

WELCOME

Bridges of Love Ministry Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2024

BEHOLD, I AM DOING A NEW THING;
NOW IT SPRINGS FORTH, DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?

**I WILL MAKE A WAY
IN THE WILDERNESS &
RIVERS IN THE DESERT.**

ISAIAH 43:19



LOGOS

Bridges of Love Ministry Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2023/2024

September 27, 2024, 10:30 am – 11:30 am
 Virtual Video Meeting
 587.272.0955



Meeting Called	Board of Directors	Type of meeting	Annual General Meeting
Chairman	Marg Pollon	Note taker	Sandy Widmer

Board Members	Denise Hill, Tom Pollon, Marg Pollon, Sandy Widmer
Regrets	
Guests	Felicia Smith

Agenda

Call to Order		
Opening Prayer & Devotional	Denise Hill	5
Acceptance of 2022/2023 Minutes	Marg Pollon	5
Executive Director's Report	Marg Pollon	5
IT Report	Tom Pollon	5
Treasurers Report	Marg Pollon	5
Vision Casting	Felicia Smith	5
Discussion/Questions	All	5
Election of Directors	Marg Pollon	5
Close in Prayer	Sandy Widmer	5
Adjournment		

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Observers:

**Bridges of Love Ministry Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023
October 12, 2023**



Meeting called by: Board of Directors **Type of meeting:** Annual General Meeting
Chairman: Marg Pollon **Note taker:** Sandy Widmer
Time: Noon – 2:00 pm

Attendees: Marg Pollon, Tom Pollon, Denise Hill, Sandy Widmer
Guests: 20 Anniversary attendees

Agenda

Opening Prayer & Devotional **Michael Lum**
Unity Ps 133:1, Jn 17:22-23;
Eph 4:4-6 In You is what
makes us strong and keeps is
in unity.

Acceptance of 2021/2022 Minutes

Discussion:

Motion: To accept minutes as recorded: Marg Pollon Seconded: Tom Pollon Carried.

Chair Report

Discussion: No Chair Report

TBA

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Executive Director's Report**Marg Pollon**

Discussion:

Discussion:

Motion: Accept Executive Director's Report as read: Marg Pollon Seconded: Denise Hill Carried.

Action Items. The report will be posted on the Bridges of Love web site.

Person responsible:

Tom Pollon

Deadline:

Immediately

IT Report**Tom Pollon****Discussion:** Tom reiterated about the new website and programs. Recognized Gerrit and TJ's good work!**Motion:** Accept IT Report as read: Seconed: Carried**Action Items.**

Post ED Report on Website

Person responsible:

Tom Pollon

Deadline:

ASAP

Treasurer's Report**Marg Pollon (Acting Treasure)****Discussion:** Need funds to cover rent as only 1-2 months of rent funding in account. Grant does not cover the second year's rent.**Motion:** Accept Treasurer's Report as read: Marg Pollon Seconed: Denise Hill Carried

Action items: Actively seek a Treasurer to take over duties.

Person responsible:

Deadline:

ASAP

Casting the Vision**Michael Lum****Discussion:** Communication is vital and even though Social Media is important, face-to-face is imperative.**Action items:**

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Election of Directors**Discussion:** Nomination of Directors – Current Board will continue for this Fiscal Year. We asked if those at the meeting could let us know if there is interest in the Treasurer's Board position.**Elected Directors** - Tom and Marg Pollon, Denise Hill, Sandy Widmer**Action items:**

Person responsible:

Marg

Deadline:

ASAP

Discussion & Questions**Discussion:****Action items:**

Deadline:

Ongoing

Adjournment:**Motion:** Move the meeting is adjourned: 2:00 pm

Seconed:

Carried

12:45 pm. Closing Prayer/Grace – Sandy Widmer

Executive Director's Report

September 27

2024

When God does a new thing, it is not something He has not done before. Instead, He is refreshing our reality with new hope and life. His action is not random, reactive, or unmeasured. Instead, when He does something new, it is always rooted in His eternal, unchanging nature and our identity as His children.



