

## Toronto's Ultimate Frisbee Community Helps Newcomers

Youth are running, throwing, & catching their way to community integration

It's an unconventional pairing, but it works. Toronto's Ultimate Frisbee community has been supporting newcomer youth in developing networks and learning about their community through the game of Ultimate.

When the Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto (MNLCT) decided to pilot a project for newcomer youth, Ultimate Canada stepped up with the financial support for discs, pinnies, cones, and refreshments for participants in the Downsview-Roding area of Toronto through the Art Hawkins Development Fund. With the basic equipment taken care of, the project engaged skilled volunteers and this time it was the Toronto Ultimate Club (TUC) that came forward. TUC members young and "more experienced" came out to facilitate the sessions. They ran skill-building games, drills, and scrimmages, all with the sport's beloved "Spirit of the Game" in mind:

*Ultimate relies upon a spirit of sportsmanship that places the responsibility for fair play on the player. Highly competitive play is encouraged, but never at the expense of mutual respect among competitors, adherence to the agreed upon rules, or the basic joy of play.<sup>1</sup>*

When the pilot project transitioned to a full project funded by the Province of Ontario by the former Ministry of Citizenship and Integration, MNLCT partnered with TUC to enter a team into TUC's Summer League. Feedback from competitors was positive, and in post-game spirit circles they praised the inclusivity and supportive environment of the team. The MNLCT team, 6ixbuzz, even won a few games! Fast-forward to the Fall, and the fun continues indoors at a local community centre [every Wednesday from 5:30-7:00pm](#).

Fall is also fundraising season for the Centre, and when The Fires Of – a local Toronto band whose members originally met while playing Ultimate at both the national and international level – agreed to donate their time and musical talents to a concert event, the Welcome Home Benefit Concert 2018 took shape. A heavy presence from the Ultimate community is expected, and door prize donations from Ultimate Frisbee organizations (TUC, [Layout Ultimate](#), [Elites Ultimate](#), [The Ultimate Experience](#), [DiscStore](#), and the [Toronto Rush](#) – the city's professional team) are sure to be a hit. MNLCT was also grateful to receive a donation from [RE/MAX Hallmark Jamie Dempster Group Realty](#); Jamie is an active member of the TUC community.

TUC members are also sharing their time and talent at the Holiday Crafts & Food Marketplace, which is co-organized by MNLCT and [Aurora House](#). These Ultimate superstars can not only chase down a disc, but they have skills in fiber arts (knitting, weaving, felting), cooking and baking too!

They've also shared their professional expertise and supported newcomers with transitioning into their skilled professions here in Canada by acting as mentors, presenting to classes, and making themselves available for information interviews. Many of these ultimate players are at a mid-point in their careers and have well-established professional and personal networks that make their contributions so valuable – both to newcomers and to the Centre itself.

### **About the Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto (MNLCT):**

The MNLCT has been serving newcomers and immigrants for 35 years. The Centre offers a variety of programs to newcomers including language instruction, settlement and employment services, civic literacy, and counter-human trafficking services. Programs are constantly evolving to meet the needs of an ever-changing immigrant population.

---

<sup>1</sup> USAU 11th Edition Rules, Rule 1.b. [http://www.usultimate.org/resources/officiating/rules/11th\\_edition\\_rules.aspx](http://www.usultimate.org/resources/officiating/rules/11th_edition_rules.aspx)

## Details on upcoming MNLCT events:

### Welcome Home Benefit Concert

November 17, 2018; 8pm – midnight  
Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick Ave, Toronto  
Featuring The Fires Of with special guest Chad Price. Ages 19+. Cash bar for food & beverages.  
Door prizes & 50/50 draw.  
\$20 online [whbc2018.eventbrite.ca](http://whbc2018.eventbrite.ca) / \$25 door  
[mnlct.org/welcome-home-benefit-concert-2018](http://mnlct.org/welcome-home-benefit-concert-2018)

### Holiday Crafts and Food Marketplace

December 8, 2018; 11am - 4pm  
MNLCT Queen Office, 1774 Queen St E, Toronto  
Co-hosted by Aurora House.  
30+ vendors (including newcomers & TUC members), silent auction, live music.  
Free admission for shoppers.  
[mnlct.org/marketplace](http://mnlct.org/marketplace)

## About the Toronto Ultimate Club (TUC):

The Toronto Ultimate Club (TUC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of Ultimate players in Toronto. Its growth is measured by member value and is driven by integrity, excellence, and citizenship.

## About The Fires Of:



A collective of Canadian musicians that thrives on bringing joy and melody to the people with their infectious brand of indie-pop and high-energy live shows. Founded in Toronto circa 2008, The Fires Of have steadily been incorporating new sounds into their music, cultivating a fan base that heartily embraces their diverse rock 'n' roll sound.

Check them out at:

<https://soundcloud.com/the-fires-of>

## About Chad Price:

A Canadian artist who has accomplished much so far in his young musical career. He's had his music featured on national TV programs, he's had radio charting songs, he's a nominee and winner of multiple music awards, he's toured across Canada, and he's shared the stage with music industry heavyweights including Lights, and Walk Off The Earth.

See his website for more: [chadpricemusic.com](http://chadpricemusic.com)

## About The Unicorn Project: *Bringing music alive one note at a time*

Cooperates with charities - on a pro bono or sponsorship basis - to provide entertainment for fundraisers and events, and provides microfunding to assist artists in the recording and promotion of their art. Also provides intimate concerts for clients who may not be able to experience live music because of their living situation. Sponsoring Chad Price for this event.



## For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Ms Shelly D'Mello  
Executive Director  
Mennonite New Life Centre  
[sdmello@mnlct.org](mailto:sdmello@mnlct.org)  
(416) 699-4527

Ms Tracy Docheff  
Communications Manager  
Mennonite New Life Centre  
[tdocheff@mnlct.org](mailto:tdocheff@mnlct.org)  
(416) 291-3248 ext. 4305