





2024 - 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Located on Treaty 1 territory, at the crossroads of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in a historic gathering place for the Anishinaabeg, Inninewak, Anishinewak, Dakota Oyate, and Denesuline peoples and in the birthplace and homeland of the Red River Métis.

CMWI acknowledges the deep and ongoing relationships that Native populations have with this land, relationships rooted in care, responsibility, and resistance that continue to this day.

The water that sustains us in Winnipeg is sourced from Shoal Lake and has been cared for by First Nations in Treaty 3 territory for thousands of years.

As an organization serving newcomers, many of whom arrive from lands impacted by colonization, displacement and systemic injustice, we recognize the importance of learning from the histories and ongoing struggles of Indigenous communities in Canada.

We are committed to building respectful relationships rooted in solidarity, care, and a shared responsibility to this land and to the Native populations who continue to protect it.



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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 2024–2025 fiscal year marked a period of strategic advancement and organizational growth for the Canadian Muslim Women's Institute (CMWI) and I'm excited to share some of the highlights with you.

I am pleased to report that the Board of Directors successfully fulfilled a key priority outlined in our strategic plan: the recruitment and onboarding of an Executive Director.



After a rigorous selection process we were delighted to welcome Eve Sotiriadou as our new Executive Director. Eve immigrated to Winnipeg from Greece with her family and experienced firsthand the challenges of settlement especially with the language barrier as she entered high school. She went on to earn Bachelor's degrees in History, Religion and Education, as well as a Master's degree in Religion and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Cultural Studies.

Eve's lived experience as an immigrant gives her a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities our clients face. She understands, in a very personal way, the trials of starting over in a foreign country, learning another language and building a new life. That empathy and insight are already shaping the way she leads our organization. With Eve guiding the day-to-day work, I've been able to focus more fully on my role as Board President and I'm deeply grateful for that balance. The Board remains committed to supporting her efforts as she guides CMWI through its next phase of development and impact.

In alignment with another strategic objective to diversify revenue streams, CMWI launched a new social enterprise and meal service initiative. This program represents a significant step toward financial sustainability and community engagement. Further details will be provided in the staff report. In the face of funding challenges, CMWI has been able to maintain its core programs and add some new ones. That is quite an achievement.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend sincere appreciation to our dedicated staff, whose commitment and professionalism continue to drive the success of our programs and services. Thank you for your tireless dedication, your compassion and your belief in the families we serve. You are the heart of this organization. To my fellow Board members, thank you for your wisdom, encouragement and commitment. To our funders, community partners and supporters, your trust and generosity fuel our mission every single day.

As we look ahead, I feel hopeful. Together, we will continue to grow, to welcome, and to empower families—helping them not only to settle, but to thrive as proud and active members of Winnipeg's community

### 2025 - 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Yasmin Ali - President

Erum Tanvir- Vice - President

Zulaika Rahim-Treasurer

Fatumah Mbabaali - Secretary

Merdia Imame- Member-at-Large

Najma Siddiqui- Member-at-Large

Siti Abdulle - Member-at-Large

Ruheen Azziz - Member-at-Large

Mehr Un Nisa - Member-at-Large





# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It is with great pride and deep gratitude that I reflect on my first year as Executive Director. Stepping into this role has been both a tremendous honor and an incredible learning experience. This past year has been marked by growth, immense learning, and collaboration as we worked together to support our community and advance our mission; A healthy, strong, stable and independent diverse community.



My main goal for this first year was to truly get to know our team, the community we serve, and the unique needs and strengths that define CMWI. Taking time to connect with long term partners, community members and stakeholders that have been supporting CMWI's mission for decades.

This year, we embraced opportunities to try new things and create spaces that reflect our community's diversity, skills and investment towards social justice. One of the proudest moments of the year was hosting the Conference on Muslim Women's Courage and Leadership in Manitoba at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in February 2025.

The event brought together Muslim women, community members and partners to celebrate our collective achievements and envision a stronger, more inclusive future. We were honored to welcome the Minister of Sports, Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Nellie Kennedy and Amira Elghawaby, Canada's Special Representative on Combating Islamophobia, as a key contributors.





We also had the privilege of working closely with the provincial government to support refugee families arriving in Canada seeking medical attention for their children. This work was deeply meaningful, as our team and volunteers ensured that these families receive ongoing and specialized care.

