

C2 LIONS NEWS



Lions gather in Hong Kong for international convention

The 108th Lions International Convention in Hong Kong brought together thousands of Lions from around the world for a week of learning, celebration, and global fellowship. Delegates enjoyed inspiring keynote sessions, leadership development workshops, cultural experiences, and meaningful service activities throughout the city.

Lions participated in community outreach projects supporting seniors and local families,

and an impressive **4,000-Lion Tai Chi performance** set a new SDG world record—showcasing unity, wellness, and international collaboration.

Hong Kong, hosting the convention for the third time, offered a vibrant backdrop for Lions to connect, share ideas, and strengthen our global commitment to service. The convention energized members worldwide and set a powerful tone for the new Lionistic year ahead.



At left, outgoing international president A.P. Singh of Kolkata, India, passes the leadership to Mark S. Lyon of Brookfield, Connecticut, during the 108th International Lions convention in Hong Kong July 3-7. Lyon has embraced the theme “Rooted in Service.”

See the following pages for more information from the convention provided by C2 District Governor Danielle Hamelin.



Photos from Hong Kong, clockwise from top left: It was all hands on deck for a service project. Leos were a major part of the convention. C2 DG Danielle Hamelin poses with C1 DG Thomas Varghese and C1 Guiding Lion Angela Varghese. Service and selfies were part of the fun. Beautifully costumed and skilled dancers provided entertainment during one convention event. The flag ceremony is always an important and visually stunning part of the convention and Canada was shown to advantage.

Message from District Governor Danielle Hamelin



Welcome to the start of a brand-new Lionistic year! There's something special about this moment — fresh energy, renewed purpose, and the excitement of new ideas taking shape across District C-2.

I am honoured to begin this journey with you as your District Governor, and I am inspired by the passion and dedication I see in our clubs, our leaders, and our members.

This year, our shared mission is clear: **to foster unity through purpose, empathy, and collaboration.**

Service Through Unity is more than a theme—it's a movement. It means shared purpose, shared values, and shared commitment. When we come together with intention and compassion, we strengthen our clubs, uplift our communities, and amplify the impact of every act of service. We change lives through our service and we can expand our service by connecting with other community partners who share our passion and support our service.

District C-2 is filled with Lions who care deeply, serve boldly, and lead with heart.

As we step into this new year, I invite each of you to bring your ideas, your energy, and your voice forward. Let's build together, support one another, and create a year defined by connection, growth, and meaningful service. Here's to a year of unity, momentum, and Lions spirit — **New Year, New Energy, New Ideas.** I can't wait to see what we



The District Governor's pin is designed for the following: The red maple leaf represents Canada's national identity and unity.

The Alberta shield highlights our province and pride for our local heritage and values. It's a rallying symbol for Lions in District C2, celebrating service, leadership, and regional pride.

Shared Purpose, Shared Values, and Shared Commitment



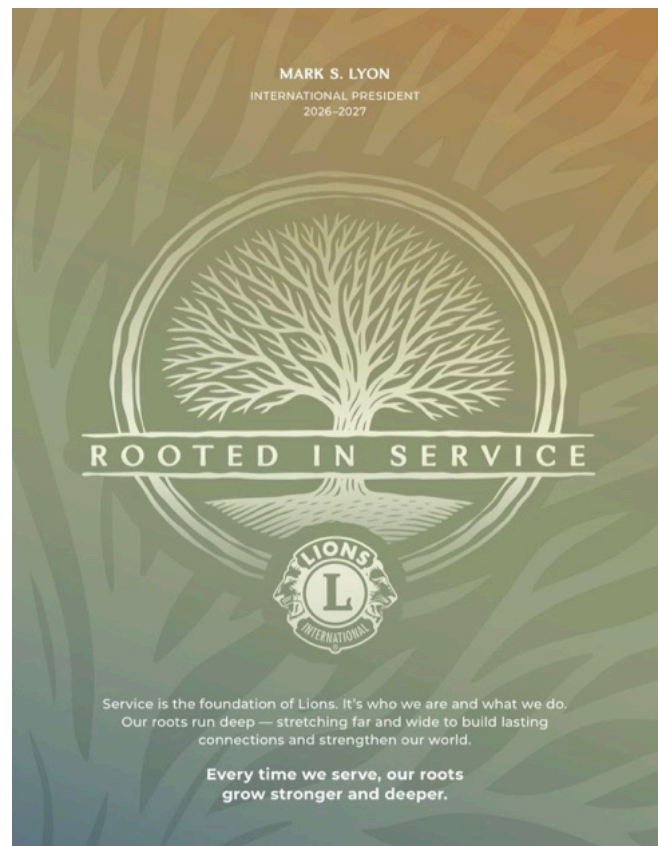
Lions Family & Friends: Join us for Labour Day Game: Stamps vs Elks

