

# Li ns Link

Lions Clubs International District C-1 Newsletter

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Fellow Lions,

I want to take a few moments this month to shine a bright spotlight on an exciting Multiple District event that truly captures the spirit of service, fellowship, and fun—the Multiple District LCIF Gala, scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2026, in Spruce View, Alberta.

This event has two clear objectives. First, to create a weekend filled with fellowship, laughter, and shared experiences—the kind that remind us why we became Lions in the first place. Second, and just as important, to raise meaningful funds for Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), our global charity that allows Lions to respond to humanitarian needs at home and around the world.

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Next Newsletter  
Submission Deadline:  
25<sup>th</sup> of current month

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A Weekend of Fellowship and Fun

Spruce View offers a unique and welcoming venue with the potential to make this much more than just a Saturday-night banquet. The committee is exploring a full-weekend experience, including:

- Limited free dry camping at the Spruce View Community Hall
- Overflow camping available nearby on the Mikkelsen farm
- Guided tours of the Danish Canadian National Museum
- A possible golf tournament at the Gleniffer Lake Golf and Country Club
- A visit to the Parrot Retreat, including a hands-on service project making toys for the parrots
- On-site recreational activities and plenty of time for fellowship

This is shaping up to be one of those weekends where Lions arrive as friends—and leave as family.

Fundraising for LCIF

The primary fundraising activities will be a Silent Auction and a Live Auction during the Saturday evening Gala Banquet. Clubs are encouraged to bring or send suitable auction items to help make these auctions a success.

*Continued next page*

The main source of fundraising, however, will be club donations to LCIF, many of which may be directed toward Melvin Jones Fellowships. The committee strongly encourages clubs to order their Melvin Jones Awards early, so they may be presented at the Gala by Past International President Dr. Patti Hill.

If your club has not yet decided on a recipient, you are still encouraged to bring your donation to the Gala. These funds can be held and later applied toward a future Melvin Jones Award when the right recipient is chosen.

### **About the Melvin Jones Fellowship**

The Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) is one of the highest and most prestigious recognitions in Lionism. Named in honour of Melvin Jones, founder of Lions Clubs International, it recognizes exceptional humanitarian service.

- Cost: US \$1,000 donation to LCIF
- Purpose: Supports disaster relief, vision care, youth initiatives, and humanitarian grants worldwide
- Progressive Fellowship: Each additional US \$1,000 earns a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship

I encourage every club in our District to mark June 20, 2026 on your calendar, begin planning now, and consider how you can support this very special event. Together, through fellowship and generosity, we can make this Gala a tremendous success for LCIF and for Lionism.

Yours in service,

Lion Ted Mikkelsen  
District Governor, C-1

### **JUDGE BRIAN STEVENSON FELLOWSHIP DINNER:**

March 21, 2026, the Bowness Lions are hosting a Judge Brian Stevenson Fellowship Fundraiser for The Difference Campaign. Clubs are invited to apply to Dogguides.com for JBS Fellowships to honour club members and/or community members and then bring the recipients and awards to the event for presentation by the Judge.

Dog Guides requests you order the fellowship awards by the end of January to make sure they have time to get the printing done. Please let me know numbers of fellowships ordered so we can plan our program.

Also, please let me know if you have access to silent/live auction items and/or if your club plans to make a financial donation to Dog Guides at the event.

More information about the fundraiser will be announced shortly.

[Lion Daryl Reinke, AB/NT Director LFCDG](#)

## Lions Eye Research Fund (LERF) presented Nina Munster with a Melvin Jones Award

Nina Munster, who worked at the Royal Alexandra Hospital Eye Research Foundation (she has since moved on), was instrumental in organizing the funding to help the Lions buy the Tango Neo Laser for the University of Alberta Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. With the help of the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Lions of Alberta Foundation, LERF, numerous Lions clubs who generously donated funds and a matching grant from LCIF, we raised \$125,000. This money was used to buy the Tango Neo Laser which is a versatile ophthalmic laser system designed to provide effective treatment for a variety of eye conditions, particularly those related to the anterior and posterior segments of the eye.

The work started in Past District Governor David Leschchyshyn's tenure and continued through Past District Governor Lyle Gustafson's tenure and was completed this year in District Governor Ted Mikkelsen's term. Nina had the difficult job of helping raise the money and ensuring that it didn't get disbursed elsewhere.

At the presentation, PDG Lyle Gustafson explained about the founding of Lions and that our motto is "We Serve" and that Helen Keller called us "Knights of the Blind". This is why it is so important to the Lions to help fund equipment such as the Tango Neo Laser.

