Lions Link
Lions Clubs International District C-1 Newsletter

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LIONS PLEDGE	**3**
BREAKING NEWS	**4**
DG TRAVELS	**6**
SAVE THE DATE	**8**
C-1 CONVENTION	**9-12**
C-1 CONVENTION REGISTERATION	**13**
GOOD CITIZENSHIP	**14**
KNOW YOUR LEADERS	**15-17**
LIONS IN ACTION	**18-20**
NEW PROJECTS	**21**
IN MEMORIAM	**21**
PEACE POSTER	**28**
CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH	**22**
C-2 CONVENTION	**23-25**
CLERC	**26**
YOUTH CAMP AGM	**27**
AMPLY YOUR SERVICE	**28**
U OF A INVITATION	**29-33**
US/CANADA FORUM	**34**
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS SURVEY	**35-40**

IN THIS ISSUE PAGE

NEXT NEWSLETTER
SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
25TH OF CURRENT MONTH

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District Governor's Message



Dear Lion Family,

September started for me in Memphis, Tennessee, at the 50th USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. It was a great opportunity to learn, meet Lions from different places, exchange ideas, and enjoy some wonderful fellowship. The Forum brought Lions and Leos together for leadership development, learning, and sharing ideas.

District C-1 was well represented at the Forum by PIP Dr. Patti Hill, IPDG Ted Mikkelsen, FVDG Zella Gardiner, SVDG Mike Hennig, Lion Angela and me. One of the highlights was the gathering of Canadian Lions attending the Forum. PIP Patti Hill and ID Debbie led the meeting, where we heard updates on issues and challenges facing Lions across Canada, as well as updates on Lions Quest, LCIF, and LCCC. It was also good to see Lions from our neighbouring District C-2 represented. You can see some pictures from the Canadian gathering elsewhere in the next issue of Lions Link. There were 84 Canadians at the Forum.

I was also very proud to see Lions from our area sharing their knowledge at the Forum. PIP Patti Hill, along with ID Nadine Bushell, presented a session on **Starting and Supporting Leo Clubs**, while PDG Suzanne Leschyshyn presented **Inspiring Growth Through Meaningful Service**. Both sessions were well attended. You will read more about their sessions in the next issue of the Link.

District C-1 was recognized at the Forum as we are progressing towards our goals. This is also a reminder that there is much work to be done. The DG Team and GAT Team alone cannot do the work; we need support from every Lion to increase our numbers and make us more visible in our communities.

The Forum concluded on Saturday evening with Lion Floyd Armstrong, singer, songwriter, entrepreneur, and former member of the Grammy Award-winning group The Fifth Dimension. He certainly knew how to get Lions out of their seats. There was singing, dancing, and plenty of energy—a great way to close the 50th Forum.

Continued next page

Back Home and Back to Work

After returning to Alberta, it was back to visiting clubs. One of the highlights was attending and speaking at the Eckville Lions Club's 80th Charter Anniversary. Eighty years of service is a remarkable achievement. Club visits continue to remind me that the real strength of our District is found in our clubs and in the Lions who quietly serve their communities every day.

Planning for our **District C-1 Convention in Edmonton on November 6 and 7** is also moving into its final stages. The Convention is returning to Edmonton after a few years, and we are working to make it a meaningful gathering of Lions, community partners, and civic leaders. I hope many of you will join us.

I am also encouraged to see clubs starting to send their reports and stories to Lion Mike for Lions Link. Please keep them coming. We want to hear what is happening throughout our District. Your ideas and service stories may encourage another club to try something new.

A Small Fine, but an Important Reminder

At our District Cabinet meeting, I was fined for the meeting running a little overtime! My fine was to make a small donation to LCIF. I accepted the fine, and I paid it this month. Actually; a little more than I was fined. I am proud to say that I have also signed up for a monthly donation to LCIF.

LCIF is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International. Through grants, it helps Lions take service projects beyond what a club or district can accomplish on its own. LCIF supports work in areas such as disaster relief, vision, hunger, childhood cancer, diabetes, youth, and other humanitarian needs.

So, I have a simple request. If you are already supporting LCIF, perhaps consider increasing your contribution a little. It does not have to be a large increase. If you have never donated to LCIF, please consider starting. Every contribution helps us do more.

I also encourage every club to appoint an LCIF Coordinator. Usually, it is the Immediate Past Club President. The LCIF Coordinator can keep LCIF visible within the club, share information, and help members understand how our Foundation supports Lions service.

We Need New Ideas

We belong to a great service organization, but we cannot simply keep doing things because "that is what we have always done." Our communities are changing, and Lions must continue to look for new ways to serve.

I encourage clubs to try new service projects and new fundraising ideas. Listen to your newer members. Listen to your younger members. Ask them what they would like to do. Sometimes a new member sees an opportunity that the rest of us have overlooked.

And if your club has tried something new and it worked, share it. Send the story to Lions Link. Put it on your Facebook page or other social media. Let other clubs learn from you.

This also connects very well with International President Mark Lyon's message to District Governors this month: **embrace inclusion**. We need clubs where people feel welcomed, included, and given an opportunity to participate. This includes young adults, women, new Lions, Leos, and others who may bring different experiences and ideas to our organization.

That is what the district had as the theme for this year: **Lead • Include • Serve** means to me. Leadership is not only about holding a position. We lead when we give someone else an opportunity. We include when we listen to different voices. And together, we serve our communities better.

Please Report Your Service

Finally, I want to again emphasize the importance of reporting your service activities.

We still have clubs doing wonderful work but not reporting it. If it is not reported, we are not showing the full impact the Lions are making in our communities.

If your club needs help with reporting, please reach out to your Zone Chair or someone on the District leadership team. If training is needed, we are more than happy to arrange a session or connect you with someone who can help.

Keep serving. Keep sharing your stories. Keep looking for new ideas.

Together, let us continue to **Lead • Include • Serve** and build stronger Lions, stronger clubs, and stronger communities.

Yours in Lionism,

Dr. Thomas Varghese

District Governor 2026-27

Lead with courage and vision.

Include with kindness and respect.
Serve with compassion and commitment.

ROOTED IN SERVICE

The Lions Pledge

"I pledge allegiance to my country and to the cause of peace throughout the world. I believe in the principles of Lionism as contained in the Code of Ethics, and will embody these principles by serving my community and supporting our global foundation. I am proud to be a Lion supporting our global foundation. I am proud to be a Lion, dedicated to the service of others."
Thomas Varghese DG - District C-1



BREAKING NEWS

Important Notice to All Clubs: Changes to the Financial Suspension Policy

Effective July 1, 2026, Lions Clubs International has changed its Financial Suspension Policy. The previous 120-day rule has been reduced to 90 days. All clubs are encouraged to review their accounts regularly and ensure payments are made on time.

What does this mean for your club?

A club will be automatically suspended if it has an unpaid balance exceeding US$20 per member or US$1,000 per club, whichever is less, and the balance remains outstanding for more than 90 days.

If the club does not regain active status by the 28th day of the second month following suspension, its charter will be automatically cancelled.

While under suspension, a club cannot:

- Conduct service or fundraising activities.
- Participate in district or multiple district functions or seminars.
- Vote outside the club.
- Endorse or nominate candidates for district, multiple district, or international office.
- Submit Monthly Membership Reports or other report forms.
- Sponsor a Lions club or organize a Leo or Lioness club.

A suspended club may continue to hold meetings to discuss its future and the steps needed to regain active status.

How can a suspended club regain active status?

A club can regain active status by paying its outstanding balance in full. Clubs may also request a payment plan.

A reactivation report is not required. However, once the suspension is lifted, club officers should immediately review and update their membership roster.

Are you checking your club statements?

Lions Clubs International no longer mails club statements. Club officers must access them through the Lion Portal.

Log in to the Lion Portal and select:

My Club → Statements

Payment instructions are available in the same section and on the right-hand side of your online statement.

How can your club make payments?

Club Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers can make payments online through the Lion Portal.

Select My Club → Statements → Pay Now.

Payments can be made using Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, PayPal, or accepted debit cards.

Canadian clubs can also use the Pre-Authorized Debit Payment option. If your club is not currently enrolled and would like to use this method, the form is available on the Lions Clubs International website under: Member Resources → Leaders → Resources → Finance Resources

Need Help?