Another significant milestone this year was **the launch of our second social enterprise – The Culinary Edge.** This initiative provides training and employment pathways for low-income newcomers, empowering them with culinary skills while helping them integrate into the workforce. This marks a major step forward in CMWI's mission to support economic independence and community building.

Moving forward, our new goals focus on enhancing our funding portfolio to expand our work and ensure we can continue to meet the urgent needs of our community. This includes supporting community members experiencing economic and housing insecurity, food insecurity, immigration challenges, domestic and gender-based violence, and poverty.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Board of Directors for their guidance, our dedicated staff and volunteers for their tireless work, and our funders and community partners for trusting us. Together, we have laid strong groundwork and I am confident that the year ahead will bring even more opportunities for growth, advocacy, and meaningful intimate and long-term change.

#### 2024 - 2025

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

#### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1**

INCREASED FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY.

#### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2**

STRENGTHENED PROGRAMMING THROUGH A PROCESS OF FOCUSING AND SPECIALIZATION THAT ENSURES COMMUNITY RESPONSIVENESS.

#### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3**

EXPANDED AND IMPROVED OUR FACILITIES.

#### STRATEGIC PRIORITY #4

A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TO THE ORGANIZATION.



A HEALTHY, STRONG, STABLE AND INDEPENDENT DIVERSE COMMUNITY.



FOUNDED IN 2006, CMWI IS A FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE FOSTERING WELLBEING, SAFTEY, AND BELONGING FOR ALL.



#### 2024 - 2025

### PROGRAMS & SERVICES

#### SUPPORT SERVICES

- DONATION CENTRE
- FOOD BANK
- COMMUNITY CLOSET
- OUTREACH SUPPORT
- CHILDMINDING
- ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES
- TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION SERVICES

#### FAMILY PROGRAMS

- PARENTING PROGRAMS
- COMMUNITY FIELD TRIPS
- SETTLEMENT WORKSHOPS
- CUSTOMIZED CLIENT SUPPORT

#### **HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAMS**

- HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS
- MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUPS
- ONE-ONE COUNSELING
- PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
- HEALTHY EATING

#### **EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS**

- 1. COMMERCIAL COOKING TRAINING
- 2. INDUSTRIAL SEWING TRAINING
- 3. CHILDCARE SKILLS TRAINING

INCLUDING SPECIALIZED ENGLISH CLASSES RELATED TO EACH EMPLOYMENT FIELD.

#### FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

- MONEY MANAGEMENT TRAINING
- FINANCIAL LITERACY & COUNSELING
- REGISTERED EDUCATION SAVINGS PLAN
- ACCESS TO BENEFITS & FILING TAXES
- CITIZENSHIP APPLICATIONS AND IDs



# **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

This year, CMWI supported **2,893 individuals**, including both newcomer families and long-time community members, through a combination of personalized one-on-one services and group-based programming.

With the continued support of our primary funders, **United Way, The Winnipeg Foundation and SEED Winnipeg,** we maintained essential services and deepened our impact across core initiatives.

Our Community Support team worked closely with families to help them navigate everyday challenges, access necessary resources, and strengthen their overall wellbeing.

Our Employment Programs provided newcomer women with hands-on training in commercial cooking, industrial sewing, and childcare. These programs offered not only technical skill development, but also increased confidence and greater access to local employment opportunities.

In 2024/25, CMWI proudly launched **The Culinary Edge** (pilot project), our second **social enterprise**, building on the success of The Cutting Edge. This new initiative creates meaningful employment pathways in the culinary sector while providing culturally relevant catering and meal services.

#### THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

#### TOTAL NUMBER OF SERVICES

28,850

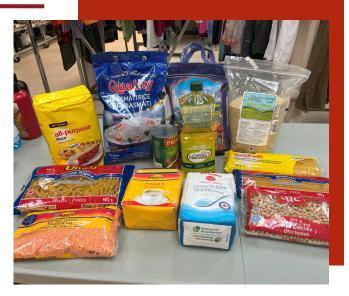


**NUMBER OF UNIQUE CLIENTS** 

2,893

# FOOD SECURITY & DONATION CENTRE

At CMWI, we invest in a multi-faceted approach to addressing social issues, including the rising challenge of food insecurity across Canada. Our Donation Centre operates a biweekly halal food bank in partnership with **Winnipeg Harvest**, ensuring newcomer, refugee and low income families have access to culturally appropriate, nutritious food.



