

2015-2016

IMPACT REPORT

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

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Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 is entrusted to collect, share and pay tribute to the Canadian immigration story – a story that belongs to every Canadian. Thanks to the support of the Government of Canada and many corporations, foundations and individual donors like you, we are able to continue to share incredible stories of sacrifice, determination and achievement with Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

The Museum has undergone many exciting changes over the course of the past year. Just as the story of

immigration is a constantly changing narrative, the Museum is ever-evolving. We strive to be relevant, and reflect, capture and share the stories of newcomers. Last year, the Museum proudly completed an expansion, nearly doubling our exhibit space to help tell the broader story of immigration to our country. And in November, the Museum welcomed a year-long exhibit, the *Empress of Ireland* in the Ralph and Rose Chiodo Gallery.

I encourage you to read through this report. You will be moved by the experiences and personal accounts of other supporters, visitors, alumni and volunteers. Thanks to you, Canada's rich cultural history is being explored by more and more Canadians through our world-class exhibitions, educational programming and online initiatives. Together, we are bringing Canada's immigration story to life and inspiring Canadians from all age groups and walks of life as we explore and pay tribute to our shared heritage.

Immigration is inextricably woven into the fabric of our nation. To you, our dedicated donor, thank you for helping the Museum be the teller of these stories. Newcomers will be as much a part of Canada's future as they have been a part of our past. Conversations have begun. We look forward to continuing to engage in thoughtful and meaningful dialogue at the community level and on a national scale.

Sincerely,

Tung Chan, Chair of the Board of Trustees

CELEBRATING YOUR

TRANSFORMATIONAL
GIFTS

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BMO FINANCIAL GROUP



Museum staff conducting an oral history interview.

Preserving the memories of a nation

While many museums focus on collecting tangible objects and artifacts, we are committed to preserving living histories and the intangible cultural heritage of newcomers to our country. As part of our *Oral History Program*, people's first-hand immigration experiences and memories are recorded through oral history interviews led by Museum historians.

Today, our Oral History Collection has grown to over 900 interviews with stories from individuals originating from over 80 countries. Thanks to the ongoing support of **BMO Financial Group**, we are able to continue to grow our oral history collection so that the stories we share are reflective of our nation's immigration story from past to present day. We are thrilled to share this important cross-Canada collection of memories

in our new *BMO Oral History Gallery* and new online listening gallery.

Canada's immigration story is vast. It tells of long exhausting journeys of escape from oppression and suffering, of gratitude for peace and freedom, of loved ones left behind, of joyful family reunions, of lament for distant homelands, and of hope for a better future. Our oral histories enhance our understanding of the experiences of new Canadians and contribute to the collective memory of our nation.

CIBC



Shaping tomorrow's leaders today

Through **CIBC's** dedicated support of our School Group Education Program, we are able to engage youth in conversations around where we come from and why it matters.

This past year saw record school group visitation with over 5,000 school children participating in educational workshops. Developed around our growing exhibit content, expansive story collection as well as curriculum outcomes, students of all ages have fun by doing. They are encouraged to immerse themselves in the immigration journey and take part in interactive workshops that allow them to connect with the experiences of a newcomer and reflect on how immigration has shaped our identity. The program is receiving great feedback from students and

educators alike and is helping to create stronger and more inclusive communities.

"Teaching in a school where half of the population has immigrated in some way to Canada, it was great for my students to see people that looked like them and countries they had come from, reflected at the Museum....My students continued having conversations about the question 'What is Canadian?' It was the highlight of our day upon returning to school."

– Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver, Teacher

RBC FOUNDATION



Canada: Day 1 opening ceremony in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Bringing 'firsts' to Canadians

Supported nationally by **RBC Foundation**, our travelling exhibition *Canada: Day 1* explores the varied and personal day one experiences of immigrants from Confederation to present day. While every story is unique, every newcomer has a day one. It is this shared experience that makes *Canada: Day 1* so accessible and appealing to Canadians as it tours the country.

This past year, the exhibition welcomed over 50,000 visitors while on display in Saskatchewan. Visitors have been making meaningful connections with the exhibit including Jebunnessa Chapola, a newcomer originally from Bangladesh, whose story is one of many shared in the exhibition. Jebunnessa found the process of coming to Canada a long and arduous

one, spanning almost a decade of moving from place to place before finally settling in Saskatoon.

"The journey was very long.... We migrated from Norway to New York, then New Jersey, then Toronto. Finally when we landed, we drove from Toronto to Saskatoon. We just had our small Dodge Neon. The trunk was so small that the stroller didn't fit in. We were able to bring only my books and some baby milk, and the very necessary baby stuff. So it was like empty hands."

