

The Marquis Project

Linking Manitobans with the Developing World



Marquis e-Newsletter, Autumn, 2025 Featuring Fair Trade Month

Dear Friend of Marquis,

Greetings from The Marquis Project as we transition from summer into fall!



Celebrate People and Planet with Every Fair Trade Purchase

Each October, we celebrate Fair Trade Month - a time to recognize the farmers, workers, and communities behind the products we enjoy every day. By choosing fair trade, Canadians are standing up for fair wages, decent working conditions, and a more sustainable future. Whether you're new to fair trade or already part of the movement, there are so many ways to get involved.

(<https://www.fairtrade.net/ca-en/get-involved/fairtrade-month.html>)

Celebrating Fair Trade in Brandon and West-Man

Marquis is spearheading local initiatives to promote fair trade. Through the fair trade system, producers and workers receive a living wage, are able to build their communities through better schools, clinics, equipment and training, and do their work with an aim toward improving their local environments. October is Fair Trade Month across the country and around the world and Ten Thousand Villages Brandon and Assiniboine College will be hosting events to mark the occasion. Please see the information and graphics below for event details.

Chocolate & Coffee Tasting - Fair Trade Month Celebration at Ten Thousand Villages Brandon

Celebrate Fair Trade Month with a Chocolate & Coffee Tasting event on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (come & go) at Ten Thousand Villages, 829 Rosser Avenue, Brandon. Guests can savour the rich flavours of Fair Trade Camino chocolate paired with Level Ground coffee at this special celebration. The event will feature free tastings, games for all ages, exclusive discounts, and a fabulous door prize.

This celebration is hosted by the Brandon Fair Trade Town Committee in partnership with the City of Brandon, Ten Thousand Villages, The Marquis Project, and the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation.

Assiniboine College Fair Trade Campus Day in Celebration of Fair Trade Month

Come for a fair trade coffee break – free fair trade coffee and tea for students, BYOM (bring your own mug). Play games and trivia and win prizes. October 14 from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Assiniboine Student Association Event Space, Victoria Avenue East Campus, Brandon. This celebration is hosted by Assiniboine College Students Association, City of Brandon, Manitoba Council for International Cooperation, and Russ Edwards School of Agriculture & Environment.

CHOCOLATE & COFFEE TASTING

A FAIR
TRADE
MONTH
CELEBRATION



Savor the rich flavors of Fair Trade Camino chocolate paired with Level Ground coffee. Join us for a free tasting, games for all ages, discounts and a fabulous door prize!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

CAMINO CHOCOLATE TASTING

LEVEL GROUND COFFEE TASTING

FAIR TRADE FUN & GAMES

DOOR PRIZE GIFT BASKET

11 OCTOBER 2025

SATURDAY, 11AM TO 2PM, COME AND GO
TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES, 829 ROSSER AVE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.brandon.ca/environment



FAIR TRADE CAMPUS DAY

In celebration of Fair Trade Month

Tuesday 11AM-2PM
October 14TH, 2025

ACSA Event Space,
Victoria Ave East Campus, Brandon

Come for a Fairtrade
COFFEE BREAK!

Free Fairtrade coffee and tea for students

B.Y.O.M. encouraged
(Bring Your Own Mug)



Play games and trivia
WIN PRIZES!



ASSINIBOINE COLLEGE
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION | ACSA

WE ARE A
FAIR TRADE CITY
19th City in Canada, 2nd in Manitoba

MCIC
Manitoba Fairtrade Council

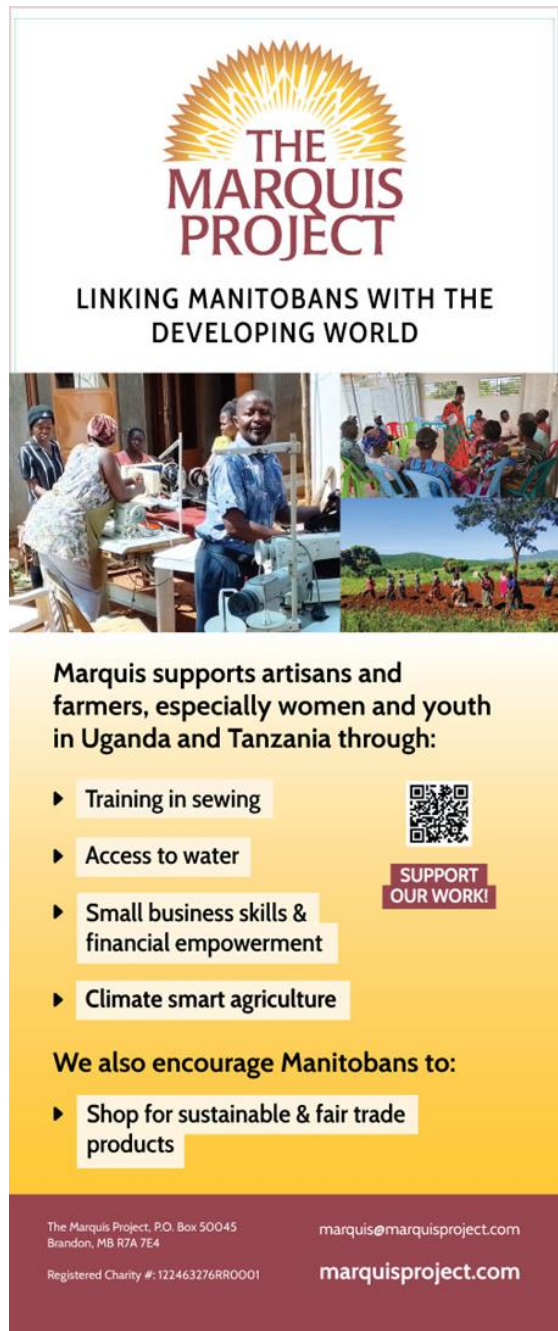
**RUSS EDWARDS
SCHOOL**
Agriculture & Environment

