



Annual Report 2026

Pursuant to **BY-LAW NO.1** of **MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, Inc. (2011)**,
notice is given for its **Annual General Meeting** to take place:

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:00 pm

St Mark's Fellowship Hall 600 Cambridge St (at Corydon Ave)

To receive the reports of the President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Committees of MMC, and Auditor(s);
to appoint auditors; to elect the Board of Directors; and to consider and transact any other MMC business.



Julie Eckert

"Into the Light"

"This artwork provided me with peace and hope in a challenging time in my life.
My wish is that the viewer of this piece feels that it is never too late to change your life."

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Agenda – Annual General Meeting (AGM)

BUSINESS ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	PAGES	MOTION
1. OPENING BUSINESS	<i>Diane Dwarka</i>	page 23	MOTION #2026-1
1.1 Welcome	<i>President</i>		
Land Acknowledgement and Declaration of Quorum	<i>Christine Baronins</i>		
1.2 Opening Prayer	<i>Robrt Polz</i>		
1.3 Adoption of Agenda	<i>Christine Baronins</i>		
2. ADOPTION of 2025 AGM MINUTES	<i>Ray Harris</i>	pages 6-10	MOTION #2026-2
3. REPORTS			MOTION #2026-3
3.1 President	<i>Christine Baronins</i>	pages 3-5	
3.2 Standing Committees	<i>Rocky Baronins</i> <i>Labeed Ahmed</i> <i>Ken Kuhn</i> <i>Gladys Hrabi</i>	and 15-20	
4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	<i>Jessie Pannu</i>	pages 11-13	MOTION #2026-4
5. APPOINTMENT OF REVIEWER for FINANCIAL STATEMENTS			MOTION #2026-5
6. NOMINATIONS REPORT	<i>Nick Chubenko</i>	page 21	MOTION #2026-6
7. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS for 2026-27	<i>Ray Harris</i>		
8. NEW BUSINESS	<i>Christine Baronins</i>		
9. PROGRAM			
“Faith, Community, Civic Responsibility: Lessons from Municipal Service” Councillor Janice Lukes – Waverly West			<i>Introduction by Ruth Ashrafi</i>
10. CLOSING BUSINESS, including Thanks and Adjournment	<i>Christine Baronins</i>		MOTION #2026-7

Please join us after adjournment for follow-up conversation, networking and refreshments!



Motions for Consideration

MOTION #2026- 1

It was moved by _____, and seconded by _____, that the **AGENDA** as circulated (included on **page 1** of the **ANNUAL REPORT**) be adopted.

MOTION #2026- 2

It was moved by **Ray Harris**, and seconded by _____, that **MINUTES OF THE 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, as included on **pages 6-10** of the **ANNUAL REPORT**, be approved [with additions, corrections or edits].

MOTION #2025 - 3

It was moved by _____, and seconded by _____, that **REPORTS** of the **PRESIDENT**, and **STANDING COMMITTEES**, as found on **pages 3-5 and 15-20** of the **ANNUAL REPORT**, be received for information.

MOTION #2026 - 4

It was moved by **Jessie Pannu**, and seconded by _____, that **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** for the **Fiscal Year** ending **March 31, 2026**, as found on **pages 11-13** of the **ANNUAL REPORT**, be received for information.

MOTION #2026 - 5

It was moved by _____, and seconded by _____, that the Board of Directors appoint _____ to conduct a review of **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** for the **Fiscal Year** ending **March 31, 2026**.

MOTION #2026- 6

There being no further nominations, it was moved by **Nick Chubenko**, and seconded by _____, that the **NOMINATIONS REPORT**, as it appears on **page 21** of the **ANNUAL REPORT**, be accepted as our **Board of Directors** and **Officers** for **2026-27**.

MOTION #2026 - 7

There being no further business, the **2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, INC. (2011)**, adjourned on a motion of **Nick Chubenko**, at _____ pm.



From the President

This past year was a time of reflection on our past, present, and future. MMC experienced significant leadership transitions throughout 2026.

Past President Payam Towfigh reluctantly suspended his membership with MMC due to employment commitments in another province. **Ron Long** is stepping down from the Board after 40 years of dedicated service. We are grateful that Ron will continue to serve as a member of MMC's Spiritual Health Committee. **Ray Harris** is stepping down from his role as Board Secretary after more than a decade of faithful service. We are pleased that he intends to remain on the Board for the coming 2027 year. Justice and Corrections Chairperson **Ken Kuhn** is also concluding his service as Committee Chair and Board member.

We extend our sincere gratitude to each of these remarkable leaders for their dedication and faithful service. Through their commitment, they have been powerful advocates for fostering greater interfaith understanding, respect, and unity within our community.

While we are saddened to see these friends conclude their Executive Council and Board roles, we are delighted to welcome **Ruth Ashrafi** as Secretary to the Executive Council. As a former Chair of MMC's Education Committee, Ruth brings a wealth of interfaith experience, and we look forward to the knowledge and leadership she will contribute to the Executive.

