

Li ns Link



Lions Clubs International District C-1 Newsletter

Ted Mikkelsen
District Governor
403-728-3353 [EMAIL](#)

Thomas Varghese
Vice District Governor
780-893-6442 [EMAIL](#)

Zella Gardiner
2nd Vice District Governor
780-387-4620 [EMAIL](#)

[IN THIS ISSUE](#) [page](#)

Malayali Lions Club	2
Peace Poster Update	3
MDC Vice Chair ??	4
LCI Payments	5
Lions in Action	7
Save the Date	9
In Memoriam	9
MDC Convention	10

Next Newsletter
Submission Deadline:
25th of current month

Michael Clulow
Lions Link Editor
780-263-6674
NEW [EMAIL](#)
MischaC@shaw.ca

District Governor's Christmas Message



As we enter the month of December, many in our communities prepare for one of the busiest—and most meaningful—times of the year. For those of the Christian faith, as well as many other traditions and denominations, this season brings celebrations, gatherings, parties, travel, and the joy of finding just the right gift for someone special. It is a time filled with greetings, warm meals, and the cherished company of family and friends. In the air, there is a familiar feeling of peace, goodwill, and hope.

Yet amid the hustle and bustle, it is important for us as Lions to pause and reflect. December is not joyful for everyone. Some do not have enough food on the table. Others may not have a warm, safe place to sleep. And still others face this season with sadness, loneliness, or the absence of family. Let us hold them in our thoughts, and let our service help lift their spirits.

This is also the season to teach our children—and remind ourselves—of the importance of love over hate, compassion over conflict, and kindness over anger. Let us continue to share food with those who are hungry, offer shelter to those in need, and build communities rooted in hope rather than hardship.

My sincere hope is that each of you finds peace, joy, and renewal during this holiday season. Celebrate the successes of the past year. Look forward to the opportunities of the coming one. And above all, let love, peace, and goodwill fill your heart.

From my home to yours, I wish you a warm, safe, and meaningful holiday season.

Lion Ted Mikkelsen
District Governor, District C-1



MALAYALI LIONS CLUB

District C1 Welcomes 33-Member Edmonton Malayali Lions Club (EMLC)

District C-1 reached an important milestone with the chartering of the Edmonton Malayali Lions Club (EMLC) on **October 25, 2025**, in Edmonton. This is the first new club formed in the district since 2020. With 33 charter members, the club reflects the growing diversity, energy, and community spirit within our district.



The ceremony was warm and full of the spirit of Lionism. Past International President Dr. Patti Hill led the induction of the members and the installation of the new officers. Her presence made the evening both meaningful and memorable.



The event was well attended by International, Multiple District, and District leaders. Among those present were Past International Director Ben Apeland, Council Chair Christine Lank, District Governor Ted Mikkelsen, First Vice District Governor Dr. Thomas Varghese, and Second Vice District Governor Zella Gardner. Several Past District Governors and Lions from nearby clubs also attended to show their support. There was representation from District C-2.

The club is sponsored by the Edmonton Chinese Lions Club. Many of their members attended, led by President Lion Paul Cheung, to celebrate and encourage the new club.



The Guiding Lion Barb Riley, Club Liaison PCC Tom Hodgson, along with First Vice District Governor Dr. Thomas Varghese, have played a key role in helping the club get established. PCC Tom also served as Master of Ceremonies, bringing warmth and professionalism to the program.

Guests enjoyed an evening of good food and fellowship. The atmosphere was joyful, and everyone was excited about the



new club's future. Several leaders from the Malayali community were also present. The entire event was livestreamed in Kerala, India, and the first Malayali Lions Club in North America drew significant attention from Malayalis worldwide. The club officers hope that the chartering of Edmonton's Malayali Lions Club will inspire the formation of Malayali Lions clubs in other parts of Canada. Several Malayalam news channels also reported this historic moment.



With strong leadership, dedicated members, and excellent community support, the Edmonton Malayali Lions Club is ready to make a positive impact in District C-1. This charter represents not only growth in membership but also the district's ongoing commitment to diversity and community service.

Who are the Malayalis?

Malayalis are people from Kerala in India, named after Malayalam, the language they speak.