The following is a list of the contributors:

- \$8,659 Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation's Eye Institute Fund
- \$21,188 Lions of Alberta Foundation, including Patti Hill Fellowships
- \$9,003 approved by LCIF through District and Club Community Impact Grant
- \$4,500 Edmonton Korean Lions Club
- \$4,000 Viking Lions Club
- \$1,800 Consort Lions Club
- \$1,500 Edmonton Millwoods Breakfast Club
- \$1,000 Killam Lions Club
- \$500 Stony Plain Lions Club
- \$500 Ryley Lions Club
- \$500 Pincher/Cowley Roaring Lions Club
- \$250 Vimy and District Lions Club
- \$200 Busby and District Lions Club
- \$200 Drayton Valley Lions Club
- \$200 Radway Lions Club

LERF's next service project is the Optos-Silverstone "fundas autofluorescence imaging" camera in collaboration with the Royal Alexander Hospital Eye Research Foundation.



Pictured are from left to right: Michael Hennig Co-Chair of Lions of Alberta Foundation, District Governor Ted Mikkelsen, Nina Munster, and Past District Governor Lyle Gustafson.



# 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](mailto: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 IN ACTION

## EDMONTON HOST LIONS CLUB

### Lions International Weeks of Service

Edmonton Host Lions Club chose to donate to ElderCare Edmonton for Lions International **Mental Health and Well-Being Service week, October 4 - 12, 2025**. ElderCare Edmonton is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting adults and their caregivers by providing recreational and therapeutic day programs for adults living independently in Edmonton. Their day programs are designed to foster new friendships, reduce isolation, promote independence, and support social, physical and cognitive well-being through tailored activities.



For **Lions International Hunger Week of Service, January 3 - 11, 2026**, Edmonton Host Lions Club collected food donations at our annual Holiday Dinner. In only one evening all the food shown in photos was collected. Among the guests and contributors at our function were the principal of Aurora School and students from the Edmonton Aurora School Leo Club, which EHLC has sponsored. The food was picked up and donated to the Edmonton Food Bank during the first week of January.



Submitted by Lion Janet Robinson

THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR

**YOUR CLUB**

*Activities &  
projects*

*Share your club's activities,  
fundraising projects  
and opportunities*

**TOGETHER WE ARE  
STRONGER**

*your friendly editor*

## MORINVILLE LIONS CLUB

The Morinville Community High School (MCHS) 2024/25 Achievement Awards Night was held **8 January 2026** at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre (MCCC).

Lions Club of Morinville President Sheldon Fitzgerald was on hand to present the Peter Gibeault Lion Quest Award and the Morinville Lions Bursary.

This is the first year the same students were the recipients of both awards and the first time there were two students for each award.

The recipients were Shayne Demchuk and Chase Senko.

The Peter Gibeault Lion Quest Award is presented to the grade 10 or 11 student who is willing to participate in all aspects of community volunteer duties as directed through the school. The recipient of this award is prepared to lead fellow volunteers, appreciates the true spirit of volunteerism and sees volunteer work as a meaningful way to help others while at the same time building valuable life skills.

The Morinville Lions Bursary is awarded to the Grade 12 student involved in volunteering in community and /or school community with a strong work ethic and academic standing and is currently enrolled in a post secondary institution.



Shayne Demchuk, Lions Club of Morinville President Sheldon Fitzgerald and Chase Senko.  
Photo by Lucie Roy

## MORINVILLE LIONS CLUB



The Judge Brian Stevenson Diamond Fellowship was presented to honour Deborah Robillard for outstanding achievement and contribution to Lionism.

This Fellowship recognizes outstanding Lions for their strong commitment and dedication to Lionism. This honour is one of the greatest tributes that can be bestowed to Lionism.



Photo by Lucie Roy









## PONOKA LIONS CLUB

Ponoka Lions Club supporting the Community. Our group recently had the opportunity to support a fellow organization in our community. We contributed funds to assist the Ponoka Gymnastics and Trampoline Club, whose work aligns closely with our values and provides a wonderful service to our community. Moments like these remind us how powerful collaboration can be.