For questions about your club account, payments, or the revised suspension policy, contact:

Lions Clubs International Accounts Receivable and Club Account Services: 300 W. 22nd Street Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA

Email: membershipbilling@lionsclubs.org Phone: 630-203-3820 Website: www.lionsclubs.org

Club Treasurers are encouraged to review their statements regularly and bring any outstanding balances to the attention of their club officers.

Please do not wait until your club receives a suspension notice. Check your statements, make payments on time, and protect your club's active status.

- Gail Haight PDG, CAII Global Act Team Area Leader Group D

Gail@mvpinc.ca Phone: +1 306-314-1686

Lions Portal Contact Information

Please take a few minutes to review your club's contact information in the Lions Portal and make sure it is current. Having up-to-date officer names, email addresses, phone numbers and other club information helps ensure important District and Lions International communications reach the right people.

Keeping your club information current helps all of us stay connected!

Tip: Does your club have a general club email address? While there isn't a designated spot for it in the Lions Portal, you can add it to the Description section of your club profile. This can provide a consistent contact for your club even when officers change.

By: Rehann Onyschuk, District C1 Treasurer



DG TRAVELS

VISIT TO LAMONT CLUB



I had a great visit to the Lamont Lions Club, along with District C-1 Convention Co-Chair PDG Henry Lung. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and friendship.





I had the honour of inducting four new Lions: Josh, Rylee, Krystal, and Lester. Welcome to Lions! Also presented Chevron awards to Maurice and Tammy for 10 years, President Val for 25 years, and Lorrie for years of service. Congratulations Lions!

30

PDG Henry invited everyone to attend our District C-1 Convention in Edmonton on November 6 and 7.



Thank you, President Val, the officers, and all the Lamont Lions for the invitation and warm hospitality.

We Serve!

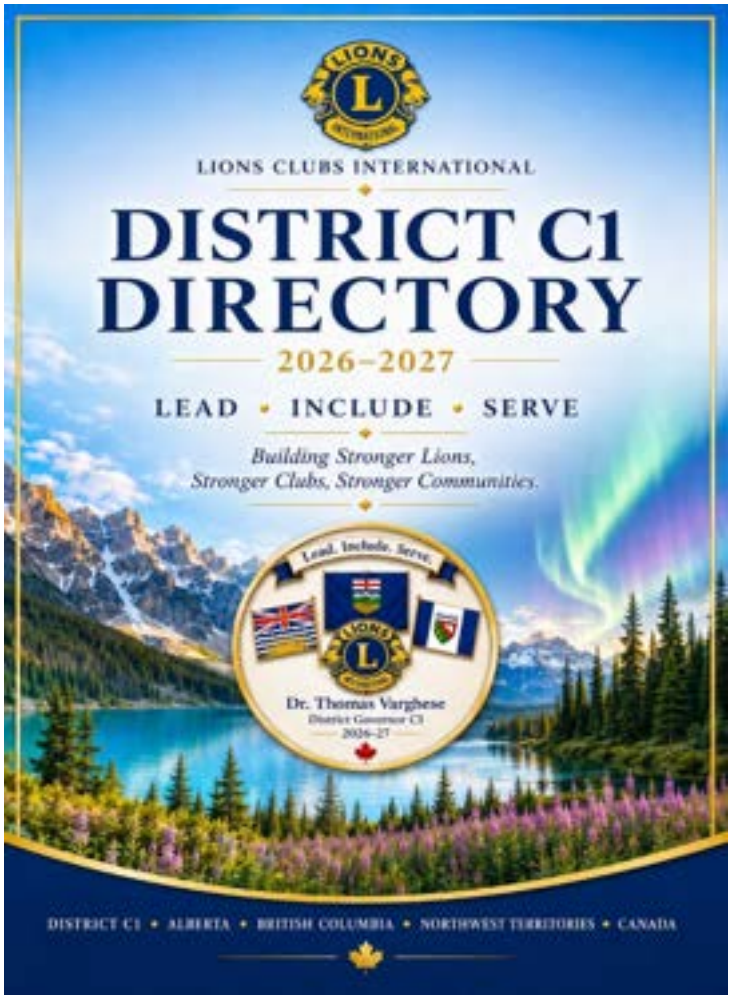
Lead *with courage and vision.*
Include *with kindness and respect.*
Serve *with compassion and commitment.*

ROOTED IN SERVICE

-DG Dr. Thomas Varghese

Did Your Club Receive This Year's District Directory?

The 2026–2027 District C-1 Directory was mailed to all clubs in early September. Four copies were sent directly to each club, addressed to the Club President or Secretary.



The Directory has been revamped this year with a colourful cover, updated content, and more useful information. In addition to club and district contact information, you will find the revised Lions Pledge, information about the Lions Learning Center and Lions University, Lions Leadership Institutes, our GAT Team, bios of our District Advisors, a revised Glossary of Lions Acronyms, information on dues and payment dates, and much more.

We hope you will keep your Directory handy and use it throughout the Lions year. It is more than just a list of names and phone numbers. It is a useful reference guide for club officers and members.

Has your club received its four copies?

If your club has not received the Directory, please contact your District Governor, Lion Dr. Thomas Varghese, at 780-893-6442 or gltlionthomas@gmail.com.

If your club needs additional copies, please let us know. Once all clubs have received their copies, we will be happy to share any extras that are available.

SAVE THE DATE

	District C-1 TRAINING	CCTOBER 3, 2026	On ZOOM		**REQUEST ZOOM LINK**	
	WEEK OF SERVICE VISION	OCTOBER 8-18, 2026	**Amplify your club's impact**			See Page **28**
	St. Albert Breakfast Lions Champagne Brunch	10 am October 18, 2026	St. Albert Inn		RESERVATION	See Page **22**
	LIONS YOUTH CAMP Annual General Meeting	7:00 pm October 20, 2026	Via ZOOM		For Zoom link Contact chassell@shaw.ca	See Page **27**
	**C-2 CONVNTION**	October 23-24, 2026	Cochrane, Alberta		**CLICK TO REGISTER ONLINE**	See Page **23-25**
	**C-1 CONVENTION 2026/27**	November 6-7, 2026	Edmonton Inn and Conference Centre, Alberta		**CLICK TO REGISTER ONLINE**	See Page **9-12**
	**St. Albert Host Lions 75th Anniversary**	February 12, 2027	St. Albert, Alberta		Details to follow	
	WEEK OF SERVICE YOUTH	**FEBRUARY 13-21, 2027**	**Amplify your club's impact**			See Page **28**
	WEEK OF SERVICE ENVIRONMENT	**MAY 29 – June 6, 2027**	**Amplify your club's impact**			See Page **28**
Washington DC 109TH LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION		July 2-6, 2027	Washington DC, USA		Details to follow	
	USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum	September 16-18, 2027	Huntsville, Alabana USA		USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum |	See page 34
	RESERVED FOR YOUR CLUB'S SPECIAL EVENT					

Program

12th DISTRICT C1 CONVENTION

November 6 and 7, 2026

Edmonton Inn and Conference Centre
11834 Kingsway NW, Edmonton, AB

THEME:

LEAD. INCLUDE. SERVE

Building Stronger Lions, Stronger Clubs, Stronger Communities





FEATURING SPEAKER



International Director
Gary Steele

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

REGISTRATION

FRIDAY EVENING

Cultural Evening
with Multiple Cultural Dances

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

INSPIRING SESSIONS ON:

- Health and Wellness
- Environment
- Camp He Ho Ha
- Veterans House
- Diabetes Awareness
- and Many More!

OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SERVICE ACTIVITIES
Join hands. Make a difference. Strengthen our communities together.

HOSPITALITY ROOM
Hosted on both Friday and Saturday
by the PDG Association

PLEASE BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS
Collecting for Veterans Food Bank

Dear Lions and Leos,

Our District Convention is coming up in November, and I hope many of you will make plans to attend.

Our Convention Co-Chairs, **PDG Henry Lung and Lion Stacey Chan**, along with the **Edmonton Chinese Lions Club** and the Convention Committee, have been working hard to put together a good Convention for us.

The Convention starts Friday evening with a cultural night. This will be a good opportunity to meet Lions from different parts of our District, renew friendships, and enjoy some fellowship together.

