

2017-2018

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 is entrusted by the people of Canada to collect, share and pay tribute to the ongoing story of immigration to Canada. We take great pride in this mandate as we endeavor to connect the public with our cherished stories and our immigration history in new and resonating ways.

As you read this year's Impact Report and reflect on the many ways in which we have accomplished our goals this past year, I want to acknowledge how much of this was possible because of your support.

This is the first Impact Report I have overseen as Chair and I am impressed with all that has been accomplished this past year thanks to the generosity of our donors. From the wonderful *Refuge Canada* exhibition, to the many programs that welcomed thousands to the Museum, to acting as a platform for youth education, we are truly touching hearts and minds across the Nation.

We are, of course, a museum of stories and it is our privilege and honour to celebrate the story of Canadian immigration and the individual stories of immigrants to Canada. Part of that celebration is the important process of finding, collecting and archiving those stories. Moreover, we make them available for our visitors in a way that will allow them to find sparks of connection and inspiration as they encounter these stories in the Museum. Thanks to our dedicated supporters, we are able to continue this vital undertaking, bringing Canada's immigration story to light and life through our programs and interpretations of the stories we gather.

Reflecting on all the wonderful things we have achieved together, I want to extend my thanks to all of you, whose contributions have made this possible. I look forward to all that the Museum will achieve in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Robert Vineberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Vineberg, Chair of the Board of Trustees

CELEBRATING YOUR TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS

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BMO FINANCIAL GROUP



Left: Umeeda Switlo's passport.
Right: Umeeda Switlo today.

Preserving the memories of a nation

Our Oral History collection is central to our mandate of sharing the ongoing story of immigration to Canada with visitors near and far. Our Oral Historians work diligently to collect and preserve the immigration experiences from people all across the country. This past year we added 49 new oral histories to the growing collection. This vital work is made possible with the generous support of BMO Financial Group.

Our newest exhibition, *Refuge Canada*, draws extensively from the Oral History Collection and is fostering moments of deep connection between visitors and the stories of people who came to Canada seeking refuge. For example, the resonating story of Umeeda Switlo who fled Uganda in 1972 after President Idi Amin ordered the expulsion of the

country's Asian population. Umeeda arrived in Canada with her family, one suitcase, \$100 and some jewelry.

"So there are two parts of me, one part is excited, and the other part is devastated wondering whether I'm going to see my family again. ... I've never been to North America. I've never been to Europe."

– Umeeda Switlo

CIBC



Students learn about Canada's immigration story from a Heritage Interpreter.

Inspiring young minds

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

This past year we welcomed 4,739 young people from across the country to participate in programs designed specifically for classrooms. Each program encourages the students to immerse themselves in the immigration journey and take part in interactive workshops that connect them with the experiences of newcomers. The activities are developed to complement exhibition content and our growing story collection, ensuring that the students are connecting with the exhibits and having fun while learning. Our education programs continue to receive wonderful feedback from educators and students alike.

"Thank you kindly for an amazing experience and guided visit for our students recently. We thoroughly enjoyed it."

*– A thank you letter from Jennifer Field,
EB Chandler Junior High School, Amherst,
Nova Scotia*



THE RALPH AND ROSE CHIDO FAMILY FOUNDATION



(from left) Rob Vineberg, Rose Chiodo, Ralph Chiodo, Marie Chapman and Dan Conlin.

Walking in the footsteps of a refugee

Refuge Canada is the most ambitious temporary exhibition the Museum has ever done. Beginning with "No one wants to be a refugee, anyone can become a refugee," the exhibition is an examination of Canada's place in the global refugee crisis. Powerful stories and artifacts connect all who visit with the determined individuals who sought asylum in Canada.

This timely exhibition came to be through the generous support of The Ralph and Rose Chiodo Family Foundation. The official opening welcomed hundreds to a reception with touching speeches and tours of the exhibition. We cannot wait to see how *Refuge Canada* will continue to inspire visitors while on display in The Ralph and Rose Chiodo Gallery until mid-November, before beginning a national tour in 2019.

"During my tour at the exhibit, I saw myself in every corner of the exhibit. From the interview room; to the tent; to the lost loved ones wall... When I look back where I was two decades ago, I say life is a journey and you'll never know where it will take you."

– Abshiro Abdille



Abshiro Abdille shares her perspective as a refugee.



UNHCR refugee tent in *Refuge Canada*.



