

2016-2017

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

Canada

Table of Contents

3	Message From the Chair
4	Celebrating Your Transformational Gifts
14	Recognizing Our Patrons
18	Special Event Fundraisers
24	Impact Highlights
36	Commemorating Your Contributions
40	Ruth Goldbloom Educational Bursary
41	Donor Acknowledgement



Canadian Museum of
Immigration at Pier 21

IMPACT REPORT

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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.

As you read this Impact Report reflecting on the 2016-17 year, you will see that we have accomplished a

great deal thanks to your support. 2016-17 marked the first full year of operations for the expanded Museum. The compelling new exhibits and exciting new programs have engaged, touched, inspired and reminded people of their own immigration history. We are fortunate to have such an emotional and authentic connection with so many.

As the national museum of immigration, it is our privilege to celebrate and honour the country's immigration stories, particularly in this sesquicentennial year. These are the stories that make us who we are as a nation and that illustrate the vast contributions of immigrants to Canada's culture, economy and way of life.

Thanks to you, Canada's rich immigration history is being explored by more and more Canadians, both onsite, online and across the country. Together, we are bringing Canada's immigration story to life and inspiring Canadians of all ages as we explore and preserve our shared heritage.

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. Together we will continue to open minds and spark significant conversations about the importance of immigration – past, present and future.

Sincerely,



Tung Chan, Chair of the Board of Trustees

CELEBRATING YOUR TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS

BMO Financial Group /6

CIBC /7

Fred and Elizabeth Fountain /8

Marjorie Lindsay /9

RBC Foundation /10

Scotiabank /11

The Sobey Foundation /12

TD Bank Group /13

R. Howard Webster Foundation /13



BMO
FINANCIAL
GROUP



Hungarian refugee, Gaby Niloff (right), celebrating her 10th birthday in Montreal, April 1958. Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. [D12016.11.9]

Preserving the memories of a nation

Our Oral History Program sends historians across the country to collect and preserve the immigration experiences of newcomers to Canada. Thanks to the ongoing support of BMO Financial Group, our Oral History Collection has grown to over 1100 personal stories, featured online and in the *BMO Oral History Gallery*.

In honour of the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution, we featured oral histories such as Gaby's, one of 38,000 refugees who fled the Soviet invasion of their homeland in 1956, to find a safe haven in Canada. Her family's decision to leave their home is a moment Gaby will never forget.

"I was eight years old and I just had a regular life: went to school with my little friends. And then what I remember of the revolution was that one morning, when my mother was doing my hair, we heard gunshots, and then my mother said, 'Oh, you're not going to school.'"

– Gaby Niloff

CIBC



Students participate in Teddy Bear's Journey.

Shaping tomorrow's leaders today

This past year, through CIBC's support of our School Group Education Program, we engaged over 5000 youth in hands-on activities. They are encouraged to put themselves in the shoes of a newcomer to connect with what it is like to leave everything behind and start anew.

Through programs complementing our temporary exhibition, school groups also attended a special guest lecture by Quebec-based Canadian writer Anne Renaud, author of *Into the Mist: The Story of the Empress of Ireland*.

"The students loved it. Here's what I heard: 'Museums are so cool!' A very nice exhibition. Thank you for all this information, we will keep working on our Empress research project in class. I'm sure the students will remember many things while doing their projects."

– Cyrille Deveau,
4th/5th grade teacher,
École du Grand-Portage

FRED AND ELIZABETH FOUNTAIN



Canada 150 Ambassador, Fred Fountain.

Celebrating Canada 150

Early in 2017, Canada 150 Ambassador Fred Fountain and his wife Elizabeth made a special gift to mark our country's sesquicentennial anniversary of Confederation. Their generous donation has helped support the Museum's Canada 150 events and programs, as well as our new Artist-in-Residence, Andrea Tsang Jackson.

We are incredibly grateful for Fred and Elizabeth's leadership gift. It brings the Canadian immigration story to life for our visitors in a deep and meaningful way and celebrates the importance of newcomers to our country. We are proud they chose to include us among the organizations they believe to be of national importance.