The Past District Governors Association will host a hospitality room on Friday and Saturday. Those who are planning to run for District positions, including SVDG and VCC, will also have an opportunity to meet Lions and introduce themselves.

We are also planning some good sessions during the Convention. You will hear about Camp He Ho Ha, the University of Alberta Lions Legacy Project, Veterans House, Lions of Alberta Foundation and other initiatives and projects. There will be opportunities to learn something new and take some ideas back to your clubs.

Of course, we cannot have a Lions Convention without service. The Convention Committee is planning some service activities during the weekend. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Veterans Food Bank of Alberta. Please bring a few items with you if you can. If everyone brings something, together we can make a good contribution.

I also want to especially invite our Leos. Please come and be part of the Convention. This is an opportunity to meet other Lions and Leos, participate in service, attend the sessions, and see more of what Lions is all about. Lions Clubs that sponsor or work with Leo Clubs, please encourage your Leos to attend and bring them with you.

The Host Club and the Convention Committee have worked hard to keep the cost as low as possible. The early registration fee is only $150. We have also negotiated a special room rate with the Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre. There are only a limited number of rooms available at this rate, so please book your room early.

District C-1 is a very large District. We don't get many opportunities to have Lions from different parts of the District together in one place. The Convention gives us that opportunity. We can meet each other, learn what other clubs are doing, share ideas, and simply spend some time together.

If you have never attended a District Convention, come this year and see what it is all about. If you have attended before, bring another Lion or Leo with you. Better yet, come together as a club.

So please mark November 6-7, 2026 on your calendar and plan to join us in Edmonton.

Come for the sessions. Come for the service. Come for the fellowship.

Most importantly, come and be part of your District.

I look forward to seeing you in November. The Online Registration for Lions District C-1 Convention

https://edmontonchineselionsclub.com/

Thomas Varghese
District Governor, District C-1

LIONS INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT C1

Let's come together

TO SERVE & SUPPORT

AT OUR DISTRICT CONVENTION

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE

We are collecting non-perishable food items at the District Convention to support the **Veterans Food Bank of Alberta.**

Please bring your donations and help us support those who served our country.



50/50 CASH RAFFLE

Take a chance and help support our District!

- Winner receives 50% of the total ticket sales.
- The other 50% supports District C1 projects and charitable initiatives.

Thank you for your support!



SILENT AUCTION – WE NEED ITEMS!

We are looking for donated items for our Silent Auction.

- Interested parties place bids on items using a bid sheet – that's how a "Silent Auction" works!
- Your donations help make our Convention a success and support District projects.

If your club or business can donate an item, please contact the Convention Committee.



SPONSOR A MEAL OR SNACK

We are looking for clubs who would like to sponsor Friday night dinner and/or afternoon snacks during the District Convention.

Your support will help us provide great hospitality for all our Lions, Leos and guests.



Thank you!

Your generosity helps us make a difference in the lives of others and build stronger communities together.

LEAD. INCLUDE. SERVE. | *Building Stronger Lions, Stronger Clubs, Stronger Communities* | **DISTRICT CONVENTION NOVEMBER 6 & 7, 2026**

District C-1 Lions Convention Registration Form
Date: November 6–7, 2026
Location: Edmonton Inn, Edmonton, Alberta
Hosted by the Edmonton Chinese Lions Club

Delegate Information

Name: _____ Name on the Badge:_____

Club: _____ District: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Registration

☐ Full Lion Convention Registration
Fee: $150 (register by September 15), after September 15: $170
☐ Full Leos Convention Registration
Fee: $100
☐ Banquet only
Fee: $65

Registration deadline: October 1, 2026. Registrations received after this date cannot be guaranteed

Payment

☐ E-Transfer to C1Convention2026@gmail.com
☐ Cheque – make payable to the Edmonton Chinese Lions Club (mailing address: 200, 12204 – 106 Avenue NW Edmonton, Alberta T5N 3Z1)

Full payment must accompany the registration form to be registered as an attendee

Meals & Dietary Requirements

☐ No dietary restrictions
☐ Dietary restrictions/allergies: _____

We will make every effort to meet dietary requirements. However, accommodation cannot be guaranteed.

Hotel Reservation

Please book your room directly at the Edmonton Inn by phone 1-888-747-4114 by Friday, October 2, 2026, mention the "Lions 2026 Convention" to receive the special group rate single $124/night or double $134/night

Cancellation

Written cancellations received on or before October 1, 2026, will receive a 90% refund. After October 1, registrations can only be transferred to another Lion by notifying the Convention Committee by email to C1Convention2026@gmail.com. Otherwise, the full registration fee will be forfeited.

Please email completed registration form to C1Convention2026@gmail.com

Lions and Good Citizenship — Alberta Referendum 2026

Dear Fellow Lions

As one of our International Purposes is To Promote the principles of good government and good citizenship, I believe we should each participate in the upcoming Alberta Referendum. As there will be ten ballots to consider, I anticipate a long lineup at the polling stations. This can be avoided with the use of a mail-in ballot. These are available online at Elections Alberta; look for Special Ballot Request. The ballots will be mailed to you for completion at your leisure. This option is available until October 9. Return postage is provided by Elections Alberta and you will have served as a responsible citizen. For further information: https://www.elections.ab.ca/request-a-special-ballot/

Past International Director
Bill Webber

Are You Using the Membership Satisfaction Survey in Your Club?

We spend a lot of time recruiting new members, but keeping our existing members is just as important.

Are our members happy? Do they feel valued? Are they enjoying their club meetings and service activities? Do they feel that they belong? We cannot assume everything is fine just because no one is complaining. Sometimes, members may be unhappy but do not openly express their concerns.

Lions Clubs International has developed a guide called Exceeding Expectations to help clubs understand how their members feel about their Lions experience. The membership satisfaction survey gives members an opportunity to share their thoughts and suggestions. It helps club leaders identify what is working well and what needs improvement.

I encourage every club to conduct this survey, review the results, and discuss any needed changes. Most importantly, listen to your members and act on their suggestions.

Bringing in new members helps our clubs grow. Keeping our existing members happy and involved helps our clubs stay strong.

Lead • Include • Serve

ROOTED IN SERVICE

See page 35 for survey

LCIF: Investing in our communities

Past International President Dr. Patti Hill

LCIF exists to provide support to the outstanding work of Lions around the world and right here at home. Therefore, we are asking ***every Lions Club*** to invest in LCIF so funds will be available when we need them.



We needed LCIF after the wildfires in Jasper, and Fort Murray. Our fellow Lions needed LCIF after the flooding in Nepal and the earthquakes in Venezuela.



We also relied on LCIF for a grant in August to upgrade therapy tub equipment in Vulcan. We relied on LCIF in May for funding for the Medicine Hat Hospital. LCIF approved $100,000 for our Bridge Healing project. Another grant was provided to help buy baby supplies for struggling new mothers in C-1.

Many of us and our families and friends have benefited from LCIF's equipment grants to the Royal Alexandra Eye Centre, not to mention the Lions Quest grants received here.

So, it is time to reinvest in LCIF. Can your club invest $50 per member? Maybe you can allocate 10% of your fundraisers to LCIF. Perhaps $4999 from your casino or gaming funds?

Your investment will help us all provide much needed services whenever and wherever they are needed.

Please pass a motion to invest at your next meeting.

Question: Can a Lions club in Alberta donate to LCIF using casino funds?

Answer: Yes, an Alberta Lions Club can donate casino (gaming) funds to LCIF, but the club must strictly follow the **Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC)** policies regarding the use of gaming proceeds outside the province. [1, 2]

1. Eligibility Criteria

According to the AGLC Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook, donations outside of Alberta but within Canada are only permitted if they support specific causes: [1, 2]

- **Disaster or emergency relief**
- **Nationally recognized charitable programs** that provide a benefit to Albertans (e.g., Lions Quest programs in schools)
- **Medical and educational research programs** that benefit all Canadians (e.g., LCIF sight, diabetes, or childhood cancer initiatives) [1]

When making the donation, the club must ensure the specific LCIF fund or grant aligning with these categories is noted.