District C-1 – 2025 International Peace Poster Judging

District C-1 held its annual International Peace Poster judging on Monday, November 21, in Leduc, Alberta. This year's theme, "Together As One," inspired meaningful and creative artwork from young people across our district.

We are pleased to announce the District C-1 winners:

1. 1st Place – Matea Milukstis
St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School



Submitted by the St. Albert Host Lions Club, Matea's poster is moving on to Multiple District competition

2. 2nd Place – Zoe Quijano
Father Leduc Catholic School
Submitted by the Leduc Lions Club

3. 3rd Place – Brooklyn Prudhomme
St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School
Submitted by the St. Albert Host Lions Club

Our judges were truly impressed. They unanimously agreed on two things: (1) Choosing the winners was extremely difficult because the overall quality was outstanding, and (2) The depth of thought put into interpreting this year's theme was remarkable.

Although the number of entries was slightly lower due to the teachers' strike, the creativity, skill, and heart displayed in every submission remained exceptional. For myself and the other judges, this was a highly enlightening and inspiring experience



Thanks to the Judges (left to right)
Lion Eleanor
District Governor Ted Mikkelsen
-holding Matea's 1st place poster
PDG Lyle Gustafson
-holding Zoe's 2nd place poster
Melinda Martin
-holding Brooklyn's 3rd place poster
Lion Janice

A special thank-you goes to the St. Albert Host Lions Club, who submitted seven entries, demonstrating strong commitment to youth engagement and the Peace Poster program.



Vote Lyle Gustafson

MDC Vice Council Chair

My name is Lyle Gustafson. I am blessed With my lovely wife, Jill, our 2 children, Chad and Jason, and our 7 grandchildren.

I would like to acquire the position of MDC Vice Council Chair; I believe I would make a great candidate for the many diverse reasons I have listed to the right.

If you have additional questions, and would like to contact me to discuss my candidacy, my information is below:

Lyle Gustafson Contact Information:

Phone: (780) 987-4407
Cell: (780) 719-5336
E-mail: scouting@telus.net

I would be Honored to Serve as District Governor, C1

Skills & Abilities

- . Currently Immediate Past District Governor for District C1
- . Director of the Northern Lights Scout Foundation for the past 10 years
- . Member of the Devon Lions Club for the past 14 years
- . Lions Zone Chair for District C1 in 2021
- . Lions Club LCIF Coordinator in 2020
- . Devon Lions Club President 2019
- . Devon Lions Club First Vice President 2018
- . Member of Scouts Canada in various rolls, from Cub Leader to District Commissioner, and Honors and Awards President from 1983 to 2011
- . Ran my own company for 17 years, Swed-ee Water Hauling, delivering potable water.
- . Served on the Alberta Youth Justice Committee for 3 years

Awards Received

- . Scouts Canada, Bar to the Silver Acorn, for Outstanding service
- . Melvin Jones Fellowship – Lions
- . Citizen of the Year in Devon
- . Queen's Jubilation Award
- . Diamond Centennial – Lions
- . 10 Year Monarch Chevron - Lions

Additional Education & Training

- . EMT (SAIT Trained) for Devon Ambulance
- . Trainer 3 for Scouts Canada
- . Conflict Resolution for Scouts Canada
- . ALLI (Advanced Lions Leadership Institute)
- . Lions District Governor's training



Lions Clubs International
Canadian Pre-Authorized Debit Agreement Form

1. Club Information

LCI Club Account Number: _____
Club Name: _____
Street address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
Telephone number: _____

2. Bank Account Information

Bank Account number: _____ Branch Transit Number: _____
Financial Institution Number: _____ Chequing Account Savings Account
Business Personal
Financial Institution Name: _____
Branch Address: _____

3. Pre-Authorized Debit Details

You, the Payor, authorize Lions Clubs International to debit the bank account identified above upon written notification from a club officer. Please note: The debit will be immediately processed upon receipt of written request.