Official Opening attendees discover *Refuge Canada*.



Arvin Kovacevic stands with his passport on loan for *Refuge Canada*.

FRED AND ELIZABETH FOUNTAIN



Artist-in-Residence, Andrea Tsang Jackson placing a quilt block on her community lead project.

Quilt of a thousand stories

The generous Canada 150 donation from Fred and Elizabeth Fountain allowed the Museum to bring the Canadian immigration story to life for visitors through incredible programs including this past year's Artist-in-Residence, Andrea Tsang Jackson.

Andrea's "Here and Elsewhere Bee" was a communal quilting project that invited Museum visitors to contribute a block and a story. As visitors neared the end of the *Canadian Immigration Story* exhibition, they encountered Andrea, her sewing machine and an opportunity to reflect on what Canada meant to them. The final project was a vast, 12-foot quilt with more than one-thousand blocks, each symbolizing an interpretation of arrival to Canada.

"The project is less about my work as an artist, and more about facilitating the telling of people's stories. My hope is that visitors' interaction with quilting as a modern art form will be approachable, enlightening, and shed light on their personal histories."

– Andrea Tsang Jackson

MARJORIE LINDSAY AND FAMILY



Members of Halifax Dance's Young Company perform *Letters from the Front*.

Bringing history to life

We are forever grateful to be a recipient of life-long volunteer and philanthropist, Marjorie Lindsay's charitable contributions. Marjorie and her family's gift helps us bring to life the stories of our past.

With her support, we have offered poignant programs such as *Letters from the Front*, a three-part contemporary dance inspired by real love letters written between husband and wife during the Second World War. *Letters from the Front* was performed by Halifax Dance's Young Company, and moved audiences through a series of site-specific dances in the *Pier 21 Story* exhibition on Remembrance Day 2017. It was a dance, a story and a unique and intimate homage to the sacrifices made on the battlefield and at home.

RBC
FOUNDATION



Shauntay Grant and Tyshan Wright with their piece *Abeng* in *Canada: Day 1*.

Continuing the conversations with *Canada: Day 1*

With support from RBC Foundation, *Canada: Day 1* has visited 11 cities across Canada since its launch in 2014. This past year, visitors interacted with *Canada: Day 1* in Halifax, Nova Scotia; Gatineau, Quebec and Simcoe County, Ontario. At every stop, visitors added their voices by writing or drawing on luggage tags in the exhibit. A selection of the beautiful expressions of hope and thanks are now on display in a digital gallery on our website.

Programs developed alongside *Canada: Day 1* allowed visitors to hear from some of the artists who contributed installations to the exhibition. Over the past year, we welcomed Soheila Esfahani, Charley Young, Shauntay Grant and Tyshan Wright for illuminating presentations about their artistic process

and how they interpreted the meanings and messages woven through *Canada: Day 1* with their art.

"We created Abeng in part to position Maroon history and culture within the broader Canadian narrative. We hope the piece will encourage people to learn more about this lesser-known group of migrants to Canada's eastern shore."

– Shauntay Grant

SCOTIABANK



Bill Hart with the door that inspired his volunteerism.

Volunteers are the heart of the Museum

The Museum's incredible, passionate volunteers enrich our visitors' experiences daily. With Scotiabank's ongoing support, our network of volunteers grew to 115 personnel contributing 4,800 hours to the Museum this year.

Volunteer Bill Hart has a special connection to the Museum. Bill immigrated to Canada from the USA via Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and was processed at Pier 21 in 1971. Last summer Bill toured the Museum with his son and noticed a replica of a Canada Customs door in our *Canada: Day 1* exhibition. He immediately recognized it as the door he came through so many years ago. It was at that moment Bill decided to become a volunteer at the Museum and we could not be more fortunate to have him on our team.

"As an immigrant, it is profoundly moving to hear of, and often share stories with other immigrants or the families of immigrants as I do tours or chat with visitors."

– Bill Hart, Museum Volunteer

THE SOBEY FOUNDATION



Archel Imperial and her store manager, Dan Pettigrew exploring the Pier 21 Story exhibition.

Honouring the many stories that form Canada

The Sobeys Foundation 150/110 Anniversary project invited Sobeys' employees to be a part of history by sharing their personal stories of arrival in Canada with the Museum and become part of our permanent story collection. The stories they shared were remarkable and diverse, with journeys to Canada originating from 20 different countries from around the world.

