2018 - 2019

IMPACT REPORT

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

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Caption: Alan Syliboy and the Thundermakers perform during Noctume Art at Night.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Throughout my first full year as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, I have been struck by three things: the generosity of our individual and corporate supporters; the devotion and skill of the museum staff; and the visceral impact of the Museum's displays on those who visit us. These three things – financial support, professional staff, and the impact of our exhibitions are key factors in the success of Canada's national museum of immigration.

Our annual Impact Report provides an opportunity to reflect on how we have been able to help our visitors, thanks to

the generosity of our donors. We have a great story to tell of immigrants who, since the arrival of the first Europeans, individually and collectively have, together with Indigenous peoples, built today's Canada. Whether they be those who visit the Museum in person, those who see our travelling exhibitions elsewhere in Canada or those who visit us online. our exhibitions, events, educational programs and special activities are our ways of creating and maintaining the vital connection with the Museum.

While the Museum receives generous annual appropriations from the Government of Canada, it is the gifts we receive from individuals and corporations that allow us to do the extra things that make the Museum so special. This report is designed to inform our supporters of what we accomplished, thanks to your support.

In the past year, we said good-bye to Refuge Canada and will always remember the incredible impact it had while on display at the Museum. We adapted and hosted Family Bonds and Belonging, an exhibition originally produced by the Royal BC Museum and supported by Scotiabank. We have also welcomed new stories into our collection, and offered dozens of public programs and countless school tours. You will find more on these achievements and others. throughout this report.

Again, it is thanks to you that we are able to bring to life the story of immigration to Canada.

Sincerely,

Robert Juneland Robert Vineberg, Chair of the Board of Trustees

CELEBRATING YOUR TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS

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BMO FINANCIAL GROUP



Preserving the memories of a nation

Developing our Oral History collection is among the most important work we do. From researching, story-sharing, recording and preserving, the process is complex and illuminating. The result is the heart of our Museum: a growing collection of first-hand narratives that inform everything we do from exhibitions to public programs to online content. The Oral History program is possible with the generous support of BMO Financial Group.

Our pop-up exhibition 1968: Canada and the Prague Spring Refugees drew from our Oral History collection to connect visitors with the voices of refugees who fled the Warsaw Pact invasion of their homeland. These first-hand accounts truly brought this exhibit to life.

"Oral History interviews are unique. They give us insights and anecdotes and stories that simply don't exist anywhere else in the historical record... [they] have a tremendous impact because they're personal"

 Emily Burton, Oral Historian, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21



CIBC



Fostering Curiosity

Of all our visitors, some of the most rewarding interactions take place during School Group Education Programs. Young visitors engaged in conversations, unafraid to ask questions and developing empathy inspires our hope and pride.

This past year, we welcomed 5,195 schoolchildren. Thanks to the support of CIBC, these young people took part in experiential education programs designed to immerse them in the immigration journey, and connect them with immigrants who have made important contributions to Canada. From feedback from educators and students, we know our education programs are truly making a difference.

"To get close to the people behind these books, the students get these wonderful messages about how they're also capable of doing things like this. I think it's really worth the time."

Marlon Betancourt, grade 12 teacher,
 Cole Harbour District High School



THE RALPH AND ROSE CHIODO FAMILY FOUNDATION



Challenging Preconceptions

Refuge Canada was the most ambitious exhibition we have ever done. With powerful images, artifacts and first-person accounts, it brought visitors on a journey from darkness to hope, always calling into question preconceptions about what it means to be a refugee.

With the generous support of The Ralph and Rose Chiodo Family Foundation, this exhibition touched more than 52,000 visitors in Halifax. The impact *Refuge Canada* had was palpable, and it will continue to ripple in the community and across the country as it begins its next evolution as a travelling exhibition.

"I was moved to tears... The stories it tells transcend all nationalities and tells a story of people and their struggles to find safety."