We are also pleased to welcome **Peter Rempel** as Chair of MMC's **Justice and Corrections Committee**, and look forward to working alongside him in this important role.



In the fall of 2026, MMC executive members and the Community Relations Chairperson had the opportunity to meet with **Winnipeg's Mayor, Scott Gillingham**, to discuss the potential for MMC engagement with the Mayor's office aligning with the previously formed Mayor's Circle to work to consult and support civic plans and initiatives. MMC followed up with the Mayor's Office but has received no response or further direction regarding this potential partnering relationship. Each new year brings new opportunities

so we will continue to reach out to this office and other government bodies in hopes to create strategic alliances in which voices of faith can become an important part of the conversation in helping to create a more just and caring society.



Looking and planning ahead for the future, MMC held two **strategic planning sessions**, Session 1 was held in October 2025 and Session 2 in January 2026. These engaging sessions were facilitated by gifted and experienced, **Susan Van Duinen**, former President of **Booth University College**. Susan led our board in the revaluation of our organizational structures and strategic goal setting. These sessions were great opportunities for the board to gather and prioritize our values and define our goals. Susan was instrumental in helping our board position itself to facilitate future progress and growth.

MMC hosted and attended many memorable events this past year. I am including just a few the highlights as these events and others will be included in the individual MMC Committee Reports.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held January 18th-25th. This event was kicked off with an Ecumenical Worship Service at First Mennonite Church of Winnipeg. Father Robert Polz, Roman Catholic Priest and MMC Member, plays a key role as organizer of this well-attended annual event.

Beyond the Physical – Spiritual Health in Community Care and Support event was held February 25th at The Salvation Army's Centre of Hope. This was another well-attended and successful MMC sponsored event organized by MMC Spiritual Health Chair, **Gladys Hirabi**.



MMC's annual **Lieutenant Governor's Awards Event for The Advancement of Interreligious Understanding** was held on March 26th. This year we were happy to celebrate the achievements of **Khalid Mahmoud** of the **Ahmadiya Muslim Community**. As with previous honourees, Khalid exemplifies MMC's mission to promote and advance interfaith understanding and was successful in his achievement of extending his reach out into the community at large.



The **11th Annual Multifaith Leadership Breakfast** was held April 15th at RBC Convention Centre with keynote speaker, Scott Oake retired Canadian sportscaster and co-founder of the Bruce Oake Recovery Centre.

The **Education Committee** chaired by Labeed Ahmed hosted monthly meaningful and engaging leadership and community discussions on a variety of faith-based topics throughout the year.

Interfaith Shabbat and Interfaith Model Passover Seder were 2 other memorable and meaningful events organized by MMC member and past Education Chairperson, Ruth Ashrafi.

MMC continued to extend its reach in 2026 forming friendships with the **North American Interfaith Alliance** of North Dakota (NAIN) as well as **Multifaith Saskatoon**. We had the great opportunity to host Barry Nelson, NAIN Executive Member and Noe Hernandez, member of Multifaith Saskatoon at our April Leadership Breakfast as well as extend a warm Winnipeg welcome by hosting these friends on a CMHR tour and luncheon. In follow-up, MMC Executives met with NAIN president, Ross Keyes and Barry Nelson via zoom. Mr. Keyes proposed a collaborative event in the coming year tasking himself to reach out to MMC with ideas for consideration.



This has been an exciting and promising first year serving as President. I am grateful to leaders who have come before who illuminated the path forward to greater interfaith understanding. I am also privileged to serve with current members who are dedicated and passionate in their desire to increase interfaith cooperation, collaboration and understanding throughout the province. I look forward to the possibilities in the coming year.

Thank you for your continued support of the Manitoba Multifaith Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christine Baronins".

Christine Baronins
MMC President



Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting

Pursuant to **BY-LAW NO. 1** of the **MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, Inc. (2011)**, its **Annual General Meeting** took place on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 7:00 pm.**

The meeting was held at **St Mark's Lutheran Church, in Winnipeg.**

Approximately thirty people came to the meeting, including both board members and guests from the public. A few printed copies of the **2025 Annual Report** were made available, and the **Report** was also accessible by PowerPoint to those present.

1. OPENING BUSINESS

President Towfigh opened the AGM by welcoming all who gathered at St Mark's Lutheran Church for this occasion. He then acknowledged that this AGM was being held on Treaty One Land, in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Dakota Peoples, and the homeland of the Metis Nation.

Declaring that there was a sufficient quorum for the AGM, **President Towfigh** began the meeting acknowledging this to be his last meeting in the role of President. He thanked everyone for their assistance and encouragement during his tenure.

As **Robert Polz** led the opening reflection and prayer, he invited those gathered into a brief time of silence to consider some of the issues concerning the city of Winnipeg and Province of Manitoba, as well as the suffering that is taking place in other parts of the world. Then he drew upon a prayer of Alex Jenson, suitable for this Season of Creation:

Spirit of Life and Love,
Holy God, Source Eternal
in our midst yet still ever so elusive:
To breathe your sacred name is a blessing.
Your will be done here, on Earth,
inspired by our aspirations to do and be better people.

