

C2 LIONS NEWS

Hello June! 

from DG-Elect Danielle Hamelin



As your club assembles its leadership team for next year, please remember to appoint an **LCIF Chairperson**. Traditionally, this role is filled by the current Club President as they transition into the Immediate Past President position. If another Lion is interested in serving as LCIF Chair, they are welcome to take on the role. Be sure to have this entered into the Portal!!

See you at the LCIF Gala June 20, 2026!

SAVE THE DATE!
C2 Fall Convention
Oct 23-24, 2026
Cochrane Lions
Event Centre



We are still building the team for **C2 District cabinet**.
Looking for energetic people with exciting new ideas to fill the roles
of **Zone Chairs & Global Causes Chairs**



Interested? Contact any of my team: Gerry Gaede
ggaede@shaw.ca, Bill Stecewicz lionbills@gmail.com
or me liondanielle1@outlook.com



Red maple leaf represents Canada's national identity and unity.

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



SERVICE THROUGH UNITY

GLEICHEN LIONS

By Lion Gerald Gaede
VDG-E, C2

On June 15, I had the pleasure of presenting a 60th anniversary certificate to the Gleichen Lions Club.

Letters of congratulations from International President A.P. Singh and chevrons were presented to five of the six charter members in recognition of their 60 years of service.

The Lions shown are, seated in front row, Lion Vern Hoff and Lion Lloyd McBean.

Back row, left to right, are Lion Harvey Sauve, Lion James Sammons and Lion Ken Sauve and myself.

Lion Ken was a charter member but left the club for a time. He has since renewed his membership.



The Irricana Lions & the Irricana Ladies Clubs are celebrating

Our 50th Anniversary

Saturday, June 27

Starting at 2:00 pm Main Street, Irricana

Free Community Event

Live Music, Free Food, Bouncy House, Face Painting, Games, Birthday Cake

Open to all residents & members, past & present

Please join us

Didsbury Lions ATV/Cash Raffle

Draw date Nov 7, 2026



Ticket Prices
6 for \$100
1 for \$20

5399 tickets available

Licence # AGLC-749821
www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/dls

Open to residents of Alberta 18 years of age or older



SAVE THE DATE

LETHBRIDGE WEST LIONS CLUB

40th ANNIVERSARY CHARTER BBQ

September 12, 2026
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Rotary Picnic Shelter
Giffen Rd N, Lethbridge, AB T1H 7A1



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



See further details from Lion Bob Booth on the following page.

WHERE THERE'S A NEED, THERE'S A LION CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

What is Opening Eyes?

Opening Eyes® is a Special Olympics Healthy Athletes discipline focused on improving vision and eye health for athletes with intellectual disabilities. Athletes move through a series of screening stations to receive vision testing, eye health education, and, when needed, prescription glasses or sports goggles at no cost. The goal is to support athletes in sport, school, and everyday life through better vision and awareness of eye health. All equipment screening equipment is supplied by Special Olympics International, who has a strong partnership with the Lions Club International Foundation. It is through this partnership that this equipment can be supplied and athletes in need can walk away with free prescription glasses.

The Role of Lions Clubs International Foundation

Opening Eyes is delivered in partnership with the Lions Clubs International Foundation, a long-standing global partner of Special Olympics. LCIF provides critical financial support and helps expand access to vision care worldwide, while also activating a strong base of Lions Club volunteers to support screenings in local communities.

The Role of Lions Club Members at Screenings

Lions Club members play an important, hands-on role in supporting Opening Eyes screenings. Typical roles include:

- Supporting with vision test screenings with support from eye care professionals.
- Supporting athlete flow and wayfinding between stations
- Assisting with registration and general coordination
- Helping with set-up, transitions, and overall operations
- Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for athletes and families

Why Lions Volunteers Are So Important

Opening Eyes screenings require strong coordination and a positive athlete experience to be effective. Lions volunteers make this possible by:

Volunteering at the 2026 National Summer Games – Opening Eyes

We are excited to welcome Lions Club members to support Opening Eyes at the 2026 Special Olympics Canada National Summer Games.