In addition, we manage an emergency food pantry and a dedicated halal pantry to support families experiencing urgent needs. Beyond service delivery, CMWI plays an active role in the **United Way Food Security Network Committee** and its **Advisory Group**, advocating for newcomer and low-income families and contributing to city-wide efforts to build a more equitable and sustainable food system.

This year, our Donation Centre witnessed an overwhelming increase in refugee claimants, predominantly men, seeking essential winter gear and housing items. Their urgent needs reflect the harsh realities many newcomers face, especially during Manitoba's cold months. We have worked tirelessly to meet these critical demands, ensuring that those arriving in our community can access the basics needed for safety and comfort.



The community's generous donations, along with the ongoing support of **United Way**, enabled CMWI to continue its operations and provide winter clothing, school supplies, and essential household items to individuals and families in need with dignity and care.

We also saw a significant rise in new community members requesting prayer mats. In response, with the support of the **Manitoba Islamic Association (MIA)**, we were able to distribute over 200 prayer mats, helping individuals maintain their spiritual practices during times of transition.

Alongside supporting individuals, we continue to serve families through our biweekly food bank distribution, delivered in partnership with Winnipeg Harvest.

A special highlight this year was the generous contribution of Qurbani meat from Islamic Relief Canada and several individual families, which helped us support over **200 families** in our community with culturally meaningful and nourishing food.

Despite the increasing pressures on resources, our commitment remains unwavering, to provide compassionate, practical assistance that uplifts every member of our community.





# **DONATION CENTRE**

#### **Annual Data**

Our donations are open 5 days a week

1,454 Unique Clients were served 1,332 hours of volunteer service

Client accessed 7,029 times for other items

1,760 clients served in the Food Bank 855 clients served with emergency food and surplus

785 Halal pantries distributed

3,629 clients for the clothing & household items





# **DONATION CENTRE**

#### **Impact Testimonial**

When I arrived in Canada in September 2024 with my husband and our four children, CMWI was there to support us from the very beginning. At the time, we were living in a shelter and had almost no warm clothing to face the harsh winter. I clearly remember sharing a single pair of gloves with my daughter when the temperature dropped to -26°C, and I only had plastic boots to wear.



As soon as I visited CMWI, they immediately provided warm coats, gloves for me and my daughters, and proper winter boots. Their kindness made a world of difference.

We also struggled with food, especially because it was not always Halal. CMWI helped us by providing sandwiches, pizza, snacks, and Halal meals, along with warm clothes for the entire family.

Beyond material support, they were a constant source of emotional and psychological comfort. CMWI offered specialized programs and caring, competent staff who were always checking in on me and my family. Every time I visited, someone would ask how we were doing. Even the director personally followed up and showed genuine care for our situation.

Client: C. H. - Dec. 2024



# **DONATION CENTRE**

#### **Impact Testimonial**

Everyone at CMWI celebrated with us when I was finally approved for EIA support thanks to their help and persistence. Before that, I was able to receive financial assistance through Zakat, which helped us get by. They were also genuinely happy when we moved into our own home, and they generously provided household items to help us settle in.



One of the most memorable experiences was the ice fishing trip I attended with my youngest son. It was a beautiful opportunity to connect with nature and discover a unique part of Canadian culture, fishing on frozen lakes.

To this day, I continue to receive ongoing support from CMWI. They help us with furniture, food bank services, English classes for my two daughters, and assistance with documents, taxes, and learning how to better integrate and settle in Canada.

May God bless every member of the CMWI team. I hope that one day, I can give back by becoming a part of this wonderful family and doing my best to support others the way they supported me.

Client: A. A - 2024



# **VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIAL**

After arriving in Canada in April 2024, I faced significant challenges adjusting to a new environment, despite my teaching background in Albania. In an effort to build connections and gain local experience, I discovered the Canadian Muslim Women's Institute (CMWI) through community outreach initiatives and reached out directly.