MOTION #2025-1

It was moved by **Christine Baronins**, and seconded by **Ron Long**, that the **Agenda** as found on page 2 of the **AGM Report** be adopted. **APPROVED**

2. ADOPTION OF 2024 AGM MINUTES

MOTION #2025-2

It was moved by **Christine Baronins**, and seconded by **Nick Chubenko**, that the **Minutes** as recorded for the **2024 AGM** be adopted. **APPROVED**

3. REPORTS

PRESIDENT: In his Report, **President Towfigh** drew attention to a number of public events that had been orchestrated by MMC, such as the **Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding**, the **Multifaith Leadership Breakfast**, and the **"Our Whole Society" Conference** held at the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights**. He drew attention to two members of the Board, **Diane Dwarka** and **Ray Harris**, who received the **King Charles III Coronation Medal** for their work in the community through MMC. As he concluded he thanked board members for their service, and welcomed the incoming President, **Christine Baronins**, as she prepares to assume her responsibilities.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Richard Baronins drew attention to this Committee's goal of deepening relationships with the City and Province. This past year various events have helped to achieve this purpose. In December, **Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches**, visited Winnipeg as part of his Canadian tour. An event was held at the CMHR exploring the role of faith-based values to shape healthy public dialogue. Early in the new year, the Lt Governor, **Anita Neville** presented the **Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding** to a former MMC Board member, **Dr Mohinder Singh Dhillon**. He has played a significant role in establishing the Sikh community in Winnipeg and across Canada. Later in the spring, this Committee orchestrated the annual **Multifaith Leadership Breakfast** held at the RBC Convention Centre. The guest speaker was **Dorota Blumszynska, Chief Executive Officer of the Manitoba Museum**. Her personal story served to deepen appreciation among those present for her leadership in this city. In June, MMC joined with the **Canadian Interfaith Conversation** to host the **Our Whole Society Conference** at the CMHR. Joined by Mayor Scott Gillingham and other civic leaders, the Conference explored ways of fostering peace and hope in these days. This Committee seeks to continue its work of helping community leaders meet their goals.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: In her role as Chair of this Committee, **Tanis Moore** described attempts this past year to engage the educational purpose of this Committee, and looked forward to furthering that purpose in the coming year.

JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: Seeking to advocate for the religious needs of those in Manitoba's justice systems, **Ken Kuhn** outlined some of the work

being done by this Committee. One way of realizing its purposes is to help chaplains in the correctional system with religious resources, such as with copies of the Bible and Quran. Last fall a book launch was held at the Canadian Mennonite University. The book, *Transformative Moments in Chaplaincy*, is authored by **Donald Stoesz** and **Joan Palardy**. As well, a public event was held during **Restorative Justice Week**, with **Honourable Matt Wiebe** present. The theme was “**Seeking the Light Inside,**” and enabled the Committee to showcase some of the art created by inmates based on this theme. The Committee looks forward to the coming year, increasing involvement with the Indigenous community as well as with Winnipeg Police Service.

SPIRITUAL HEALTH COMMITTEE: Assuming leadership of this Committee during the past year, **Gladys Hrabí** noted attempts to strengthen Spiritual Health in Manitoba, especially in light of its decreasing influence. She noted a joint letter drafted with MMC, that has been sent to the Ministry of Health to work towards a stronger framework for spiritual health. The Committee has helped to update an **End-of-Life Care Guide** in order to update the role of different faith traditions in this important task. In the fall of 2024 a Workshop focused on **Spirituality and Social Connections**, drawing over 70 participants, with the intent to strengthen Spiritual Care in the Province. Plans are under way for a 2025 Workshop on mental health and addictions.

MOTION #2025-3

It was moved by **Christine Baronins**, and seconded by **Richard Baronins**, that the **Reports** of the **President** and the **Standing Committees** be received for information.

APPROVED

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The **2025 Financial Statements** were prepared by **Jessie Pannu** and reviewed by **Payam Towfigh**. Statements are prepared using cash basis accounting. Cash basis accounting is a method of accounting where revenues and expenses are recorded only when cash is received or paid. MMC incurred higher expenses and did not break even in the last fiscal year because we chose to co-host and co-sponsor events that align with our mission. Each decision was made carefully, weighing the benefits of being involved in these projects. MMC is in a strong financial position to support its objectives and is very mindful of how money is spent. We are committed to making careful, thoughtful decisions about where to allocate funds, ensuring that every expenditure supports our mission and delivers value.

MOTION #2025-4

It was moved by **Jessie Pannu**, and seconded by **Christine Baronins**, that the **Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2025** be received for information.

APPROVED

6. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The treasurer asked for a motion from the floor to appoint **Payam Towfigh** as the reviewer for next year's financial statements.

