

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](#)



District Governor's Message A New Year – Renewed Purpose

As this newsletter reaches you, the holiday season is behind us and we find ourselves embarking on a brand-new year. For many of us, the holidays were a time of celebration—gathering with family and friends, sharing meals, and enjoying traditions that bring warmth and joy.

However, as Lions, we must also remember that for many people—right here in Canada and throughout the world—the holiday season was not a time of abundance. Too many families were unable to afford enough food to properly feed their children, and the challenge of food insecurity did not end when the decorations came down.

I encourage every club to keep this reality in mind as we move into January and to consider including a service project in support of **Lions International Week of Service for Hunger, January 3–11, 2026**.

Whether it is a food drive, a monetary donation, volunteering at a food bank, or a community meal, even a small effort can make a meaningful difference. Together, our collective impact as Lions can help ensure fewer families go hungry in the year ahead.

Membership – Building Stronger, More Inclusive Clubs

As we begin the new year, membership must also remain a priority for every club. Our goal is simple and achievable: **each club is encouraged to induct two new members or grow by 20%, whichever is greater.**

As you review your club's recruitment plans, I invite you to reflect honestly on a few important questions:

- Is your club inclusive of the ethnic communities in your area?
- Do you welcome people of all genders, ages, and abilities, including those living with disabilities?
- Do you look forward to your meetings and service projects, or do they sometimes feel like a chore?

Continued next page

IN THIS ISSUE *page*

Dog Guides Update	2
Connecting Young Lions	3
MDC Vice Chair ??	6
JBS Fellowship Dinner	7
Lions in Action	7
Save the Date	9
MDC Convention	10
MDC Con. Registration	11
Leduc 80 th Anniversary	12

Next Newsletter
Submission Deadline:
25th of current month

Michael Clulow
Lions Link Editor
780-263-6674
NEW EMAIL
MischaC@shaw.ca

If meetings and service projects begin to feel like an obligation rather than a joy, it may be time to pause and reconnect as a team. Simple team-building activities can strengthen camaraderie, renew enthusiasm, and remind us why we became Lions in the first place.

Strong clubs are welcoming clubs. When people see Lions enjoying what they do and making a difference together, membership growth follows naturally. Thank you for your continued service, dedication, and commitment to Lionism. In this issue, I have also included **pages 2, 3, and 4 from Lions – Connecting to Young Lions**, which offer practical ideas and insights that many clubs may find helpful as they work to strengthen membership and engage younger generations. I encourage every club to take a few moments to review these pages and consider how some of these ideas might be adapted within your own community. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Yours in Lionism, Lion Ted Mikkelsen District Governor, District C1 Lions Clubs International

DOG GUIDES UPDATES

Submitted by

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

1. I've received several requests for information as to the distribution of Dog Guides in Canada, in Alberta, and in various parts of Alberta. The data below is a very condensed summary. There are currently 786 Dog Guide-Client teams in Canada, 68 of those in Alberta. Numbers as of October 31, 2025

Autism Assistance: 28/273 (Alberta/Canada):
Lethbridge 2, Edmonton 7, Calgary 8,
Coalhurst 1, Red Deer 1, St Albert 2, Spruce
Grove 2, Kitscotty 1, Leduc 1, Coaldale 1,
Cochrane 2.

Canine Vision: 8/121: St Paul 1, Red Deer 1,
Calgary 3, Lethbridge 1, Sherwood Park 1,
Picture Butte 1.

Diabetes Alert: 8/67: Ft. Saskatchewan 1,
Edmonton 3, Gunn 1, Morinville 1, Banff 1,
Calgary 1.

Juvenile Diabetes: 0/3

Facility Support: 11/129: Cochrane 3,
Sherwood Park 1, Edmonton 2, Calgary 1,
Blackfalds 1 Grand Prairie 1.

Service: 6/116: Edmonton 1, Innisfail 1,
Calgary 3, Lethbridge 1

Hearing: 7/? : Edmonton 1, Calgary 3,
Cardston 1, Medicine Hat 1, High River 1.

Seizure Response: 7/44: S Park 1, Edmonton
3, Airdrie 1, Cochrane 1, Strathmore 1.

2. There's no news regarding our attempts to arrange funding to complete the new training centre. The Province of Ontario, BMO, and a benevolent philanthropist are working out the final details to grant and/or loan us the money needed. We are hoping to have the finances in place by December 31. As it stands, assuming we can restart construction in January, the projected completion date is likely to be the end of September.

3. **Dog Guides has issued a challenge** to all Districts in Canada. Districts that have at least 50% of clubs donating at least \$250 will be listed on a Silver Level plaque. Districts with 75% participation will be listed on a Gold Level plaque. To date 46% of District C 2 clubs and 36% of C 1 clubs have participated. Let's shoot for 100% participation!