Mark your calendars for Monday, Sept. 7, and join your fellow Lions for an afternoon of football, fellowship, and fun at the Labour Day game in Calgary! Kickoff is at 4 p.m.

As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen our membership and encourage fellowship, we have reserved a block of tickets exclusively for Lions members, along with their family and friends. This is a great opportunity to get together outside of our regular meetings, meet fellow members, and enjoy a fun afternoon together. Tickets are \$56.69 per person, including all taxes and fees.

The ticket purchase link is included below. We encourage you to reserve your seats as soon as you're able so we can enjoy the game together as a group. <https://stampederers.spinzo.com/?group=didsbury-lions-club-gc5j> Whether you've been a Lion for years or have recently joined, we'd love to see you there. Feel free to bring your family and friends as we cheer a team, strengthen friendships, and enjoy a great afternoon together.

We Serve ... and sometimes we have fun too!



Southern Alberta Lions join Bringing Hearts Home campaign

Multiple Lions clubs in southern Alberta are combining their fundraising efforts toward improving cardiac care options across the south.

The plan is to apply for an LCIF matching grant, which, if successful, will be used to buy equipment at Lethbridge Regional Hospital and Medicine Hat Regional Hospital.

At least \$21,500 has already been pledged by various clubs and a committee has been struck to help manage additional efforts. That amount already exceeds the minimum required to apply for a matching grant from LCIF.

The Bringing Hearts Home campaign has achieved its initial fundraising goal of \$30

million and more funds continue to be welcome. Additional money will enhance the care options and demonstrate to the provincial government the depth of support for improved cardiac care.

It is estimated that additional cardiac care options in southern Alberta will save at least 1,300 trips annually to Calgary, made by individuals who need care, often urgently. Most of those people require multiple trips; often by ground ambulance, air transport or STARS.

Cardiac care closer to home will save lives. It will also ease the burden on Calgary facilities, improving life-saving care for all Albertans.

Lethbridge West Lions have set up a separate account to handle this initiative. Tax receipts will also be available for individual donations once any donated funds are transferred to the Lethbridge Regional Hospital Foundation.

Donations can be made payable to Lethbridge West Lions and must include donor name, address and an email address. Please join our Lions in supporting this initiative.

Join Us!

LETHBRIDGE WEST
40th CHARTER ANNIVERSARY

LETHBRIDGE HOST
95th CHARTER ANNIVERSARY

A BBQ

A Relaxed Afternoon of Fellowship, Fun & Celebration!

TICKETS \$40.00 PER PERSON

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

ROTARY PICNIC AREA
GRIFFIN ROAD NORTH,
LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA

DELICIOUS BBQ LUNCH
HAMBURGERS & CORN ON THE COB

FELLOWSHIP & GOOD COMPANY

CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY

HONOURING SERVICE & COMMUNITY

Everyone Welcome!

TOGETHER WE SERVE
40 YEARS • 95 YEARS • AND BEYOND



Special Olympics Canada
Summer Games
Medicine Hat 2026
Jeux d'été d'Olympiques
spéciaux Canada



Special Olympics Lion Clubs Foundation Opening Eyes

Located at the Medicine Hat College
Thursday, Aug 10 - Saturday, Aug 15, 2026

Program Overview: Healthy Athletes provides free health screenings and education for Special Olympics athletes in a welcoming, fun, and inclusive environment as they compete in the **Special Olympics Canada 2026 Medicine Hat National Summer Games**.