Announcing a new promotional Marquis banner

The Marquis Board has created a free-standing, retractable banner to promote its work (see the graphic below left) which will be on display at these fair trade events in October. Our sincere thanks to **Mark McConkey** of Brandon who did the wonderful design work. The banner is available to groups who wish to promote our organization at future events. For requests, please contact marquis@marquisproject.com. In addition to designing the banner, Mark has also helped Marquis revamp its website at www.marquisproject.com.

Marquis in social media

The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) recently featured the Marquis Kusaidia African Life Initiative sewing project in a social media post - see graphic below right. Further information on following page.



The banner features the Marquis Project logo at the top, which consists of a stylized sunburst above the text "THE MARQUIS PROJECT". Below the logo is the tagline "LINKING MANITOBBANS WITH THE DEVELOPING WORLD". The central part of the banner is a collage of four images: a woman sewing, a group of people, a woman in a field, and a group of people in a field. Below the collage is the text "Marquis supports artisans and farmers, especially women and youth in Uganda and Tanzania through:" followed by a list of four bullet points: "Training in sewing", "Access to water", "Small business skills & financial empowerment", and "Climate smart agriculture". To the right of the list is a QR code and a button that says "SUPPORT OUR WORK!". Below the list is the text "We also encourage Manitobans to:" followed by a single bullet point: "Shop for sustainable & fair trade products". At the bottom of the banner is the contact information: "The Marquis Project, P.O. Box 50045, Brandon, MB R7A 7E4", "marquis@marquisproject.com", and "marquisproject.com".

THE MARQUIS PROJECT

LINKING MANITOBBANS WITH THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Marquis supports artisans and farmers, especially women and youth in Uganda and Tanzania through:

- ▶ Training in sewing
- ▶ Access to water
- ▶ Small business skills & financial empowerment
- ▶ Climate smart agriculture

We also encourage Manitobans to:

- ▶ Shop for sustainable & fair trade products

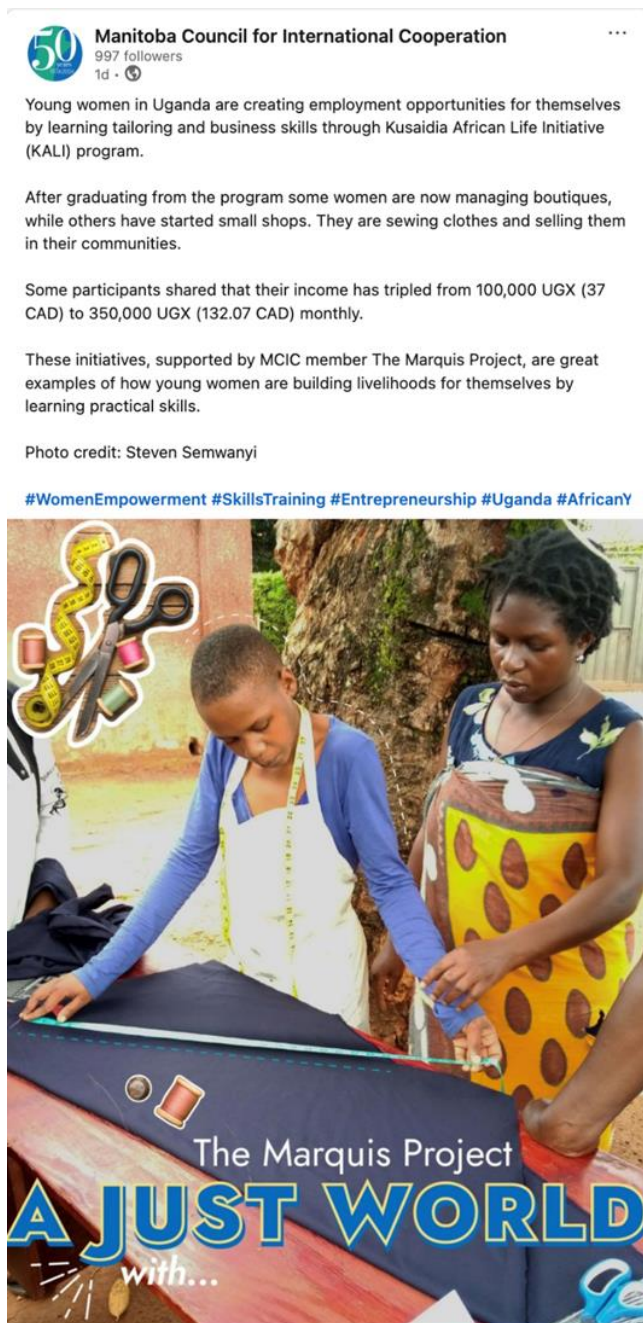
The Marquis Project, P.O. Box 50045
Brandon, MB R7A 7E4

