraging the youth to engage in their day-to-day lives
Engagement with various youth services allows communities to build a connection to an at-risk population	The common feeling of the youth from various communities that they feel less engaged in their communities	The importance of understanding the cultural values within the discussion of mental health in community. The impact of the individual affects the health of the community
The youth think that you need to include youth in the design of the current market. You have to involve the youth, not just the community	Greater youth support needs in our cultural, community and community members and need to be supported	The number of resources that support is determined by understanding the community

The most important thing that I learned today is:

The importance of listening when someone is trying to tell you something, not just hearing for all the possible but supporting someone about their own knowledge being of value	Mental health should be a conversation with all agencies, communities, families, and the government and not government	Engagement in community conversations by leaders and others involved
Early on identifying at-risk youth and taking the time to support	Mental health for families and youth should work in partnership with the community, knowledge and skills	Mental health of parents that supports their
Builds confidence and the agencies and relationships		

Other topics that I would be interested in learning more about are:



youth education
health in general
poverty



Thank you!

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