Types of Volunteers Need: Optometrists, Ophthalmologists, Optometry students & Optical Assistants, Opticians and Optical Dispensers, Lion's Club Members

Why Volunteer: The Lions Clubs International Foundation Opening Eyes® program provides non-dilated vision screenings, refractions, and prescription eyewear for Special Olympics athletes. Clinical volunteers support screenings by guiding athletes through vision assessments, assisting with equipment and positioning, maintaining a welcoming and organized screening area, explaining results, distributing eyewear when available, and supporting referrals for follow-up eye care. *Thanks to generous support from Safilo (frames) and OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation (lenses), athletes receive appropriate eyewear at the end of the screening.*

Watch [video](#) to learn more!

Volunteers are needed for the following shifts:

Thurs Aug 13, 2026	Fri Aug 14, 2026	Sat Aug 15, 2026
8am-12pm	8am-12pm	8am-1pm
4pm-9pm	4pm-9pm	

All volunteers would be required to take two online trainings:

1) SO Learn 2) SafeSport (~2-3 hours total)

[EXPRESS INTEREST TO VOLUNTEER: CLICK HERE](#)

Special Olympics
Lions Clubs International
Foundation
Opening Eyes®

For More Information: Visit: [socmedhat2026](https://socmedhat2026.ca)
Contact: 403-504-9876 | brian.stauth@socmedhat2026.ca



Special Olympics
Health
MADE POSSIBLE BY
FOUNDATION
Golisano

District C-2 ALERT Trailer & Team: Building Readiness, Strengthening Service



District C-2 is taking an exciting step forward in emergency preparedness. The C2 Alberta Lions Emergency Response Team project will be led by a team of dedicated Lions members from across our District, that provides support to Lions Clubs in the following ways:

- A) Disaster Preparedness: Supports Lions Clubs in partnering with local authorities and community organizations to plan and prepare for future relief efforts following any disaster.
- B) Disaster Emergency Response: Lions-led service activities that support immediate and short-term relief efforts for victims of any disaster or emergency situation. Service activities primarily involve the provision,

preparation, and serving of food as requested by local Lions Clubs.



Ready to Serve in Times of Need?

Join the new District C-2 Disaster Relief Team and help us respond quickly and compassionately when emergencies arise.

Volunteers needed: Your skills matter. We are looking for volunteers who may have previous experience in emergency response and/or health and safety. A committee chair will also be appointed.

MUST HAVES: a heart for hands-on service, a steady presence under pressure, and a desire to help strengthen our district's capacity to respond, we invite you to consider joining this new team.

Contact James Lee @
jamio@telus.net or
Bill Stecewicz @
lionbills1@gmail.com

Together, we can ensure District C-2 is prepared, equipped, and ready to serve when our communities need us most.

TRAINING OPTIONS FOR LIONS

Most training sessions will be done online this year. We ran a few already in June, which were well received. The plan is to do the following training: President, Secretary, Treasurer, new member orientation, LCIF, and the Lion Portal. If any of these interest you, please contact me via email. I will put you on the list to provide dates and the zoom links. Everyone is welcome to take the training.

Michelle Harris

403-892-3560 and michharris55@gmail.com



Looking for a



District Environment Chairperson



Our district is looking for a dedicated Lion or Leo to serve as Environment Chairperson. This role helps support environmental awareness, local service opportunities, and meaningful action in our communities.



If you are passionate about protecting the environment and inspiring others to serve, we encourage you to consider this opportunity.



Interested?

Contact DG Danielle
liondanielle1@outlook.com
to learn more.



We Serve.
We Care.
We Make a Difference.

LCIF Gala roaring success, raises estimated \$10,000

On behalf of the 2026 Multiple District C LCIF Gala Organizing Committee, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the 2026 Multiple District C LCIF Gala, held in Spruce View, Alta., such a tremendous success.

Approximately 80 Lions from across Multiple District C attended the evening, providing an outstanding opportunity for fellowship, entertainment, and, most importantly, support of the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). The evening reflected the generosity and spirit of Lions while highlighting the importance of supporting the life-changing humanitarian work of LCIF.