MOTION #2025-5

It was moved **Nicholas Chubenko**, and seconded by **Ron Long**, that **Payam Towfigh** be appointed to review the **Financial Statements** ending March 31, 2025.

APPROVED

7. NOMINATIONS REPORT

As he introduced the **Nominations Report**, **Ray Harris** thanked board and committee members for their hard work, in the midst of the many other commitments they have. Asking members to stand, Ray called out the names of those who have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors in the coming year, expressing thanks to them. He then indicated the names of those who have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors for the coming year.

MOTION #2025-6

There being no further nominations, it was moved by **Ray Harris**, and seconded by **Nicholas Chubenko**, that the **Nominations Report** as presented be accepted as the Board of Directors and Officers for 2025-26.

APPROVED

8. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS for 2025-26

As she began the Installation of Officers, **Diane Dwarka** invited the Executive to stand, she asked: *"Do you the Members of the Executive promise to do your best to carry out your duties as outline in the By-Laws of this organization?"* Once the Executive responded in the affirmative, she invited remaining Board members to stand, and asked: *"Will you diligently perform the duties of your office?"* Upon affirmation, Diane installed the Board members saying, *"I now confer upon you such obligations and authority as belong to your office."* Then turning to others present at the AGM she asked: *"Do you promise to support these people elected here tonight with your work and prayers?"* Upon affirmation of all present Diane expressed her thanks.

9. NEW BUSINESS

To bring this portion of the evening to a close, **President Christine Baronins** invited **Past-President Payam Towfigh** to join her. She took this moment to express thanks to Payam for his leadership of MMC during these past four years. Drawing attention to his humility and caring spirit, she thanked him for the many ways he guided the Board during times of international crisis. As an expression of gratitude, a Certificate of Thanks, including signatures of Board members, had been designed and was presented to Payam. Christine then took an opportunity to express her own commitment to the leadership of MMC,

recognizing the difficult task that it is. She expressed her commitment to listen, and for all to accept the mutual responsibility that lies with Board members.

Recognizing that this moment coincided with the 101st birthday of **President Russell M. Nelson, President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, Christine took the opportunity to share his birthday wish for the world: that each person recognize their inherent divine worth and that we all strive to love our neighbours —treating one another with compassion, dignity, and respect. For Christine, this message resonates across faiths and cultures. She views her work as a sacred responsibility: to build bridges of understanding, promote mutual respect, and help foster unity.

10. PROGRAM

Moving into the Program element of the AGM, **Labeed Ahmed** introduced the guest speaker, **Tanya Brothers**. Drawing on her own personal story, Ms Brothers drew attention to the difficulties her family of origin had in moving from the racism of Oklahoma into Alberta, yet facing tensions there as well. In addition there were policies from the Laurier Government that added to those difficulties. Her grandfather became one of the Sleeping Car Porters, who gradually made their way into the life of Canada. Against the background of racism, Black People in Canada have realized some of the promise in this nation. But she drew attention to the many “Unrealized Promises” that exist in our nation, with the encouragement that we all contribute to the realization of those promises.

11. CLOSING BUSINESS

Bringing the AGM to a close, **Nick Chubenko** thanked the guest speaker, those who helped to set up St Mark’s for the meeting, and all who were present.

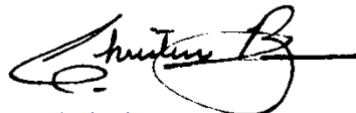
MOTION #2025-7

Having concluded the Business and Program, the **2025 AGM of the Manitoba Multifaith Council, Inc.** was adjourned on a motion of **Nicholas Chubenko**, seconded by **Ron Long**.

APPROVED



Ray Harris, MMC Secretary



Christine Baronins, MMC President



Financial Statements

I am pleased to report that **Manitoba Multifaith Council, Inc.** remains in a sound financial position, with \$9,971 in cash and cash equivalents and no outstanding liabilities as of March 31, 2026.

MMC prepares its financial statements on a **cash basis**. This means we record revenue when received and expenses when paid, which can create timing differences between when an activity occurs and when it appears in the statements. For example, this year's statements include a \$2,000 expense to reserve the venue for the April 2026 Multifaith Leadership Breakfast, even though the event itself falls in the next fiscal year.

The reported deficit of \$3,235 should be read with this timing difference in mind, as it does not reflect a deficit in holding the **Multifaith Leadership Breakfast**.

The Board continues to manage MMC's resources carefully and responsibly, directing funds toward programs, events, administration, and strategic initiatives that support the Council's mandate.

We are exploring fundraising opportunities to help finance MMC's programs and strengthen the Council's long-term sustainability.

Overall, MMC remains well-positioned financially, and the Board is confident in the organization's ability to carry out its mandate effectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Pannu

MMC Treasurer

Manitoba Multifaith Council Inc.
Annual Financial Statements
For the Year Ended March 31, 2026

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Revenue is recorded when money is received, and expenses are recorded when paid.

