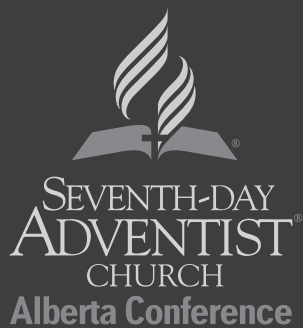




Alberta Conference Report 2012-2016



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ADMINISTRATION

■ **PRESIDENT**

During the past four years the president's basic function has been to lead spiritually; to guide in shaping the Conference vision, mission and strategic plans; to motivate laity and employees to action and; to effectively organize the office and field for service. Our task is to discover where God is working, then join Him there. The mission was developed in consultation with the Executive Committee and Departmental Directors, keeping the REACH core values before us. Every person is gifted by God and the president's role is to encourage each person to use that giftedness in His service. Besides managing church growth, four basic challenges confronted us: one-third of our congregations were without a church home, Foothills Camp needed a new washroom block, Mamawi Atosketan Native School needed to teach up to Grade 12 and add a new junior-high facility, and Yellowknife needed to find a new mission. God directed as we took steps to meet those challenges. He will continue to do so in the future.

■ **SECRETARIAT**

The office of the Secretariat oversees and provides services in the areas of church policies, human relations (HR), archives, administrative operations such as records, minutes, credentials and licenses, membership, statistical data, service requests and other special projects. During the past 4.25 years starting January 1, 2012 and ending March 2016, Alberta Conference membership increased by 934, bringing the total membership to 11,434. This means 1,254 joined by baptism and Profession of Faith, 867 transferred in by letter, 321 transferred out, and 866 deceased or were dropped. The office has recorded and followed up on 444 EXCOM actions, 2,945 ADCOM actions, credentialed all employees, reported annually to the NAD yearbook, prepared a variety of statistical reports and processed an average of 92 service requests each year. The HR branch processed 60 local hires, 268 service records annually, and assisted 8 employees with immigration issues.

■ TREASURY

The office of Treasury is the storehouse for the tithe and offerings that members return to the Lord. The funds are disbursed in accordance to SDACC, NAD and General Conference policy. Much can be said regarding the handling of these sacred funds, but in brief consider how God continues to bless.

	2012-2015	2008-2011
Tithe income	63.40 M	53.40 M
GC/NAD/SDACC (tithe passed on)	16.24 M	13.36 M
Alberta Advance	1.91 M	1.58 M
Total Revenue (less tithe passed on)	57.86 M	49.79 M
Total Expenditure	59.4 M	42.73 M
Burman University	4.79 M	4.11 M
Retirement	4.78 M	4.30M
Net Asset	11.15 M	14.43 M
Recommended Working Capital	4.36 M	3.89 M

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MINISTRIES & SERVICES

■ ADVENTIST BOOK CENTRE

The ABC is one of the service sectors of the Alberta Conference offering Christian literature, CD/DVDs, games and meat analogues (vegan and vegetarian) to our membership and the community at large. We serve both children and adults. Our revenues are keeping pace with year to date sales of previous years despite the dollar exchange rate. We are working creatively to maintain and increase clientele by setting up a mini store at specific locations/events (Women's Ministry Retreat, Burman University Health Fair, School Book Fairs), offering customer loyalty cards and weekly/monthly specials, regular communication through the Alberta Conference weekly eNews and ABC social media platforms, conducting regular bookmobile trips to Edmonton and Calgary as well as Fall and Spring runs throughout Alberta and the Man/Sask Conference. The ABC also setups up a store at both the Alberta and Man/Sask Camp Meetings and processes all web orders for BC, Alberta and Man/Sask.

■ CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children's Ministries exists to provide all children an opportunity to know and love Jesus Christ and to provide training and resources for children's leaders. During the past four years there have been four Children's Ministries Conventions and five workshops in local churches. Camp Meeting focuses on three children's divisions; Beginner, Kindergarten and Primary. A tent garage is used for the Primary craft area at Camp Meeting. Most local churches actively conduct Children's Sabbath School programs and many conduct annual VBS programs. During the past four summer months, Peter Ford, pastor for Maskwacis Church, annually conducted 5-6 VBS programs with seven Burman University students and some young people from the Maskwacis community. This initiative focuses on First Nations communities and young people.

■ CHURCH PLANTING

The Church Planting Department focuses on church growth. During the past four years 12 new churches, companies and fellowship groups came into existence. *Impact Edmonton* planted two new churches and two senior pastors in the city assumed responsibility to nurture these "baby churches" while for one year, assistant pastors and lay leadership cared for the mother churches. While many church plants are either predominantly ethnic or language group driven, Fort Saskatchewan is an un-entered community that is intentionally targeted for a church plant. Currently about 20-30 people meet for Bible study and worship each Sabbath.

■ COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

The Communication/IT Department serves as a support to all other departments/ministries of the Alberta Conference by providing communication assistance, media production and development of communication resources, delivery of current news and information, and technologies that improve the effectiveness and efficiency of day-to-day procedures and operation. During the past four years the department produced 15 *Alberta Adventist News* magazines (40 page average), five camp meeting brochures, three Conference directories (approximately 150 pages each), four sunset calendars, and numerous posters, department reports & event brochures, logos, website graphics, door hangers, maps, advertisements, and videos. Conference social media platforms increased from a handful of followers to 1200 on Facebook, 1350 on Twitter, and 170 on Livestream (as of April 1, 2016). The IT Department has purchased, implemented, and managed 126 Office 365 Enterprise E3 licenses for pastors, office staff and volunteer coordinators; changed out all the computers, implemented a new management software system, and directed the changeover to a new phone system at the ABC; connected seven schools to the SuperNet with two more in process. The IT Department also provides daily support for all church and school websites. Over the past 12 months 120,000 people have visited the Alberta Conference website, an average of 10,000/month.

■ COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Service Department is the humanitarian arm of the Adventist Church. During the past four years we started four outreach initiatives and four leadership training seminars. More than 100 people are trained and equipped for disaster response preparedness. We responded to two major disasters; High River and Chestermere. Over the last two years we organized a 12 member Adventist Community Services Committee. We conducted two *Youth Empowered to Serve* training seminars.

■ DEAF MINISTRIES

Deaf Ministries is a volunteer ministry to the deaf in Alberta and around the world. During the past four years this ministry printed and mailed 8 full-colour *Canadian Deaf Ministry International* reports to five countries, conducted two training workshops at Camp Meeting (1 Sign Language for the deaf and 1 Awareness and Training), interpreted *Impact Edmonton 2015* series, sent out innumerable Evangelistic/Health DVDs around the world, raised \$65,000 to help *A Better World* build two schools for the deaf, and produced two 8-hour *Jesus' Life Story* DVDs for the deaf.

■ EDUCATION

The Education Department's purpose is to provide opportunity for students to accept Christ as their Saviour, to allow the Holy Spirit to transform their lives, accept service as a way of life and become active members in the Church. The Alberta Conference endeavors to make Adventist Christian education available to every Seventh-day Adventist family. PACeS has made this goal achievable. Currently (2016) 84 teachers teach in 10 schools with a total enrollment of 949 students (including PACeS with 138 students), which is up from 804 students in 2012 (approximately 18% increase over 4 years). During the past four years we increased senior high schools from two to four with a dedicated chaplain in each, conducted two Alberta Adventist Teacher's Conventions, five Alberta principal retreats, 12 Kindergarten cohorts, six Principal Professional Learning Community meetings, celebrated the 15th anniversary of Grade 5/6 Outdoor School, the 10th year of Grade 9 Outdoor Education, implemented the Grade 7/8 Lake Expedition program, and funded Spiritual retreats for school staff every two years.

■ EVANGELISM

The Evangelism Department is responsible for coordinating the evangelistic efforts and approving the budgets. The Conference is committed to funding up to 65% of the evangelistic budget including pre-work and follow-up, with a cap of \$16,000 for city churches and \$8,000 for rural churches. During the past four years the Conference approved 170 budgets. Although it is difficult to determine the exact number, evangelistic series resulted in approximately 500 baptisms and Professions of Faith.

■ FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Ministries is dedicated to strengthening relationships and empowering ministry leaders and churches in their work with families. It provides tools to help individuals communicate more effectively, deepen commitment in marriage, and assist in becoming better parents. Family Ministries helps families grow in love and live in harmony as the family of God. During the past four years a number of seminars have been conducted at Camp Meeting, and in local churches.

■ **FOOTHILLS CAMP**

Foothills Camp is dedicated to providing an Adventist retreat setting for spiritual renewal. The usage of Foothills Camp is increasing (both in the number of events and the general size of events). Several times last year all camp facilities (accommodation and dining) were fully utilized, i.e., youth events and specialty camp meetings, with a trend toward “family focused” events and activities. The increase is mandating the need to make the main pavilion available all year round. Currently Foothills Camp is fully booked from early spring 2016 through October and reservations are already being made for 2017. Campus improvements and initiatives are prioritized to achieve a safe and comfortable environment. Key projects included burying of electrical lines, renovating the Cabin Washroom block and lodge guest rooms.