I began volunteering with CMWI in June, and the experience quickly became transformative. During a difficult transition period, I developed valuable skills in communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

### CMWI became more than just a volunteer placement, it felt like a home away from home.

It provided a supportive space where I could contribute meaningfully to the community while also growing personally and professionally. The experience offered me a deeper understanding of community-based work in Canada and inspired me to pursue my goal of becoming an Educational Assistant.



With this motivation, I enrolled in a related program at the University of Winnipeg in September and successfully completed it in February of this year.

Through the ongoing support of CMWI, especially the Donation and Volunteer Coordinator and the wider staff, I gained confidence in navigating both my new environment and my evolving career path. This journey has empowered me to move forward with clarity and purpose in my future endeavors.

Volunteer: A. F Sep. 2024

### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM**

continues to support families in maintaining their psychological and physical well-being. A mental health professional facilitated the **Women's Mental Health Support Group** in the clients' first language or interpretation. This year participants spoke Ukrainian, Arabic, Somali, Tigrinya, Urdu, Farsi and English.

Our Health and Wellness Program

To promote the physical well-being of the participants, we organized women-only swimming and Zumba sessions. These were greatly enjoyed by the participants who have requested more sessions like these. Men have also expressed interest in physical activities tailored for them, enhancing our existing programs focused on men's mental and physical wellbeing.

Accordingly, we organized a **Men's Support Group** in Arabic, facilitated by a male professional. In addition to the group sessions, individual sessions were provided for those needing extra support.

Canadian Muslim Women's Institute Annual Report 2024-2025



#### **ART FOR WELLNESS**



CMWI's **Men's Program** is a vital component of our holistic approach to emotional health and community safety. Recognizing that newcomers often carry layers of stress, including trauma from migration, cultural adjustment, and social isolation, we provide men with safe spaces to explore what healthy relationships look like in Canada.

Through group sessions, workshops, mentorship, and one-on-one support, men are encouraged to deepen self-awareness, develop respectful communication skills, build emotional literacy, confront harmful norms, and foster accountability. We aim not only to support individual transformation, but also to empower participants to be agents of positive change within their families, and within the broader community.

Integral to this work is our Healthy Relationships and Mental Wellbeing programming, which complements the Men's Program by addressing underlying mental health issues, such as anxiety, depression, grief, and identity stressors. These programs provide culturally sensitive counselling, peer support, and psychoeducational training on topics like coping strategies, recognizing the signs of distress, and accessing mental health resources. Working in concert with community partners, we ensure these supports are accessible, destigmatized, and respectful of cultural, linguistic, and faith backgrounds. Together, the Men's Program and Healthy Relationships initiatives help nurture resilience, trust, safety, and empathy in our community, laying the foundation for healthier interpersonal relationships, and enhanced wellbeing.

Group programs April 1, 2024– March , 2025			
Program name	Total Enrolment	Number of sessions	Number of times (Tot emrollment X # of
Men Support Group	78	30	2340



88 Participants
attended the
Women and Men's
Healthy
Relationship
Programming

31 clients attended summer fishing and ice fishing



140 clients attended other outings - Human Rights Museum, the Zoo and Goldeyes games

> 25 clients attended parenting program

# FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

We partner with **SEED Winnipeg and Community Financial Counseling** to deliver our programs and services. Apart from the numbers served the impact was tremendous this year too.

SERVICES	ACTIVITIES
Benefits Navigation	Child tax, GST, climate action incentive, disability tax, rent assist, dental benefits, housing benefits, caregiver benefits, EIA and EI were accessed by <b>316 clients.</b>
Money Management & Financial Literacy Training	We delivered a series of MMT training in our clients first languages.  During the year we delivered in Arabic, Tigrigna, Somali, Dari and English. The team assisted clients to enroll in match saving programs, saving circle and Individual development programs for 49 participants.
Access to Identification	We assisted <b>94 clients</b> to apply for IDs such as permanent resident cards, birth certificates, Manitoba IDs, travel documents and passports.
Tax Filing	We expanded our service by adding tax clinics to our all year around tax services. We partnered with Community Financial Services to run these tax clinics providing more access and avoid the waiting list. We assisted <b>950 clients.</b>
Citizenship Application	The need for citizenship support increased as the language and digital literacy becomes an issue. The team helped <b>39 clients</b> to prepare for the citizenship test, and completing the citizenship applications.
1,409 unique clients were served	Over the past year <b>1,409 unique clients</b> accessed our Financial Empowerment programs and services, which included tax clinics, financial literacy workshops, one on one budgeting and credit counseling, benefits navigation, and support with savings and debt management.