Ensure a positive membership experience

Getting Started

When approaching how to attract “younger” members to your club, first start by asking yourself the following questions.

How am I defining “younger?”

If your club’s average age is 60 years old, consider working to invite more members that are around age 50. Starting with adding members slightly younger than your club members’ average age is a great way to begin building strong, multi-generational clubs! If your club is interested in inviting members approximately 40 years old and younger, then question your club’s attractiveness to Young Lions.

Is my club attractive to Young Lions?

Positioning your club to appeal to prospective Young Lions, approximately ages 40 and younger, starts with understanding service interests that matter to them and being aware of their hectic schedules and communication preferences. Change is not always easy, but remember, if you’re not changing, you’re not growing!

- While your club provides essential service to your community, young new members offer perspectives that can help identify additional service needs, both locally and globally.
- A Lion’s stage of life often determines the amount of time they have available for special interests and social events. Be mindful and respectful of schedules that may be vastly more limited than your own, especially those attending college or parents of young and teenage children.
- Be open to inviting younger members to form a club branch. This will provide Young Lions an exciting opportunity to feel they are part of your club while meeting independently and focusing on service initiatives they are passionate about. Learn more about club branches at lionsclubs.org/club-branch.
- Each generation has communication and networking preferences that are unique to their environment and stage of life. For example, Young Lions prefer to communicate digitally via text messaging and are active on social media. It is advantageous for you and your members to keep these preferences in mind when trying to reach a new, younger member base.

Does my club offer a pathway to leadership for Young Lions?

Before you plan to invite young members, make sure that your club is ready to support and develop their leadership potential.

- Be open to new ideas and allow Young Lions to lead service events and meetings in their own unique way. The more opportunities people are given to have an active voice, the more drive they’ll have to stay in your club.

Recruit Young Lions through service

The Lions Clubs International motto is "We Serve" — and there's no better way to attract members than to show Lions in action! Use the following tips to help plan your next service event in a way that will be attractive to prospective Young Lions.

Plan your event

- Start your recruitment with a service event, not a meeting.
- Find out what is important to young people in your community.
 - *Perform a Club and Community Needs Assessment to understand issues that matter to them. You can download this assessment at lionsclubs.org/service-toolkit.*
 - *Speak directly with young community members — this shows them you care as much as they do.*
- Plan a hands-on, family-friendly event that addresses a need important to young people in your community. Visit lionsclubs.org/family-membership to discover ideas to plan your next family service event with the Family Membership Program.
- Invite a variety of young people, such as local college students, neighborhood groups, parent groups, young local professionals and younger colleagues from your workplace.
 - *Use social media to attract young people; meet them on their level!*
- Make sure that all your events are fun, energized and dynamic — young people prefer active service events!
- Ensure that there will be tangible outcomes so that everyone feels they have contributed to making a positive impact.

During your event

- Start on time, with a brief orientation beforehand.
- Supply enough tools and materials for everyone to be engaged.
- Engage younger people in the service and not just the "heavy lifting" and clean-up.
- Take pictures of everyone you invited.
- Thank everyone and ask them how they enjoyed being "a Lion for the day."

After your event

- Share pictures you took on social media.
 - *Facebook is great, but get comfortable using other social media platforms that Young Lions use, like Instagram and Snapchat. Your event attendees will enjoy sharing the posts and getting likes from their friends, along with your global network of Lions.*
- Remember to follow up and invite prospective Young Lions to join you for another service event. Encourage them to bring friends and family members; your club's capacity to serve — not just meet — will attract more people.



Enhance the experience of your meetings

People join Lions clubs because they are passionate about service, so it's important to ensure service is your club's central focus — even in meetings. The following tips can help you run effective meetings that keep Young Lions engaged and excited about your club, while also keeping sight of your club's main goal: to serve.

General meeting tips

- Start and end meetings on time, and be aware of the limited time of parents of young and school-age children.
 - ▶ *If the meeting is scheduled for an hour and goes over that time, make it known and allow members to leave if they must.*
- Keep meetings brief and efficient.
 - ▶ *Officers and committees can meet separately before or after the club meeting. The most successful clubs, keep their meetings to an hour or less.*
- Schedule time at the beginning of each meeting for new ideas.
- Make service a part of every meeting.
 - ▶ *Celebrate your service accomplishments. Show photos and share thank you notes. Plan easy service tasks that can be completed during meetings.*
- Consider online meetings when possible, or allow members to join live meetings by using an online platform.

- Do not serve formal meals. Snacks are welcomed, but plan social events, such as formal meals, separately from your meeting.
- Have a plan to keep club members' children occupied.
 - ▶ *Assign someone to help with homework, lead coloring/craft projects, or lead school-age children in planning a service event for local children in need. Visit lionsclubs.org/family-membership to explore helpful ways to guide and mentor children in your club with The Family Cub Program.*
- Create excitement about upcoming events and celebrate each member's contributions.