BRIDGES OF LOVE
LOVE IS ACTION

**BRIDGES OF LOVE'S
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

The past year has brought many changes for Bridges of Love. God has indeed done a new thing, refreshing our daily activities, with new hope and life! He says in Isaiah 43:19 to be alert, as he is about to do something brand new; He will make a way in the wilderness and river in the dessert.

Celebrating our 20th Anniversary last year in High River was indeed a blessing and we are so thankful to have had this celebration while we were still close enough to invite those special people who have been involved in the ministry over the years. With our move to Red Deer, it is that much further from our Calgary roots so it may have been more difficult to travel the additional distance for those who attended our 20 Anniversary celebration, October 12, 2023, event. The move to Red Deer was indeed unexpected but we know God was directing our steps throughout the process. More on this relocation to come!

Before we share more on our year's activities, please allow me to once again thank our Board of Directors for their continued support and prayers. With much on our plate, we have called on their prayer support on more than one occasion, so it has been greatly appreciated and has sustained us through this venture. Only with God's hand in our activities, could we have carried out all that took place over the past six months! Thank you, Denise and Sandy, for being such supportive Board Members, Prayer Warriors, and Friends! We are so fortunate to have you both as part of the ministry.

We also, thank Tom for ALL he did to support, lift, carry, and assist with the transition to our new location. He packed for a day in our High River office while I was manning our booth for the Okotoks Emergency Preparedness Week activity, so all his help was greatly appreciated. We could not have made this move without Tom's help and support. God put us on the same page for every step of this journey as he never complained or challenged this move! We thank the Lord for putting us in one accord throughout the entire ministry.

We both have been feeling that it was time, however, to hang up his IT hat since our move to Red Deer. Turning 79 in December, and with technology changing at an alarming rate, it is hard for most to keep up with the necessary changes to be engaged and effective in today's world. Tom is now helping more at home with the continued work there but is still close at hand when needed for tasks at the office or at events when he is needed. Again, we thank Tom for 21+ years of service and support every step of the way!

We want to also thank those who gave financially to keep us afloat. We continued to rely heavily on our Alberta Civil Society Fund grant that has carried us longer than anticipated. More to say regarding our grant so we will leave that for our Treasures Report.

Now onward, with our 2023 – 2024 Fiscal Year's activities!

- **Summer 2023**



Since a new staff member was proving difficult to fill, we came across a summer student who was home in High River for the summer. Timothy Rugg (TJ), a 3rd year U of A honours computer science student started employment the beginning of May and carried throughout his summer break. TJ was a whiz on the computer developing two online donation management systems designed to streamline and enhance assistance for those affected by a disaster, 'Alberta Recovers' and 'Crosswalk', to assist those who have everyday challenges. These two programs were already in the works, but TJ put the necessary programming in place to make them functional. Our Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) on-line form was also reformatted for a greater level of effectiveness. In order to know how to carry on with the programs once TJ left his position, an Operation's Manual was developed for IT protocol as well as information for banking, insurance, policy & procedures manual; all information very beneficial for moving forward.



➤ The close of August a new staff member, Michael Lum, was hired as Executive Director's Associate. Michael was a senior pastor at the High River Alliance Church for 15 months before joining us, September 11. Michael was with us just a short time before it became evident that he was not the best fit for this position. Later in September, he shared that working with BofL was not something he wished to do long term. He offered to step out of his position, if we wanted to find someone who was better suited. This did indeed come as a surprise but knowing that he was not interested in working long term, it made the decision to accept his resignation a little easier, but it was still a disappointment!

- **Alberta NGO Partner**

We were very pleased to be accepted as an Alberta NGO partner at their Face-to-Face meeting last September. The Alberta NGO Council is a network of non-governmental organizations that are active participants in Alberta's Emergency Management landscape. The purpose of the Alberta NGO Council is to support municipal and provincial emergency planning and preparedness, response and recovery efforts through coordination, cooperation, collaboration, and communication.