Continued next page

2. AGLC Thresholds & Approval Rules

The requirements for paperwork change depending on the total amount your club plans to donate annually:

- **Donations of $10,000 or less per year:** Prior written approval from the AGLC is **not required**. The donation can be made directly by cheque or electronic transfer from your approved gaming bank account. However, it must be accurately tracked and reported on your club's next gaming financial report. [1]
- **Donations exceeding $10,000 per year:** Your club **must obtain prior approval** from the AGLC. You will need to submit a Request to Donate Proceeds Outside Alberta Form along with a signed Recipient Agreement from the Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF. [1, 2]

3. Cumulative Limits

Your club cannot give away all of its casino earnings out of province. The AGLC caps cumulative annual donations outside of Alberta at a maximum of **75% of the total gaming proceeds earned** by your club in the previous calendar year. [1]

Know Your District LEADERS

Strong leadership is the foundation of strong clubs and a strong District. Our District leaders bring a wealth of experience, diverse professional backgrounds, and a deep commitment to service. In the coming issues of this newsletter, we will introduce the dedicated Lions who serve on our District Team. By getting to know these leaders, we can better appreciate the individuals working behind the scenes to support our clubs, strengthen Lionism, and advance our mission of service. In this issue, we are pleased to introduce some of the District Chairs. We hope you enjoy learning about their Lions journey, professional achievements, and vision for District C-1's future.

Lions of Alberta Foundation District C1 Representative (Director): PCC Tom Hodgson



PCC Tom Hodgson is an experienced Lion leader whose commitment to service spans more than 5 decades. A Lion since 1971, Tom has built a distinguished record of service at the club, district, multiple district, and foundation levels, earning the respect and admiration of Lions across Canada.

Among his many leadership roles, Tom has served as Council Chair, District Governor, and Club Service Chairperson. He has also provided leadership through the Lions of Alberta Foundation (LOAF), helping support initiatives that strengthen Lions service and community impact across the province. He has been recognized with numerous Lions honours, including the Melvin Jones Fellowship, and is a Life Member of Lions Clubs International.

Known for his collaborative leadership style and dedication to serving others, Tom has contributed to numerous Lions projects, committees, youth programs, and leadership initiatives throughout his Lions career. His wealth of experience, practical leadership, and unwavering commitment to the Lions' motto, *"We Serve,"* continue to inspire those around him.

Tom serves as the District representative to the (Lions of Alberta Foundation) Board. Tom serves as the District C-1 representative to the Lions of Alberta Foundation (LOAF) Board, bringing his extensive leadership experience, organizational expertise, and deep understanding of Lions service to support the Foundation’s work across Alberta.

District C-1 Eyeglass Recycling Chair & District C-1 Representative to the Lions of Alberta Foundation: Lion Jack Riley

Celebrating 40 Years as a Lion – October 2026!



Lion Jack Riley celebrates 40 years of dedicated service as a Lion this October! He currently serves as District C-1 Eyeglass Recycling Chair and has been a District representative to the Lions of Alberta Foundation for the past four years.

Born and raised in Brandon, Manitoba, Jack enjoyed a 47-year career in the consulting engineering industry, including nearly 40 years with UMA Engineering/AECOM. He retired in 2018. Jack and his wife, Barb, have lived in St. Albert since 1991. They have three sons and seven grandchildren.

Jack's Lions journey began in 1986 when a neighbour invited him to help at a Lions-sponsored community dance in Blairmore. He soon joined the Blairmore Lions Club, where he served in several leadership positions and helped establish one of Alberta's first Loonie Lotto fundraisers.

Upon returning to the Edmonton area, Jack transferred to the St. Albert Host Lions Club, where he remains an active member. Over the years, he has contributed to numerous club projects, including eyeglass recycling, Lions Park, Walk for Dog Guides, food bank initiatives, and community fundraisers.

Jack's service has earned him several fellowships, including the Melvin Jones, Judge Brian Stevenson, Dr. Patti Hill, Bill Webber, and Lions Quest Fellowships. He has also received an International President's Certificate of Appreciation, CLERC's Gordon Prusky Award, the Herb Moeller Unsung Hero Award, and four Lion of the Year Awards.

Jack lives by the words: “Where there is a need, there is a Lion.”

Congratulations, Lion Jack, on 40 wonderful years as a Lion! Thank you for your dedication and continued service to District C-1 and our communities.

My First Steps as Zone 8 Chairperson



My new role as Zone Chairperson for Zone 8 has been an honour, a privilege, a challenge and intimidating.

As a newly minted Zone Chairperson I find there is a huge learning curve and I can take comfort in knowing that I am not alone in this journey. I have had encouragement and some gentle prodding to keep me on task.

I entered into this role full speed ahead. I checked out the Lions University Bachelor and the Masters courses and eagerly worked on completing courses and doing the quizzes which followed. This is an area where I was prodded into the task at hand. While I learned a lot and will continue to work through these sessions, I was directed to the Zone Chairperson Workshop. So I went to work to complete this assignment for the first in person training session I will attend at the end of September (I was ill for the first in person training session).

The monthly newsletter from the District Govenor is a valuable source of information. I forwarded the August newsletter to the Chipman Lions Club. By accident the page where it was announced that I would be the Zone Chairperson Zone 8 did not print. I spoke with the Club President before the meeting and he made the announcement (first meeting after the summer break). This was my opportunity to interview the President for the Zone Chairperson Workshop assignment. And this was an easy first step as I have been with the Chipman Lions Club since

2011 and know the members. The answers given were genuine and honest.

My next task was to contact another Lions Club in Zone 8. Again, I am familiar with some of the members and Andrew Lion Reta and I connected by telephone and email to go over the questions. The answers were straightforward, honest and we had a few laughs. We began the discussion of having a club visitation in October. And an invitation/request to promote their potato pancake breakfast was extended.

The third club I contacted happened to be the club where the former Zone Chairperson/President was a member. I emailed the former zone chair and by chance we bumped into each other at an event. I will be attending a dinner meeting at the Fort Saskatchewan Lions Club in a few days to introduce myself to the group. I did attend their Charter Night and training in their new facility in the past, and Derwin will be on hand to orientate me to the club.

There are two more clubs in the Zone which I need to contact - the Lamont Lions Club and the Bruderheim Lions Club. There is some overlap with events and meetings, so contact has not been made yet. I am eager to hear how things are going and what I can do to assist the clubs.

So how is it going in my new role as Zone Chairperson? I am very pleased and proud to have been given this opportunity. There is a lot for me to learn and I wish I would have reviewed the Lions University courses prior to taking on this role. There is a lot of valuable information offered. I encourage all Lions to check out the university courses.

Be sure to check out the links below. Valuable resources for all Lions Club members as to the lastest news and events.

- Zone Chair Evelyn Henke

- **HOT LINKS**

DOWNLOAD THE SEPTEMBER LIONS LINK

MISSED AN ISSUE ? CLICK HERE TO FIND IT

VISIT DISTRICT C-1 WEBSITE



LIONS IN ACTION

Stony Plain Lions Club

Stony Plain Farmers Day Parade June 6, 2026! Stony Plain Lions were winners of the Best Float.



Congrats to our Parade Committee Chair Lion Rob and his team.

Submitted by -Lion Kathleen Linder

Stony Plain Lions were pleased to provide free Eye Screening during the Agri Fair in Spruce Grove on September 12.



Volunteers included PDG Joan, Lion Dianne, Lion Kathleen & Lion Sheila. We screened over 65 members of the public with 11 referrals.

Submitted by -Lion Kathleen Linder

Drayton Valley Lions Club

WHAT A RIDE!

Community spirit was amazing at the DV Lions Club 29th Annual Santa's Anonymous Toy Run, on September 12, 2026!

Despite the cooler morning temperatures, we were thrilled to have 33 motorcycles, 39 riders and 3 classic cars from the Northern Car Club that came out to support a wonderful cause.

And the best part... together, we raised an incredible $4,025.25 for Santa's Anonymous!

This success would not have been possible without the amazing support of our community and all those who helped make the day happen.



Lion Kelly Forster





Fort Saskatchewan Lions Club

As a result of Lunch with the Lion, The Fort Saskatchewan Lions Club had the privilege of presenting The Fort Saskatchewan Nourishment Centre with a cheque in support of community efforts to support the needy.



Submitted by Donna House

Lions Club of Lamont

Friday evening, the Town of Lamont held a "Party in the Park" celebration. This event included the town giving out hot dogs, chips, and pop. Several other groups attended and had activities of their own. There were bouncy castles for the kids, build a bird house, lawn games, popcorn, a live band, and the Lions corn on the cob. It was a little cold to wear our vests in view.