■ **HEALTH MINISTRIES**

The Health Department is to reflect God’s love through the teachings of healthful living principals consistent with the philosophy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During the past four years we have trained members to share health information, conducted four weekend health retreats, presented workshops and seminars in churches as outreach programs, organized veggie dinner clubs in churches as evangelistic outreach programs, and presented health expos in various communities.

■ **MAMAWI ATOSKETAN NATIVE SCHOOL (MANS)**

MANS is part the Alberta Conference mission school and is part of the Conference Education system. Its purpose is to provide an academic program that respects and responds to each student’s cultural and academic need. The program is delivered within a safe and caring rural environment where character and leadership skills are cultivated and service to others becomes a way of life. The school, located on private property, primarily serves four reserves near Maskwacis. During the past four years the school has grown to over 200 K-12 students in a 10-year old facility designed for 120 students. The school, recently granted senior academy status, is currently in a capital fund-raising campaign (known as the Bridge Campaign) to add high school and industrial arts buildings. Since the silent phase began in May 2013, a campaign infrastructure has been built and a steering committee for oversight has been active. Many thank you and awareness activities have been undertaken, including a regular page in the *Messenger*, periodic publications of campaign *Update*, and many articles in the *Alberta Adventist News* to inform constituents of progress at the Conference mission school and of the campaign. As of April 2016, \$3.55 million has been raised in cash and pledges.

■ MEN'S MINISTRIES

Men's Ministries exists to galvanize the energy and resources of men for God, family, church and community. During the past four years the ministry has conducted two weekend seminars and two conventions. The department also serves as a resource to local Men's Ministries.

■ MINISTERIAL

The Ministerial Department is responsible for equipping and training pastors. Our current field pastoral team of 64 pastors (40 ordained/commissioned; 24 interns) serve 66 churches and 15 companies. Six pastors serve as Burman University and senior academy youth pastors (chaplains). In addition we currently employ four Bible workers. During the past four years we locally conducted four intern retreats, and pastors attended six local ministerial retreats and two NAD ministerial training events. Although the Master of Divinity degree is the official ministerial degree, a significant number of pastors continue ministerial training to the Doctor of Ministry level. We conducted six Elders' Retreats and four sets of ARMCo (Annual Regional Ministerial Consultation) meetings.

■ PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Partners in Ministry is designed to support the spouses of pastors in their role as partners in the work of pastoral ministry. During the past four years this ministry has annually conducted a special breakfast forum during Camp Meeting for pastoral spouses with a guest presenter. The department has also provided 16 issues of the NAD quarterly *Journal* to each spouse along with a letter of encouragement.

■ PLANNED GIVING/TRUST SERVICES

Planned Giving/Trust Services (PG/TS)/Philanthropy exists to provide opportunities for individuals to contribute to the Lord's work in a meaningful way, either during their life-time or after life. Since 2012, the PGTS department has focused on Constituency Education. Five distinct seminars were developed and presented at camp meetings and in churches, two Alberta Adventist Fundraising Schools were conducted in conjunction with PSI (NAD), 15 Means & Meanings columns plus 20 impact of giving reports (What's it Mean to You) published in the *Alberta Adventist News*, and eight companion videos produced and posted on a newly-created Planned Giving page of the website. Print materials were also developed. A total of 161 Wills were written. Total cash Income from all PGTS sources: \$2.28 million.

■ PERSONAL MINISTRIES

The Personal Ministries Department endeavors to equip and empower members to become effective disciples of Christ. The annual *Festival of The Laity* has transitioned to being fully online. The *CHANGE School of Evangelism*, since its inception, has trained 33 students from around the world, some of whom are now active lay soul winners in this Conference, as well as five of whom are currently or were previously employed by this Conference. Along with the annual three month training event, there have been over 11 local training events held at local churches.

■ PRAYER MINISTRIES

Prayer Ministries seeks to spiritually strengthen and support every member and employee, through prayer, Bible study, and ministry. During the past two years we conducted four weekend prayer rallies, two local church prayer services, one prayer breakfast, one Prayer Retreat for pastors, and a training seminar for Prayer Coordinators in Edmonton. Forty-six Prayer Ministry Coordinators across the Conference receive emails with prayer requests and devotional thoughts, and four articles have been submitted to the *Messenger*. The Alberta Conference has been divided into three regions with a pastor leading the prayer initiatives in each region. At Camp Meeting we conduct a 4-hour prayer seminar and a leadership team of six people are available to pray with and for anyone requesting prayer, including an anointing service the final Friday of Camp Meeting.