We have monthly virtual meetings and one Face-to-Face gathering with the partners. The meeting in 2023 was held at Samaritan's Purse facility in Calgary. Bridges of Love has taken on the Treasurers position as members so members can give as they can.

- **20th Anniversary Celebration, October 12, 2023**



Since our AGM was scheduled for the month of October, a decision was made to combine this meeting with a celebration for Bridges of Love's 20th Anniversary, with a theme, "**We Are One**". Heritage Inn, HR proved to be a lovely venue for an October 12 luncheon. Invitations were mailed (20) and an additional 25 were emailed to those who have been supporters or somehow connected with

the ministry. Wayne Cao, retired Calgary MLA, was invited as our special guest speaker who shared our involvement with the flood relief efforts in Calgary. Wayne was responsible for BofL's Hero's of the Flood awards in 2014. Michael Lum sang, Brian Doerksen's song, "We are One" on closing our celebration along with a video with special memories since the beginning of Bridges of Love Ministry. 20 guests were invited back to our office for apple pie, so we enjoyed an additional visit with those who came from out of town. What a fantastic closing to 20 years serving through this ministry! Thank you to all who attended.



- **Civil Society Fund**

The end of September, the 3rd reporting period for the CSF grant was completed. The grant completion date was March 24, 2024, but due to the three-month delay in receiving the funds, the deadline was extended to the end of June. Then due to our move to Red Deer, the end date was again extended to the close of 2024. The extension allowed revisions to our budget since extra funds were available from the staff line to allocate to areas that needed a boost in support (Marketing & Communication). All in all, the grant experience has been positive, with appreciation to the past Minister of Social Service, Jason Luan and present Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services, Jason Nixon along with the CSF Team. We were hesitant to take Government Funds but this new experience has been positive to date. From the start, Bridges of Love has followed and believed that support should not come from Lottery Funds, so this an area we questioned before accepting the Alberta Civil Society grant. Alberta grants are traditionally funded by the Lottery resources generated, so there are not many grants that are available in this province which is unfortunate. We had a meeting with Jason Nixon and he shared this was something the government was working on to change, so that was encouraging to hear!

- **Seven County’s Church Connections and Survey**

With affirmation from the Civil Society Fund that our grant had been designated as a Regional and not Provincial Grant, they suggested we select the specific regions we wished to share our programs. Seven counties from Vulcan to Kneehill were selected so this made our task manageable and attainable. Databases for these counties was developed with contact information for each church documented. The seven county churches were now included in our monthly Newsletters introducing our programs. After a few months, a survey was shared to help identify the churches understanding and acceptance. These results were tabulated to identify the success and impact from multiply phone calls, emails, and Newsletters. The results indicated that our greatest support came from Mountain View County, probably due to Michael’s connections to this region, so our decision to have our next CERT Summit in this county was made.

SEVEN COUNTIES	CHURCHES CONTACTED	CHURCHES THAT ANSWERED THE PHONE	CHURCHES WHERE A VOICEMAIL WAS LEFT	CHURCHES THAT CALLED BACK	CHURCHES NEEDING MORE TIME TO DISCUSS	CHURCHES NOT INTERESTED	CHURCHES THAT BECAME FEPI PARTNER	% OF CHURCHES WHO HAVE RESPONDED	CHURCHES THAT HAVE FILLED OUT THE SURVEY
Contacted 130 Churches VULCAN	5	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	1
KNEE HILL	12	3	10	1	1	2	0	0	0
RED DEER	45	5	38	1	4	0	0	0	2
MOUNTAIN VIEW	24	6	18	2	3	0	5	20.8	1
FOOTHILLS	24	11	13	0	7	1	2	4.2	1
WHEATLAND	8	2	6	0	2	0	0	0	0
LACOMBE	12	3	11	0	2	0	0	0	0

130 churches located in the seven counties These results indicated the contacts made to identify and engage churches who had a desire to become involved with our FEPI endeavor

- **Mountain View County CERT Summit, February 9, 10, & 17**

Prior to the Summit, over three months, three road trips were made to Mountain View County (MVC) with a goal of building trust and support for a CERT training session in the New Year. Mid November, churches in Carstairs (Rock Church), Sundre (McDougal Chapel), First Baptist Church (Olds) Zion & Mountain View EM Church (Didsbury) and dropped off posters and brochures in other locations.as well. We felt there was a positive response from the pastors we spoke with so we were encouraged there would be support coming from the MVC church community. While in Olds, possible venues were visited, and a decision was made to hold the Summit in the Olds Evergreen & District Centre. Being a large facility it had plenty of room for the Friday evening session.