Involve Young Lions

- Allow Young Lions to help lead and run the meeting.
- Use the social media skills of your club's Young Lions to promote service events and reach out to prospective Young Lion members — their networking and social media knowledge is a great benefit to your club!
- Ask Young Lions about service initiatives that are important to them.
- Allow Young Lions to plan service projects that they are passionate about.



Lions Clubs International

Young Lions and Leos Department

Lions Clubs International
300 W. 22nd St.
Oak Brook IL 60523-8842 USA
www.lionsclubs.org/young-lions
Email: membership@lionsclubs.org
Phone: 630-468-6926

YLCE 11/20 EN



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

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 IN ACTION

SPRUCE VIEW AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

The Spruce View and District Lions Club raised funds to provide almost 100 blankets and 75 home knit hats for the Red Deer Cancer Clinic that were delivered in December.



The hats were knit by the ladies in the community known as the "Friends of the Lions" The Spruce View and

District Lions were very thankful to the Innisfail Sandstone IDA for giving us such a good price for the blankets so that we were able to purchase more than we could otherwise have afforded.

The blankets and the hats were individually wrapped with a poem from the Lions.

When patients sit for hours having treatment at the Center, they can feel the cold and the isolation. A fuzzy and cosy throw can keep them warm and remind them that they are not alone. They can remember that someone is thinking of them and the blanket or hat is a hug from strangers who care such, as the Spruce View and District Lions.

Lois Burkinshaw

SPRUCE VIEW AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

At the District C1 Convention in Red Deer, the Spruce View and District Lions Club led a Service Project on making fidgets for Childhood Cancer.



More than a dozen attendees went to work learning to decorate the small knit cuffs that were made by ladies in the Spruce View Community. The creativity was

impressive and the group managed to complete 38 fidgets in about an hour. What a team.

The fidgets were delivered to Kids Cancer Care in Calgary in December and a letter explaining who had made the fidgets and how all District C1 Lions were thinking of the children was included.



Lois Burkinshaw

SPRUCE VIEW AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

The Spruce View and District Lions Club collected toys, books, craft kits and cute socks, hats and mitts for the Children at the Central Alberta Child Advocacy Center in Red Deer.

We were able to take a huge box to the Center along with a \$500 donation to help them put on their Christmas Party and support the children throughout the year.

Taking a Child's mind off a very bad family situation for even a short time, with a toy, is worthwhile.

The Advocacy Center was very appreciative. I think that often they and their good work are overlooked by people in the community, unless their services are needed.

The Spruce View and District Lions Club want to make sure they are never forgotten.



Lois Burkinshaw

ST. ALBERT HOST LIONS CLUB

For many years the St. Albert Host Lions Club has supported Salvation Army by manning their Christmas Kettle fundraiser for one day at two locations in St. Albert



Lions Asha and Madan (pictured) manned one location for several hours during the day.

ST. ALBERT HOST LIONS CLUB

For the past several years the St. Albert Host Lions Club has sponsored one of the many Christmas trees at the St. Albert Chamber of Commerce Christmas Market. The market is an annual event at the Enjoy Center (Salisbury Green House). The 175.00 sponsorship donation goes to Food Bank and Salvation Army,



On Nov. 14 just prior to the market opening, Lions Ceres, Jack and Barb decorated the tree, and at the close of the market on Dec 13 Lions Aida, Jack, and Barb removed the decorations. Each of the doves has a service project named on it and each heart has a club members name on it.

CORRECTION re Dec Lions Link page 3

INTERNATIONAL PEACE POSTER JUDGING

- (1) 1st Place - Matea Milukstis
Grade 8 - Sister Alphonse Academy
(not St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School)
- (2) 3rd Place - Brooklyn Prudhomme
Grade 6 - Neil M. Rose Catholic Elementary School
(not St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School)

SAVE THE DATE

	HUNGER WEEK	Jan 3-11 2026	AMPLIFY World Wide Service		
	JBS FELLOWSHIP DINNER	March 21 2026	The Difference Campaign	RESERVATION	See page 7
	MDC CONVENTION	April 10-11 2026	Grande Prairie, Alberta	TBD	See page 10
	ENVIRONMENT WEEK	April 18-26 2026	AMPLIFY World Wide Service		
	LEDUC LIONS 80th Anniversary	June 13 2026	TBD	RESERVATION	See Page 12
	LCI CON 2026	July 3-7 2026	Hong Kong, China		WEBSITE
	USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum	Sept 03-05 2026	Memphis USA		WEBSITE
					
RESERVED FOR YOUR CLUB SPECIAL EVENT OR ANNIVERSARY					
RESERVED FOR YOUR CLUB SPECIAL EVENT OR ANNIVERSARY					



Don't let the grass grow under your feet.

★ 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





Save this Date:



June 13, 2026

The Lions Club of Leduc 80th 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

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

Receipts provided by email