Location: Medicine Hat College

Screening Dates & Times - See previous page

- Volunteers can register for one or multiple of the scheduled shifts above
- Roles include supporting athletes through screening stations, assisting with equipment and positioning, helping maintain organization and flow, supporting eyewear distribution, and contributing to a welcoming and positive experience for athletes

Registration & Requirements

- All volunteers must complete the official registration form: [GEMS PRO](#)
- Volunteers are required to complete two short online trainings (SO Learn and SafeSport; approximately 90 mins total)

Shaping Our Future Together



— TRAINING SERIES —

C2 CLUB PRESIDENT TRAINING



Step into success! This training is designed to equip Club Presidents with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to lead with purpose and make a lasting impact.



TWO DATES TO CHOOSE FROM:



7:00 PM

— OPTION 1 —

JUNE 24

(TUESDAY)

SAVE THE DATE!

OR



7:00 PM

— OPTION 2 —

JUNE 30

(MONDAY)

SAVE THE DATE!



ALL CURRENT AND INCOMING C2 CLUB PRESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

email: michharris55@gmail.com to sign up



Brought to you by

GLT MICHELLE HARRIS

Guiding Leaders. Building Tomorrow.
Shaping Our Future Together.



LEAD TODAY. INSPIRE TOMORROW. IMPACT FOREVER.



You can see a lot at CLERC!

By James Lee
CLERC Chair

We set our schedule for eyeglass volunteerism at the CLERC warehouse a year in advance.

Lethbridge West Lions, Olds Lions and Airdrie Lions were chomping at the bit to get going on June 6 because they had waited that whole year. Lots of conversations occurred between these Lions Clubs as they shared a sense of purpose in helping the vision impaired of the world through performing all aspects of processing eyewear.

Lethbridge West Lions liked working with these other two clubs so much that they bought pizza for all.

We are so grateful once again to ALL Lions Clubs across Canada who drive this program. CLERC enthusiastically offers gratitude to Lions Clubs for having the insight, will and drive to be part of a vision solution that helps those with vision needs.



Top right, Lions from Olds, Airdrie and Lethbridge West don goofy glasses for the traditional photo. Right, Lethbridge West Lion Moe Larsen checks a pair of glasses for flaws. Above, Lethbridge West Lions Brent Johnson and Bonnie Paulovich check glasses.



Lethbridge Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides a big success

🐾🎉 WOW,
LETHBRIDGE! 🎉🐾
What an incredible
day at the Lethbridge
Pet Valu Walk for Dog
Guides! 💙🐕
A huge THANK YOU
to everyone who
helped make this
event such a success:

👏 Our amazing
vendors

👏 Our special VIP
guests

👏 Our dedicated
volunteers

👏 Our generous
community supporters

👏 And every single
participant who came
out to walk, donate,
cheer, and support
Dog Guides

Because of your
kindness and
generosity, we are
currently sitting at
approximately 💰
\$20,078.55 raised,
with donations still
coming in through
online fundraising and
in person pledge
forms! 🎉🐾

This incredible total
will help Lions
Foundation of Canada



Above, Lethbridge West Lions President Bonnie Paulovich, left, welcomes Lethbridge Mayor Blaine Hyggen to the walk, organized by Lethbridge West and Lethbridge Host clubs. Top right, participants visit before the walk begins. Right, dog walk committee chair Lion Holly Bandelow takes registrations with Lion Norris Hironaka.



Dog Guides continue providing life changing Dog Guide programs to Canadians from coast to coast. ❤️🐕

We are so proud of what our community has accomplished together. Every dollar raised helps create greater independence, confidence, and companionship for those who rely on Dog Guides.

🎉 Way to go, everyone! 🎉

We will be back again in May 2027 and can't wait to do it all over again! 🐾💙

Stay tuned as we will post our FINAL fundraising total once all donations have been received and processed. Thank you, Lethbridge! You truly showed the power of community. ❤️🐾

LABOUR DAY CLASSIC GAME!

FUN. FELLOWSHIP. COMMUNITY. TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!

District C2 has arranged for a block of tickets for any Lion and their family and friends.

Let's strengthen our membership and have a great time together!

WHEN MONDAY SEPT 7TH STARTING AT 4:00 PM	WHERE: McMahon Stadium, Calgary Home of the Calgary Stampeders!	TICKETS \$48.71 PER SEAT ALL TAXES & FEES INCLUDED
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WHY JOIN US?

- BUILD STRONGER CONNECTIONS
- ENJOY QUALITY TIME WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS
- SUPPORT FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNITY
- CHEER, LAUGH AND HAVE FUN!

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE NEXT MONTH!

The link to purchase tickets will be included in the July newsletter.