Archel Imperial's story was among those collected through the project. Archel emigrated from the Philippines in 2009 seeking a better life for her family, and found employment with Sobeys at their Foodland store in Winchester, Ontario. With courage and determination, Archel worked hard with the Sobeys team and was soon able to realize her dream of bringing her son to Canada with her.

"I would like to thank... all Canadian Immigration Team for giving me opportunity to work and live to this beautiful country and most of all to Sobeys and Foodland Family for giving me a chance to share my story."

– Archel Imperial

TD BANK
GROUP

R. HOWARD
WEBSTER
FOUNDATION



Our Welcome Home to Canada participants at their graduation ceremony.

Welcoming newcomers and building careers

Decades ago, immigrants arriving in Canada by ocean liner were greeted by a large sign on the Pier 21 building that read "Welcome Home to Canada." Today, TD Bank and R. Howard Webster Foundation allow us to carry on that warm wish with the Welcome Home to Canada (WHTC) program, our employment integration program established in 2004.

This past year, nine more newcomers gained valuable Canadian work experience as part of WHTC, including Rafah Saoud. Rafah came to Canada from Syria with a degree in Civil Engineering. Her employment specialist directed her to the WHTC program where Rafah looked forward to the professional experience, skill building, support and ESL training it provided. The Museum enthusiastically welcomed Rafah aboard, and after completing the program she accepted a permanent

position at the Museum. We cannot wait to see where Rafah's career in Canada will take her and us.

"I am so proud that I became a part of this organization. I have a permanent job here and now I have the opportunity to give back, to give my role the best of me. I have gained various new skills and experiences in the WHTC program to put everyday toward the success of this organization."

– Rafah Saoud

RECOGNIZING OUR PATRONS

Pier 21 Club /18



PIER 21 CLUB



Our passionate champions

Our Pier 21 Club members are among the Museum's most passionate champions. In joining this distinctive club, members are directly supporting the Museum's initiatives while also paying tribute to their families' histories, recent or long ago.

We are incredibly grateful for their support and their annual leadership gifts that help us in our vital mission of engaging our Canadian community with the stories of immigration that have built our country.





Thanks to our members:

Brian and Eileen Bidulka
 Kendall Blunden
 Tanya Bouchard
 Marie Chapman
 Beatrice Crawford
 Sarah Crawford
 Wadih Fares
 Fred and Elizabeth Fountain
 Lee and Victoria Harwood
 Rajendra Kothari
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 Lynda Taylor
 Jennifer Tramble
 Fiona Valverde
 Rob Vineberg
 Annette Verschuren
 Tom and Sasha Weisz

SPECIAL EVENT FUNDRAISERS

Fascinating Canadian Speaker Series /22
California Wine Dinner /24



Paris 21



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FASCINATING CANADIAN SPEAKER SERIES



Our Fascinating Canadian Speaker Series hit a milestone this year as we welcomed our 19th and 20th speakers, John E. Peller in Halifax and Ralph Chiodo in Toronto.

John Peller, CEO of Andrew Peller Limited, spoke about his Hungarian-born grandfather who came to Canada with little more than a dream for a better life. Ralph Chiodo, President of Active Green + Ross Tire & Automotive Centre, drew a link between his story of arrival at Pier 21 and his life-long desire to give back.

In Halifax, the Breakfast was generously supported by title sponsor, the Province of Nova Scotia, and patron sponsors, Clearwater Seafoods, McInnes Cooper and Nova Scotia Power.

The Toronto luncheon was made possible thanks to the support of lead sponsor: CIBC; patron sponsors: Active Green+Ross Tire Centres, Fazzari + Partners LLP, FCA Canada Inc., Kinross Gold Corp., Masters Insurance,

Michelin North America, Peel Chrysler Fiat, Protractor Software, and Wishart Law.

The Fascinating Canadian Speaker Series is always carefully shepherded by event chair, Sherry Porter and her committee of volunteers. Together, we raised over \$95,000 for programming and exhibitions at the Museum.



"I have never forgotten the kindness shown to my family when we arrived in Canada at Pier 21...as a result, it has given me the opportunity, the courage and enthusiasm to do things for others here in our great city and our great country."

– Ralph Chiodo



CALIFORNIA WINE DINNER



Since 2001, guests of this signature fundraiser have been coming back year after year for a memorable evening of fine wine, delicious food and camaraderie. In May 2017, with the support of our generous donors, sponsors and patrons, and a team of volunteers with Lee F. Harwood at the helm, the California Wine Dinner raised \$209,000.