 Reviewed by a TripAdvisor Traveller, September 2018



MARJORIE LINDSAY AND FAMILY





Chef and porters standing beside the train, Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, Attributed to William James Topley / Library and Archives Canada / PA-011186.

Cecil Foster acknowledges former train porters during his presentation at the Museum

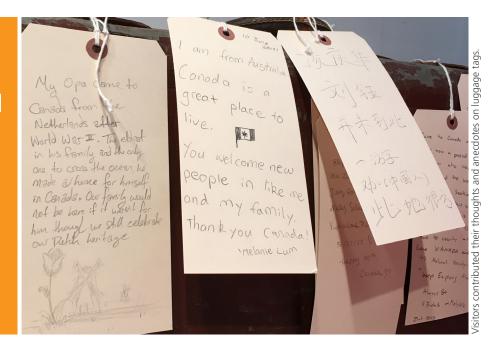
Engaging Canadians in Living History

Whether book talk, cooking workshop, theatre production or other interactive activity, our public programs bring history to life for visitors of all ages. The support of Marjorie Lindsay and Family enables us to deliver this calibre of programs to attract new visitors and encourage returning fans.

When author Cecil Foster acknowledged the former Black train porters in attendance at his presentation, and connected their lived histories to the very building in which they stood, it was a perfect moment of past meeting present. Touching moments of learning and illumination like these are the power of our public programs, and are what our donors make possible.



RBC FOUNDATION



Endings are New Beginnings

After visiting 12 cities and reaching more than 187,000 visitors since June 2014, it is hard to believe that this exhibition of firsts has finally reached the end of its incredible journey. This past year visitors were moved by *Canada: Day 1* at Simcoe County Museum in Minesing, Ontario, Resurgo Place in Moncton, New Brunswick and at its final stop at Waterloo Region Museum in Waterloo, Ontario. The journey would not have been possible without the steadfast support of the RBC Foundation every step of the way.

Canada: Day 1 was as much about first impressions as about how our communities are shaped by newcomers who choose Canada as their home. This story is ongoing, and we will continue to celebrate and share it in everything we do.

"Bring your open spirit, love of life and tolerance of all peoples. Share your culture, history and story to enrich Canadian fabric and society."

– Canada: Day 1 Contribution from Stephen Cheng



MIRELLA & LINO **SAPUTO FOUNDATION**



Legacy Gift Honours a Family's Story

Arriving from Sicily and Veneto in search of a brighter future, Lino and Mirella Saputo took their very first steps in Canada at Pier 21 in the 1950s. On Tuesday, August 14, 2018, they returned with their family to retrace their journey, marking the occasion with the announcement of a one million dollar gift from the Mirella and Lino Saputo Foundation.

Mr. and Mrs. Saputo's stories epitomise the impact that immigration has on our country. Their gift signals the importance of the Museum's mandate to continue to deepen Canadians' understanding of our rich heritage.

Located at the centre of the Museum, near the very gateway through which they first arrived, The Mirella and Lino Saputo Hall was named in their honour. The Hall is a hub of activity where public and education programs come to life and visitors gather.

We could not be more proud to have this well loved space bear the name of this inspiring family.



"We are proud to support the Museum, and play a part in sharing the rich heritage of this historic place with all Canadians. It is not only our story that can be discovered here, but the family histories of the many immigrants whose contributions helped shape Canada."





Comparing henna tattoos on Canada Day.





. Tinikling dance performance during Canada Day.



SCOTIABANK



Family: It's Not all Relative

Our newest temporary exhibition, Family Bonds & Belonging explores the many ideas of family - those of biology, of choice, of association and of place. Originally produced by the Royal BC Museum, it was the perfect fit for our Museum, and the curatorial team seized the opportunity to adapt the exhibition with stories and content from our collection.

With its message of connectedness and community, it was also the perfect fit for Scotiabank. Scotiabank has been a champion of our initiatives since day one, including our incredible volunteer program. We were so grateful to feel their encouragement once again as presenter of *Family Bonds & Belonging*, reinforcing the exhibition's message that family comes in many different forms, from relatives, to community groups to work colleagues.