WE SERVE... *and sometimes we have fun too!*

★ BRING YOUR FAMILY. BRING YOUR FRIENDS. BRING YOUR LIONS SPIRIT! ★

Lions tour Sight Centre, Eye Clinic

By Ronald Sinkinson
District C2 Vision Chair

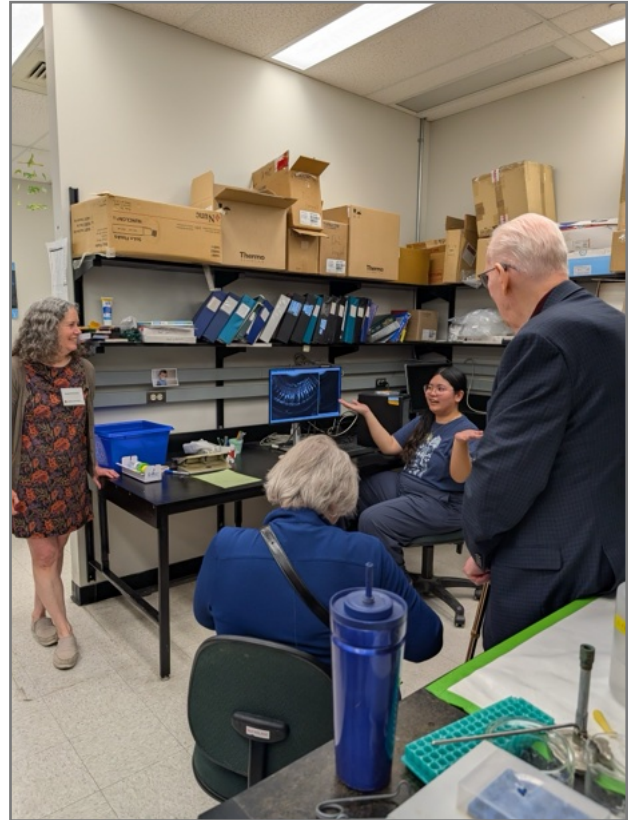
On May 26, officers of the Lions District C2 participated in tours and presentations for the Lions Sight Centre Endowment Fund and the Rockyview General Hospital Eye Clinic. The two tours and presentations were scheduled the same day to accommodate out-of-town members.

The **Lions Sight Centre Endowment Fund (LSCEF)** supports critical research into prevention, detection and treatment of eye diseases at the Cumming School of Medicine of the University of Calgary. Its facilities are in a building at Foothills General Hospital.

The LSCEF was created in 1998 with an investment of \$100,000 by the Lions Club of Calgary. The fund is part of the University of Calgary Endowment, which is managed by the University of Calgary Board of Directors as guided by its Investment Committee.

The LSCEF portion as of March 31, 2025 exceeded \$3,567,000. A portion of the fund is used to support research and the rest remains invested to grow the fund. The spending allocation for research is based on the performance of the fund over the last 16 quarters. It was 3.5% for the 2024-25 year (Year-end is March 31) but for 2025-26, the allocation was raised to 4%.

On May 26, the Lions were hosted by Dr. Sarah McFarlane, Professor, Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy. Her lab, one of 10 involved with vision research, is investigating ways to regenerate damaged cells in the retina to restore vision. Apparently, this is an ability in some fish and amphibians, but not in mammals. Other research at the Cumming School includes the mechanisms of glaucoma and the relationship of some forms of blindness to stroke. *(Continued)*





Lions funding has been used for state-of-the-art equipment and has supported pilot research important for successfully acquiring government grants for additional research.

The second tour and presentation was at the **Rockyview General Hospital Eye Clinic**. The tour was arranged by Barbara Tolevski, Senior Philanthropy Advisor at the **Calgary Health Foundation**. The presentation was lead by Dr. Stephanie Dotchin.

The Eye Clinic is southern Alberta's leading ophthalmology centre. The clinic is focused on complex cases and delivers exclusive, comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services beyond the capabilities of private clinics.

About 40 ophthalmologists provide frequent service to the clinic. The ophthalmologists are associated with the Cumming School of Medicine.

Over 5,500 specialized procedures are performed monthly, including emergency/urgent eye care and specialized treatments for retina, neuro-ophthalmology, glaucoma, oncology and laser treatment.

The RGHEC has the only retina surgery centre in Southern Alberta, and it has provided services to people in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the North West Territories. Currently, a low vision program unique in Alberta is under development.

