

Manulife Divisions: Delivering on Our Promise

Our divisions make a distinct impact by partnering with their communities and leveraging all of our resources, including our highly skilled and generous employees. Here are a few examples of how our divisions give back, and the impact this has on their communities.

Corporate Division: The Promise of Building Stronger Communities

Manulife gives back to the Toronto community – home to 4,000 employees and its corporate head office – in a number of ways. Two of these initiatives, our partnerships with the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) and Rose Avenue Public School, focus on creating opportunities for skilled immigrants and children.

A promising new life in Canada

Manulife supports TRIEC, an organization dedicated to helping skilled immigrants find employment. We provide financial assistance to TRIEC, and Dominic D'Alessandro, our President and CEO, along with Diane Bean, our Executive Vice President, Human Resources and Corporate Affairs, are co-chairs of TRIEC.

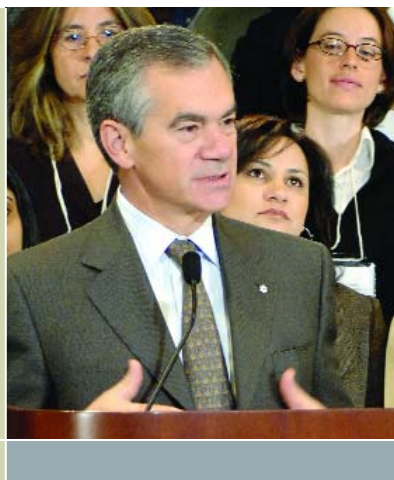
Manulife also sponsors and participates in TRIEC's Mentoring Partnerships, a collaboration of community and corporate partners bringing together skilled immigrants and established professionals in occupation-specific mentoring relationships. Manulife has contributed 39 mentors to the program.

In addition, Manulife works with CareerBridge, one of TRIEC's partners, to create paid internship opportunities for professional-level newcomers. Through a cross-divisional initiative, 24 interns have been placed on six-month contracts within our organization since 2005. Eleven of these have been hired full-time by Manulife, while the rest have successfully found employment elsewhere.

Manulife works closely with the Maytree Foundation, a private charitable foundation committed to reducing poverty and inequality in Canada, to deliver many of these programs. In 2007, the two organizations were recognized for their work with a Business and Community Partnerships Award from Imagine Canada. Canada's premier celebration of collaborations between corporations and non-profit partners, this award recognizes partnerships that go beyond financial support.

"As one of the most respected corporations in Canada and globally, Manulife is an ideal partner. Their leadership and ability to encourage other businesses' involvement is fundamental to the success of TRIEC."

Ratna Omidvar
Executive Director
The Maytree Foundation



TRIEC

Toronto Region Immigrant
Employment Council

Achieving equity of opportunity and outcome for all

In 2005, Manulife entered into a partnership with Rose Avenue Public School. This school has become the heart and soul of the vulnerable Toronto community of St. James Town. Here, in one of the most densely populated areas in the world, residents come from 100 countries and speak approximately 138 languages. The vision for Rose Avenue Public School and St. James Town is clear – achieving equity of opportunity and outcome for all, children and adults alike.

Key to this vision is providing resources and programs enabling students and community members to develop the skills and confidence they need to make better lives for themselves. In addition to providing day-to-day necessities like meals and warm clothes, Manulife's partnership with Rose Avenue focuses on initiatives which will have a lasting impact, including:

- The donation of 10,000 books to date. Many of the books purchased are dual-language books. Supporting languages like Tamil, Mandarin, Bengali and Somali, these books help parents whose first language is not English to read with their children and improve their own language skills in the process.

- Manulife has helped introduce students to the concept of critical thinking by sponsoring a chess program. In a neighbourhood where children are often faced with difficult and dangerous choices, this program teaches them the consequences of their actions and to think things through before they act.
- Manulife, the Toronto District School Board and the Jays Care Foundation worked together to give the school a new state-of-the-art athletic field with proper lighting for safety. We also helped fund a community coordinator to schedule the field's use outside school hours, ensuring it is a resource for the community, shared fairly. Community members are learning to organize themselves and work together as a result.
- In addition to supporting Breakfast for Learning Toronto, we contributed funds to purchase commercial stoves and a dishwasher. Cooking classes and programs to improve parents' understanding of Canada's Food Guide and nutritional labelling are underway. Every child now has a healthy snack every day, and community members can make important social connections through sharing recipes.

The impact of this special partnership is an enduring one – contributing to the development of responsible, well-informed and empathetic citizens who will be engaged participants in an increasingly global society.

“What we have created together is a remarkable partnership that will live on in the minds and hearts of all who have been part of this shared experience of caring, giving and receiving. Manulife's tangible and very substantial contributions to arts, athletics and academics at Rose Avenue are, in my experience, without comparison.”

Jim Kormos

Principal

Rose Avenue Public School