Submitted by Danielle Thompson Secretary Ponoka Lions Club

## SAVE THE DATE

	<b>Lunar New Year Celebration</b>	February 12 2026	Edmonton Chinese Lions	<a href="#">RSVP</a> by noon Feb 12	See page 8
	<b>JBS FELLOWSHIP DINNER</b>	March 21 2026	The Difference Campaign	<a href="#">RESERVATION</a>	See page 2
	<b>MDC CONVENTION</b>	April 10-11 2026	Grande Prairie, Alberta	Registration form	See page 10
	<b>ENVIRONMENT WEEK</b>	April 18-26 2026	<b>AMPLIFY</b> World Wide Service		
	<b>LEDUC LIONS 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	June 13 2026	TBD	<a href="#">RESERVATION</a>	See Page 11
	<b>MDC LCIF GALA</b>	June 20 2026	Spruce View Alberta		See DG Message Page 1
	<b>LCI CON 2026</b>	July 3-7 2026	Hong Kong, China		<a href="#">WEBSITE</a>
	<b>USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum</b>	Sept 03-05 2026	Memphis USA		<a href="#">WEBSITE</a>
	<b>C!1 CONVENTION 2026/27</b>	TBD	TBD		
<b>RESERVED FOR YOUR CLUB'S SPECIAL EVENT OR ANNIVERSARY</b>					
<b>RESERVED FOR YOUR CLUB'S SPECIAL EVENT OR ANNIVERSARY</b>					
	<b>St. Albert Host Lions 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	February 12, 2027	St. Albert Alberta	TBD	

*Don't let the grass grow under your feet.*





**EDMONTON CHINESE LIONS CLUB**

## *Lunar New Year Celebration*

**Thursday, February 12 at 6PM** (registration from 5:30 PM)

**Dynasty Century Palace Restaurant**

206, 9700-105 Avenue, Edmonton

**\$50 per person**

Preferred table reservations (10 tickets per table)

Advance payment via e-transfer to [chanstacey@hotmail.com](mailto:chanstacey@hotmail.com)

**RSVP to Stacey by noon February 6.**

Guest Speakers from the University of Alberta:  
**Dr. Dale Askey and Kelly Spencer**



# ★ 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**



MULTIPLE DISTRICT C CONVENTION REGISTRATION



APRIL 10 & 11, 2026
Holiday Inn & Suites
Grande Prairie, AB

1. Name (First, Last)
Lion Leo-Lion Leo Non-member First Convention
Official Title: Name on Badge:
Club: District:

2. Name (First, Last)
Lion Leo-Lion Leo Non-member First Convention
Official Title: Name on Badge:
Club: District:

Address: City:
Province/State: Postal/Zip Code:
Email Address:
Phone Number:

1. Early Bird Registration & Full Meal Package # x \$135.00/person = \$
1. Lions/Guest Registration & Full Meal Package: # x \$150.00/person = \$
2. Leo Registration & Full Meal Package: # x \$80.00/person = \$
\*\*Registration after March 14, 2026 # x \$100.00/person = \$
3. Separate District Governor's Banquet Ticket: # x \$65.00/person = \$
Total = \$

Registration cut-off date: April 1, 2026

We will be asking everyone to participate in a variety of service projects
"Lead to Serve - Serve to Lead" - further information to follow!

Do you have any Special Dietary requests? Yes No
Please specify dietary details: Diabetic Gluten Free Vegetarian Allergies Other
Please describe

Hotel Reservations - Hotel reservations are not included with your registration fee and are the responsibility of the delegate/attendee.

Holiday Inn - room rates from \$149 (applicable taxes) \$169.00(applicable taxes) With Breakfast
Use Block Code: MDC LIONS

Method of payment: Credit Card Cheque - make payable to: Grande Prairie Lions Club.
e-Transfer: Payee: GPMDCConvention2026 Email: gpmdccconvention2026@gmail.com

Note: FULL PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM TO BE REGISTERED AS AN ATTENDEE.

Note: receipts will be sent by email ONLY. No receipts will be available at registration.
Credit Card #: EXP Date: CVC:

Send Completed registration form with payment to: Grande Prairie Lions Club, Box 505, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 3A7 or email to: Ldcgp@telusplanet.net

Cancellation Policy: Attempt to transfer your registration to another Lion. Written cancellation requests must be received by midnight on March 27, 2026. No refund after March 28, 2026. Email to: Ldcgp@telusplanet.net



Save this Date:



June 13, 2026

**The Lions Club of Leduc 80<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary**

Tickets: \$50 per person for dinner and activities

Keynote Speaker: *P.I.P. Dr. Patti Hill*

Guest Speaker: *P.I.P. Justice Brian Stevenson*

Door Prize and Silent Auction

Reserve your spot. Questions and RSVP to G. Runzer at:  
[grunzerleduclionscharternight@gmail.com](mailto:grunzerleduclionscharternight@gmail.com)

Method of payment: e-transfer to above email or Personal cheques made to the "Lions Club of Leduc"

Receipts provided by email