In January we made our last trip to make as many connections as possible before the Summit which was scheduled for Feb. 9, 10, and 17. This trip was focused more on the community at large with schools, town offices, grocery stores, insurance companies receiving posters and brochures. Again, it was a great introduction to many localities (Carstairs, Cremona, Sundre, Olds, Didsbury, Bergon) with interest shown by many along the way. We also had a meeting with the Municipal Emergency Manager, Ryan Morrison who was very nice and welcoming.

Not only were we sharing the CERT training opportunity but also invited community members to attend the Friday evening Key-note presentation by Laura Stewart who was invited to share the Fire Smart program. Laura is a wildfire specialist who lives in Edmonton, and she kindly consented to do our presentation. With a dry winter with an increase in wildfire activity predicted, we felt this was a perfect topic for this time of the year when people should be preparing for such an occurrence.

➤ CERT Summit Marketing

As mentioned, much territory was covered face-to-face making introductions to our CERT training and Friday evening Key-note topic. Besides sharing our brochures and posters, we placed an ad in the Albertan Paper in Olds, had an ad for four days on the Olds Radio Station and 96.5 CKFM Olds did an interview the Monday before the event. Judy Dahl, the Olds Mayor was invited to bring greetings from the town and introduce our Key-note Speaker. Ryan Morrison, Municipal EM was invited but he declined due to a ski trip at that time.

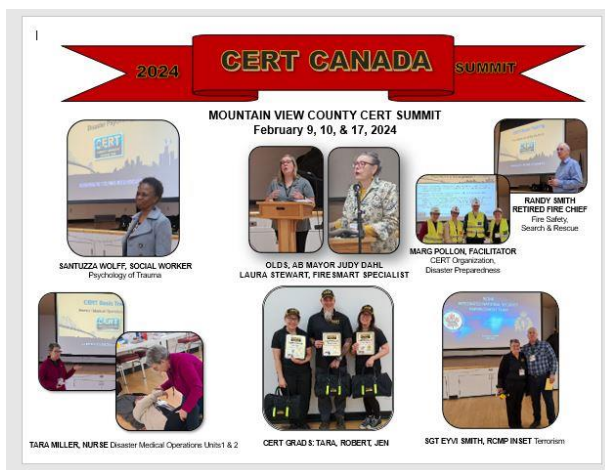
➤ CERT Summit Instructors

The hope for this out-of-town Summit was to invite professionals from their county to do the instructing. By having trainers in their own locality, it would be beneficial for future training events. Judy McMillan once again agreed to team teach a CERT Train-the-Trainer event in Olds but after advertising for a few months, we did get a response to carry on with the training.

Randy Smith, our Fire Safety instructor who retired to Olds took on this module as well as Search and Rescue. SGT. Eyvi Smith, our Terrorism instructor, also agreed to take on the Terrorism module and we were fortunate to meet a Social Worker at the Calgary Networking luncheon, Santuzza Wolff who was interested in doing the Psychology of Trauma training. After reviewing, the material, she accepted the invitation to join our team of instructors.

The Disaster Medical Operations module was taught by an Olds Operating Nurse who we met at St. Stephen's Catholic Church and Tara turned out to be an amazing instructor! She not only taught but attended the CERT Summit so is now a graduate who has offered to do more training sessions down the road.