This method is consistent with the organization's accounting policies. However, it may not fully show the organization's financial position compared to the accrual method.

For example, if a deposit is paid in one fiscal year to reserve a venue for the Multifaith Breakfast, that expense will be recorded in that year. Any revenue from the event received in the following fiscal year will be recorded in that later year.

Prepared by: Jessie Pannu

Reviewed by: Nicholas Chubenko

Manitoba Multifaith Council Inc.
Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2026

	As of Mar. 31, 2026	As of Mar. 31, 2025 (PY)
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Charity High Interest Savings (7118)	\$5,028.07	\$4,443.74
Charity Standard Chequing (7100)	\$4,942.81	\$4,525.34
GIC 110477381898	\$0.00	\$4,236.65
Total for Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$9,970.88	\$13,205.73
Total for Current Assets	\$9,970.88	\$13,205.73
Total for Assets	\$9,970.88	\$13,205.73
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST/HST Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total for Current Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total for Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equity		
Opening Balance Equity	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retained Earnings	\$13,205.73	\$15,162.24
Net Revenue	-\$3,234.85	-\$1,956.51
Total for Equity	\$9,970.88	\$13,205.73
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$9,970.88	\$13,205.73

Manitoba Multifaith Council Inc.

Profit and Loss

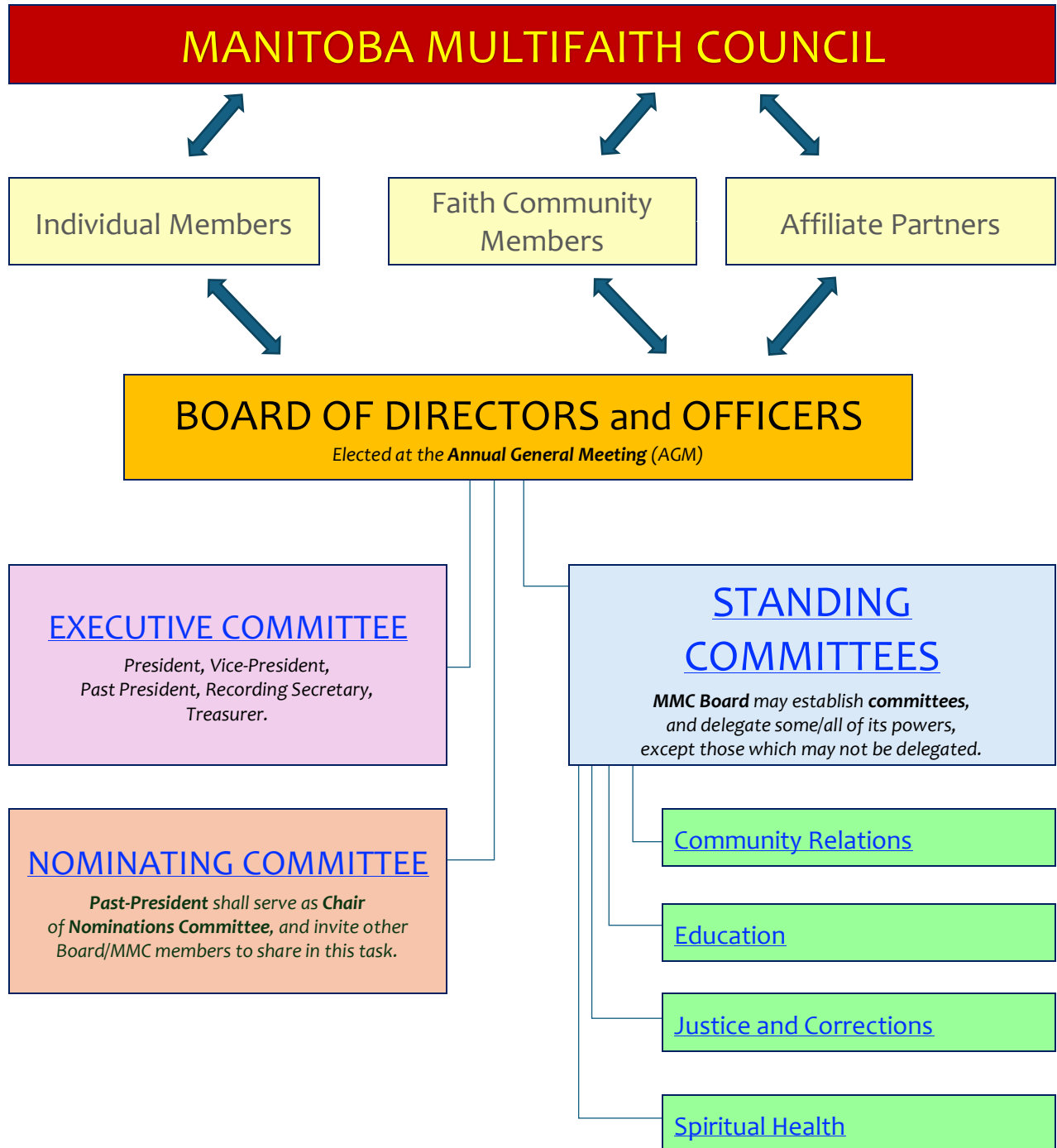
April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