Investment in state-of-the-art technology and clinical equipment would enhance faster, more accurate diagnostic and treatment capabilities. The CHF is seeking funding to help with such investments.

These tours/presentations were put on for officers of the district, the first such occasions in several years. The Lions who attended were impressed and pleased by them. There may be opportunities involve more Lions in such opportunities.

TAKE NOTE: Training in use of the Lions portal is scheduled Tuesday, June 23, beginning at 7 p.m. If you would like to participate, please contact Lion Michelle Harris at michharris55@gmail.com

LETHBRIDGE WEST LIONS

Lethbridge West Lions organized or participated in numerous successful events in the past two months. In early May, Lions tested 144 children at a Lethbridge elementary school using the PlusOptix machine owned by the club. More testing at other schools is planned in September.

Lions also served breakfast at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen in mid-May, where they helped feed 161 clients. The Lethbridge Soup Kitchen executive director was a recent guest at a West Lethbridge Lions meeting, and he explained the growing need for assistance in addressing hunger in the city.

The end of May brought the annual Walk for Dog Guides, organized by Lethbridge Host and Lethbridge West Lions Clubs. Preliminary figures show more than \$20,000 was raised, which was beyond the initial goal and a testament to the work of Lions volunteers and participants. (Details on page 7.)

In late May, club members joined those from 13 other Lions clubs in southern Alberta to discuss potential contributions to the Bringing Hearts Home Campaign, an initiative to improve cardiac care across the southern part of the province.

In early June, West Lethbridge Lions joined Lions from Olds and Airdrie clubs to process eyeglasses at the Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre in Calgary. It was a productive and entertaining afternoon, the more so because of work done and the chance to meet and talk with other Lions.

Planning is well underway for the 40th anniversary charter barbecue for our club, which will be held Sept. 12. Tickets are now available. See details in the advertisement elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lethbridge West Lions wound up the year June 16 with a barbecue, potluck and installation of officers for the coming Lionistic year.



Above, Lethbridge West Lion Mike Warner polishes donated eyeglasses at the Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre. Below, Chris Marineau of the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, attended the Lethbridge walk for dog guides and addressed those assembled.



District Governor's Year-End Reflections

By Leslie Cunningham
District Governor C2

As I reflect on this Lions year, I am filled with gratitude, pride, and deep appreciation for the Lions of District C-2. This journey to become District Governor has truly been the opportunity of a lifetime, culminating in a very busy year that went by far too quickly.

Most meaningful to me were all the lifetime friendships made while travelling to other countries and provinces enabling a network of camaraderie and sharing. I look forward to meeting up with these Lions in Hong Kong.

Along the way, I was reminded many times that leadership in Lions is never about one person. It is about service, teamwork, compassion, and the belief that together we can make life better for others. As Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." That quote has been very meaningful to me throughout this year, because it truly reflects the spirit of District C-2.

MY C.A.R.E. THEME

My theme for this year has been C.A.R.E. - Compassion, Awareness, Resiliency, and Empowerment. These four



words have guided my visits, my messages, and my service as District Governor.

Compassion reminds us to see the needs around us and respond with kindness. Awareness reminds us to learn, educate, and reduce stigma. Resiliency reminds us that clubs, communities, and individuals may struggle, but we continue forward. Empowerment reminds us that every Lion has the ability to make a difference.

FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE

One of the greatest gifts of this year has been meeting Lions throughout the District through club visits.

I want to sincerely thank all the dedicated Lions I have

met and seen in action throughout this Lionistic year. Across District C-2, I have witnessed Lions serving with energy, kindness, creativity, and commitment. Whether in small rural clubs or large urban clubs, the heart of Lionism is alive and strong.

CLUB VISITS, CELEBRATIONS AND GROWTH

I continued making club visits throughout District C-2, and these visits have been one of the greatest privileges of my year. I have presented chevrons, shared fellowship, listened to club concerns, celebrated successes, presented Narcan kits, and witnessed firsthand the incredible work being

done by Lions in their own communities. I was also pleased to present the final two Peace Poster prizes, recognizing the creativity and hope of our youth.

One of the great joys of this year has been attending charter nights and club celebrations. I had the honour of attending the charter nights of Calgary Connect, Calgary Filipino, and Calgary Chinatown, with more than 250 attendees at each event. These celebrations were inspiring examples of Lions fellowship, cultural pride, service, and growth.