# **INCOME TAX SERVICES**

#### **Impact Testimonial**

I came to Canada in 2019 and got married in 2023. We welcomed our first child in 2024. We believed we had filed our 2023 tax return, as we visited a tax return service provider, paid for the service, and were told that our return had been submitted. We were also informed that we wouldn't be receiving a refund. Unfortunately, it turns out that our taxes were never submitted, and we were unaware of this



**TAX CLINIC AT ELLIS MOSQEUE 2024/25** 

We were confused about why we hadn't received any benefits in 2024, including the Child Benefit we had already applied for.

We came to CMWI seeking help with the Rent Assist application, option C and for advice regarding the Child Benefit. While we received assistance with the Rent Assist application, we were told that our 2023 and 2024 Notices of Assessment were not available on our CRA account confirming that neither of our tax returns had actually been filed.

We insisted that we had filed our 2023 return, but we were informed that it was never submitted. Thankfully, CMWI helped us by filing both our 2023 and 2024 tax returns free of charge. As a result, we received a \$4,700 tax refund, \$1,360 in GST, \$900 for the carbon tax, and the accumulated Child Benefit.

This support came at a critical time, and we are incredibly grateful. We are extremely happy and truly appreciate the service CMWI provided. Thank you to all the staff at CMWI, you are doing life-changing work!

Client: A.T. - 2024



# FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

#### **Impact Testimonial**

Sarah, a 32-year-old single mother of two, had been struggling with managing her finances, particularly when it came to using credit cards. With three active credit cards and over \$6,500 in revolving debt, she often made only minimum payments and was unaware of how interest compounded over time.



Sarah used her credit cards for everyday expenses, including groceries and utilities, without tracking her spending. She was frequently surprised by high balances and late fees. With limited financial education, she didn't fully understand the impact of interest rates, late payments, or credit utilization on her credit score.

Sarah enrolled in the **Money Management Workshop**, where she attended sessions on budgeting, saving, and responsible credit card use. Through interactive exercises, real-life case studies, and one-on-one coaching, Sarah learned:

- How to create and stick to a monthly budget
- Strategies to reduce credit card debt
- How to use credit responsibly and improve her credit score



### FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

#### **Impact Testimonial**

Within a month of completing the training:

- Sarah created a budget and reduced her credit card spending by 60%.
- She paid off one credit card in full and set up automatic payments to avoid late fees.
- Her credit score improved by 48 points.

"I never realized how much money I was losing to interest. This training gave me the tools and the confidence to take control of my finances. I finally feel hopeful about my financial future."

Sarah's story is a testament to the power of financial education. With the right knowledge and support, she transformed her credit card habits and took meaningful steps toward long-term financial stability.



# EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS



For over five years, CMWI has delivered high quality, culturally responsive employment training programs to newcomer women facing barriers to employment. Our three core training streams; commercial cooking, industrial sewing, and childcare skills, provided participants with hands-on, sector-specific instruction to prepare them for entry into the local workforce.

Each program included specialized English language instruction, job readiness workshops, individualized employment counselling, and referrals to local employers.

To help reduce financial barriers, CMWI covered the costs of key requirements across all programs. This included First Aid certification for childcare participants, Food Handler training for those in the culinary stream, and transportation support for participants.

Due to federal budget cuts in 2025, CMWI experienced a significant impact on its employment services. As a result, this year marked the final year in which all three employment programs were offered together.

While we continue to seek new funding sources and build strategic partnerships, CMWI remains deeply committed to supporting newcomer women in accessing meaningful employment and building sustainable livelihoods.