"The Museum is constantly reinvesting to remain relevant and current, helping people in understanding the importance of immigration and the role it plays...(it) gave me a better sense of my identity and family"

 Craig Thompson, Senior Vice President, Scotiabank Atlantic.











THE SOBEY FOUNDATION



Photograph of the Besla family, circa 1974. Jasvir Bhupal (née Besla) is seated at the front on the right.

A Museum of Stories

We are a "Museum of Stories," and stories are gateways to understanding. People from around the world continue to come to Canada, each with an individual journey worth sharing.

We are equipped to gather and share these narratives because of the generous support of the Sobey Foundation. Stories like Jasvir K. Bhupal's, who remembers the journey to Canada as a young girl, are part of a growing collection of narratives that will go on to inspire public programs, drive exhibitions, or enhance our online collection. All continue to enrich our understanding of what it means to be Canadian.

"I had never left the village that I grew up in, until the day we left for New Delhi to take a flight to Vancouver, BC. I was only 8 years old. I had never been on an airplane. I remember my mother's father crying as we left him. None of us knew when we would see any of our relatives again."

– Jasvir K. Bhupal



TD BANK GROUP

R. HOWARD WEBSTER FOUNDATION



Career Stepping Stones

Each year, we eagerly anticipate the Welcome Home to Canada (WHTC) program participants. Their dedication, skills and enthusiasm spark new ideas, enhance programs and deepen visitor engagement. At the same time, the experience these newcomers gain become important stepping-stones towards their Canadian careers.

With the support of TD Bank and the R. Howard Webster Foundation, the WHTC program is the momentum needed to build a life in Canada. As a newcomer, Jason Lee used the WHTC program as a launch pad towards his career at Dalhousie University's Sexton Library. This past year we were thrilled to see Jason achieve another major milestone; becoming a Canadian citizen.

"To me, WHTC was the starting point and leverage in Canada. Probably many newcomers thought the same. Without Canadian degrees or diploma, it's difficult to get a job which is the same field I worked before come to Canada due to accreditation problem. WHTC program provides the opportunity to work and networking."

– Jason Lee

LEADERSHIP GIVING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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California Wine Dinner / 24



PIER 21 CLUB



Our passionate champions

Five years ago, a group of dedicated leaders and supporters came together to form the Pier 21 Club. They shared a common goal – to ensure the Museum could successfully deliver on its mandate as a national museum.

Our Pier 21 Club Members share a passion for the important role immigration plays in shaping Canada, and that passion inspires others to join them. We are stronger because of their combined contributions and their support propels us forward, helping to connect and engage more Canadians in the immigration journey and the stories that have built our country.









Thanks to our members:

Andrew Biro

Susie Biro

Kendall Blunden

Tanva Bouchard

Marie Chapman

Sarah Crawford

Joe and Rosanne Falcone

Salima Ebrahim

Wadih Fares

Fred and Elizabeth Fountain

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and the second

Willette Versenarer

Rob vineberg

Tom and Sasha Weisz

^{*}Membership is renewed annually. Those listed encompass Membership between April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2019.

FASCINATING CANADIAN SPEAKER SERIES



John Risley, President of CFFI Ventures Inc., was our 2018 *Breakfast with a Fascinating Canadian* speaker in Halifax. Attendees were captivated by his touching story of his mother, a War Bride, who arrived in Canada in 1946 via Pier 21.

Our 2019 Toronto *Luncheon with a Fascinating Canadian* featured Linda Hasenfratz, CEO of Linamar Corp. She told of her father's drive to forge the family destiny in auto-parts manufacturing and her mother's bravery in choosing to make Canada her new home.

They have joined our list of eminent Canadians who have shared their views on immigration with us.

A heartfelt thank-you to our series chair, Sherry Porter.

The Breakfast was made possible through the support of our Presenting Sponsor the Province of Nova Scotia's Office of Immigration and Patron Sponsors RBC, Clearwater Seafood, and McInnes Cooper.