CERT organization module and the Disaster Preparedness modules were done by yours truly with Tom assisting with technical requirements. He and Cam Nikitiuk (CERT Grad) helped with set up and take down. Everything went very well with great evaluation results for each of our instructors. We appreciated the Mayor of Olds, Judy Dahl who introduced the Friday evening session, with Laura Stewart, FireSmart specialist, sharing a wonderful presentation. The turnout could have been better, but it was our first training session held away from our office, so it was a learning experience for future events. Building trusting relationships from leaders in the communities in these 7 counties is key to greater support and success.



• Awards and Supporting Articles

The past year, Bridges of Love received some welcomed support and affirmation. The Calgary Guardian did a very nice interview for their paper that can still be accessed at this [link](#). Also, recognition from Direct Energy was received as runner up as their choice for Volunteer Citizen of the Year. This honour came with a \$500 donation to the charity of choice, so Bridges of Love received this monetary gift. The High River Times also picked up on the award and did a follow-up for their Friday October 27 paper.

April brought additional great news when we received the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc. FireSmart Canada Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Promotion award. \$500 plus resources were donated to BofL to promote Wildfire Preparedness during Emergency Preparedness Week. We gained exposure through these newspaper and magazine articles, and awards.

- **Marketing Service**

Due to not finding a staff member to help with our marketing, a service, “Virtual Gurus” was recommended as a resource for Social Media Marketing. The person we were partnered with was from Texas, so the fit was not ideal. We stayed with the program for only a short time, however, as we did not see the results we were hoping for or that justified the cost of the service.

- **Newer Office Furnishings**

With the unused budget still available before the end of our grant, a decision was made to purchase newer office chairs, tables (including a Board table), and a commercial printer. This decision was made before the move was anticipated but we are sure God had this in the works for our new office in Red Deer. Our folding chairs were not adequate for heavier set individuals, as they were being damaged so unusable. We purchased studier folding chairs from a Calgary company and a newer commercial printer from Alberta Cartridge & Toner, longtime friends and supporters who gave us a good price.

- **Emergency Preparedness Week, May 11, 2024**



We were pleased to receive another invitation from Garth Misura (Okotoks Emergency Manager) to attend their Emergency Preparedness Week activity on May 11. We appreciated Cam Nikitiuk, CERT Grad coming to help out. The FireSmart resources were a focal point so a good opportunity to support and bring awareness for the importance of wildfire preparedness. Since Cam helped man the booth, Tom stayed in High River to begin packing up our office for the pending move to Red Deer.



- **March Special Board Meeting**

A Special Meeting was called March 26, to discuss Relocation of Bridges of Love to Red Deer, AB. Reasons for this were two-fold: 1. Support for our CERT training in Foothills County had been minimal since our move five years ago to High River, and 2. The CSF grant territory covers Central Alberta, which was felt Red Deer to be a better location for Bridges of Love’s future.

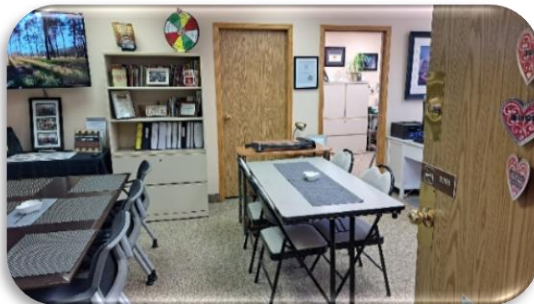
Together with personal reasons associated with our mortgage coming due, we felt this was the time to make the move with a strong selling market. Much prayer from Tom, myself, and our Board of Director’s was put into this decision and from the quick sell of our condo, things came together at lightning speed confirming our decision.

Listed & Sold HR Condo ~ Purchased RD Apt. ~ Moved to Red Deer ~ Signed Rental RD Office ~ Moved Office

March 1, 2024 April 12, 2024 May 1, 2024 May 27, 2024 June 6, 2024

After settling into our apartment, we began the search for Bridges of Love’s Central Alberta location. The search was not too time-consuming, however, as there were few facilities for lease in our price range. The building we rented until the end of 2024 is in the lower level of Roll’n Oilfield Industries building in the downtown core. It has potential, and the price was right, with no triple net included, which made it affordable.