Lion Chris

Edmonton Chinese Lions Club

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

Our heartfelt congratulations to Lions Thomas and Angela for having successfully completed the leadership development programs offered by the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum through the Lions University. Our club's 2nd Vice President, Angela Varghese, completed her Bachelor's Program to strengthen her skills in leading a club at the local level.



DG Thomas Varghese completed both the Bachelor's and Master's Programs to fortify his skills in supporting clubs as a district level leader. We thank you both as we continue to count our blessings under your leadership!



Lions International President Mark Lyon is seen acknowledging the proud achievement of DG Thomas and Lion Angela at the September 2026 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Memphis, Tennessee, USA.



Training for Lions Kids Vision Screening:

Edmonton Chinese Lions Club members are getting a 2nd round of hands-on training to refine our skills and to get ready for launching the Lions Kids Vision Screening in this Lionistic Year.





Once again, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Lion Derwin for his hands-on training and unwavering support.

In this 2nd round, we were lucky to have a family allowing us to carry out vision screening on their two children of



Grade 2 and Kindergarten respectively. We also took this training opportunity to practise the process of getting parents to sign consent,



getting the children to sit still and look at the “happy face” screening equipment and rewarding the children with Lions stickers after screening was done. It was so heartwarming to see the excitement of the children upon receiving our stickers. We also took turns to practise vision screening on our club members too.



Helen Cheung,
Edmonton Chinese Lions Club

St. Albert Host Lions Club

St. Albert Clean and Green RiverFest!
Environmental Action at its Best.

The St. Albert Host Lions were proud to be invited by the City of St. Albert to barbecue and serve hot dogs at this year's RiverFest.



This annual community event brought people together to explore environmental organizations, visit local groups like the St. Albert Backyard Gardening Group, plant native shrubs and trees along the river, and help clean up our beautiful river valley.



More than 300 people stopped by the Lions tent to say hello and enjoy a complimentary hot dog and drink, generously provided by the City of St. Albert.

Serving our community... and our environment! A big thank you to our club members, family members, and a newcomer who volunteered to serve, to GST Coordinator Lion Aida for coordinating the event, and to Lion Jack for chairing it. We're fortunate to have events like this that bring people together, celebrate our diverse community, and make St. Albert an even better place to call home.

Lion Barb, on behalf of Lion Linda & Aida

NEW PROJECTS

Sacred Heart Church Request for Donations

I was also wondering if you could help me spread the word within our Lions community. We all know how much good Sacred Heart Church does in the community, and right now they need our support.

As the days grow cooler this September, it come to my attention that the churches shelves are almost empty and there are so many people in our inner city who will face the coming winter without warmth.



Their shelves are empty and they need our help.

This presents a great opportunity for us, as lions together and help:

They are asking for donations of clean, gently used, or new winter clothing, including:

- Coats
- Hoodies
- Hats
- Scarves
- Gloves
- Warm socks

They are also in need of personal hygiene items such as:

- Soap (travel size)
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Tampons

If you could help share this information with the host club and our Lions community, I would really appreciate it. Even a small contribution from each person can make a meaningful difference for someone facing the winter without the basic items they need.

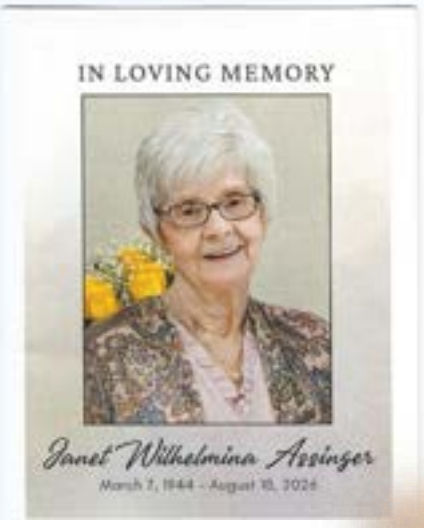
Please feel free to contact Ron Martineau, our Sacred Heart Church outreach lead,
Ron Martineau ronlm@telus.net.
He can be reach at 780-422-3052

Craig Skelly
780-964-8287
Cskelly@telus.net

IN MEMORIAM

Lion Janet Assinger joined Stony Plain Lions in October 2012. Lion Janet was a member of the Stony Plain Lioness Club until it folded and always a Lion at heart. Always willing to help where ever needed with a smile and an unmatched sense of humour.
She was especially involved in our Eye Screening program spending many hours with this program and supporting it to the fullest.

Janet loved the outdoors and her special time at the lake with her flowers and boat rides.
She was predeceased by her husband Gordon, also a Lion, her parents and her sister Marg.
She is survived by her 2 sons Stu and Gerry and their families.
She was a kind loving special lady and her lively spirit will be missed by all who knew her.







57th Charter Anniversary

Champagne Brunch

10:00 am Sunday, Oct 18th at the St. Albert Inn

- Speaker DG Thomas Varghese
- reservations required
- $40.00 per person

Please **contact Lion Paul Benson @ 780 459 5509**

Email **SABLions@shaw.ca**



Registration is NOW OPEN for the

District C2 Convention!

Join us on **October 23–24, 2026** at the
Cochrane Lions Club & Event Centre
109 5th Avenue Cochrane, Alberta
for a weekend of fellowship, learning, service, and celebration as we come together under the theme **United in Service**.

Convention Registration Fees

🦁 **Lions & Guests: $125.00** per person
✔ Includes all convention sessions, meals, and the District Governor's Banquet.

🦁 **Leos: $50.00** per person
✔ Includes all convention sessions, meals, and the District Governor's Banquet.

🍽 **District Governor's Banquet Only: $70.00** per person

🥪 **Lunch Only: $25.00** per person.

🎁 **Register before September 15, 2026** and you'll be entered into a draw to **WIN an iPad Mini!**

Please complete the attached registration form and return it with your payment by email to:

✉ **districtc2lions@gmail.com**

Payment may be made by **credit card, cheque (payable to District C2 Lions), or e-transfer**. Full payment must accompany your registration to confirm your attendance.

You can also register online at **https://lionsofdistrictc2.com/events/**

🏨 Hotel information and booking details are included on the second page of the registration form. Please note that hotel accommodations are the responsibility of each attendee.

We are looking forward to welcoming Lions, Leos, guests, and first-time convention attendees from across the district for an unforgettable weekend of service, learning, and fellowship.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at **districtc2lions@gmail.com**.

We can't wait to see you in Cochrane this October!

Please share with all your Club Members so they can register too!

Thank you!

Holly Bandelow
Convention Registration Chairperson
District C-2 Lions 🦁

DISTRICT C-2 CONVENTION REGISTRATION
OCTOBER 23-24, 2026
COCHRANE LIONS CLUB & EVENT CENTRE
109 5TH AVENUE COCHRANE, ALBERTA

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

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

Email Address:
Phone Number:

1. **Lions/Guest Registration.** **#__ x $125.00/person = $**
   All Meals, Sessions & DG Banquet
2. **Leo Registration** **#___ x $50.00/person = $**
   All Meals, Sessions & DG Banquet
3. **Separate District Governor's Banquet Ticket:** **#____x $70.00/person = $**
4. **Lunch Only** **#____x $25.00/person = $**

** **Register before Sept 15, 2026, to be entered to win an iPad Mini!** **Total = $**

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

Method of payment: □ Credit Card □ Cheque – make payable to: **District C2 Lions**
□ e-transfer - to e-transfer, send to districtc2lions@gmail.com

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

Credit Card #: _____ EXP Date: _____ CVC: _____

Postal/Zip Code: _____

Send **Completed** registration form with payment to: Lion Holly Bandelow, 3016-23 St. Coaldale, AB T1M 0B5 or email to: districtc2lions@gmail.com

Hotel Reservations – Hotel reservations **are not** included with your registration fee and are the responsibility of the delegate/attendee. See reverse for hotel information.