	Apr. 1, 2025 – Mar. 31, 2026	Apr. 1, 2024 – Mar. 31, 2025 (PY)
Revenue		
2024 Chaplaincy Arts Contest	\$500.00	
Non-Profit Income		
Membership Dues	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Multifaith Calendar Sales	\$9,381.39	\$6,367.69
Multifaith Leadership Breakfast	\$3,069.86	\$5,990.01
Total for Non-Profit Income	\$13,651.25	\$13,557.70
SCU Member Bonus	\$8.17	\$18.14
Faith in the Public Square		\$178.46
Refunds-Allowances		\$6.00
Total for Revenue	\$14,159.42	\$13,760.30
Gross Profit	\$14,159.42	\$13,760.30
Expenditures		
AGM Expense	\$438.85	\$377.82
Bank charges	\$10.44	\$37.00
Corrections Art Contest	\$450.00	\$450.00
GST Expense	\$487.28	\$775.60
Marketing - Constant Contact	\$95.20	\$1,475.00
Multifaith Calendars	\$7,446.43	\$5,512.72
Multifaith Leadership Breakfast	\$5,016.18	\$5,406.50
Office expenses	\$619.13	\$729.16
Other general and administrative expenses	\$1,632.89	\$258.05
Program Spending	\$1,750.00	\$1,622.16
Total for Expenditures	\$17,946.40	\$16,644.01
Other Revenue		
GST Rebate	\$202.43	\$313.90
Interest earned	\$349.70	\$613.30
Total for Other Revenue	\$552.13	\$927.20
Profit	-\$3,234.85	-\$1,956.51

Notes

1. Marketing - Constant Contact expense for the previous fiscal year includes annual subscription fees for two years. The subscription was switched to monthly billing in 2026.
2. Multifaith Leadership Breakfast expense of \$5,016.18 includes a \$2,000 deposit for the April 15, 2026 Leadership Breakfast.
3. Other general and administrative expense of \$1,632.89 includes a \$1,400 honorarium paid to Susan L. Van Duinen, Lieut. Colonel (Dr), for consulting and facilitating MMC strategic planning sessions.

Manitoba Multifaith Council Inc. | Annual Financial Statements | Year Ended March 31, 2026





Reports of Standing Committees

Community Relations Committee

During the past year, the **Community Relations Committee** continued its work of strengthening relationships among faith communities, government, community organizations, and the wider public. The committee focused on initiatives that promote interreligious understanding, community service, public engagement, and support for vulnerable Manitobans.

Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding

On March 26th, faith leaders, community members, and government representatives joined Her Honour Anita Neville, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, for the presentation of the **Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding**.

This year's recipient was **Khalid Mahmood**, a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community. He was introduced by former award recipient **Sandy Hyman**, who had nominated him for the award.



Khalid is a founding member and past president of the **Pakistan-Canada Cultural Equation**, a non-profit organization dedicated to building relationships among ethno-cultural communities, supporting Pakistani-Canadian culture and language, and advocating on issues including diversity, equity, race relations, multiculturalism, and immigration.

Over many years, Khalid has helped organize and support hundreds of community activities. Among these were a major public conference on *The Changing Roles of Pakistani Women in Canadian Society* in 1990; written and in-person

submissions to the federal Spicer Commission in 1991 regarding multiculturalism and bilingualism; participation in the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 Task Force on Race Relations in 1989; and a public lecture series from 2015 to 2017 at Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council's Welcome Place promoting Canadian history, identity, and values among newcomers and refugees.

The award continues to provide an important opportunity to recognize Manitobans whose work builds understanding and meaningful relationships across religious and cultural communities.

Manitoba Multifaith Leadership Breakfast

On April 15th, the Manitoba Multifaith Council hosted its **11th Annual Multifaith Leadership Breakfast**.

The keynote speaker was **Scott Oake**, *Hockey Night in Canada* broadcaster and founder of the **Bruce and Anne Oake Memorial Foundation**. Scott spoke movingly about his son Bruce, Bruce's experience with addiction, and the journey that ultimately led to the creation of the Bruce Oake Recovery Centre in Winnipeg.

Faith, community, and government leaders attended the breakfast, and the opening blessing was offered by **Archbishop Albert LeGatt**, Archbishop of St. Boniface.

The breakfast was intended both to raise awareness of addiction and recovery and to support the work of the Bruce and Anne Oake Memorial Foundation. The **Bruce Oake Recovery Centre** provides residential treatment and support to men experiencing addiction.



Foundation representatives were also present to provide information about plans for the proposed **Anne Oake Recovery Centre**, which would expand access to treatment and recovery support for women. Attendees were invited to contribute to the Foundation's capital fundraising campaign.

