

A Bridge *Between* Worlds

The last year has offered many lessons and moments of pride. Many of our tenants have left behind a familiar life, however turbulent, and have courageously moved toward an unfamiliar shore. I am in awe of the strength of character it takes to embrace a new beginning and start over.

I picture IRCOM as a home built on a bridge, a place for people living between two worlds. Before our community members need to fully navigate life in Canada, they can slowly learn with us. They can ask questions, train, and demonstrate strengths, all while walking that bridge from one life to another.

Because the journey ahead of them is imperfect, the voyage across the ocean may be the easiest part. Rebuilding a life, mastering a new language, merging cultures, belonging – these are the true markers of successful integration.

By listening to our community, being innovative and agile, and by staying true to our values we've achieved incredible success within our buildings and across our programs.

In the last year we've been fortunate to see:

- Pre-schoolers ready for kindergarten, singing abc's, sharing with friends, feeling safe in a new school;
- Youth graduating, receiving scholarships, gaining employment, and working towards change;



- Adult students increasing English language skills while learning about life in Canada;
- Tenants engaging in leadership, understanding taxes, housing options, tenant rights and responsibilities; and
- Community members making new friends, testing their knowledge of the local landscape, and flexing their language skills to start conversations.

My sincerest thanks to the over 200 volunteers who give, and give, and give, time, talent, and treasure. Thank you to the Board and Committee members who share their expertise and knowledge and provide invaluable guidance. Thank you to our partners, friends, funders, and donors for always standing with us. And thank you to the incredible team I have the pleasure of working with each day; you make all that we do possible.



Dorota Blumczynska,
Executive Director

1. \$4.2 Million Leveraged

IRCOM helped newcomer families file their taxes and access Canada Child Benefit and GST credits, helping them improve their standard of living and purchase much needed goods and services.

2. New Facility

Demand for programming led to the opening of a new programming location in 2018-19. 370 Notre Dame Avenue opened this year and has already improved the lives of 457 participants with much needed language training, homework help, and child care support. This facility will help newcomers land on their feet and get the training they need to thrive in their new home.

3.



10,310 Conversations with Community Members

IRCOM helps newcomer families settle rapidly and successfully by meeting with them one-on-one to answer questions, solve problems, and offer guidance.

4.



1,900 Hours of Child Care Support

It's hard to overstate the importance of child care support for newcomer families. Without it, education, training, meetings, doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, and other settlement programs can be almost inaccessible to many. IRCOM is proud of its delivery of long-term child care at three sites for 120 infants and toddlers. Put simply, the *Child Care Program* supports the opening of doors for whole families!

5. 4,590 Referrals

IRCOM believes in putting people first! We connect newcomers with the right programs at the right time. In 2018 over 4,000 people were referred to partner organizations that provide specialized services, helping them meet their goals.

6. 10,500 Volunteer Hours

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our volunteers this year! 247 volunteers gave over 10,500 hours of their time and talent to help build bridges for newcomer families, improving their experiences of Canada. By engaging volunteers, we make positive changes in the lives of our community members and our volunteers.

7. Over \$60,000 Awarded

Students of IRCOM's *Homework and Education for Youth Program* were the recipients of the Winnipeg Mayor Scholarship, Ted Rogers Scholarships, and the Arlington Street Foundation Scholarship!

8. Reimagining a Future

With the *Youth Employment Program*, IRCOM helped almost 40 youth gain essential skills like resume writing, interview skills, and workplace etiquette, bringing them one-step closer to gainful employment.

9. \$50 a Month in Savings

Fifteen IRCOM families benefited from growing their own vegetables with the *Greening Program*. With garden plots of their own, they managed to grow food, save money on groceries, learn new skills, and improve their health. The growers estimate they saved an average of \$50 a month on grocery bills.

10. Improved English Skills

IRCOM's *Newcomer Literacy Initiative* provided over 100 students in seven classrooms with increased English language skills, an essential component of a smooth and successful progression into Canadian society. In order to maximize convenience and attendance, on site child care was also provided.



