

*"Where everyone is kin; with a sense of worth, over all the Earth"*

~ adapted from Robert Burns/Gordon McNally, RI President 2023-24

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### WEEKLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday December 13, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Hugh Graham, Crystal Lambkin, Annie Holtby, Carolyn Mullin, Mel Groom, Sharon Pfeifer, Collins Acheampong, Paul Snack, Lance Wiebe, Lorraine Snihur (Pathstone), Satoka Hiyashi, Nicole Guthrie (Guest Speaker).

1. **Welcome**

2. **Land Acknowledgement. Paul**

*We begin this gathering by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis and Inuit people and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.*

3. **Toast & National Anthem. Paul**

- a) To the King and Canada, To the Office of the President of the United States, and To the President of Rotary International and To the Prime Minister of Japan.
- b) National Anthem

4. **4-WAY TEST. Carolyn**

Of the things we think, say, or do  
Is it the truth?  
Is it fair to all concerned?  
Will it build good will and better friendships?  
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

5. **Invocation. Crystal**

6. **President Updates, Correspondence. Holiday Social** Friday December 15 at Culinary Dropout.  
**This week's speaker. Nicole Guthrie** will speak on Immigration Law.

**Purse Bingo's main recipient of designated winnings went to Pathstone Foundation. Lorraine Snihur** is here to accept appreciated donation and tell us a bit about Pathstone. Pathstone is the Children's Mental Health lead in Niagara. The more we talk about it the more we know. Since October 1<sup>st</sup>, we've taken over intake for everyone in this field, either for a program or the right to a counsellor. We hope by April not to have a wait period. With our walk-in clinics over the past year, 12,000 have used the services. We're giving them skills and strategies right away, Pathstone gets \$9M from the government and we need \$14M for the year. We see 20,000 youth/children for 1 day/week. We're seeing that it's working and we're working with the families as well. We do see a bigger spike coming. The don't need a medical card or a referral. 11.4 is the average age. 75% if Mental Health problems stem from childhood. If we can help now, it can produce a happy adult.

**Carolyn.** This year's RI President has Mental Health as a focus.

**Today's Guest Speaker, Nicole Guthrie is welcomed by Paul Snack.** Nicole has a degree in Political Science as well as law and spent 10 years providing immigration legal services in Don Valley. Now she's here for Niagara immigration services!

**Nicole** works with **express entry**. It includes skilled workers with 1 year experience in Canada, Federal skilled workers, those with a trade –anyone with a skilled trade. There are different types of work permits. Wages and work must meet regulations. There are **International Mobility Apps for temporary work** for example at Walmart. Also, the App can be for youth. An 18-30 year old can work in Canada for a year but it's non renewable!

There are **study permits** where they must show a certain level of money in a GIC. Now that amount is \$20,000 plus Health Insurance There are sponsorships including spousal and family, other relations. To sponsor, you must be 18, with status as a citizen, registered Indian and not receiving assistance. **WHO can be sponsored?** Spouse, common law partner, conjugal partner, a family member, a spouse or dependent child. Common Law is defined here as living together for a year. **Refugees** are those who face risk of persecution back home where they may be persecuted because of race, religion, nationality, being a member of particular social or political groups.

There are some exclusions with refugees where those with refugee status can't apply again. Previous refugees have been refused in Canada. After they're rejected, there's a conditional deportation order. After 30 days, if they haven't left. The legalities start to remove them. There can be **Humanitarian and Compassionate Relief** at the discretion of the decision maker. They'd look at what's in the best interests of children, at the hardships. **Citizenship** – you are eligible if over 18, have permanent residence and are physically present in Canada.

**Carolyn thanked Nicole and shared that our thank you to presenters is a donation in their name to Pelham Cares, our Fonthill Food Bank.**

**Happy Loonies.**

**Lance** got a speeding ticket for \$115 in the mail. Photo in mail showed his license plate. BUT he's happy the Leafs won last night!

**Satoka.** Happy I went shopping with friends in Toronto!

**Mike.** Our trip up north was great.

**Nicole.** I'm happy everyone is getting their permits.

**Sharon.** Happy to be here! I did an exchange trip to Japan way back. Happy to be a new member!

**Mel.** Happy to be here! Thanks. Good to hear Pathstone update.

**Gail.** Very informative, Nicole. Happy to be here.

**Dave.** Hoping to feel better by Friday.

**Hugh.** In my extended part of Rotary, I went to Welland Christmas get together. Pleased we can help programs like Pathstone. Welcome to Sharon. Re camera and Lance's fine, the camera got 'foamed' and is being put up higher to avoid this.

**Lorraine from Pathstone** Glad to be here in Niagara because of being born and raised here!

**Paul.** We managed to do our annual golf getaway. 2 of us went to Western and 2 went to Queen's. The winner gets dinner at the place.

**Carolyn.** Last Thursday, awards for top research went to Niagara College, #1 in Canada for the amount of funding we get - work experience! Last time the President made a comment. This time he came and sat down with our group!

**I wish everyone a peaceful, exciting holiday.**

The meeting ended with a cheque presentation to Lorraine Snihus for \$5000 (Purse Bingo). That's ¼ of the 1 year cost of the program here at MCC!

**No further meetings until January 3, 2024. Guest Speaker, Nancie Taylor, Food4Kids.**