

C2 LIONS NEWS



C2 District Governor Leslie Cunningham was on duty at the recent MDC convention in Grande Prairie, shown here with C1 District Governor Ted Mikkelson and Past Council Chair Frances Sawiak, above. At right, DG Leslie gave out awards during a visit to the Cremona Lions Club, assisted by Lion Bill Leask.

A good year progresses

Leslie Cunningham C2 District Governor

Well, here we are, three-quarters of the way through the Lionistic year, but more importantly we have one quarter left to work toward our goals.

With spring here, (I hope), and a time of renewal with Easter and crocuses coming up, we can be proud that we have achieved more new members than any other district in Constitutional Area two. Through club visitations I am so energized and revitalized as I see so many Lions serving in so many ways and adding new members to their clubs. I will soon be welcoming two new Leo Clubs – one Alpha and one Omega to our wonderful organization.



I continue to take my district governor message to clubs: support for mental health and addiction and my charity of choice, Canadian Mental Health (Alberta). At such times I have been giving out and training Lions on naloxone kits that save lives, and one Lion has done just that. This has opened heartfelt discussions and Lions have shared their personal, family, or other issues with addictions. They are so open and happy to have a tool to help drug overdoses if needed. *(Continued)*

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Many have asked for extras for their halls and other facilities, to be kept alongside the first aid kit and defibrillator. I have learned and have been moved by the sharing that has occurred.

I attended the Wellness Fair and Workshop put on by Mosaic Health Clinic and Calgary Filipino Lions Club. They had hands-on screenings, displays, and presentations by professionals. I explained the Narcan kits as an adjunct of the mental health presentation.

This fair was held at no cost to the community and was open to all Lions and community members, especially seniors. I attended a Psychological First Aid course put on by FCSS.

I am so grateful to see clubs applying and being accepted for LCIF grants, Quest grants and government grants. Thank you to our vision chair for arranging a visit to the University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine.

I have attended the MDC Convention, council meetings, and finance meetings. I am looking forward to the Calgary Filipino Charter Night as their speaker, as well as Calgary Connects Charter night as their speaker, and installing officers and inducting new members.

I will be attending a special evening with the Korean Lions Club and visiting the remainder of the clubs on my list.

As well, I attended the memorial for Past International President Brian Stevenson as a member of the honour guard. I said farewell to Judge Brian, who was a dear friend. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to meet such an incredible man.

Our last cabinet meeting will include a thank you to all cabinet members with lunch and awards, and plan for a fun time. I would welcome any ideas about what you would like to see at this event.

Thank you to all of you for your service, hospitality, and assistance. You overwhelm me.

By Lion Daryl Reinke
AB/NT Director

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides
I regret to report that there is still no definite positive news regarding our attempts to secure funding to complete our new dog guide training facility.

Several funding possibilities are being explored and progress is being made. Right now it's a day-to-day anticipatory wait.

Thank you to all the clubs that supported the Bowness Dog Guides fundraiser. We made about \$10,000.

Now we look forward to all the Pet Valu Dog Walks at the end of May. Two delegates from LFC Dog Guides, including



our CEO Bev Crandall, plan to be in District C2 to attend walks in Lethbridge and Calgary and to meet with prospective corporate donors.

Plans are also being made to hold a dinner at that time to give clubs an opportunity to meet these delegates and ask questions. Information will be distributed as it becomes available.

Hello April!

from DG-Elect Danielle Hamelin

April showers bring May flowers – and they also bring **club election season!** As we look ahead to a new Lions year, it's the perfect time to celebrate growth, renewal, and the leaders who will help guide our clubs forward.



April 22, 2026

Earth Day

The environment is our home. The earth sustains human life – and we are committed to caring for it. Make a commitment to care for our environment all year long!

Just Ask!

Lions have always welcomed anyone with a heart to serve, and that shines even brighter when we involve young people. Their fresh ideas, energy, and passion help keep our organization strong and growing. Contact GMT Kevin Gibbons lionkev@telus.net for more info on the **Just Ask New Member Recruiting** program.

Don't forget to donate to LCIF before June 30th!

Want to help plan the C2 Fall Convention? Ask me how you can get involved!



ZONE CHAIRS & GLOBAL CAUSES CHAIRS

We are still building the team for the 2026-27 C2 District cabinet.

Looking for energetic people with exciting new ideas!

Interested? Contact any of the DG team: Gerry Gaede

ggaede@shaw.ca, Bill Stecewicz lionbills@gmail.com or me

liondanielle1@outlook.com

My mission?