marquis@marquisproject.com

Registered Charity #: 122463276RR0001

marquisproject.com

New Marquis retractable publicity banner



The social media post is from the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC), which has 997 followers. The post features a 50th anniversary logo. The text of the post describes the Kusaidia African Life Initiative (KALI) program, which provides sewing and business training to young women in Uganda. It mentions that some women are now managing boutiques or small shops, and that their income has tripled from 100,000 UGX (37 CAD) to 350,000 UGX (132.07 CAD) monthly. The post also mentions that these initiatives are supported by MCIC member The Marquis Project. The post includes a photo credit to Steven Semwanyi and a list of hashtags: #WomenEmpowerment, #SkillsTraining, #Entrepreneurship, #Uganda, and #AfricanY. The bottom of the post features a large image of a woman and a young boy working on a sewing project, with the text "The Marquis Project A JUST WORLD with..." overlaid.

Manitoba Council for International Cooperation
997 followers
1d •

Young women in Uganda are creating employment opportunities for themselves by learning tailoring and business skills through Kusaidia African Life Initiative (KALI) program.

After graduating from the program some women are now managing boutiques, while others have started small shops. They are sewing clothes and selling them in their communities.

Some participants shared that their income has tripled from 100,000 UGX (37 CAD) to 350,000 UGX (132.07 CAD) monthly.

These initiatives, supported by MCIC member The Marquis Project, are great examples of how young women are building livelihoods for themselves by learning practical skills.

Photo credit: Steven Semwanyi

#WomenEmpowerment #SkillsTraining #Entrepreneurship #Uganda #AfricanY

The Marquis Project
A JUST WORLD
with...

MCIC social media post promoting Marquis project

Current Marquis Project Overseas Initiatives

Uganda: Kusaidia African Life Initiative

The Marquis Project continues its partnership with the Kusaidia African Life Initiative, providing long term training and business development. The project involves working with dozens of female youth, providing them with training in sewing and embroidery and offering them business education and small, short-term loans so that they can set up their own enterprises or find work in other local shops. Thanks to the Marquis training project, one young woman was elevated to manager of the shop she worked in, while another saw her wages triple in a short time period. In other examples, the certificate earned by a student participant, convinced one landlord to rent out space to her, while the project loan regimen has made it possible for graduates to order sewing materials in bulk at lower prices.

Tanzania: Strengthening Agricultural and Financial Sustainability

Strengthening Agricultural and Financial Sustainability is a new Marquis initiative in partnership with the Tanzanian Home Economics Association (TAHEA). The project involves working with women and youth farmers to build financial understanding, access water resources for crops, and to adopt efforts to mitigate climate change. Their first report to Marquis shows that we are supporting a highly professional organization that is able to bring people together to engage them in learning and taking action on the critical issues that affect their daily lives. TAHEA is working in ten targeted villages involving around 300 adult and youth participants with an approximate gender balance.

Acknowledging support for Marquis initiatives

Our sincere thanks to the **Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC)**, the **Blennerhassett Family Foundation**, some larger donors through the **Brandon & Area Community Foundation** and other foundations, and our strong **individual donor** base, all of whom make our work possible. In these troubling times, when cutting international funding programs has become prevalent, your financial contributions make a huge difference!

Thank you for your ongoing generous financial support. It provides positive life-changing opportunities for our neighbours in the South.

- To learn more about The Marquis Project, please visit <https://marquisproject.com>
- To make a donation or to become a supporting member, please visit <https://marquisproject.com/donate>

Announcement: Ten Thousand Villages Brandon seasonal off-site festivals:

- Dauphin Global Gift Festival, Oct 31 – Nov 1, St. Paul's Anglican, 404 – 1st St. SW, Dauphin
- Winnipeg Global Gift Festival & Bunyaad Rug Event, Nov 14 – 15, Bethel Mennonite Church, 465 Stafford Street, Winnipeg
- Winkler Global Gift Festival – Nov 25-29, South Central Regional Library, 160 Main Street, Winkler



For more information about Villages Brandon, visit
<https://villagesbrandon.ca/>

Email: marquis@marquisproject.com
Web: <http://www.marquisproject.com>

Facebook: facebook.com/marquisproject/
Mail: P.O. Box 50045, BRANDON, MB R7A 7E4

Registered Charity Number: 12246 3276 RR0001