The second space, which is still vacant, would be ideal for training and as a large meeting room. With rent set at \$500/month we will continue to pray for God’s provisions to secure this additional space. As you can see from the photo, our storage room is full to overflowing, so it would be great to have this additional space to utilize the office furnishings for training, meetings, etc. The rental agreement includes that we be given the first “right of refusal” for this 600 sq. ft. space. In the meantime, we are settled and happy with our new office space.



**New address: #101, 5208 – 53 Ave. Red Deer, AB T4N 5K2
New Phone: 587.273.0599**

SUMMARY

We come to the close of year 21, building Bridges of Love Ministry. I am sure you will agree that it has been a year of trusting God for the many decisions that were made during this time. It has not been an easy year to be sure, but we know we were obedient in making this transition, relocating to a Central Alberta location. Having the NGO Council as a partnering agency, we are in a good spot to be accessible for disasters and the many needs in this vicinity.



We are excited as there has been another answer to our prayers, and that was the hiring of an Operations and Technical Support Specialist who joined Bridges of Love in August. Her introduction will have to wait until next years report, however, but we are optimistic that we have found a very gifted team member. Thank you, Lord, for all your provisions and answer to our many prayers. God is indeed doing a new thing in Red Deer!

Respectfully Submitted:

**Marg Pollon, Executive Director
Bridges of Love Ministry
September 27, 2024**

IT Report

Bridges of Love AGM 2024

Friday, September 27, 2024

Wow, it's hard to believe another year has passed! And what a year it has been. God surely has been at work.

Marg has done a tremendous job reporting on all the highlights and milestones along the pathway God has led us and Bridges of Love this year, so there is not too much I can add. But here goes.

On May 1, God really did move us, unexpectedly and literally, to Red Deer. Whew! First home and then the office. I will report only of the office, as the home is another story.

The first week of June we moved the Bridges of Love to L101, 5208 53rd Avenue, Red Deer. Here Marg made our office not only functional, but more beautiful and comfortable than could ever been expected with all the "stuff" we had to arrange. She laid it out with precision while I installed the technology. I assembled the computer systems and mounted the TVs and generally got the technology working. Then, thanks to the help from Chad Smith, Felicia's husband, we networked it all over the wireless WiFi system. Thank you so much Chad, as this is where technology has required the touch of someone more in touch with the new advancements in wireless networking.

Now that everything is up and running, it is time for me to step back and pass the torch to our new technology expert and Marg's right-hand gal, Felicia Smith. May God guide and lead Felicia as she helps hold up our end of the Bridges of Love yoke.

Finally, may I give my heartfelt thanks and mention the wonderful parting gift Marg and the BofL Board gave me, a ticket to attend the Canada Strong and Free Networking Conference here in Red Deer. There I met so many like-minded Canadian patriots including our Premier, Danielle Smith, Preston Manning and Stockwell Day. Because of the introduction provided by Stockwell to Michelle Seguin, Western Director of Public Safety Canada in Edmonton, Marg and Bridges of Love were provided the credibility to seed the work of the Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative, drawing representatives from across Alberta in the faith, public and private sectors to meet regularly in Red Deer as a committee to help form and direct the work of FEPI.



Although I now am leaving my desk and passing the IT baton to Felicia, I will continue serving whenever I am needed and remain as a member of the Board of Bridges of Love as long as God allows me.

Blessings and love,

Tom



BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY'S FINANCIALS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

July 31, 2023 – August 1, 2024

Please see Financial Reports included.

Bridges of Love's past fiscal year continues to rely heavily on the Civil Society Fund (CSF) grant for our financial support. As mentioned previously in our ED Report, the funds were late in arriving, so the government gave us a three-month extension to the close of June, 2024. Then, due to our move to Red Deer, we were given another extension to the close of 2024 along with a change in our proposed budget. Please see our final approved budget which will remain constant for the remainder of our grant period.