– Jebunnessa Chapola

SCOTIABANK



Volunteer George Zwaagstra with Museum visitors in front of recreated Dutch kist.

Enriching the visitor experience

From the very beginning, Museum volunteers have played an integral role in bringing the story of immigration to life for our visitors. From conducting guided tours, to supporting our educational and community outreach, our volunteers enrich the visitor experience with their own personal stories – whether it be as a retired educator, a recent newcomer to Canada or as an 'alumnus' of Pier 21, having begun their own immigration journey right here.

Thanks to the continued support of **Scotiabank**, we are able to ensure that the immigration journey will continue to be brought to life in an authentic and meaningful way by our volunteers.

"Volunteering as a tour guide at Pier 21 gives me tremendous pride. I enjoy listening to the stories of immigrants from years ago and answering questions about what it was like when I arrived at Pier 21 in 1951 from the Netherlands."

– George Zwaagstra, Volunteer

THE SOBEY FOUNDATION



Maria Barbieri in front of her photo 50 years later.

Marking family legacies, brick by brick

The *Sobey Wall of Honour* pays tribute to the individuals and families who have helped build our country – families like the Barbieri's who immigrated to Canada from Italy in 1965. Maria and Giuseppe Barbieri arrived at Pier 21 with their five daughters in tow, along with their dreams of creating a brighter future for their family.

Fifty years later, the family returned to Pier 21. The visit included four generations of family members. They commemorated the pilgrimage by unveiling a family plaque on the *Sobey Wall of Honour*. Through the ongoing support of **The Sobey Foundation** we are able to provide a special opportunity for Canadians, like the Barbieri's to celebrate their family heritage and our shared history as a nation shaped by immigration.

"The plaque will be there for all to see. For me, it was a way to honour the courage of my parents to come to Canada and the efforts they made to make a better life for all of us. I wanted them to be part of our Canadian history."

– Pina Barbieri

TD BANK GROUP



Carina Feng meeting with TD Bank Group volunteer.

Helping newcomers gain meaningful employment

Welcoming newcomers to Canada is as significant today as it was when Pier 21 was an immigration gateway. We are able to carry on that tradition through our *Welcome Home to Canada* (WHTC) program, thanks to the support of **TD Bank Group**. Together we are lending a helping hand to newcomers making their start here.

In 2015-2016, ten newcomers gained valuable Canadian work experience, training and mentorship. Working in a variety of roles at the Museum, WHTC participants bring to life the immigration stories that we are entrusted to collect and share. The program demonstrates our commitment to celebrating our rich ethnic diversity and shows that we are not only preserving the stories of newcomers to Canada, but also helping to shape those stories.

"I truly appreciate the WHTC program. This first Canadian working experience has supported and taught me a lot. Starting a new life in a new country is never easy. However, all of the help and support that I have continuously received has made my journey a lot easier."

– Carina Feng, WHTC Participant

RECOGNIZING

OUR PATRONS

Pier 21 Club /14

PIER 21 CLUB



John Oliver, Sherry Porter and Robbie Shaw (left to right) at special reception and guided tour of *Empress of Ireland*.

Our passionate champions

Pier 21 represents the sacrifices and successes of many, including those who came to Canada to build a better life for their children and for future generations. The new Pier 21 Club gives members an opportunity to honour their roots while celebrating all that Canada has made possible for newcomers to our shores.

This year, donors from across the country demonstrated their dedication to the Museum by joining this distinctive group. Our passionate champions recognize the vital role that immigration has in shaping our nation. Thanks to their philanthropic support we are deepening our impact on the lives of Canadians.

Thanks to our members:

Brian & Eileen Bidulka	Henry & Rena Demone	Tony Pavia	Carrie-Ann Smith
John & Linda Carter	Wadih M. Fares	John & Diane Peller	Jim Spatz
Tung & Shirley Chan	Fred & Elizabeth Fountain	Sherry Porter & Doug Hall	Jennifer Tramble
Marie Chapman	Lee F. & Victoria Harwood	Robert Risley	Fiona Valverde
Ralph & Rose Chiodo	Peter A. Herrndorf	Carrie Ross	Rose D. Wilson
Tony & Patricia Chiodo	John & Connie Oliver	Robbie & Jean Shaw	



"The most important day of my life happened before I was born..." This is how Pier 21 Club member John Peller begins sharing the story of his grandfather's arrival to Canada. Andrew Peller arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1927 from Hungary. Like many immigrants, he was looking for a better life and a better future. While he only had five dollars in his pocket, he was rich with hope. This was the start of a journey which ultimately led to the formation of a booming Canadian company.