Our continued success is thanks to a well-established partnership with the Consul General of the United States in Halifax, the Society for American Wines and our winery partner, Arterra Wines.

Many thanks to our Gold Sponsors: McInnes Cooper and Scotiabank; Silver Sponsors: BMO Nesbitt Burns, Canaccord Genuity, Ernst & Young, Fidelity Investments, Kinross Gold Corp., Lysander Funds, Next Edge Capital, PIMCO, Polar Asset Management, Purpose Investments, RBC Royal Bank, RP Investment Advisors,

ScotiaWealth | The Harwood Group, Sprott Asset Management, Touch of Gold, Vision Capital, Waratah and WM Fares Group.

"Whether it was through the fortitude and resilience of our ancestors or through our own tenacity and resolve, we are here today as Canadians. For Canada's 150th and to pay tribute to our shared heritage, let us raise a glass to celebrate and reflect on the important role immigration continues to play in shaping the fabric of our nation."

– Lee F. Harwood,
California Wine Dinner Committee Chair



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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Holocaust Education & Remembrance /36



CONVICTIONS • CONVICTIONS

PETER WIEBE

INFORMATION
MORNING

INFORMATION
MORNING

CANADA 150

It was a busy, exciting time as the Museum was host to Canada 150 events and celebrations all year long. Many of the wonderful travelling signature events made stops at the Museum, including the Red Couch Tour, Canada150&Me, La Dictée P.G.L. 150: Travelling through History, The Walrus Talks – Conversations about Canada and the Canada C3 Tour.

Canada Day 2017 saw an all-time record number of visitors to the Museum with enthusiastic crowds and drummers for the Atlantic to Pacific Celebration. Partnerships with the Toronto Ward Museum for Not Just Numbers Workshop, FIN: The Atlantic Film Festival – From Away Film Competition and Gala, Journey of a Lifetime: Colonist Car Exhibit and Play and VIA Rail's Pan Canadian Tour rounded out a full complement of participatory, celebratory and exploratory experiences.





Top left: The Atlantic to Pacific Drumming Celebration on Canada Day at the Museum. Bottom left: The Walrus Talks at the Museum. Photo credit: Riley Smith
Right: Dragon Dance at the Museum.

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

As a Museum of stories, we allow visitors of all ages to connect with the immigration journey on a personal level through our interactive exhibits, family history research, full-scale replicas, period costumes and moving tours where they walk in the footsteps of immigrants past.

Supporting the Museum ensures that visitors today and into the future will have access to these resonating and life-changing moments of understanding and empathy.









Top: Learning about African cuisine during March Break. Bottom Left: Siegfried Mehlitz celebrates the 65th anniversary of his arrival.
Bottom Right: Live History's presentation of *In Time* brought the *Pier 21* Story exhibition to life.

ANIMATING OUR STORIES ON STAGE

This year we connected visitors with our stories of journey in animated ways, full of life, song and movement.

Journey of a Lifetime portrayed the story of the colonist car experience with a musical play, and *The Shoe Project* created a unique opportunity for immigrant women to tell their stories of arrival using shoes as a touchstone. Live dance illuminated the Museum over Remembrance Day with *Letters from the Front* and during March Break, Votive Dance Company performed *Homeplace* as an interpretation of home and heritage.

Other programs took to the stage including Jeri Brown's *Vera's Lament*, *Dueling Pianos*, Andrew Forde's *Ideas of North*, *Camino Flamenco* and *Pier 21 Reads*: Sharon Bala.





Top left: Voice Dance performs *Homeplace*. Bottom Left: Marcela Cameron, one of the *Shoe Project* speakers. Right: *Journey of a Lifetime* performers.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AND REMEMBRANCE

This past year, the Museum commemorated the Holocaust with compelling programs such as *In Conversation with Jeanne Beker*. Ms Beker shared the story of her family's survival during the Holocaust and donated her parents' wooden trunk to the Museum.

November's *Holocaust Education Week* at the Museum was the largest to date and the week of programs for people of all ages included *Diversity Spotlight* film screenings, the darkly humorous *KAMP: The Musical*, a storytelling seminar with Nate Leipziger and a moving portrayal of family and hope by the Weisz Family Foundation called *Margaret's Legacy*.