Detail of Expenditure	Allowable Amount to be used from Funding
Administration (not to exceed 10% of total budget)	\$10,000.00
Staff (includes salary and benefits)	\$80,000.00
Staff Training	\$0.00
Travel	\$5,000.00
Capital Assets (not to exceed \$5,000) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment (includes telephone and cell) 	\$5,000.00
Supplies (includes project and office)	\$23,100.00
Promotion (includes advertising and marketing)	\$15,000.00
Rent/Utilities	\$11,000.00
Evaluation	\$900.00
Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	\$0.00
Total Funding Allocated	\$150,000.00

We continue to use Lorac Management as our accounting firm and even though we are now separated by distance, we have managed to keep the books up-to-date and checked periodically. Carol is great to assist when needed and she is very familiar with our financials, so I feel it is easiest to keep them as our accountant until the grant is completed. We can decide if we wish to switch to a Red Deer firm when the time comes.

Carol deferred \$50,000 on the books for our Fiscal year end so we would not have a large Net Income Balance.

The Income Tax, GST, and Society Regulations have been completed for our Fiscal year.

Private donations have been minimal again, so we are becoming a little more aggressive for our 'ask' in our monthly Newsletter. Since moving to our Red Deer office, we have made several pleas for funds to secure room 102 across the hall from our present office space. This 600 sq. ft. room will allow for larger gatherings, CERT training, and any other activities where we need additional room. Our storage room is over-loaded which makes it difficult to find anything when needed!

Since Michael Lum's employment time was cut short, we had a surplus in our staff budget line. The excess was transferred to Supplies, Promotion/Marketing, and Rent. Sufficient funds were left in the Staff budget to hire a replacement at \$30/hr. We did have a very short hire, Janet Ducommun, who was with us for a week on Contract and Virtual Guru were given a try for a month.

We made the decision to not hire another team member until we relocated to Red Deer. As soon as we were settled, an Operations & Technical Support Specialist position was posted. We had five resumes submitted, with Felicia Smith hired on July 9, 2024, with a starting date set for August 5. Felicia and her family were moving from Fort St. John, so they needed time to find a home and get settled before starting a new position with Bridges of Love. The salary offered was accepted so we kept within the budget set for the job. Since we had only five months left before year end, we kept the position as Contract until we have funding in place in 2025 to offer a Staff position.

With all the activities moving personally May 1 and then relocating our office June 5, we have not had much time to apply for grants. One larger grant with the McLean Foundation was started before year end and was submitted on September 11. The time frame for a reply is eight weeks so we are hopeful to receive some of the \$40,000 that was requested.

Our larger expenses have included the new to us tables, chairs (17), desk chairs (3), and a used commercial printer from Alberta Cartridge and Toner with 4 new cartridges. This purchase was made before we made the decision to move but we were happy to have the new furnishings which will serve us well for years to come. Since our office did not have water in our space (have to wash dishes in the washroom), we purchased a used water dispenser that gives hot and cold water. We enjoyed the machine while it lasted but unfortunately, it sprung a leak, so we had to shut it down. If we have extra funds down the road, it would be nice to get another machine, a new one this time!!

The Mountain View County CERT Summit held in Olds went well but due to the low turnout, it did cost us to put on the event. The travel expenditures for three trips back and forth to the county with a few over-night stays were responsible for the travel, meals, and fuel expenses. We also had rental of the Senior's venue and the usual marketing/promotion/advertising expenses that come from putting on the event.

Unfortunately, our CERT Affiliate partner, Bob Davies, RMD Safety Ltd. Did not pay their Affiliate Membership Fee (\$500) in the New Year. He has been contacted many times to inquire to his intentions, with no response. I would assume he is no longer interested in taking this role, but that means he does not use or share our CERT resources and training materials. We hope he will abide by what he committed to and signed a contract for!

Our MBNA Credit Card is used for most purchases and the balance is cleared completely each month, so no interest is paid.

We appreciated the Board approval for \$6000 salary to be taken by Marg for the months (3) we did not have a staff member. These funds covered the two moves which made the relocation possible. Thank you, Board!