"I felt like this was an incredible opportunity for me to take my commitment one step further. I continue to encourage others to join me. Together, we can ensure we can continue to offer inspiring world-class programs here at the Museum and across the country."

– Museum patron and Pier 21 Club member
Wadih M. Fares



Left: John and Diane Peller retracing the journey of Andrew Peller at Pier 21.
Right: Wadih M. Fares at the *Empress of Ireland* reception.

SPECIAL EVENT

FUNDRAISERS

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FASCINATING CANADIAN SPEAKER SERIES



(left to right) Jennifer Tory, Sherry Porter,
The Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, Marie Chapman
and Roger Howard.

The *Fascinating Canadian Speaker* series has provided a longstanding source of support for the Museum. Our audiences have heard from incredible Canadians about their own inspirational stories of immigration and the immeasurable impact immigration has made on our cultural identity. We are grateful for the volunteer leadership of Sherry Porter who chairs this series.

In November 2015, we welcomed Jennifer Tory, Group Head of Personal & Commercial Banking at RBC as our *Fascinating Canadian* in Halifax. Thanks to the generous government and corporate support of the *Fascinating Canadian Speaker* series, we are able to continue the conversation and engage more Canadians in ongoing dialogue about the importance of immigration to all Canadians.

The Halifax event was made possible by title sponsor, the **Nova Scotia Office of Immigration** and patron

sponsors: **Clearwater, McInnes Cooper, Nova Scotia Power** and **RBC**. Together with table and ticket purchasers, we raised \$25,000 to support important immersive and meaningful visitor experiences, as well as cultural and educational programming at the Museum.

“For each of us, our family story is in some way an immigration story – what a story that is! Immigration has been called an act of courage and hope. Courage in setting off on a journey toward an unfamiliar and distant land. And hope that one’s chances in that land will be better than in the old.”

– *Fascinating Canadian Breakfast speaker*
Jennifer Tory

CALIFORNIA WINE DINNER



Volunteer Lee F. Harwood and Museum supporters at the
2015 *California Wine Dinner*.

There was a lot to toast to and celebrate at our 2015 *California Wine Dinner* fundraiser. It was our first event in the new Kenneth C. Rowe Hall, marking a major milestone in the Museum’s expansion. It was also the fifth and final year of our partnership with **Treasury Wine Estates**.

Thanks to the hard work of our committee led by Lee F. Harwood, our attendees, and the generosity of our live auction and raffle donors, the dinner raised over \$100,000 in support of the Museum. These critical funds ensure the Museum can continue to offer interactive experiences and educational programming for all ages.

The success of the evening was in large part thanks to our hosts, the **Consul General of the United States of America in Halifax** and the **Society for American Wines Halifax Chapter**.

Our sincere thanks to gold sponsor, **Scotiabank**, as well as silver sponsors: **Alignvest Capital Management, BMO Nesbitt Burns, Eastlink, Ernst & Young, Kinross Gold Corporation, Next Edge Capital, Picton Mahoney, PIMCO, Polar Securities, Purpose Investments, RBC, Russell Investments, ScotiaMcLeod, and WM Fares Group**. Cheers to all of our patrons!

IMPACT

HIGHLIGHTS

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BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

As a Museum of stories, visitors have the opportunity to experience major events on a personal level. Immersive exhibits, hands-on activities and first-person accounts help visitors walk in the footsteps of the people who lived these events.

Supporting the Museum ensures that visitors of today and tomorrow have access to this world of stories.



The Museum's new Canadian Immigration Hall showcasing over 400 years of immigration history.



Ralph Chiodo exploring the newly recreated Annex Store in Rudolph P. Bratty Hall.



New Canadian Immigration Hall interactive stations.



The newly renovated Pier 21 exhibition in Rudolph P. Bratty Hall.

TRAVELLING AND TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Travelling and temporary exhibitions further deepen the experience. In addition to our two permanent exhibits, visitors in 2015-2016 had the opportunity to learn more about *Canada's Titanic - The Empress of Ireland*, one of Canada's worst maritime disasters; *Perfect Landings*, which examined the relationship between immigration and figure skating in Canada; and *A Perilous Crossing*, which provided an unflinching glimpse into the recent global migration crisis.