70% was the employment rate in our programs

4000 visits to CMWI of participants attending classes

2500 hours were spent with our participants

#### 800 sessions were delivered to participants in:

- Industrial sewing
- Commercial cooking
- Childcare skills
- English for employment
- Employment readiness
- First aid
- Food handlers



The Cutting Edge - Industrial Sewing Training



The Culinary Edge - Commercial Cooking Training

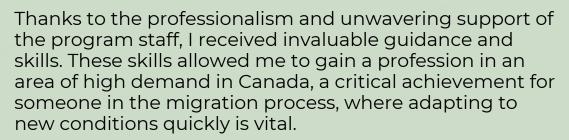
The Culinary Edge was launched as a pilot project inspired by our commercial cooking training program.



# **EMPLOYMENT TESTIMONIALS**

### The Cutting Edge - Participant Testimonial

The Sewing Machine Operator Program gave me the opportunity to embark on a unique and incredibly valuable journey. As a newcomer adjusting to life in Canada, I faced numerous challenges - language barriers, unfamiliar local rules, cultural differences, and difficulties finding employment. This program became a true lifeline, providing me with direction and confidence in my future.



I am especially grateful to the trainers, who not only shared their knowledge and expertise but also demonstrated genuine care and support. Their interest in our lives beyond the classroom, their daily encouragement, and their heartfelt empathy created an environment where I felt safe and empowered.

This program has not only provided me with a new profession but also helped me overcome personal barriers, gain confidence, and understand my next steps in life.

My deepest thanks go to everyone involved in organizing and delivering this program. Your work transforms lives and gives people hope for a better tomorrow.

Client: Y. H. - Nov, 2024



# **EMPLOYMENT TESTIMONIALS**

#### **Childcare Employment Training - Participant Testimonial**

The childcare training was an important step in my life, which not only helped me gain new knowledge, but also opened the door to my dream job. Thanks to the training, I expanded my knowledge and mastered key childcare skills that I now use every day. This gave me confidence in my abilities and showed that I am ready for professional challenges.

The training helped me adapt to cultural differences. I began to better understand the values, customs and expectations of parents and children. I learned to take the cultural context into account in my work.

The instructors helped me in my job search and provided useful recommendations, helped me write a resume and even offered contacts of potential employers.

Thanks to this, I was able to successfully pass the interview and get the position I had long dreamed of.

This experience has changed my life: I have had the opportunity to work in a field that brings me satisfaction, helps me develop, and gives me the joy of working with children. I am grateful for this opportunity.



Client: O. O. - Dec 2024

### **CMWI EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS**



The Cutting Edge - Industrial Sewing Training



**Childcare Skills Training** 



The Culinary Edge - Commercial cooking training

# CULINARY EDGE OUR NEWEST SOCIAL ENTERPISE

In December 2024, CMWI proudly launched the **Culinary Edge**, our second social enterprise and a significant milestone in our mission to create innovative, sustainable programs. Building on the success of our IRCC-funded culinary employment training program for newcomer women, the **Culinary Edge** was launched as a pilot project to ensure sustainable funding and support our ongoing operations as an organization.



Through the **Culinary Edge**, we continue to train newcomers and low-income community members, offering practicum opportunities that bridge the gap between learning and real-world work. Our kitchen is a training ground where participants gain technical culinary skills, including food preparation, safety, and professional kitchen operations, as well as the soft skills they need to succeed in Canada's labour market.

The **Culinary Edge** is unique because of its compassionate, flexible, and personalized training environment. We accommodate participants' individual needs, support them through barriers such as language challenges or limited experience, and mentor them every step of the way.

Thanks to support from our community and catering contracts, we are able not only to train participants but also to hire them as employees. This allows participants to gain Canadian work experience, earn income, and accelerate their journey to long-term employment.



Over the past year, our team spearheaded the development and launch of The Culinary Edge, building on the foundation of our culinary employment training program. We also engaged with SEED Winnipeg through training sessions and consultations, which offered valuable insights on business planning and marketing strategies, providing additional perspectives as we refined and promoted our services.



While we receive catering orders and community contracts, the revenue we generate is reinvested into training and employment opportunities for participants, not profit. We encourage individuals and organizations to order from the Culinary Edge, knowing that every meal purchased directly supports newcomer women and low-income community members as they gain experience, build confidence, and transition into stable employment.



The **Culinary Edge** reflects CMWI's commitment to pairing social impact with financial sustainability. In the coming year, we hope to continue strengthening this pilot project, growing our meal and catering services, and creating more pathways to economic independence for the communities we serve.