Top left: Jeanne Beker shares her family's history at the Museum. Bottom left: Nate Leipziger, Theodore Fontaine, Dr. Dorota Glowacka. Right: Tom Weisz, Danna Harwood and Sasha Weisz.

COMMEMORATING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Wadih M. Fares Wall of Tribute /40

Remembering Past Supporters /41



Brazilian Community, Toronto, ON

Comunidade Brasileira, Toronto, ON

Vimos em busca de sonhos e a vontade de vencer.
Nesta terra, encontramos apoio e amor.
Hoje, agradecemos a este chão, no qual nos
sentimos amados e o chamamos
verdadeiramente de nosso lar.
Obrigado Canadá!

We arrived with many dreams and a strong desire
to succeed.

On this land, we were greeted with love and
support.

Today, we thank this country, in which we feel
welcome and now call home.

Thank you Canada!

*Dedicated by:
Brasil Remittance Inc.
Labian Group*



WADIH M. FARES WALL OF TRIBUTE



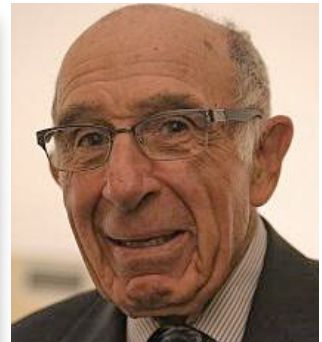
Members and guests of the Canadian Macedonian Historical Society unveil their plaque.

Contributions from vibrant cultural groups are what make Canada the strong and diverse country that it is today. This past year, we were honoured to add plaques to the Wadih M. Fares Wall of Tribute from the Brazilian Community of Toronto (Platinum Level) and the Canadian Macedonian Historical Society and the Academia do Bacalhau Social Club (Silver Level).

The support of groups like these and the events they host help Canadians gain a deeper understanding of the many ways immigrants enrich Canada's culture and society.

Contributions to the growing 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.

REMEMBERING OUR PAST SUPPORTERS



Left: Dennis Milner.

Top Right: Harold Schwartz. Bottom Right: Marianne Ferguson.

The impact made by past supporters will resonate into the future. We remember and are grateful for the dedication of donors and volunteers who passed away this year.

Marianne Ferguson was a cherished volunteer at the Museum, giving powerful tours that combined her personal story with the history of the site. She hosted hundreds of groups, always inspiring a reverence for the Museum in her guests. Her kindness, dedication, and amazing baking skills will not be forgotten and her absence from our team will be felt.

Harold Schwartz was a retailer, community leader and world traveler. Harold was also Ruth Goldbloom's brother, one of her most stalwart supporters on her journey to the creation of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. His generous gifts and support of the Museum have helped us in our mission to share Canada's immigration story with the world.

Dennis Milner arrived in Canada from Liverpool, England, with his mother and father via Pier 21 to "start a new life" following the Second World War. He lived and worked in Victoria and Vancouver before finally settling in Toronto where he built a career with George Weston Ltd. and married a "Cape Breton girl." Dennis never forgot his important connection to Pier 21 where his life in Canada began. It was a connection so deep that not only did he contribute his story to our collection and Sobey Wall of Honour, but he also bequeathed a generous donation to the Museum in his will. We remain eternally grateful for Dennis' generosity. His legacy will have a lasting impact in the Museum's mission of connecting visitors with immigration stories past and present.

RUTH GOLDBLOOM EDUCATIONAL BURSARY



Ruth Goldbloom helped to raise millions in donations towards the original restoration of Pier 21, and spearheaded the Nation Builders Endowment Fund to provide ongoing resources to Pier 21 in perpetuity, maintaining its place in the hearts of all Canadians.

Support to the Ruth Goldbloom Educational Bursary Fund helps keep Ruth's dream alive by allowing young Canadians across our country the opportunity to experience the Museum. This past year, we welcomed seven youth groups visiting from Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

Thanks to your generosity, we can continue to connect with young people throughout Canada, offering this unforgettable and authentic learning experience.

Maria Almeida
Gail Asper & Michael Paterson
Pamela Barker
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Ivor Simmons
Carrie-Ann Smith
Della Stanley
Gerald Wright
Zive Family

The Coffey Family Foundation

Donor Acknowledgement Listing

The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 gratefully acknowledges all those who have generously donated to the Museum in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018).

\$20 TO \$449

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