To foster unity through purpose, empathy, and collaboration.

May 28

World Hunger Day

Our [Hunger webpage](#) can help with LCIF grant opportunities

"Service Through Unity"

BIG HEARTS. BIG IMPACT. BIG THANKS!

Danielle 

It's time to record your 2025-26 Lions Club officers

Holly Bandelow

District C2 GST Coordinator

As we prepare for the upcoming Lions year, it is important that all clubs take the necessary steps to ensure a smooth transition of leadership. Entering your new club officers in a timely manner allows them to access essential tools, training, and resources needed to lead successfully from day one.

★ **IMPORTANT:** All club officers must be entered into the Lion Portal by May 15. ★

This early reporting deadline ensures your incoming officers are fully prepared and supported before their term officially begins on July 1.

Clubs that delay reporting risk disruptions in access and communication.

🔴 **Avoid system lockouts!** Clubs not updated by June 30 may lose access and require support from the District Administrator to restore it.

Key Dates to Remember:

- April: Hold elections and begin entering new officers
- May 15: Recommended and strongly encouraged deadline
- June 1: Final deadline to avoid transition issues
- July 1: terms officially begin



Reporting Club Officers

Club Officers **MUST** be reported by **15th of May** to ensure details are correct for the Lions Directory and for International transition into the new Lions year.

From LCI Main page (www.lionsclubs.org) click on **LION PORTAL**

Select **MY CLUB**

Select **OFFICERS**

Click on **MANAGE OFFICERS**

A pop-up box will appear. Click on **CREATE NEW ASSIGNMENT** then **NEXT**

A pop-up box will ask "When should this assignment begin?" select **THE UPCOMING YEAR**

A pop-up will ask "What is the Officer and Title type for this title?" Click on the small arrows and choose either **OFFICER** or **ADMINISTRATOR**, do the same for the next item **OFFICIAL** or **LOCAL** and click on **NEXT**

Officer options are Officer or Administrator
All appointments are Officer, you only use Administrator if you have a member strictly assigned to update portal details for your club.

Title Type is Official or Local
Official titles are President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Marketing, LCIF, Service, Club Director.
Local titles are positions like Bulletin Editor, Social, Health & Safety.

A list of your Club members will be shown, at the top you select the **OFFICER TITLE**. Then select the **CLUB MEMBER** to fill this position, click **NEXT**

Always select **YES** for adding officer address and check to see details are correct and update if required.

You will follow the same procedure for each of your elected officers

To ensure a seamless process:

- Enter all officers through the Lion Portal (MyLCI or Club Central)
- Confirm each officer has a unique email address in the system
- Complete entries early to allow time for corrections if needed

Submitting your officer information on time sets your club up for a strong and successful year ahead. Let's continue to lead with excellence and service across District C2.



LIONS INTERNATIONAL CLUB OFFICER REPORTING

2026–2027 LIONS YEAR



IMPORTANT DEADLINE

New club officers should be entered into the Lion Portal by:

MAY 15, 2026

Reporting early ensures they receive necessary materials and have access to the system for training and planning.

For the 2026–2027 Lions International year, new club officers should be entered into the Lion Portal (formerly MyLCi) by **May 15, 2026**. While the new fiscal year does not begin until **July 1**, reporting them by this earlier date ensures they receive necessary materials and have access to the system for training and planning.

KEY DATES FOR OFFICER ENTRY

 APRIL Hold elections & begin entering new officers.	 MAY 15, 2026 RECOMMENDED DEADLINE for materials & system access.	 JUNE 1, 2026 FINAL DEADLINE to avoid system transition issues.	 JULY 1, 2026 <i>New officer terms officially begin!</i>
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IMPORTANT NOTES

 EARLY ACCESS = STRONG START Add officers early so they're ready on Day 1.	 AVOID LOCKOUTS Clubs not updated by June 30 may lose access and need International assistance.	 UNIQUE EMAILS REQUIRED Each officer must have their own email address reported in the system.	 HOW TO REPORT Use the Lion Portal (MyLCi / Club Central) to update your incoming officers.
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★

SET YOUR CLUB UP FOR SUCCESS!

