

# CCLC

# Insider

Fall 2023



From the  
Executive Director's desk  
**Valerian Marochko**

Welcome to the fall edition of the CCLC Insider. In this issue we've included stories about the CCLC's Josephs' House Scholarship, the challenges faced by a newcomer family, and an Ontario Trillium Foundation Capital grant announcement. We are grateful for your ongoing support and hope you enjoy these curated articles.

Sincerely,

Valerian Marochko  
Executive Director





Photo credit: Unsplash

## Hope for the future

Submitted by J.H.

I have 24 family members and we all lived together in one house. Our life was great; I was working with international organizations/NGOs. I had my own car and our life was normal, until the fall of the government.

When the war reached the city and bombs blasted everywhere, we were hiding in our home until me and my elder brother, who were the main support of our family, fled Kandahar to seek safety in Oct. 2021.

During these months I saw a lot of Afghans suffering. In June 2022, our family members were provided with a flight to Canada, unfortunately, the flight was cancelled. We had to wait for two more months until September we were booked again for another flight to Canada and finally arrived in London.

We were settled in temporary shelter for 2 months where all the families were oriented by the CCLC staff in every aspect of daily life.

I've had a lot of success during these 5 months since arriving. I got my Health card, Social Insurance number, bank account and my credit card. My children are registered in school. My daughter at high school and my two sons in grade 1 and 3 at a nearby elementary school.

I am truly happy and grateful that Canada opened its doors to us in a welcoming manner.



## AGM & 55th Celebration

On September 20th, the CCLC invited the community to our AGM, and our 55th Celebration. It was an unforgettable evening dedicated to honouring the CCLC's past, present, and future as well as highlighting our commitment to helping newcomers in London. The night was filled with great food, newcomer speakers sharing their stories, and incredible cultural performances. It was a remarkable event celebrating the rich cultural heritage of our community.

# Ontario Trillium Foundation



## Capital support for aging equipment

The CCLC is a gathering place for newcomers and the community who supports them. Unfortunately, our main building at 505 Dundas St. could no longer meet the needs of those we served. It was either too hot or too cold. Our 20+ year-old air-conditioning units and furnaces needed replacing. Thanks to the Ontario Trillium Capital Grant of \$129,200, eight high efficiency air conditioners were installed on the roof. Inside, eight high efficiency 2-stage furnaces, a heat exchanger, thermostats, fans, and ductwork were also installed. This project will provide cost savings thanks to the energy-efficient equipment, better air circulation and improved temperature regulation. Most importantly, it will extend the life of our 70-year-old building allowing us to continue welcoming and supporting newcomers.



Photo credit: Unsplash

## Josephs' House Scholarship

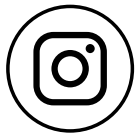
The scholarship was created in recognition of the work of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the many staff and volunteers who demonstrated their passion and compassion to the plight of refugees in London. The purpose of this \$750 Scholarship is to assist individuals from refugee backgrounds who are wishing to pursue higher education, apprenticeship programs, or upgrades to their profession.

This year's recipient is Bibi Yusra Maqsoodi. Yusra arrived in London from Afghanistan in September 2022. She will be using her scholarship to support her studies at Fanshawe College. In her application, Yusra noted that receiving the scholarship would provide encouragement and validation of her academic efforts boosting her confidence and her drive to excel. Congratulations Yusra!

# Contact us

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The CCLC's 2022-2023 Impact Report is now available. Please visit our website or click the [link](#) to read our latest report online.



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