The breakfast demonstrated how **Manitoba Multifaith Council** can bring together faith communities, public leaders, and community organizations around issues affecting Manitobans while supporting organizations doing important work in the community.

2025-26 Community Relations Committee:

Rocky Baronins - Chair
Diane Dwarka
Robert Polz
Jamileh Naso
Wilson Akinwale

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Baronins

Chair, MMC Community Relations Committee

Education Committee

The **MMC Education Committee** had a very active year in 2025-26.

During this year we held monthly educational visits to places of worship or community centres to help increase understanding amongst our communities. We also held monthly **Interfaith Leaders and Advocates Meetings (ILAM)** in which people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives shared on topics such as women's rights, religious intolerance, and other areas of common concern.

Aside from the exceptional winter and summer holiday months, programs were held regularly.

The **MMC Education Committee** consists of the following members:

Labeed Ahmed (chair)
Tanis Moore
Daniel Dacombe
Manju Lohda
Shelaghi Marchenski
Ashish Banerji
Izzeddin Hawamda

Respectfully submitted,



Labeed Ahmed

Chair, MMC Education Committee

Justice and Corrections Committee

Committee Purpose:

- Survey conducted
- Decision to continue with current purposes

Committee Composition:

- Recent additions: Labeed Ahmad (Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosque) and Darlene Overby, Kildonan Community Church – Presbyterian)
- Transition in chair from Ken Kuhn to Peter Rempel
- Continuing Secretary: Peter Kanygin
- Continuing members: Labeed Amhed, Larry Campbell, Greg Dunwoody, Rhonda Gorham, Mary Lysecki, Don MacCormack, Bernie Mullins

Inmates Art Contest 2025

- Sponsor: Redeemed Christian Church of God, Brandon
- Theme: "Healing for the Brokenhearted"
- Entries: 50

Inmates Art Contest 2026

- Sponsor: Kildonan Community Church, Winnipeg
- Theme: "Open My Heart"
- Entries: 72 plus 9 from Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre

Winnipeg Indigenous Accord

- Represented at Signing ceremony, June 19, by Ken Kuhn and Mary Lysecki

Provincial Chaplaincy

- Liaison to Provincial Advisory Board
- Receive updates on transitions of provincial prison chaplains from Bernie Mullins
- Represented at annual gathering of provincial chaplains
- Represented in panel for selecting new chaplain at Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre

Tracking Development in Criminal Justice System

- Provincial Auditor's report on "Transitions from Custody"
- Anglican Church statement on Reconciliation
- Media reports on restorative justice initiatives

Pathways to Healing: Respecting Indigenous Spirituality in the Criminal Justice System

- Event planned for May 19 but cancelled with hopes of re-activating

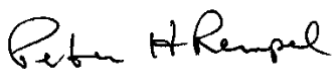
Restorative Justice Week 2026 Event: "Opening Our Hearts"

- Forum for sharing by staff and volunteers of organizations which form personal relationships with offenders to support them in living justly.

Outreach to Muslim Inmates

- Exploring this topic with committee member Labeed Ahmad

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Rempel

Chair, MMC Justice and Corrections Committee

Spiritual Health Committee

This past year, the Spiritual Health Committee continued to strengthen awareness of spiritual health as an important part of whole-person care and community well-being. The Committee focused on creating opportunities for education, dialogue, collaboration, and advocacy across faith traditions and community sectors.

Highlights

- **Beyond the Physical: Spiritual Care in Community Care and Support** – In February 2026, the Committee collaborated with the Interfaith Health Care Association of Manitoba (IHCAM) and the Catholic Health Association of Manitoba (CHAM) on a spiritual health seminar-workshop at the Winnipeg Centre of Hope. The event welcomed approximately **80 participants**, including health and social service professionals, spiritual care practitioners, faith and community leaders, students, and participants from outside Winnipeg, including Thompson.
- **Advocacy for Spiritual Health** – The Committee continued conversations around the importance of spiritual health services and revisited previous advocacy to the provincial government. The issue also received coverage in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, helping raise broader awareness. Given the response and growing interest in spiritual health, the Committee hopes to renew this advocacy and continue making the case for the reinstatement and strengthening of spiritual health supports within Manitoba's health system.
- **Building the Committee** – Efforts are underway to broaden the Committee by inviting spiritual health practitioners, faith leaders, health professionals, and community partners to lend their expertise and perspectives. The Committee aims to meet quarterly and provide an ongoing forum for collaboration on spiritual health issues.
- **Spiritual Health Awareness Week 2026** – Planning has begun for opportunities to recognize **Spiritual Health Awareness Week, October 26–30, 2026**, and this year's theme, *"How's Your Spirit? Spiritual Health Matters."* The Committee is exploring ways to engage faith communities, health organizations, and the broader community in activities that encourage reflection on meaning, hope, connection, and spiritual well-being.