The evening featured an inspiring talk by our guest speaker, **Lion Aida Mustapic**, who delivered an outstanding presentation on the importance of environmental stewardship. Lion Aida spoke passionately about the catastrophic loss of trees resulting from wildfires and disease and reminded us that, as Lions, we have both the opportunity and the responsibility to help restore our environment by planting trees.

We also had a heartfelt talk from PIP Dr. Patti Hill, reflecting on the generosity and spirit of Lions while highlighting the importance of supporting the life-changing humanitarian work of the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

One of the gala's greatest accomplishments was financial support generated for the Foundation. Through the generosity of clubs in the surrounding area, together with individual contributions and fundraising activities throughout the evening, approximately **\$10,000** was raised in support of LCIF.

As of the date of this report, **\$7,900** has been forwarded to Lions Clubs International Foundation on behalf of the Lions and guests who supported the gala. The remaining funds were sent directly to LCIF by individual clubs supporting both the gala and the Foundation. The Spruce View Lions Club, which operated the bar, will forward proceeds from the bar to LCIF.

Guests enjoyed an excellent meal prepared and served by the Spruce View Lions Club. Their exceptional hospitality, attention to detail, and outstanding organization contributed greatly to the success of the evening.

I would like to remind all Lions who supported the gala financially that donations made through the silent auction, live auction, individual contributions, and other qualifying donations are credited to each donating Lion's LCIF giving record. These contributions will appear on each donor's LCIF statement and will count toward future recognition.

Special thanks are extended to the Sylvan Lake Lions Club for their assistance with the financial management of the event. Their members efficiently handled ticket sales, cash receipts, and credit card transactions using their Square payment system, ensuring the evening's financial operations ran smoothly.

My sincere appreciation to every member of the organizing committee for many hours of effort. A special thank you to Lion Lyle and Lion Ted for their leadership and support throughout the planning and execution of the gala.

Lion Brent Johnson
Acting LCIF Chair
Multiple District C
LCIF Constitutional Area II Co-Leader



Mission 1.5 Summit: The Race Is On

From June 5–7, Lions leaders from across Canada gathered in Toronto for the Mission 1.5 Summit. District C2 was represented by incoming DG Danielle Hamelin and incoming GET Coordinator Bradley Pay.

District C1 attendees included incoming DG Thomas Varghese, PCC Lynne Coulter, and Lion Walter Calahasian. The MD included GET Glen Barry, and incoming GMT Coordinator Brian Wong. PCC Betty Ann Robson served as a facilitator.

The summit offered the opportunity to strengthen collaboration between Districts C1 and C2. Our team reviewed and refined the C2 district plans for strengthening membership and expansion of new clubs.

Mission 1.5 is about more than growing membership. It's about expanding our capacity to serve. International President Mark Lyon encouraged Lions to bring their best commitment and leadership, reminding us



that remarkable things happen when Lions give their best. Past International President Dr. Patti Hill emphasized that we are in the final phase of Mission 1.5, declaring, "The race is on," and urging leaders to maintain momentum. She described this moment as a "pristine landscape" where the choices we make now will shape the future of Lionism.

A key message: recruiting new members is only the beginning. New Lions need meaningful opportunities to serve, connect, and contribute so they can become engaged, long-term members of our teams.

As we enter the final year of Mission 1.5, I encourage every Lion and every club in District C2 to invite at least one new person to experience Lionism. Every new member brings fresh energy, new ideas, and opportunities to serve. Let's rise to the challenge, C2! SERVICE THROUGH UNITY.



CALGARY HERITAGE LIONS

On July 15, members of the Calgary Heritage Lions Club provided a team to assemble a modified electric car for a handicapped child with other groups at the South Glenmore Park in Calgary. The Calgary Heritage Lions sponsored this car through a program called GoBabyGo by Variety Alberta children's charity.

This car was prepared for Sierra, an 8-year-old girl who was born with Malignant Migrating Partial Epilepsy and Cerebral Palsy. She is unable to walk, is non-verbal, and is fed via a gastrostomy tube. Nonetheless, she loves being in the sunshine and having mobility in her car.