Thank-you to our Luncheon sponsors, Lead Sponsor CIBC and Patron Sponsors Active Green + Ross Tire & Automotive Centres, Air Canada, Andrew Peller Limited, Delaney Capital Management, Kinross Gold Corporation, and Linamar Corporation.













CALIFORNIA WINE DINNER



The sound of laughter and lively conversations reverberated around the room as the 2018 California Wine Dinner attendees indulged in specially selected four-course meal, paired with Californian wines. Like a family gathering, the good food and drink became a conduit for storytelling. At its core, this is what the Museum's signature fundraiser symbolizes and supports; our shared story.

We're so grateful to the many people who helped make the event a success, especially our dedicated event chair, Lee F. Harwood. Many thanks to our hosts, the Consul General of the United States in Halifax, Arterra Wines and the Society for American Wines. Thank you to our Gold Sponsors Clearwater Seafoods, Rockhead Wine & Beer Market, and Scotiabank. And thanks to our Silver Partners BMO Nesbitt Burns, Bridging Finance, Canaccord Genuity, Ernst & Young, Growforce, Next Edge Capital, Ninepoint Partners, PIMCO, Polar Asset

Management, Purpose Investments, RP Investment Advisors, ScotiaWealth, Touch of Gold Fine Jewellery, Vision Capital, Waratah, and WM Fares Group.













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COUNTLESS JOURNEYS. ONE CANADA.

Our new tagline, "Countless Journeys. One Canada.", shines a light on the many different paths people take to make Canada home, from past to present and from coast to coast. Regardless of time or circumstance, the stories of journey are all part of a larger story that is the very fabric of our country.

These four simple words hold power. Yet, the meaning is easy to embrace because it gives name to what we already do. Every time a visitor connects with a story, or leaves their own personal account in our care, we see the impact of the many journeys that connect us and make us one nation.

We look forward to seeing the momentum behind our new tagline build as we continue to share our message across Canada.









Top left: Participating in a drum circle with All Nations Drum. Bottom left: Moment captured from the Ciavarra Family alumni tour. Right: Father and son exploring the Assembly Hall in the Pier 21 Story exhibition.



TRAVELLING AND TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Canada Day 1 finished its four and a half year national tour in Waterloo, Ontario in January 2019. As our first travelling exhibition, we were proud to see the impact it made in communities across the country.

It was hard to say goodbye to *Refuge Canada* when it left the Museum on its way to Peel Art Gallery and Museum. We know it will continue to shine as a travelling version.

Our Community Presents exhibit SS *Atlantic* was a huge hit for nautical story lovers, and treasure seekers. And our pop-up 1968: *Canada and the Prague Spring Refugees* coincided with a book publication by our own Jan Raska, Researcher.

We also welcomed *Family Bonds & Belonging*, originally produced by the Royal BC Museum, with its playful exploration of the many different meanings of family it is a perfect multigenerational experience.

















PUBLIC PROGRAMS THAT RESONATE

In the spirit of *Refuge Canada*, several of our *Pier 21 Reads* authors presented viewpoints on the global refugee crisis, from legalities to journey to separation. Sharon Bala spoke about the inspiration she found at the Museum for her novel. Carmen Aguirre and Tima Kurdi spoke of their deeply personal connections to refugee movements. All led thoughtful discussions to packed rooms that engaged and moved audiences, sometimes to tears.

As part of the Annual Halifax-wide *Nocturne: Art At Night* we hosted Alan Syliboy's Beacon Project, thousands poured through our doors for Canada Day, Maxwell Smart spoke to hundreds about his journey of Holocaust survival, and William Leathers demonstrated the true power of music to an enthusiastic audience.

These are just some highlights of our many public programs made possible with the support of our donors and supporters.