****By signing this form, the payor agrees to waive the standard 10 day debit pre-notification.****

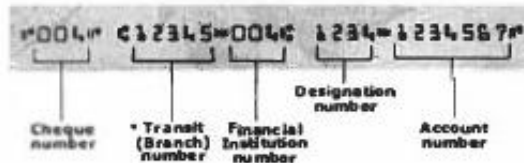
You, the Payor, may revoke your authorization at any time in writing, subject to written 30 day notice. To obtain a sample cancellation form, or for more information on your right to cancel a PAD agreement, contact your financial institution or visit www.cdnipay.ca.

Signature of Account Holder: _____ Signature of Joint Account Holder (if applicable) _____
Name: _____ Name: _____
Date: _____ Date: _____

You have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, you have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD agreement. To obtain more information on your recourse rights, contact your financial institution or visit www.cdnipay.ca.

Please send the completed signed form to:
AccountsReceivable@lionsclubs.org
or Fax: (630) 571-1683

**The Transit number is a 5 digit number and the Financial Institution number is the 3 digit number as shown below:



<mailto:accountsreceivable@lionsclubs.org>

Canada Pre-Authorize Debit FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Should I expect to submit the Pre-Authorized Debit Agreement form more than once?

A: No, you only need to submit the form once, unless your banking information has changed, or your club no longer wishes to approve electronic payments.

Q: Who can process the pre-authorized debit?

A: The pre-authorized debit is processed at the LCI Office in Oak Brook after club approval is received.

Q: Must I call every time I want the ACH debit to be processed?

A: Yes, you must notify us each time you would like the debit to be processed. You may contact Accounts Receivable at accountsreceivable@lionsclubs.org, or by fax 630-571-1683.

Q: Who determines the amount to be processed?

A: The Club Officers determine the amount and date to be processed, The approval must be received in writing.

Q: Will the electronic payment be issued in CAD?

A: Yes, the electronic payment will be issued in Canadian Dollars.

Q: What rate will be used for the payment?

A: The rate will be reflected on your club statement.

Q: Can clubs initiate the ACH on the Lions Website?

A: No, the approved ACH process allows us to debit the club bank accounts. The Accounts Receivable Department must initiate the payment.

Q: Can ACH payments be processed for Multiple District and District Accounts too?

A: Yes, ACH payments can be processed for club, district, and multiple district accounts.

Q: How do I get started?

A: Send the attached form via email or fax and contact us with your approval at accountsreceivable@lionsclubs.org or 630-571-1683.

<mailto:accountsreceivable@lionsclubs.org>

LIONS IN ACTION

DRAYTON VALLEY LIONS CLUB

LIFE-SAVING ACTION TAKEN BY LION MARC RAIMBAULT OF DRAYTON VALLEY LIONS CLUB

This report highlights the courageous and exemplary actions of Lion Marc Raimbault during an Agriculture Dinner event in Drayton Valley. Lion Marc's swift response and life-saving intervention reflect the highest values of Lionism and serve as an inspiration to all members.

During the Agriculture Dinner, while members of the Drayton Valley Lions Club were volunteering as bartenders, a guest began to choke during the meal. The situation required immediate attention to prevent a potentially fatal outcome. Without hesitation, Lion Marc



Raimbault responded. He quickly assessed the situation and performed the Heimlich maneuver, successfully dislodging the obstruction and saving the individual's life. His calm demeanour and decisive actions under pressure demonstrated not only his competence

in handling emergencies, but also his deep commitment to service and compassion.

During a club visit by First Vice District Governor Dr. Thomas Varghese, this report was presented at the Club Meeting by President Dylan and Secretary Kelly. FVDG Thomas Varghese brought it forward to District Governor Ted Mikkelsen, and following careful consideration, a decision was made to honor Lion Marc Raimbault with the prestigious *Lion of the Year* award.

Recognition at District Convention

In recognition of his extraordinary service, Lion Marc Raimbault was officially awarded the *Lion of the Year* during the District Convention in Red Deer. The award was presented to him by International Director Debbie Dawson, in the presence of District Governor Ted Mikkelsen, District Governor-Elect Dr. Thomas Varghese. This distinguished honour reflects the significance of his actions and the admiration of Lions across the district.