Cancellation Policy: Attempt to transfer your registration to another Lion. Written cancelation request must be received by midnight, October 16, 2026. No refund after October 16, 2026. Email to: michharris@gmail.com

Convention Hotel Information:

Host Hotel: ***Canalta Cochrane*** – 10 Westside Drive, Cochrane – Ph: 403.932.6355
Rates from: $220/night + Tax– Block Code: LIONS 22 Group 2 – Guest
Cut off for booking: September 23, 2026

Days Inn & Suites – 5 Westside Drive, Cochrane – Ph: 403.932.5588
Rates from: $154/night + Tax – Block Code: 3735 – Cutoff for booking: September 23, 2026
Book Online: https://groups.wyndhamhotels.com/housing/lion-clubs-international-pt67ohem

Super 8 – 11 Westside Drive, Cochrane – Ph: 403.932.1410
Rates from: $150/night + Tax – Block Code: 102326DCL
Cutoff for booking: September 23, 2026
Book Online: https://groups.wyndhamhotels.com/housing/district-2-lions-hnbeq7mt

Canadian Lions Eyeglass RECYCLING Centre

Centre canadien de recyclage des lunettes Lions

CLERC, an out of sight opportunity to aid the vision impaired of the world

Bay #2, 1216 – 34th Ave. NE
Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6L9

eMail: info@clerc.ca

Phone: 403-640-1056
or 1-888-200-5779

Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre

Wednesday Work Parties
9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

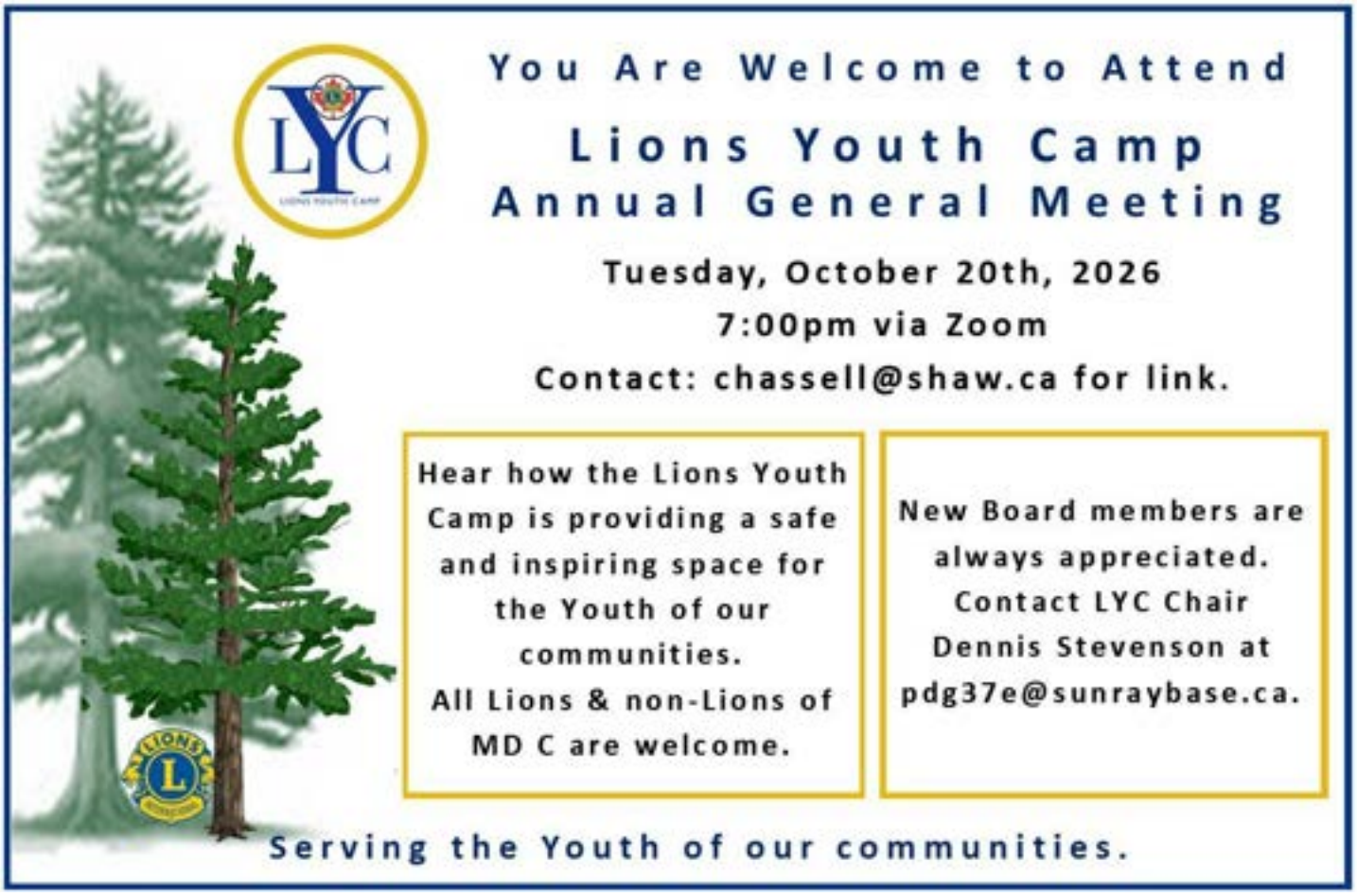
Saturday Work Party Bookings: On a first come first served basis. Schedule on www.clerc.ca on Events tab.

Please when sending glasses **do not** include hard glass cases or loose lenses.

We also accept Hearing Aids

Glasses Distributed to Countries:
7,062,566
as of December 2025

Financial Donations from Lions Clubs, private sector & individuals are necessary and welcomed


You Are Welcome to Attend
Lions Youth Camp
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, October 20th, 2026
7:00pm via Zoom
Contact: chassell@shaw.ca for link.
Hear how the Lions Youth Camp is providing a safe and inspiring space for the Youth of our communities.
All Lions & non-Lions of MD C are welcome.
New Board members are always appreciated.
Contact LYC Chair Dennis Stevenson at pdg37e@sunraybase.ca.
Serving the Youth of our communities.

Amplify your club's impact during Weeks of Service Vision, Youth, Environment

This initiative unites Lions and Leos worldwide to address the critical issues of of vision, youth and the environment. By participating, you'll be part of three impactful weeks dedicated to creating positive change and making a difference in communities around the globe — together. So get involved and help drive collective action for a better future!

-Mark your calendars

Vision | October 8–18, 2026 Plan a service activity for World Sight Day on October 8 or International White Cane Day on October 15! The new Vision Service Project Ideas resource can help you get started with popular service activities such as vision screening and eyeglass recycling as well as some new ideas. Join Lions and Leos around the world as they improve the lives of the visually impaired and help prevent avoidable blindness. Learn more about vision programs and service ideas on the vision global cause webpage.

Youth | February 13–21, 2027 Join in a Week of Service focused on serving children and youth across all of Lions International's global causes! Plan a service project in honor of International Childhood Cancer Day on February 15, conduct a Lions KidSight vision screening, plan a hunger project for children, or learn more about Lions Diabetes Camps and Youth Camps & Exchange.

Visit the youth global cause webpage to learn more about serving and partnering with youth.

Environment | May 29–June 6, 2027 Take part in a week of service focused on protecting the environment and creating a more sustainable world. Celebrate World Environment Day on June 5 with a service project that creates a healthier community and mobilizes for global action. The Environmental Awareness, Education and Advocacy resource will help you raise awareness, educate your community and create positive change.

Explore additional service ideas on the environment global cause webpage.

Invitation to Support the Lions Club Legacy Fund

A District C-1 Lions initiative in support of community access to art and culture

To: Presidents and members of District C-1 Lions Clubs
From: Thomas Varghese, District Governor, District C-1, and
Kelly Spencer, Associate Vice-President, Development and Alumni Relations, University of Alberta

Dear Lions Club leaders and members,

The University of Alberta has invited Lions in District C-1 to help establish the Lions Club Legacy Fund, with a goal of raising $250,000 over three years. The Edmonton Chinese Lions Club has taken an early lead by committing $50,000 to the fund.

Lions Clubs throughout District C-1 are encouraged to learn more about this initiative and consider how they can participate in creating a lasting legacy at the University of Alberta. This is a wonderful opportunity for Lions to come together and make a difference for generations to come.

The Lions Club Legacy Fund will support community programming, initiatives and activities delivered specifically through the Kenneth and Sandra Wong Gallery in the TELUS Centre on North Campus. This dedicated support will help welcome people of all ages into meaningful experiences with art, culture and learning, while advancing the university's commitment to providing free public access to exhibitions.