"Elizabeth and I have made it a Canada 150 personal project to make a select number of special gifts to institutions which we value very highly as being important for Canada and important to ourselves."

– Fred S. Fountain

MARJORIE LINDSAY



Students watch Halifax Theatre for Young People production of *Where Poppies Blow*.

Engaging Canadians in living history

Beloved Halifax philanthropist, Marjorie Lindsay, added us to the list of tremendous contributions she has made in our community. Marjorie is well aware of the important role that Pier 21 played as a gateway to Canada for one million immigrants and as a departure point for 368,000 Canadian Military personnel during the Second World War. As a young woman, Marjorie helped welcome back those who served our country, and today she continues that rich tradition of offering a helping hand to so many in need.

Marjorie's gift is helping us share stories from our past and bring them to life for our visitors. Thanks to her support, we are engaging visitors of all ages in the stories we tell and offering programs like our Remembrance Day performances of Hannah

Moskovitch's play *Where Poppies Blow*. Marjorie, who attended one of the school group offerings, marvelled at how engaged the students were in learning about the history of the First World War and wartime Halifax through the lens of a lively 11-year-old boy. We are very appreciative of Marjorie's support in helping us make programs like this possible.

RBC FOUNDATION



Newcomers Ethel Suarez and Monybanu Dau at Canada: Day 1 opening in Red Deer.

Bringing ‘firsts’ to Canadians

The immigration journey is marked by firsts: first steps, first impressions and first experiences. Our travelling exhibition *Canada: Day 1* supported by RBC Foundation, explores immigrants’ diverse day one experiences, from Confederation to present day.

Since its launch in 2014, *Canada: Day 1* has visited seven cities across Canada. This past year, visitors in Red Deer, Edmonton and Lloydminster had the opportunity to make meaningful connections with the stories shared in the exhibition.

In partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and Global Affairs Canada, mini versions of the exhibit have toured internationally,

including a stop at the United Nations General Assembly in New York City.

“The exhibition offers visitors the chance to see Canada with fresh eyes – as newcomers over the past 150 years have experienced it. It also offers the opportunity for us to extend hands of welcome to those who have just recently arrived here, and invite them to share their stories.”

– Lorna Johnson,
Executive Director,
Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery

SCOTIABANK



Museum staff with now retired volunteer, Sheila Humes.

Enriching the visitor experience

Museum volunteers play an integral role in bringing immigration stories to life for our visitors. Thanks to Scotiabank's ongoing support, we are able to ensure that volunteers are well supported and continue to enrich the visitor experience in an authentic and meaningful way.

This past year, our team grew to well over 100 volunteers contributing more than 4700 hours to the Museum. Among them is passionate volunteer, Sheila Humes, a retired teacher who joined our team in 1999. Popular among visitors, especially those with a keen interest in the Second World War, Sheila retired from her volunteer role at the Museum this year.

"It has been my pleasure to volunteer these past twelve years with Sheila Humes. Sheila is the consummate tour guide, always offering stories and information to enhance every tour. Her sense of humour, her energy and her willingness to keep on learning are qualities that are very special."

*– Sharon Waxman,
Museum volunteer*

THE SOBEY FOUNDATION



Sam Bartucci visiting Pier 21 with his family.

Honouring family legacies

The *Sobey Wall of Honour* pays tribute to the individuals and families who have helped build our country – families like the Bartucci's. Sam Bartucci came to Canada with his mother and brother from Italy in 1959. His father had immigrated five years earlier to find a job and help build a new life for his family. Sam, full of excitement for the adventure and anticipation at reuniting with his dad, remembers the day he landed at Pier 21 as if it were yesterday. Today his family's story is recognized on the *Sobey Wall of Honour*.

A proud Italian immigrant and retired Sobeys employee, Sam returned to Pier 21 with his children and grandchildren to honour their immigration story and celebrate two anniversaries – Canada 150 and Sobeys' 110th anniversary. The Sobeys Foundation also marked the occasion with a generous new gift to the

Museum that encourages Sobeys employees to share their personal immigration stories.