PLAN EARLY • REPORT ON TIME • LEAD STRONG

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Some words to consider:

"I believe in 'we serve', not 'self-serve'." — Brian Stevenson

"Put your heart and soul into everything you do." — Nick Celis

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." — Mahatma Gandhi

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." — Mahatma Gandhi

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." — Winston Churchill

"We judge ourselves by our intentions. Others judge us by our actions." — Bill Martin



*Cowboy Trail Lions Club
presents*

GATSBY MASQUERADE INTERCLUB PARTY

*Join us for another roaring night as we
celebrate our second annual Interclub Party.
Enjoy the 1920's prohibition-themed event
with a masquerade twist.*

MAY 30TH 2026 5:30PM

**123 SUNSET BLVD.
TURNER VALLEY, AB
TICKETS \$40.00
(TICKETS INCLUDE DINNER)
CASH BAR**

**BEST COSTUME PRIZE
GAMES, PRIZES
AND SURPRISES
CHARITY 50/ 50
BUCKET RAFFLE**

COSTUMES NOT MANDATORY BUT HIGHLY ENCOURAGED

**E-TRANSFER COWBOYTRAILTREASURER@GMAIL.COM
BY APRIL 30TH TO RSVP**

Lions Clubs Use of AGLC Proceeds

Dr. Patti Hill

Past International President

Across our multiple district, Lions Clubs often engage in fundraising activities such as raffles, bingos, and casinos. All this activity in Alberta is governed by Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC), while clubs in British Columbia or Northwest Territories are governed by their local provincial or territorial regulations.

However, there is continued misunderstanding about the policies that govern the use of funds raised by casinos, bingos or raffles.

Lions Clubs International policy: The official policy of LCI is that all funds raised from the public must be used to benefit the public. The logic of the LCI policy is clear. If the public hears that funds raised by Lions are being spent to benefit the Lions, then our reputation as a charitable group suffers. The eighth purpose of our Lions International Purposes is binding on all Lions:

"To encourage service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavours."

AGLC POLICY: The policy of AGLC is that a percentage of some funds raised by casinos (or other fundraising charitable projects) may be used to defray the costs of the fundraising effort (buying bingo cards, printing raffle tickets, etc.)

The AGLC policy is designed to cover the actual costs of staging the fundraising. AGLC funds **may not** be used by Lions to pay dues, attend conferences or conventions (local or International). Our MDC Council has taken extensive efforts to review this with AGLC, and we confirm that member dues are not eligible for payment or subsidy from any AGLC funds.

Council is anxious that all clubs be aware of and adhere to the policy of LCI, and the guidelines of AGLC. We would be very hampered in meeting service needs in our communities should we lose our status with AGLC.

Guidance offered on charitable gaming policy, program

The Gaming Information for Charitable Groups (GAIN) team wants to share the latest updates and learning opportunities.

Whether you're learning the basics, refreshing your knowledge or preparing volunteers for upcoming events, GAIN offers training to empower your group with the information and tools needed when conducting charitable gaming events.

We are excited to highlight our upcoming Small Raffle Webinar designed to help your group feel confident and well prepared when running raffle events.

Join us on Monday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. for this live one-hour session where our program specialists will walk you through key information, required policy and common questions related to small raffles in Alberta.

This webinar includes a dedicated Q&A at the end, giving you the chance to clarify information and ask any questions. To register, visit our [learning site](#). We hope you will join us for this valuable learning opportunity.



International Pledge

The following pledge is recommended for Lions use during new member induction ceremonies:

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 Lions Code of Ethics and will embody these principles by serving my community and supporting our global foundation.

I am proud to be a Lion, dedicated to the service of others.

-Board Policy Manual, Chapter XIII International Relations, Paragraph D

Apply Today!



**ZONE CHAIRS WANTED:
THE LEGEND, THE MYTH, THE
MASTER OF ALL THINGS LION!**

To become a **Zone Chair**, you must be a Lion in good standing, have served as a club president, and be appointed by the District Governor. You also need the willingness to visit clubs, run zone meetings, and support district goals.
You have a seat on District Cabinet too!

Step up, shine bright, and embrace your destiny as the Zone Chair the district never knew it desperately needed.

email: Liondanielle1@outlook.com

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Sales Reps Wanted

CALGARY FILIPINO LIONS CLUB
*Invites you to a delightful Filipiniana evening full of
Entertainment and Filipino hospitality*




41ST CHARTER Anniversary

5:00 PM, Sunday, June 14, 2026
Sheraton Cavalier Hotel
2620, 32 Ave. N.E. Calgary, AB

75 Dollars

RSVP: Lion Norisa Elumir
403-923-7746



**Lions CLERC
FREE BARBECUE!**

1 PM, June 13, 2026
303 5 Street SW
Black Diamond,
Diamond Valley
Bob Lochhead Lions Memorial Park



**Bring
Lawn Chairs!**

RSVP how many people are
coming to Info@clerc.ca

Don't Forget to Report Your Service Impact!