Temporary exhibits: Top left, *A Perilous Crossing*. Bottom left, Ann Shaw, Skate Canada Hall of Fame Chair at *Perfect Landings*. Right, *Empress of Ireland* – Canada's Titanic school group visit in the Ralph and Rose Chiodo Gallery.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community partnerships and public programming allow the Museum to broaden our audience and connect with Canadians across the country. These connections encourage Canadians to consider their link to Canada's immigration story and further their understanding of the immigration experience, past and present.



Family meets the Museum's mascot, Fenton, during Canada Day celebrations.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

From lectures to book readings and films to cultural experiences, public programming promotes the ongoing conversation and relevance of the Museum and its mandate, as new and returning communities participate in often thought-provoking activities. This past year, among a sea of activities held onsite and on-location across the country, **Esi Edugyan** and **Kim Thúy** joined our list of *Pier 21 Reads* authors, children tried their hands at pasta-making and crowds came out to experience art and music during Nocturne.



Top Left, *Pier 21 Reads* author, Kim Thúy signs books for guests at the Museum. Bottom left, participants discover culture at the Museum's pasta-making workshop. Right, *Duelling Planos* event sponsored by TD Bank Group.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partners are crucial to help promote the Museum to new audiences and expand our understanding of the immigration experience. While a number of significant partnerships were in place throughout 2015-16, highlights included the **Halifax International Airport Authority (HIAA)**, **Skate Canada** and **The Globe and Mail**. Airports are the new gateway to Canada for immigrants. A special exhibit and promotional advertising supported by the HIAA, communicated this message to millions of passengers at the Stanfield International Airport. A new exhibit was also created in partnership with Skate Canada to coincide with the 2016 National Skating Championships and support from The Globe and Mail helped the Museum reach new markets at home and beyond.



Marketing campaign at Halifax Stanfield International Airport.

COMMEMORATING

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Wadih M. Fares Wall of Tribute /36

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WADIH M. FARES WALL OF TRIBUTE



Highlighting your community's cultural heritage

Vibrant community groups across Canada keep the diverse cultural history and traditions that have shaped our collective Canadian identity. This year, we were honoured to add three groups to the *Wadih M. Fares Wall of Tribute*: **The Iranian Cultural Society of Nova Scotia** (Silver), **The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko** (Silver) and **The Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of Canada** (Platinum).

Support from these organizations and the community events they host, help all Canadians gain a deeper understanding of the many ways immigrants enrich Canada's culture and society.

Plaques on the *Wadih M. Fares Wall of Tribute* commemorate cultural organizations' respective contributions to our country. They are another reminder of the immeasurable impact that immigrants have on our nation.

REMEMBERING PAST SUPPORTERS



Left: Longstanding donor, Abe Leventhal.
Right: The Honourable Constance Glube, longstanding donor.

A.J. (Abe) Leventhal and The Honourable Constance Glube

We remember our dedicated supporters, volunteers and donors who have passed away this past year. They generously continued to support our mission as we travelled along our journey towards becoming the national museum we are today.

Of particular note were two long-standing donors, Abe Leventhal and The Honourable Constance Glube. They were steadfast advocates and champions who believed in the Museum and cared about their community.

We sincerely appreciate our past supporters' vision, dedication and commitment to the Museum.

RUTH GOLDBLOOM EDUCATIONAL BURSARY



Left: Ruth Goldbloom
Right: School group visiting the Museum thanks to support from the Ruth Goldbloom Educational Bursary.

Thanks to your donations to the **Ruth Goldbloom Educational Bursary Fund**, Ruth’s dream lives on. This fund enables diverse youth from across the country to experience the Museum.

This past year, nine youth groups from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia were awarded bursaries.

With your support, we are able to continue to offset costs such as travel and accommodations so youth groups can visit, immerse themselves in the story we tell and learn firsthand about the vital role immigration plays in our shared heritage.

Maria Almeida
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Donor Acknowledgement

The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 gratefully acknowledges all those who have generously supported the Museum in our 2015-2016 fiscal year (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016).

\$20 TO \$449

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The Immigrant

SPECIAL EVENT
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Breakfast with a Fascinating
Canadian – Halifax*
Cheryl Hodder
Sherry Porter

California Wine Dinner
John Carter
George Foote
Lee F. Harwood
John Oliver
Tim Pellerin
Sherry Porter
Kurt Scholz
Judi Vincent
Craig Young

If you supported the Museum in our 2015-2016 fiscal year (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016) and your name is not listed in the Donor Acknowledgement section, please contact support@pier21.ca. We do greatly appreciate your support and apologize for the oversight.