11. Walking Together - Learning Together

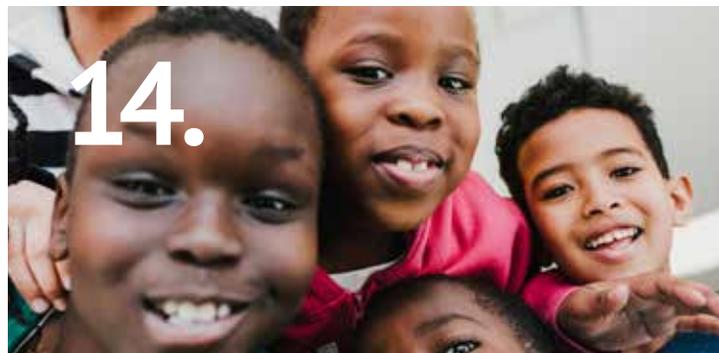
IRCOM is committed to living harmoniously side-by-side with Indigenous Peoples by helping newcomers embrace the tenets of truth and reconciliation. The *Common Ground Program* helps nurture positive relations with local community members in the West Alexander and Centennial neighbourhoods.

12. Engaging Donors to Support Families

IRCOM is committed to attaining financial sustainability in order to ensure that newcomers get the chance to transition smoothly into their new home. IRCOM's ongoing support shows that donors share our belief in the importance of building a *Community of Belonging*.

13. Building A Community of Belonging

IRCOM has welcomed *thousands* of newcomers into their new home. With its unique transitional housing model and its supportive wrap-around programming, IRCOM has helped countless individuals and families integrate into their Canadian Society.



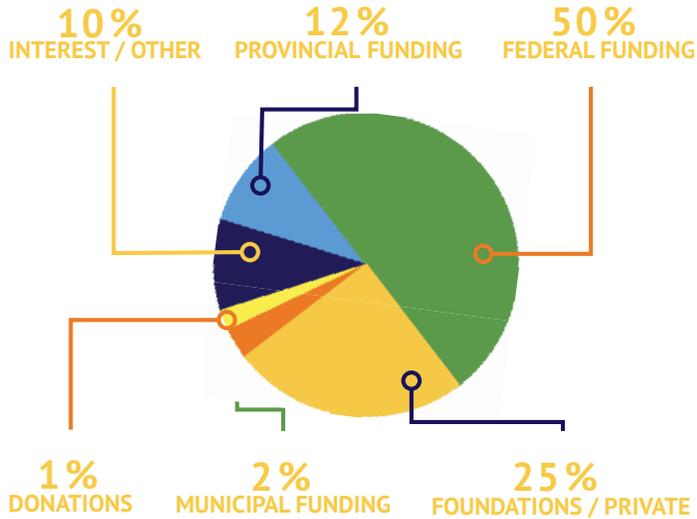
14.

Changing the Narrative

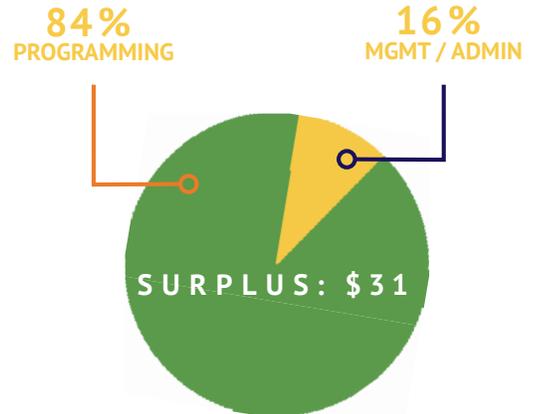
One of IRCOM's main objectives is to change the narrative by engaging policy makers and the public in a dialogue around newcomer issues. To that end, IRCOM staff gave over 20 presentations and hosted dozens of events; guided tours, BBQs, community meetings, and more.

18/19 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME



EXPENSES



These figures are based on IRCOM's audited financial statements for 2018-2019. A copy of our annual audited financial statements is available upon request.



We would like to say... Thank You

For nearly 30 years, IRCOM has fulfilled its mission because of the generous, compassionate support of partners, funders, and donors like *you*. We are grateful that you have chosen to support us and touch the lives of newcomers. *Your* generosity positively impacted our community members and brightened the fabric of our nation. Thank you for your enduring commitment to the IRCOM community!

KEEP IN TOUCH

Become a Monthly Donor

Today!

visit www.ircom.ca and click "DONATE"

Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba Inc.

IRCOM Isabel: 215 Isabel Street, Winnipeg, MB R3A 1R5

IRCOM Ellen: 95 Ellen Street, Winnipeg, MB R3A 1S8

P: (204)-943-8765

E: gifts@ircom.ca

Check out our NEW website: www.ircom.ca

Connect with us on social media [@IRCOMinc](https://www.instagram.com/IRCOMinc)