The car is a typical electric kids' car modified for Sierra with a supportive seat and a hand-operated button in place of a foot switch. The car gives Sierra a degree of independence that she would otherwise lack. It has a remote control that allows the parents to assume control.

The car was presented to her loving parents, Emily and Blayne, and the Lions were pleased to provide the service and to see their delight in receiving the car for their child.

The Calgary Heritage Lions also salute the Calgary North Hill Lions who were at the event to build a car for another handicapped child.



Lions assemble the modified electric car through the GoBabyGo program.



Didsbury Lions ATV/Cash Raffle

Draw date Nov 7, 2026



Ticket Prices

6 for \$100

1 for \$20

5399 tickets available

Licence # AGLC-749821

Open to residents of Alberta 18 years of age or older



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR AUGUST

Hello Lions. The deadline for the next C2 newsletter is August 15.

Please send your news items and photos to
barbj.glen@gmail.com.

Have a great summer,
Lions.



Lions Clubs join forces to meet community needs in Medicine Hat

The Medicine Hat Health Foundation gives thanks to the Medicine Hat Lions Club, the Community View Lions Club, the Redcliff Lions Club, the Irvine & District Lions Club, and the Lions Clubs International Foundation for their generous gift of \$134,415.27!



The donation from the Lions Clubs is comprised of two parts: A substantial donation provided collectively by all four local Lions Clubs, and an additional donation from the Lions Clubs International Foundation matching the collective donation.

This gift will support the purchase of 16 electric beds in 5 North, our hospital's inpatient psychiatric unit. This will be an innovation for the unit, replacing 30-year-old beds now in use. Two cataract stretchers will also be purchased for eye care, allowing for more eye surgeries.

The Lions Clubs in Medicine Hat, Redcliff and Irvine have all supported the Foundation since its inception and continue to be significant donors. They saw a need in our community around mental health and eye care, and their collective efforts enabled them to leverage a much larger gift. We are grateful for this partnership and the impact it will have on our community! Together we can.

SPOTLIGHT ON DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

Strong leadership is the foundation of strong clubs and a strong district. Our district leaders bring experience, diverse professional backgrounds, and a deep commitment to service.

In the coming issues, we will introduce the dedicated Lions who serve on our District Team. By getting to know these leaders, we gain a deeper appreciation for 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 feature our District Governor Team. We hope you enjoy learning about their Lions journey, professional achievements, and vision for the future of District C-2.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

2026-2027

Lion Danielle Hamelin

Didsbury Lions Club

District Governor Danielle Hamelin is a dedicated community leader and proud Didsbury Lion. She leads with empathy and collaboration and is committed to expanding service and empowering Lions to drive meaningful change. She believes that caring and kindness are at the heart of meaningful service, and that volunteers make a difference even when that difference is felt by just one life. She calls on Lions to open their hearts to their communities—as individuals, as clubs, and as a united District.

With extensive experience across both Club and District leadership, Danielle is honoured to be recognized as a Melvin Jones and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. One of her most rewarding experiences was participating in the 2020–2021 GMA pilot project led by PIP Dr. Patti Hill, which deepened her understanding of the GMA process and its value.

Guided by a passion for continuous learning, she earned her BA in English Literature from the University of New Brunswick and complemented it with a Human Resources Management certificate from the University of Calgary. Danielle lives in Kneehill County with her husband, Carey—also a Didsbury Lion. Proud to be a Lion, she enjoys welcoming new members, strengthening clubs, supporting emerging leaders, and nurturing unity across the district. She believes that the key to our District's success lies in Lions working together with integrity and mutual respect. United in service, we are empowered to do more and be more in our communities, and our visible commitment to service will inspire others to become Lions. Together, we continue building stronger communities through service, leadership and friendship.

“Service Through Unity” is not just a motto — it is a movement.



SPOTLIGHT ON DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

FIRST VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2026-2027

**Lion Gerald (Gerry)
Gaede**

**Lions Club of Medicine
Hat**

Medicine Hat has been my home for most of my life, and is where my journey as a Lion began in 1983. My service in the last 43 years has included positions such as Director, Membership Chair and President. At the district level, I was Zone Chair for several years.