"I was eight years old the first time I came here. I can't remember what I had for dinner last night, but I remember the day that we landed at Pier 21 in Halifax."

– Sam Bartucci

TD BANK
GROUP

R. HOWARD
WEBSTER
FOUNDATION



Gabriela networking with possible employers.

Helping newcomers gain meaningful employment

Welcoming newcomers to Canada is as significant today as it was when Pier 21 was an immigration gateway. We carry on that tradition by helping newcomers make their start here through our *Welcome Home to Canada* (WHTC) program presented by TD Bank Group and supported by the R. Howard Webster Foundation.

This past year, eight newcomers gained valuable Canadian work experience, training and mentorship. We are honoured to celebrate our diversity through this program that not only preserves the stories of newcomers to Canada but also helps shape them.

Originally from Mexico, Gabriela Garza came to Canada highly educated with an impressive resume. However, like many newcomers, her job search was not easy. She credits the WHTC program for setting her on her career path.

"I found a disappointing reality. Canadian companies don't recognize credentials and professional experience from abroad; they want Canadian experience. I sent hundreds of resumes with no luck....The WHTC program was a blessing in my life."

– Gabriela Garza,
WHTC participant

RECOGNIZING OUR PATRONS

Pier 21 Club /16



PIER 21 CLUB



Our passionate champions

As a former gateway to Canada for more than one million immigrants, Pier 21 represents for so many the place where their new life in Canada began. Now as a national museum, Pier 21 stands as a symbol of new beginnings for all immigrants to our country from past to present day.

Our Pier 21 Club members recognize the pivotal role newcomers play in shaping our country and are among our most passionate champions. Joining this distinctive group gives members the opportunity to honour their roots and celebrate all that Canada has made possible for newcomers. We are thankful for their ongoing support and annual leadership gifts that help us engage our community and deepen our impact on the lives of Canadians.





Thanks to our members:

Brian and Eileen Bidulka
 Kendall Blunden
 Tanya Bouchard
 John and Linda Carter
 Tung and Shirley Chan
 Marie Chapman
 Henry and Rena Demone
 Wadih M. Fares
 Fred and Elizabeth Fountain
 Lee F. and Victoria Harwood
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 Fred Smithers
 Jim Spatz
 Jennifer Tramble
 Fiona Valverde
 Tom and Sasha Weisz

SPECIAL EVENT FUNDRAISERS

Fascinating Canadian Speaker Series /20
California Wine Dinner /22

...CINATING CANADIAN
...an Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

SHIP JOHN TORY
Mayor of Toronto

Patron Sponsors:

Live
Plans

PAIS PRODUCTION

OSLE

RBC Ro



FASCINATING CANADIAN SPEAKER SERIES



Our *Fascinating Canadian Speaker Series* allows us to share stories of immigration and engage audiences in thoughtful talks about the importance of newcomers. This year we hosted two Fascinating Canadian events with Mayor John Tory and Dr. Jim Spatz.

Mayor Tory inspired attendees in Toronto with remarks on the positive impact immigration has and will continue to have on his city and on the country. In Halifax, Dr. Spatz, Chairman and CEO of Southwest Properties, moved audience members by sharing his family's immigration story.

Toronto's luncheon was made possible by co-presenters RBC Royal Bank and Air Canada and patron sponsors Active Green + Ross, the Faas Foundation, Fengate Asset Management, Kinross Gold, Osler Hoskin & Harcourt and Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals. Halifax's breakfast was generously supported by title sponsor the

"Canada's leadership in the world in embracing diversity and inclusion, and openness to the world, is and has been to our great benefit."

– Dr. Jim Spatz

Nova Scotia Office of Immigration and patron sponsors, Campbell Comeau Engineering, Clearwater Seafoods, McInnes Cooper, Nova Scotia Power Inc. and RBC Royal Bank.

We are grateful for the continued leadership of Sherry Porter as event chair and her committee of volunteers. Together we raised over \$89,000 in support of cultural and educational programming.



"We have seen that immigration is not a threat but a virtue. An opportunity. A key foundation block in nation building – yesterday, today and tomorrow. And now others are seeing that too."