A contribution to the Lions Club Legacy Fund is a lasting investment in our community. The fund's principal will be invested in perpetuity, with annual investment earnings supporting programming and activities for generations to come. By participating, each club will help create an enduring Lions legacy that reflects our shared commitment to service, education and community connection.

The enclosed package includes a project overview and a pledge form for each participating club. Clubs considering the use of charitable gaming proceeds should contact the campaign representatives before submitting payment so the appropriate AGLC documentation can be completed. Payments may be made immediately or scheduled over the three-year campaign period.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to demonstrate the strength of Lions working together in service to our communities.

Sincerely,

Thomas Varghese
District Governor, District C-1 Lions

Kelly Spencer
Associate Vice-President
Development and Alumni Relations
University of Alberta



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

BRINGING U OF A'S COLLECTIONS TO LIFE: A LIONS LEGACY

The University of Alberta is home to the largest academic museum network in Canada — 30 unique collections and over 10 million items ranging from paleontology and rare books to Asian textiles and fine art.

Because every object holds a story. But only through accessible, community-focused programming can those stories inspire future generations.



Since the University's founding, there has been a dream of a central campus museum. Opening in early 2027, the new 5,000-square-foot Kenneth and Sandra Wong Gallery at TELUS Centre fulfills that dream — creating a free, publicly accessible hub where world-class collections come to life.

Donors built these extraordinary collections. Now, District C-1 Lions clubs can ensure their accessibility and impact for generations.

Amazing treasures are waiting to be discovered

Together, District C-1 Lions clubs can establish a $250,000 endowment and fund, with a $50,000 leadership commitment from the Edmonton Chinese Lions Club (ECLC) already secured, to bring the new gallery to life with community programming for generations. Reaching our goal names the gallery's Educational Community Programming Room in tribute to our collective impact.

Did You Know?

Supporting this gallery directly advances core Lions service values:

Empowering Youth: Sustainable funding for K-12 field trips, early learning, and family events — building curiosity and opening pathways to higher education.

Seniors & Community Access: A safe, accessible hub featuring specialized programming that combats isolation and fosters active social connection for elders.

Cultural Connection: 100% free public admission celebrating global heritage — including the opening exhibition of the world-renowned Mactaggart Art Collection.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Lions Club Legacy Fund - Pledge Form.

1. Club information

Lions Club name	**AGLC identification number (if applicable)**
Mailing address	**City / Province / Postal code**
Primary contact	**Position / Title**
Email	**Telephone**

2. Our club's commitment

In support of the District C-1 Lions' $250,000 campaign goal, our club pledges a total contribution of:

$ _____

Payment schedule:

☐ One-time contribution ◯ Annual payments over two years ◯ Annual payments over three years

◯ Other: _____

Payment	Amount	Anticipated payment date
1	$	
2	$	
3	$	

3. Gift designation

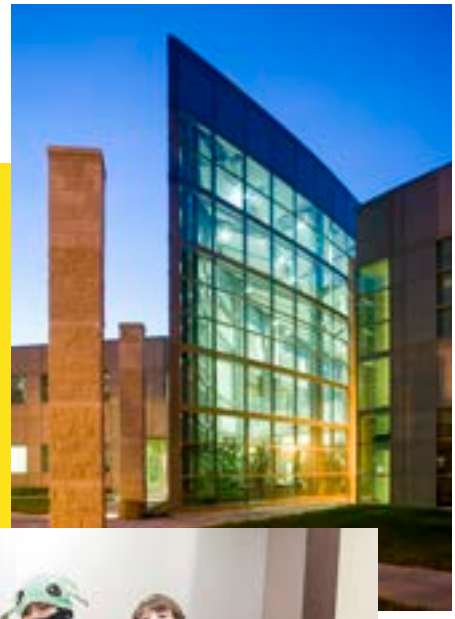
Our contribution will support the creation and growth of the Lions Club Legacy Fund at the University of Alberta, designated to support community programming, initiatives and activities delivered specifically through the Kenneth and Sandra Wong Gallery in the TELUS Centre on North Campus.

All funds received with this form will be endowed, unless indicated otherwise by the donor. Once the endowment is fully funded, any additional funding may be used to support immediate expenditures for the same initiative.

If at any time the stated purpose of the donated funds becomes impractical or undesirable in the opinion of the University, the University may designate the funds for an alternative purpose(s) that, where possible, aligns with the original charitable intent of the donation.

Gallery Opens March 2027

The Gallery is a FREE and publicly accessible space on the university campus where our community can finally connect with these world-class collections.





Uniting District C-1 for a Sustainable Community Legacy

The Power of Collective Action: A Shared Lions Project

The new gallery will be more than a showcase — it will be a living laboratory for learning and discovery. A fully funded endowment is essential to ensure the success of this vision, balancing near-term activation with sustainable support:

- **Immediate Activation ($50,000):** The Edmonton Chinese Lions Club is anchoring the Legacy Fund as the lead partner with a $50,000 commitment to establish the fund and activate immediate programming. This activates dynamic programming, workshops, lectures, and K-12 school visits as soon as the gallery opens in 2027.
- **Perpetual Endowment ($250,000):** Establishes the Lions Club Legacy Fund, generating sustainable earnings (~$7,000/year) for community programming at U of A Museums and the Wong Gallery. Contributions are endowed by default. All funds received through this form will be endowed unless the donor specifies otherwise. Once the $250,000 goal is met, any surplus donations will support immediate programming needs.

The Lions Clubs District C-1 Community Room

In recognition of this district-wide leadership, when our collective goal of $250,000 is pledged, the primary educational programming space inside the Kenneth and Sandra Wong Gallery will be officially named the **Lions Clubs District C-1 Community Room**.

Will Your Club Help Achieve This Vision?

- Discuss the opportunity within your club to determine whether it aligns with your priorities.
- Official naming will take place once written commitments from District C-1 Lions Clubs equal the full $250,000 pledge, and a minimum of 33% of the $250K pledge has been received.
- Members can take pride in seeing their club's name reflected publicly with a plaque in the room acknowledging donations made by individual District C-1 Lions Clubs to the Lions Club Legacy Fund by December 31, 2029.

A Lasting Gift to Our Community

When Lions clubs unite, the impact ripples across generations. By investing in the Lions Club Legacy Fund, your club ensures that local youth, seniors, and families will always have a place to discover, learn, and connect — free of barriers.

Let's build this legacy together. Contact our campaign team today to discuss your club's pledge and help bring this vision to life.

Thomas Varghese,
District Governor, District C-1 Lions

Kelly Spencer,
Associate Vice-President,
Development and Alumni Relations,
University of Alberta

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

4. Source of funds

Will any portion of this contribution be paid from charitable gaming proceeds?

☐ No ◯ Yes ◯ To be confirmed

Clubs using gaming proceeds are required to complete the appropriate AGLC Recipient Agreement and obtain approval if required by AGLC before payment. Any payments of AGLC funding made directly to the university should be accompanied by the appropriate AGLC recipient agreement.

5. Payment method

◯ Cheque payable to: The University of Alberta

☐ Electronic payment or other method: Please contact the university for instructions

6. Donor recognition

Please recognize our club as: _____

7. Donor Signature(s)

Authorized representative — print name	Title
Signature	Date

8. Return this form

Mail	Email / Questions
Offices of Development and Alumni Relations 3-600 Enterprise Square 10230 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 4P6	Eugene Chow, Treasurer Edmonton Chinese Lions Club eqchow@gmail.com 780-940-2588 Derek Michael, Director University Development dmichael@ualberta.ca 780-668-0974

Protection of Privacy - Personal information provided is collected in accordance with Section 4(c) of the Alberta Protection of Privacy Act (POPA) and will be protected in accordance with section 10 and used and disclosed in accordance with sections 12 and 13 of the Act. It will be used and/or disclosed for the purpose of giving. It may also be used for alumni, donor engagement and philanthropic activities. The University of Alberta uses automated systems to generate content and make decisions, recommendations, and predictions and the personal information collected may be included in those systems. Should you require further information about collection, use and disclosure of personal information, please contact: Access and Privacy Liaison, Office of the Vice-President (External Relations), (780) 492-7400, adv.privacy@ualberta.ca. CRA registration number 10810 2831 RR0001.