Musical artist William Leathers hits the high notes. Sharon Bala's *The Boat People* was initially inpired by a visit to the Museum. Tima Kurdi converses with Marie Chapman following her presentation of her book *The Boy on the Beach*. Maxwell Smart spoke to hundreds of students.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We find great meaning in the new and returning community connections we make. This past year we collaborated with Immigration Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS), All Nations Drum, The Azrieli Foundation, the Atlantic Jewish Council, the National Film Board of Canada, Symphony Nova Scotia, Alliance Française, CBC, and more. Dozens more cultural organizations took part in March Break, Family Days and Canada Day events.

Your support is bolstered by the continuing commitment of our champions, friends and partners from all corners of our community including the tourism sector, settlement agencies, academic circles, and cultural groups. Together, we can extend our reach and engage new audiences with our programs, exhibitions and special initiatives.









A young visitor poses in our Canada Day photobooth, presented in partnership with CBC. Our 2018 Artist-in-Residence, Shauna MacLeod, presents handmade clay bowls to the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia for distribution to newcomers. ViBeat Dance members perform during Canada Day.

COMMEMORATING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

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WADIH M. FARES WALL OF TRIBUTE



Oksana Kuzyshyn, President of the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women, and Roman Medyk, President of the League of Ukrainian Canadians unveiling their plaque.

Contributions from vibrant cultural groups make Canada the strong and diverse country that it is today. This past year, we were honoured to add a Platinum Level plaque to the Wadih M. Fares Wall of Tribute from the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women / League of Ukrainian Canadians.

Their plaque honours Ukranian political refugees and Displaced Persons who fled Soviet occupation after the Second World War to seek a better life in Canada.

The support of cultural groups means so much to the Museum. The work they do helps Canadians gain a deeper understanding of the many ways immigrants enrich our country.



REMEMBERING OUR PAST SUPPORTERS







Left: Joe Schlesinger at the Museum in 2004. Top right: Dorothy (Dot) Duhan Bottom right: David Carter.

We remember and are grateful for the dedication of donors and volunteers who passed away this year. Of particular note David Carter, Dorothy Duhan and Joe Schlesinger.

David Carter enjoyed a long career as an RCMP officer before joining the Museum as a volunteer shortly after we opened. David spent 19 years volunteering with the Museum, lending his knowledge, dedication, and passion to deliver wonderful tours. He will be remembered for his commitment to the Museum and his sense of humour.

Dot Duhan also began volunteering shortly after the Museum first opened and helped carry the spirit of the Pier 21 Society into the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. Dot made sure every visitor felt special and appreciated, and will be remembered for her exceptional tours for those who arrived in Canada through Pier 21.

A quote from Joe Schlesinger, renowned journalist and

past Fascinating Canadian speaker, was featured in one of the Museum's original exhibitions, "I came to Canada as a refugee. Forty-five years later, for me, Canada is a refuge still." We remember Joe Schlesinger for his encouragement of the Museum, his knowledge, and his astute ability to capture and diffuse the stories that needed to be heard.

RUTH GOLDBLOOM EDUCATIONAL BURSARY





Ruth Goldbloom, O.C., helped to raise millions of dollars toward the original restoration of Pier 21, and spearheaded the Nation Builders endowment campaign to help provide ongoing resources to Pier 21 in perpetuity.

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 first-hand. Thanks to those who contributed to the fund that bears her name, we welcomed 200 young learners this past year.

Our donors make it possible for us to continue connecting with young people throughout Canada, offering this unforgettable and authentic learning experience. Maria Almeida John Anderson Gail Asper & Michael Paterson Alan Bernstein &

JoAnn Breitman Peter & Margaret Bethune Robert Bortolussi Anne Claener Margaret Cox Colin Dodds Mayann Francis Joan Fraser Joan Gilroy Harry Glube Alan Goldbloom Terri Harlow Lawrence Haves Fran Hayos Roz Kanigsberg Terry Kawchuk J. Spencer Lanthier Eric Leith J. Susanne MacDonald Mike MacMullin

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The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 gratefully acknowledges all those who have generously donated to the Museum in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019).

\$20 TO \$449

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