– Mayor John Tory



CALIFORNIA WINE DINNER



Long-time supporters come out year after year for our *California Wine Dinner* to raise a glass and toast our shared heritage. Thanks to a dedicated committee led by Lee F. Harwood, and the generosity of our sponsors, donors and patrons, this 15th annual marquee fundraiser raised \$150,000.

We are grateful to all who helped make the event such a great success. Many thanks to: our hosts, the Consul General of the United States in Halifax and the Society for American Wines; new winery partner, Constellation Wines; Gold Sponsors, McInnes Cooper and Scotiabank; and Silver Sponsors, BMO Nesbitt Burns, Ernst & Young, Kinross Gold, Next Edge Capital, Picton Mahoney Asset Management, PIMCO, Polar Asset Management, Purpose Investments, RBC Royal Bank, Touch of Gold, RP Investments, Russell Investments, ScotiaWealth | The Harwood Group, Sprott Asset Management and WM Fares Group.

"Immigrants have built this country and while their stories are often stories of hardship, they are also stories of hard work and success....Not only do the stories tell us who we are today, they inspire us for who we want to be in the future."

*— Cheryl Hodder,
Partner, McInnes Cooper*



"Immigration plays a key role in making communities stronger, more prosperous, more diverse and more inclusive....The Museum is helping people understand the importance of immigration and the role it's played in Canada's development."

– Craig Thompson,
Sr. Vice President, Scotiabank,
Atlantic Regional Office



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Bringing History to Life /26

Travelling and Temporary Exhibitions /28

Public Programming /30

Discover Your Roots /32

Partnerships and Community Engagement /34



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

As a museum of stories, visitors have the opportunity to connect with the immigration journey 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 experiences. Supporting the Museum ensures that visitors of today and tomorrow have access to this world of stories.





Top left: Museum visitors uncover the meaning behind the *Wheel of Conscience*. Bottom left: A young visitor learns what it was like to work at Pier 21.
Right: A family explores the contents of a trunk that tells Ausma Levalds' story.

TRAVELLING AND TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Canada: Day 1

Canada's Self Portrait

Canada's Titanic - The Empress of Ireland

Community Presents:

The No. 2 Construction Battalion

Journey to Canada:

Ukrainian Immigration Experiences 1891-1900

Mosaic:

Identity and Community Connection

Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Times:

Italian Canadian Experiences During World War II

Safe Haven:

Canada and the 1956 Hungarian Refugees



Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia



Top left: Visitors explore *Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Times*: Italian Canadian Experiences During World War II.

Bottom left: Members of the No. 2 Construction Battalion.

Right: Dancers perform at the opening of *Safe Haven*: Canada and the 1956 Hungarian Refugees.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

From lectures to book readings and films to cultural workshops, public programming engages new and returning communities in thought-provoking activities and conversations that reinforce the relevance of the Museum and its mandate. This past year, among a full calendar of activities held onsite and across the country, visitors watched countless cultural performances, children tried their hands at making crêpes and crowds came out to experience art and music during *Nocturne: Art at Night*.





Top left: Children learn to make crêpes during March Break. Bottom left: The All Nations Drummers perform during Heritage Day.
Right: Visitors contribute to Artist-in-Residence Kyle Jackson's art piece during Nocturne.

DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS

Offering free reference services, our *Scotiabank Family History Centre* helps visitors trace their family's immigration story. Our dedicated team takes the details our guests know about their loved one's journey and helps them navigate finding their family's immigration records. This unique service, and the discoveries they share, makes the Museum experience all the more memorable and emotional.





Top left: Annette Verschuren reconnects with her family's immigration journey.
Bottom left: Edi Zupanic with a photo of the ship that brought him to Canada.
Right: A Scotiabank Family History Centre staff member reviews a passenger list with visitors.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Partners are crucial to help promote the Museum to new audiences and expand our understanding of the immigration experience. Among 15 successful partnerships in place throughout this past year, highlights included hosting micro-lectures with Halifax Pride about LGBTQ+ immigration and celebrating International Women's Day with an art exhibit exploring identity from immigrant and migrant women's perspectives.