Holly Bandelow

District C2 GST Coordinator

As we move through the current Lions year, we want to remind all clubs of the importance of reporting your activities in the Lion Portal. Every service project, meeting, and donation tells the story of the incredible impact Lions are making across District C2 and beyond.

Reporting Period:

July 1, 2025 to Current

It is essential that all clubs keep their records up to date by entering:

- Service projects
- Club meetings
- Fundraisers and donations
- Volunteer hours

Accurate and timely reporting ensures:

- ✓ Your club receives proper recognition for its work
- ✓ District and Multiple District leaders can showcase our collective impact
- ✓ Lions Clubs International has accurate data to support global initiatives
- ✓ Your club stays in good standing and informed

Where to Report:

All activities should be entered through the **Lion Portal (MyLCI / Club Central)**

Even if you are catching up, it's never too late to enter your data and ensure your club's efforts are reflected.

Need help with service projects or reporting?

Please reach out to lionhollyb@gmail.com — happy to support you!

Let's work together to show the strength and service of District C2. Every project matters. Every hour counts. Every Lion makes a difference.  

Record it. Report it. Celebrate it.

MADDEN LIONS CLUB

Madden Lions had their annual Valentines dinner on Feb. 11 at the Madden Hall. Lions spouses and donation recipients were treated to a great dinner catered by Red Seal catering.

Lions gave out \$14,000 in donations to the following charities and organizations: Stars Air Ambulance, Lions Youth Camp, Ronald McDonald House, Make a Wish Foundation, Madden Fire Department, Crossfield Play School, Westbrook Play School.

On Feb. 25 the Lions welcomed District Governor Leslie Cunningham to our meeting. A cheque for \$500 was presented to her for Southern Alberta Mental Health. Lion Bill Stecewicz from Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre was handed a cheque as well for the eyeglass program.



Save the Date!

C2 CONVENTION
October 23, 24 2026

Special Guest
International Director
Liz Crooke





Cochrane Lions Club
EVENTS CENTRE

A Lions' Pride - Lions Eye Bank (Alberta)

Ronald Sinkinson

District C2 Vision Chair

The Lions Eye Bank of Alberta (LEBA) is one of the eye banks created by members of Lions Clubs International. It is a regional centre for donated tissue operated by Alberta Health Services and is housed within the Rockyview General Hospital in Calgary. Its purpose is to restore sight through corneal transplants and support research into eye diseases like glaucoma and retinal disease.

Apparently, it was formed in 1998. At that time Lions Eye Bank Society and the Calgary Regional Health Authority (CRHA) signed a letter of agreement where the CRHA provided funding for transplantable tissue to ensure the bank's financial stability.

Eye banks provide for the recovery, evaluation, processing, storage, and distribution of ocular tissue for transplantation, research, and education. For those with damaged or diseased corneas, the eye banks provide donor corneas that can be transplanted. The sclera, the white outer layer of the eye, can also be used for scleral grafts for reconstruction and covering. Tissue can also be used for research into eye and neurological diseases.

In 2003 the CRHA was renamed the Calgary Health Authority and in 2008 that was integrated into Alberta Health Services. Since the LEBA had become part of the Alberta organ and tissue program, its charity status with Canada Revenue Agency was revoked in 2013.

In late 2025, responsibility for organ and tissue donation (including eye banking) began transitioning from AHS to a new provincial entity, Give Life Alberta, under the oversight of Acute Care Alberta. The Eye Bank Association of America accredited the eye bank under the name the Lions Eye Bank (Alberta) through fall of 2025. However, it renewed the accreditation for 2026 under the name Give Life Alberta.

The fact that the Alberta government absorbed LEBA into its organ and transplant program demonstrates how important this Lions initiative was. Although the name, Lions Eye Bank (Alberta), is no longer used, we Lions can remember and can take a Lions' Pride in founding this service.



A LION LOST

Russell Thomas McNeil

June 30, 1937 – March 28, 2026

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Russell Thomas McNeil, 88, of Calgary, on March 28 at the Foothills Hospital.

Russ was born in Glace Bay on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. He carried his East Coast roots with pride, along with a sense of community, kindness, and generosity.

Russ was predeceased by his beloved wife, Gillian McNeil, in 2022. He dedicated many years of service to the Calgary Heritage Lions Club, where he formed lasting friendships. Russ will be deeply missed. His warmth, humour, and steady presence will live on in the hearts of his family and friends forever.

A private family celebration of life will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a local animal shelter in Russ's memory.