■ PRISON MINISTRIES

AAPMO (Alberta Adventist Prison Ministries Organization) is a volunteer ministry bringing hope and wholeness to incarcerated inmates in Alberta. During the past four years AAPMO has conducted 14 local church training sessions (including at Burman University), conducted two Camp meeting Orientation/Training Seminars and increased AAPMO membership from zero to approximately 200. AAPMO also conducted six *Malachi Dad's Ministry* inmate graduations with the first graduation in the community on Sunday March 21, 2016 at Edmonton Central Church.

■ PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The office of Project Development provides support to churches, schools, and Conference institutions with respect to property acquisitions (land and buildings), feasibility reviews and financing requirements, due diligence reviews (zoning, environmental concerns, land-titles), facility planning processes, and liaising with external parties and governmental authorities where necessary. Active key projects currently include the new MANS school and Industrial Education Building, purchase of land for North Edmonton and property offer for West Edmonton.

■ SABBATH SCHOOL

The Sabbath School Department emphasizes four aspects of spiritual growth: study of God’s Word, fellowship among Sabbath School members, witnessing in the community and giving to foreign missions. Our Conference is following the NAD model of encouraging churches to grow through a “relational approach” to Sabbath School which draws people back to church where they experience Christian friendship and fellowship. To facilitate this objective during the past four years, there have been four Sabbath School conventions, 14 local church or district Sabbath School workshops, and one workshop at Camp Meeting. Several churches have begun implementing the relational approach to Sabbath School.

■ S.A.G.E.

SAGE (Seniors in Action for God with Excellence) Alberta is a 50+ senior’s ministry that provides opportunities for fellowship, service and spiritual growth. During the past four years SAGE has conducted four winter outings, four conventions, three Camp Meeting “Strawberry and Ice cream” gatherings, six RVing Weekends, four tours including a New England Heritage tour and a South Asia ADRA/SAGE Tour, four work and one “Remembering Ellen White” retreat at Foothills Camp, four work days at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS), and two church renovations. They also donated a riding lawn mower to MANS. Their current project is building a *SAGE Outdoor Nature Centre* at Foothills Camp.

■ SINGLE Adult and S.H.I.N.E. Ministries

Single Adult and S.H.I.N.E. (Single Young Adults Helping to Impact, Nurture and Encourage) Ministries provides a Christ-centred, safe place for nurture and fellowship for singles. To achieve this goal during the past four years they have conducted four winter retreats, one rally day, one Thanksgiving retreat, four Sabbath day fellowships, four years of nightly meetings during Camp Meetings, three spring and summer campout weekends, four “Lacombe Happening” weekends, one Foothills Camp work day, three Christmas events for “Single Mother and Family,” one S.H.I.N.E. hockey party and seven S.H.I.N.E. local church services in Alberta.

■ STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Department challenges members to cultivate an attitude of disinterested benevolence for the cause of God in the use of time, abilities, treasures, and life as a love response for God’s redeeming love to us. The department head has just begun his service and will be developing plans for the future.

■ **WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

The Women's Ministries organization is to encourage, equip, promote, and challenge Adventist women in their journey as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His Church, and to bring women's unique perspectives to the issues facing the Church. During the past four years there have been five annual Women's Ministries Retreats. The highest attendance was in 2014 with a total 430 women. That year 10% of those in attendance were non-members of the Adventist Church in Alberta. Along with the annual retreat, over five workshops were held at various Adventist Churches for different groups including a Spanish Women's Retreat and Native Women's Retreat. A weekly Women's Prayer Line was started in 2014.

■ **YELLOWKNIFE MISSION**

The purpose for the Yellowknife mission is to reach Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories (NWT) with the distinctive Christ-centred Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness. The current Adventist complex in Yellowknife, established in 1973, was designed to serve as a health and missionary outreach facility to serve Yellowknife and the NWT. Currently a *Northern Mission Summit* is being conducted to encourage the Yellowknife Church to develop best practices in reaching the North and establish a Northern Mission Work Advisory. The current membership in Yellowknife is 79.

■ **YOUTH MINISTRIES**

The Youth Ministries Department seeks to encourage, empower and equip youth of today to be revolutionary change agents for Christ. To achieve this during the past four years, we conducted nine missionary trips, 20 training programs, six young adult events, five Conference youth rallies, 44 summer camp programs with a 38% increase in enrollment, seven Pathfinder camporee/winter retreats, eight Adventurer camporees/conference Family fun-days, and two regional inductions. Alberta Conference has 17 Pathfinder clubs, 17 Adventurer clubs, and has held many events lead by the Edmonton and Calgary Youth Councils.



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST[®] CHURCH

Alberta Conference

5816 Highway 2A, Lacombe, Alberta T4L 2G5
Office: (403) 342-5044 • info@albertaadventist.ca