A report from the Club mentioned that "The Drayton Valley Lions Club is incredibly proud of Lion Marc Raimbault"



Marc's life-saving intervention and the subsequent recognition as Lion of the Year exemplify what it means to be a Lion. Always ready to serve, protect, and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others! His courage, composure, and dedication to community service serve as an enduring example for all members of the Lions organization.

Kelly Forster

STONY PLAIN LIONS CLUB

On October 9, World Sight Day 2025, Stony Plain Lions received a wonderful donation of 118 eyeglasses collected by The Best Western Sunrise Inn & Suites and The Best Western Stony Plain Inn & Suites.



Shelley Lockhart, who leads the 'Green' team for both hotels, presented them to Lion President Kathleen Linder.

STONY PLAIN LIONS CLUB

On July 14, 2025, Stony Plain Lions Club and Stony Plain Kinsmen each donated \$12,500 to Parkland County for purchasing a utility task vehicle as part of our ongoing mutual aid agreement between municipalities. The UTV will be stationed at the Stony Plain Fire Department to support emergency response efforts across both municipalities.

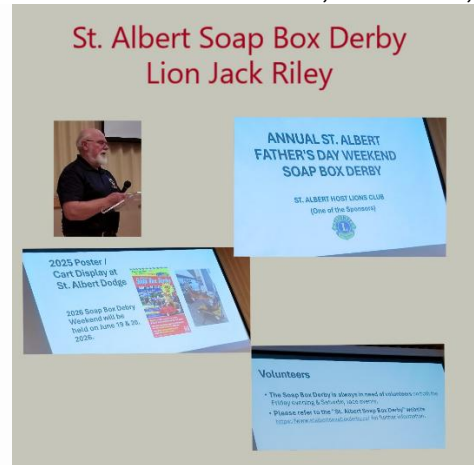


Together, these generous contributions will support the purchase of a new trailer and fire rescue skid unit for the SPFD. These additions will complement the shared UTV, enhancing emergency response capabilities for both Stony Plain and Parkland County.

President Kathleen Linder

ST. ALBERT HOST LIONS CLUB

St. Albert Host Lions Club held their 'Annual Youth Night' on Nov 18th, 2025. Lions Legacy Scholarship Winners were introduced by Lion Klaus Kyrityz. 533 Sabre Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets presented by Capt. Bentley Barr. Lion Claude Carignan introduced a video of the winner of the 'Filipchuk Bursary for Musical Theatre'. Lions Project Maple Leaf which this year was given to 1,056 Grade 1 students in 17 schools. Lion Brett Symington spoke about the 'Leo Club'. Lions International Youth Camps and Exchange introduced one attendee who went to Austria; the other, Brazil.



Lion Jack Riley spoke about the 'St. Albert Soap Box Derby'.



The 38th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest 'Together as One' had 7 local poster entries this year. We thank PDG Lyle Gustafson for attending our youth night and assisting with the recognition of the 7 local competition winners.

Lion Mickey Carignan

SAVE THE DATE

	Hunger	Jan 3-11 2026	Amplify World Wide Service		
	MDC Convention	April 10-11 2026	Grande Prairie, Alberta	TBD	See page 10
	Environment	April 18-26 2026	Amplify World Wide Service		
	LCI CON 2026	July 3-7 2026	Hong Kong, China		<u>WEBSITE</u>
	USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum	Sept 03-05 2026	Memphis USA		<u>WEBSITE</u>
					
RESERVED FOR YOUR CLUB'S SPECIAL EVENT OR ANNIVERSARY					

IN MEMORIAM

**St. Albert Breakfast Lions
are missing Lion Neil Meachem
(1979-2025)**



Long-time dedicated Lion Neil passed away from Parkinson's. Parkinson's was not kind to Neil but he was always positive and helping

any way that he could while he dealt with the disease. Neil was a valued member of our club right up to his passing; we were surprised and saddened when we were informed of his passing as he had attended our prior meeting and had left expectations of joining us at that meeting the day after he passed. He is with us in spirit; miss you Neil.

St. Albert Breakfast Lions



★ SAVE THE DATE ★

MD C Convention

APRIL 10–11, 2026
Holiday Inn & Suites
Conference Center

9816 107 Street,
Grande Prairie, A

1st VP
Mark S. Lyon