# **CULINARY EDGE FLIER**







#### Social Enterprise

At the Culinary Edge, we create flavorful, culturally inspired Halal dishes for individuals, organizations, and businesses. We also train newcomers in kitchen skills, helping them start careers. Many go on to join our team, giving back to the community while building their futures. Our focus is on great food, new opportunities, and making a difference.



#### Newcomer Employment Training

- · Hands-on food prep workshops taught by experienced chefs.
- · Training in food preparation, safety, and presentation.
- Real kitchen experience to build job skills.
- Support for newcomers to succeed in food industry

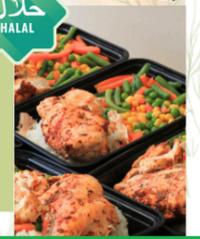


#### Key Services & Projects

- Catering: Custom menus designed for any event.
- Pre-Made Meals: Fresh, nutritious, and easy-to-heat
- · Custom Desserts: cakes, pastries, and treats.
- · Cooking Workshops: Learn new skills in a welcoming space. (Coming Soon)
- Community Impact: Helping newcomers build careers in the food industry.











# THE CUTTING EDGE FLIER

#### **PROGRAM OF**



### 置 | CUTTING EDGE

EST 2018



QUALITY DESIGNS + MANUFACTURING





- Custom Manufacturing Solutions for Designers and Businesses
- Superior quality
- Socially Responsible
- Empowering local designers and businesses
- Personalized sewing lessons and workshops for individuals and organizations





#### Industrial Sewing Machine Operator Training

- Employment training program dedicated to empowering newcomer women
- Hands-on training in industrial sewing machine operation and maintenance
- Guided by a team of experienced professionals
- Job Search Support and Employment readiness workshops



- The Cutting Edge Sewing Enterprise your local small and large order manufacturer
- Master essential sewing skills with our expert-led workshops: Beginner Techniques, Stretch Fabrics, Alterations and Hand Sewing
- Empowering Local Communities: tailored sewing workshops for schools, community Centers, seniors, non-profits, and businesses in Winnipeg



#### A Program of CMWI

CMWI is a family resource centre fostering wellbeing, safety, and belonging for all. Working from a holistic approach, we provide services to all in need and culturally sensitive, wrap-around programming and support to newcomers.



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### STAFFING HIGHLIGHTS

NAMES POSITIONS

Mohammad Agha Manager, The Cutting Edge

**Aisha Ali** Donation & Volunteer Coordinator

**Faysal Ali** Settlement Counselor

**Hodan Ali** Financial Empowerment Coordinator

Maham Ali Wellness Coordinator/ Counselor

**Zeinab Ali** Program Coordinator

Joyce Ann Caisip Assistant Accountant

Abir Chehlaoui Administrative Assistant

**Rozelina Dauda** Sewing Instructor

Zebiba Ibrahim Manager, Community Support Programs

Nurun Jannat Childcare Assistant

Ahlam Jasim Outreach Coordinator

Ver-se Mark-Iber Employment Counsellor

Mesoud Omar Financial Empowerment Facilitator

Vilailuck Pinasouc Manager, The Culinary Edge

Maria Rabadi Senior Manager, Employment Services & Social Enterprises

**Eve Sotiriadou** Executive Director

Yuliia Tuz Employment Facilitator

Nasira Ouahmane Assistant Cook

Kelvin Akooh Sous Chef

Abdel-Hamid Idriss Kitchen Helper

### **ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS 2024/25**

#### **NAMES**

Miad Abdullah
Baydaa Al gailani
Maha Al Jazar
Jamal Amano
Chahrazed Hachmi
Luc Huynh
Violetta Ivanora
Shatha Jawad
Matauga Mansour
Mohmed Saied
Abdul Razak Yaqub





### **CMWITEAM MESSAGE**



On behalf of CMWI, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our funders, partners, and the entire community for their unwavering trust and support over the past year. Your belief in our mission has allowed us to continue serving families, empowering newcomers, and creating meaningful impact through our programs and initiatives. Together, we have built stronger connections, fostered resilience, and supported those who need it most. As we look ahead to another year of growth and collaboration, we remain committed to working side by side with you to create a more compassionate and inclusive community for all.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

### CMWI thanks you for your continued support











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