In 2024, you honoured me by electing me to be the next Second Vice District Governor, which has been an incredible privilege this past year. My new theme song is "On The Road Again". Club visits and meetings allowed me to meet many wonderful Lions. I have been awestruck and inspired by each club, hearing the many ways clubs in our district serve our communities.

As we look to the future, we need each other. Remember, we are family! Members

helping members, clubs helping clubs, that's what we do. Wherever we travel, we create new friendships, serving our communities, and the world. We serve in so many ways. What is in your future?

Like your club, your district needs you too. Ask anyone of the DG Team members how you can serve on Cabinet.

To quote outgoing International President A.P. Singh, *"To succeed we must grow. The more members we have, the more service we can provide."* I challenge each club to retain your membership next year and add at least one new member.

And above all, HAVE FUN!



SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2026-2027

**Lion Bill Stecewicz
Calgary Heritage Lions Club**

Lion Bill is a proud Albertan with deep community roots. After beginning his career with Canada Customs in Calgary, he and his late wife, Lion Evanne, joined the Calgary Heritage Lions Club in 1990. From the start, they rolled up their sleeves to serve, whether it was selling raffle tickets, fundraising for accessibility, or supporting community events.

Over the years, Lion Bill has dedicated himself to leadership at both the club and district levels. He has served as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director, LCIF Coordinator, and



Marketing Chair — often multiple times. He has also been a Guiding Lion for two clubs, sharing his knowledge and passion to strengthen others.

His impact reaches beyond administration. As chair of CLERC, he has seen where collected eyeglasses can restore vision around the world. As Lions Quest Chair, he champions youth programs that build stronger, healthier communities.

Lion Bill has also served as Campaign SightFirst Chair and GMT (Global Membership Team) Chair and has been honoured with International President's Certificates of Appreciation for his service. Lion Bill believes in the power of the Lions community — both locally and globally. He has proven leadership experience, a heart for service, and a vision for strengthening our clubs and supporting the causes that matter most.

Report your club's service. The portal awaits!

Every Lions club does great work in its community, but if we don't report that work, Lions Clubs International has no way of knowing the difference we make. Reporting service in the Lions Portal is important because:

- **It shows our impact.** Every food drive, fundraiser, vision screening, community project, and volunteer activity adds to the worldwide story of Lions serving others.
- **It gives our club credit.** Your club deserves recognition for the time and effort members put into serving the community.
- **It helps attract new members.** People are more likely to join Lions when they can see the positive work we are doing.
- **It helps Lions International tell our story.** Service numbers are used when promoting Lions to the public, governments, community partners, and potential donors.
- **It creates a record of our club's history.** Years from now, future Lions will

be able to look back and see the projects and accomplishments of today's members.

- **It helps our district and Multiple District.** Leaders can better understand what clubs are doing, celebrate successes, and identify opportunities for support and cooperation.

- **It supports milestone celebrations like the Lions centennial in Alberta.** Accurate reporting helps showcase the incredible legacy of service across the province and highlights the ongoing contributions of Lions as we celebrate 100 years of impact.

A simple way to think about it is: **"If we don't report our service, nobody knows about it. When we report it, we show the world the difference Lions make every day."**

Just a few minutes spent entering your club's service activities helps tell the story of Lions locally, across Canada, and around the world.

Growing Together in Service



Each moment of service strengthens the foundation of our clubs and communities. Here's how we can grow and thrive together.

Get back to our roots.

Our commitment to service makes us who we are. When we focus on acts of service, both big and small, we strengthen our communities, our clubs and the bonds we share. Embrace the joy of service and the purpose it brings.

Plant the seed.

Every Lion holds the power to grow their club. With each new member, our service, our impact and our potential grow, allowing us to do more and be more for our communities. Invite a new member and plant the seed for growth.

Let our leadership shine.

We change lives through our service, but we are also advocates for the people and causes we serve. We can expand our reach by connecting with key community stakeholders and partners who share our passion. Let's start big conversations, and even greater change.

Lean on your global foundation.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) offers more than funding — it's a lifeline of compassion and hope. The transformative work that Lions and LCIF bring to life is made possible by you. So support LCIF and let LCIF support you.