50
Thank You
MEMPHIS!
BEALE STREET
MEMPHIS
U.S. Space & Rocket Center
USA/Canada
LIONS
LEADERSHIP FORUM
Looking Forward to
HUNTSVILLE!
SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2027
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA


Ivy Green
THE BIRTHPLACE AND CHILDHOOD HOME OF HELEN KELLER
LIONS
INTERNATIONAL
USA/Canada
LIONS
LEADERSHIP FORUM
U.S. Space & Rocket Center
Ivy Green
Birthplace of Helen Keller
Helen Keller
A LIFE THAT OPENED THE WORLD TO MILLIONS
AN INSPIRATION THAT CONTINUES TO LEAD
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 16-18TH, 2027
Welcome to
HUNTSVILLE
THE ROCKET CITY

Exceeding Expectations

A club guide to providing positive membership experiences.

A Lion's membership experience determines their participation in club meetings and activities. It guides decisions to remain a member from year to year or not. Clubs that regularly assess their meetings, activities, and club culture to determine if the club is meeting the current needs of their members and communities are more likely to provide a positive member experience.

This guide has been developed to support the club membership chairperson and/or club officer team. It has been designed to take clubs through an easy assessment process to identify club membership strengths and challenges.

After member surveys are collected and results are reviewed by the survey administrator, LCI resources to support a positive member experience can be applied.

Use the 4-step process below:

Survey Administration

STEP 1

Working as a team (club membership chairpersons together with all club officers) and utilizing the Club Membership Chairperson Transition Worksheet:

1. Vision: List and prioritize your club's objectives/goals
2. Planning: List the club objectives and goals that are the responsibility of the club membership chairperson
3. Success: Review your club's history of new member recruitment, member engagement, and dropped members over the last five years to create positive membership experiences.

Club objectives/goals	Priority (1 is high)	Club Membership Chairperson Responsibility Y = Yes

STEP 2

Share with your club's members your desire as a club membership chairperson to maintain or create a positive member experience.

Distribute the member survey (provided) to club members – electronically or in printed format – explaining how their input will help maintain or improve the current club culture.

- This can be done via email or forms can be collected at a club meeting in a manner that allows the responses to be anonymous.
- Insert a date on the Member Survey Form for all surveys to be completed and returned

STEP 3

Use this form to record club member survey responses:

Topic	*Strongly agree*	*Agree*	*Disagree*	*Strongly disagree*
Club Operations				
Meeting times are convenient				
Meetings are engaging and productive				
Club officers are open to new ideas from members				
Club fees / dues are appropriate and spent effectively				
Service opportunities fit personal interests and passions				
Social / Relationships				
My relationships with club members are positive				
My relationships with club and district leadership are positive and equitable				
I feel a strong sense of belonging in my club				
I socialize with the members of my club outside of scheduled club activities				
Club / Association Culture				
New member invitations are encouraged				
Personal growth and leadership opportunities are encouraged				
My club sparks positivity and creativity				
Overall Opinion of Club				
My club is headed in the right direction				
I plan to remain a member of my club for the foreseeable future				

Notes: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

STEP 4

Use the Exceeding Expectations Resources page to guide you to LCI resources that will help your club work through its challenges in the areas of:

- Club Operations
- Social /Relationships
- Club / Association culture

Based on club goals and objectives, historical information, and results of club member survey:

- What are the top 2 to 3 priorities/objectives that you can influence in your role as club membership chairperson or survey administrator?
  1. _____
  2. _____
  3. _____
- Using the Exceeding Expectations Resource List provided, identify which LCI resources will help educate, activate, and empower club members toward a positive change and member experience? (See list of resources on page 4)
  - _____
  - _____
  - _____

Notes/strategies (optional): _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

STEP 5

At the end of the fiscal year, be prepared to:

- Measure success and celebrate
- Make adjustments to existing operations, objectives and club culture where challenges were identified to ensure continuity and progress toward goals from year to year

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS RESOURCE LIST

Using the categorized list below, select the resource(s) that provide the most appropriate actions for maintaining a positive member experience, or the most helpful solutions to challenges. As a team, discuss the available options and choose the next best step to support the development of a member experience that meets the needs of satisfied, life-long Lions club members!

Recommended Resource	***Description***
Club Operations	
Plan for Your Club's Success	16-page guide to developing a vision for your club
Plan for Your Club's Success PPT	Power Point presentation used to discover club strengths, ways to improve and new opportunities for growth
Your Club Your Way	Customize club meetings to better suit the needs and lifestyles of club members
Membership Satisfaction Guide	Ensuring members are engaged, happy and coming back
Club Quality Initiative	Workbook to take club through a detailed process to help discover new ways to improve the way the club operates in the areas of new members, new service, leadership development, celebrating achievements
Club and Community Needs Assessment	Resource to help apply club strengths and motivation to the needs and opportunities within the community
New Members – Welcome!	An assortment of resources to orient new (or existing) members to the features and benefits of club membership
New Member Orientation Training Guide	The information provided builds a foundation for new members and refreshes existing members – helping to understand club functions, roles, and the big picture of districts and the association
Mentoring *(Lions Learning Center course)*	Course provides tips on stimulating creativity and creating an environment that supports innovation in the club.
Social/Relationships	
New Members – Welcome!	An assortment of resources to orient new (or existing) members to the features and benefits of club membership
New Member Orientation Training Guide	The information provided builds a foundation for new members and refreshes existing members – helping to understand club functions, roles, and the big picture of districts and the association
Team Motivation *(Lions Learning Center course)*	Understanding what motivates your team. Presents three modules to provide strategies for motivating and leading.
Succession Planning *(Lions Learning Center course)*	A course to help ensure long-term vitality of Lions clubs through new leader identification and preparation.
Working Together *(Lions Learning Center course)*	Introduces learners to Lions International's anti-harassment policy – providing insight into how to comply with the policy, recognize actions that violate the policy and report infractions to the policy.
Conflict Resolution *(Lions Learning Center course)*	Examines the causes of conflict and explores strategies to support conflict resolution
Club/Association Culture	
Club and Community Needs Assessment	Resource to help apply club strengths and motivation to the needs and opportunities within the community
Service Launchpad	Interactive tool to connect you with ready-to-go planning resources that help you serve the causes you care about
Managing Change *(Lions Learning Center course)*	Understanding the process of change, identifying the stages of change adoption, examining resistance to change, and planning for implementing change.

Exceeding Expectations

A club guide to providing positive membership experiences.

Member Survey Form

Your club has decided to conduct a member experience assessment to identify strengths and challenges through a short member survey. Responses to this survey will be used by your club's leaders to create or maintain a club culture that meets or exceeds the expectations of its members.

Please complete the short survey below and return to your club membership chairperson or survey administrator by the due date noted below. Comments are optional. Your responses will be anonymous unless you choose to put your name at the bottom.

Return to club membership chairperson / survey administrator by: _____

Topic	*Strongly agree*	*Agree*	*Disagree*	*Strongly disagree*
Club Operations				
Meeting times are convenient				
Comments (optional):				
Meetings are engaging and productive				
Comments:				
Club officers are open to new ideas from members				
Comments:				
Club fees / dues are appropriate and spent effectively				
Comments:				
Service opportunities fit personal interests and passions				
Comments:				

Topic	*Strongly agree*	*Agree*	*Disagree*	*Strongly disagree*
Social / Relationships				
My relationships with club members are positive				
Comments (optional):				

My relationships with club and district leadership are positive and equitable				
Comments:				
I feel a strong sense of belonging in my club				
Comments:				
I socialize with the members of my club outside of scheduled club activities				
Comments:				

Topic	***Strongly agree***	***Agree***	***Disagree***	***Strongly disagree***
Club / Association Culture				
New member invitations are encouraged				
Comments:				
Personal growth and leadership opportunities are encouraged				
Comments:				
My club sparks positivity and creativity				
Comments:				

Topic	***Strongly agree***	***Agree***	***Disagree***	***Strongly disagree***
Overall Opinion of Club				
My club is headed in the right direction				
Comments:				
I plan to remain a member of my club for the foreseeable future				
Comments:				

Your name (optional): _____

Thank you for your input. Please return this form to the survey administrator by the due date shown above.