Looking Ahead

The Committee will continue to build partnerships, create opportunities for education and public engagement, and strengthen the collective voice for spiritual health in Manitoba. As

our communities navigate increasing uncertainty, loneliness, illness, loss, and other challenges, the Committee believes there is an important role for Manitoba's diverse faith and spiritual communities in fostering **hope, connection, compassion, and belonging**.

2025-26 Spiritual Health Committee:

Nick Chubenko
Ron Long
Samuel Tim
Chennene Layne
Chris Salstrom
Gladys Hrabi

Respectfully submitted,



Gladys Hrabi

Chair, MMC Spiritual Health Committee



Nominations Report

The following have agreed to stand for nomination

*as **MMC's BOARD OF DIRECTORS: for the 2026-27 term:***

- AHMED, Labeed
- ASHRAFI, Ruth
- BANERJI, Ashish
- BARONINS, Christine
- BARONINS, Richard
- CHUBENKO, Nicholas
- DACOMBE, Daniel
- DWARKA, Diane
- HARRIS, Ray
- HRABI, Gladys
- PANNU, Jessie
- PETERS DERRY, Paul
- POLZ, Robert
- REMPEL, Peter
- WIENS, Ryan

*The following have agreed to fulfill the following positions as **MMC OFFICERS,**
forming the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:***

- President: Christine Baronins
- Vice-President: Nicholas Chubenko
- Secretary: Ruth Ashrafi
- Treasurer: Jessie Pannu

*The following people have agreed to serve as **STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:***

- Community Relations: Richard Baronins
- Education: Labeed Ahmed
- Justice and Corrections: Peter Rempel
- Spiritual Health: Gladys Hrabi



Multifaith Calendar 2027

"Moments of Hope"

Published annually by the **Multifaith Action Society (MAS)**, the **Multifaith Calendar (MFC)** is a unique educational resource that facilitates and promotes understanding of religious observances, occasions and festivals important to a wide spectrum of cultural and faith communities. Featuring 18 pieces of original art from visual artists across North America and Internationally, the new 2027 edition marks the 41st anniversary of our Calendar and features the theme: **Moments of Hope**.

The world's many mounting challenges include drastic climate change, war and conflict, widening inequality, and intensifying natural disasters. Yet even amidst the darkness, glimmers of hope remain, reminding us of the potential for a brighter future.

What are the moments of hope that help bring this future into focus, and leave you feeling renewed, refreshed, and ready to grapple with the challenges of our time? It may be as simple as the peaceful view of ducks on a pond, or the sun's rays breaking dramatically through the clouds. Perhaps it is a trailblazing young leader at the forefront of a new social movement, a thoughtful, well-timed word or action from a trusted friend, or even just a child's wondrous innocence.

In our **2027 Multifaith Calendar - Moments of Hope**, we invite readers to reflect deeply on these questions and to channel these moments of hope to inspire us to be better human beings – and remind us that a just, sustainable, and prosperous future on this Earth is well worth fighting for. Enjoy!

What's New for 2027: Over the years, the Multifaith Calendar has been privileged to feature Indigenous seasons and moons according to different First Nations, including Nisga'a (northwestern BC), the Ojibwe/Anishinaabeg (large area of across Canada's north from Ontario to Alberta), and the Mi'kmaq First Nations (spanning the maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, parts of Newfoundland and Québec, as well as the northeastern region in the USA).

Our new **2027 Multifaith Calendar** features moons and months according to the Cree First Nations. The Cree occupy a large area of across Canada's north from Quebec to Alberta as well as parts of Montana in the US, from the northern woodlands areas to the southern plains. While being one people, there is a great variation amongst the different regional groups, which include: Plains Cree, Woodland Cree, Swampy Cree, Moose Cree, Attikamek and East Cree. This edition of the MFC uses Woodland Cree for the purposes of describing Cree moons and months.

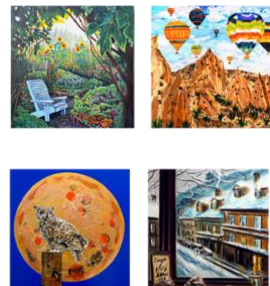


Official Distributor for Manitoba
of the **2027 Multifaith Calendar**

to order: calendars.mmc@gmail.com

<https://manitobamultifaith.org>

www.facebook.com/manitobamultifaith





STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To operate exclusively as a charitable organization for the purpose of promoting interfaith and multifaith dialogue and understanding, and to educate the public about world religions and to promote collaboration amongst people of faith in order to foster the well-being of the community as a whole.

MMC Articles of Incorporation, 2011

MISSION

The Manitoba Multifaith Council exists to promote multifaith dialogue and understanding, while collaborating to serve the community as a whole.

VISION

People of diverse faiths working together to build a just and caring society.

Adopted by MMC Board of Directors, 2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

Manitoba Multifaith Council acknowledges that we gather on Treaty One Land, in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation.

We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with its peoples.

83 Kendale Dr Winnipeg Manitoba R3T 5M5

<https://manitobamultifaith.org>

www.facebook.com/manitobamultifaithcouncil