Membership growth has also been a meaningful highlight. We have stayed on the positive side of membership growth, even while losing many Lions due to attrition and while adjusting to the directive sent out to clubs that casino funds can no longer be used for the payment of LCI, MDC, and District dues. This has created challenges for some clubs, but our Lions have continued to move forward with resiliency and determination.

I have had the privilege of inducting many new Lions this year. One especially exciting moment was at the Calgary Connect Lions Club, where I inducted 15 new members and welcomed two new Leo Clubs - one Alpha and one Omega. Seeing new Lions and Leos step forward with enthusiasm reminds us that the future of Lionism is strong.

One of the most memorable inductions for me personally was that of Justice Brian Stevenson's grandson into the Calgary North Eye Opener Lions Club. Moments like this remind us that Lionism is not only about today's service, but also about legacy, family, and the values we pass on to the next generation.

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS

My charity of choice this year has been the Canadian Mental Health Association - Alberta Division, with a focus on mental health and addictions awareness. Through my C.A.R.E. theme, I continued to train Lions in the use of Naloxone/Narcan kits and distributed many kits across our District. This initiative opened important conversations about addiction, stigma, safety, and compassion.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the clubs and Lions who supported my Mental Health and Addictions cause this year. Your generosity helped provide financial support to the Canadian Mental Health Association - Alberta Division, and your willingness to learn, listen, and take action helped promote the importance of Narcan/Naloxone kits and their lifesaving use.

This cause was about more than distributing kits. It was about compassion, awareness, education, and reducing stigma. Every Lion who accepted training, carried a kit, shared information, or supported this initiative helped make our communities safer and more caring.

Mental health and addiction affect people in every community. They affect families, youth, seniors, rural communities, cities, and people from every walk of life. As Lions, we do not turn away from difficult issues. We serve where there is a need. "Where there's a need, there's a Lion" has never been more true.

CHALLENGES, REMEMBRANCE AND RESILIENCY

The year was not without challenges. We lost many Lions this year, and each one left a meaningful void in their club, their community, and in our District. Collectively, we especially felt the loss of PDG Eric

Buttle, PDG and Cabinet Treasurer Darryl Rawleigh, and PIP Judge Brian Stevenson. Their years of leadership, service, wisdom, and dedication have left a lasting legacy in District C-2 and beyond.

As I have said before, "Some souls leave behind a trail of light that is never forgotten." These Lions certainly did that. Their service continues to inspire us, and their absence reminds us how deeply connected we are as Lions.

DISTRICT READINESS AND THE ALERT TRAILER

Another important goal achieved this year was getting the District C-2 ALERT trailer moved back into an accessible space where it can once again be available when needed. We still have work to do to fully equip it, but we have made a positive start with a tent, barbecue, and generator. This is an important step forward in strengthening our District's ability to respond, support communities, and be ready to serve when emergencies or special service needs arise.

CABINET CHAIRS AND DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

I also want to recognize our Cabinet Chairs. Many not only fulfilled their roles, but went above and beyond by introducing new ideas, new activities, and renewed energy to their areas of service. Their commitment has strengthened our District and helped move us forward. Way to go!

The training I received through Lions Clubs International, Multiple District C, District C-2, and the many leadership experiences along the way helped prepare

me for this year. But the greatest training has come from the Lions themselves - from sitting at club tables, listening to stories, attending events, seeing projects in action, and learning what service looks like in each community.

As this Lions year moves toward its close, I look forward to our Cabinet Meeting and Awards Dinner on June 20. It promises to be a well-attended and meaningful evening of fellowship, recognition, gratitude, and celebration. I am looking forward to honouring the work of our Lions and reflecting together on all that has been accomplished. Thank you to every Lion, Leo, club officer, zone chair, cabinet member, Past District Governor, mentor, and friend who has supported me during this year. Your encouragement, service, and dedication have meant more than words can express.

Although my year as District Governor is coming to a close, my commitment to Lionism, to our District, and to each of you will continue.

I extend my sincere best wishes to the incoming Governor's Team for every success in the coming Lions year. May they be supported, encouraged, and inspired as they continue the important work of service, leadership, and fellowship in District C-2.

Thank you for the honour of serving as your District Governor. It has truly been the opportunity of a lifetime.

Together, we serve. Together, we lead.

Together, we C.A.R.E.

Deadline for the next newsletter is July 15. Please send information and photos about your summer activities and those planned for the fall, to barbj.glen@gmail.com.

Have a great summer, Lions!