Top left: Visitors attend the opening of Mosaic: Identity and Community Connection. Bottom left: Museum staff and mascot make new friends at Pride. Right: Ins Choi, acclaimed playwright and creator of Kim's Convenience, visits the Museum.

COMMEMORATING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Wadih M. Fares Wall of Tribute /38

Remembering Past Supporters /39





Конгресс Українців Канади
Ukrainian Canadian Congress
Congrès des Ukrainien-Canadiens

In honour of the many thousands of Ukrainians who began arriving in Canada after 1891 seeking freedom and prosperity. They helped build our great nation and championed Canadian values like multiculturalism. Ukrainian Canadians have enriched Canada through their industriousness, rich cultural heritage, strong religious beliefs, and dedication to their community and ancestral homeland.

На честь багатьох тисяч українців, які в пошуку свободи і процвітання почали приїждати до Канади після 1891 р. Вони допомогли розбудувати нашу велику націю і захищали канадські цінності, зокрема мультикультурність. Українські канадці обогатили Канаду своєю працьовитістю, багатством культурної спадщини, міцними релігійними переконаннями та відданістю своїй спільноті та Батьківщині.

WADIH M. FARES WALL OF TRIBUTE



Members and guests of the St. Fidelis Golden Age Club unveil their plaque.

Vibrant community groups keep diverse cultural history and traditions alive across our country. This year we were honoured to include the St. Fidelis Golden Age Club, the Embassy of Hungary (Silver Level) and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (Platinum Level) to the *Wadih M. Fares Wall of Tribute*.

Their support of the Museum and the cultural events they host help Canadians develop a deeper understanding of the historic and contemporary contributions immigrants make to Canada.

Contributions to the *Wadih M. Fares Wall of Tribute* demonstrate the engagement and commitment many cultural groups have in sharing the Canadian immigration story with current and future generations.



Unveiling the Embassy of Hungary plaque.

REMEMBERING OUR PAST SUPPORTERS



Photo credit: Robert Risley.

We sincerely appreciate our past supporters' dedication to the Museum and remember our donors and volunteers who passed away this year. Of particular note were champions Marjorie Fountain, John Richards and Janet Servant.

Marjorie Fountain made a generous contribution towards our Nation Builder's campaign. From driving an ambulance in WWII to serving on numerous boards, she was a very active community philanthropist in Nova Scotia.

John Richards was a volunteer tour guide at the Museum who loved sharing his memories of working at Pier 21 back in the days when it was a bustling immigration gateway.

Janet Servant volunteered with the Museum in a variety of roles assisting our collections team and engaging with visitors. She was also passionate about culture, the French language, singing, dancing and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends whom she cherished. Janet believed in the Museum's mission and bequeathed a gift in her will. We are very grateful and know that her gift will continue to have a lasting impact.

RUTH GOLDBLOOM EDUCATIONAL BURSARY



Left: School group visiting the Museum thanks to support from the Ruth Goldbloom Educational Bursary.
Right: Ruth Goldbloom in the Nation Builder's Plaza.

Support to the *Ruth Goldbloom Educational Bursary Fund* helps make Ruth's dream a reality by allowing young Canadians across our country the opportunity to experience the Museum.

Thanks to your support, 12 bursaries were awarded this past year to youth groups from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia.

With your continued philanthropy, this Fund will create future opportunities for youth to be immersed in the immigration experience and to learn firsthand about a vital part of our Canadian heritage.

Maria Almeida
Gail Asper & Michael Paterson
Thomas Bateman
Joan Cleather
Pauline Connors
Margaret Cox
Louis Deveau
Colin Dodds
Karen Farquhar
Mayann Francis
Joan Gilroy
Harry Glube
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The Coffey Family Foundation
Gerald Wright
Linda Zimmering
Sheila Zive

Donor Acknowledgement Listing

The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 gratefully acknowledges all those who have generously supported the Museum in the 2016-2017 fiscal year (April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017).

\$20 TO \$449

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