As of September 23, when this report was written, we have \$35,281.85 in our Servus Credit Union Savings Account, \$4641.39 in our Community Account, and \$3027.02 in our Bridges of Love Bank of Nova Scotia Account. We are well situated until the end of this calendar year.

SUMMARY

We are very thankful that our financials are in-line with the funds allotted from the CSF. It has been such a gift to have the funds to carry on for almost 3 years without too much concern. All good things must come to an end, however, so we now must be diligent in seeking funding for the year ahead.

As we look back over the past 21 years, God has provided for our needs every step of the way. We may not have the biggest or the best, but we have all that we need to accomplish the work that He has given us to do. For that we remain thankful and blessed!

Respectfully Submitted:
Marg Pollon (Acting Treasurer)
September 27, 2024

Bridges of Love Ministry Society

Balance Sheet

As of 31 July 2024

2024-09-11

Accrual Basis

	<u>31 Jul 24</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
1100 · BANK ACCOUNTS	
1110 · Scotia Bank Operating	3,031.02
1130 · Servus Credit Union - Community	3,805.89
1140 · Servus Credit Union - Savings	<u>45,260.93</u>
Total 1100 · BANK ACCOUNTS	<u>52,097.84</u>
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>52,097.84</u>
Other Current Assets	
1600 · Prepaid Expenses	<u>600.00</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>600.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>52,697.84</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>52,697.84</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2200 · GST Recoverable	-622.84
2400 · Deferred Revenue	<u>50,000.00</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>49,377.16</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>49,377.16</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>49,377.16</u>
Equity	
3900 · Retained Earnings	2,926.59
Net Income	<u>394.09</u>
Total Equity	<u>3,320.68</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>52,697.84</u></u>

Bridges of Love Ministry Society
Profit & Loss
 August 2023 through July 2024

	Aug '23 - Jul 24
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4100 · DONATIONS	
4110 · Donations - Receiptable	1,916.23
4120 · Donations - Non Receiptable	1,613.79
Total 4100 · DONATIONS	3,530.02
4200 · GRANTS	
4210 · GOA - Civil Society Fund	50,000.00
Total 4200 · GRANTS	50,000.00
Total Income	53,530.02
Gross Profit	53,530.02
Expense	
5100 · ADMINISTRATION	
5110 · Accounting & Audit Costs	1,789.49
5120 · Bank Charges	71.56
5150 · Insurance	594.61
Total 5100 · ADMINISTRATION	2,455.66
5300 · COMPENSATION	
5310 · Salaries & Compensation	
5311 · Staff Member	8,653.87
Total 5310 · Salaries & Compensation	8,653.87
5320 · Payroll Expenses	
5330 · Canada Pension Plan	480.19
5340 · EI Expense	-826.91
Total 5320 · Payroll Expenses	-346.72
5360 · Contracts	10,145.00
Total 5300 · COMPENSATION	18,452.15
5400 · FACILITIES	
5410 · Office Rent	6,351.26
5420 · Office Equipment	1,258.81
Total 5400 · FACILITIES	7,610.07
5500 · MINISTRY COSTS	
5510 · Activity\Event Supplies	5,415.92
5520 · Duplication & Printing	44.85
5530 · CERT Summit	
5532 · CERT Shirts and caps	1,007.51
5530 · CERT Summit - Other	634.15
Total 5530 · CERT Summit	1,641.66
5540 · Communications	
5541 · Cell Phone Charges	1,126.02
5542 · InternetAccess/WebPage	853.26
5545 · Telephone Services	110.16
Total 5540 · Communications	2,089.44
5550 · Educational Resources	152.66
5551 · Marketing Costs	1,022.31
5560 · Food & Refreshment Expense	355.57
5570 · Gifts, Cards & Appreciation	1,087.30

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Accrual Basis

Bridges of Love Ministry Society

Profit & Loss

August 2023 through July 2024

	<u>Aug '23 - Jul 24</u>
5580 · Office Supplies	
5581 · Computer Cartridges	247.44
5582 · Paper	40.27
5580 · Office Supplies - Other	<u>6,927.87</u>
Total 5580 · Office Supplies	7,215.58
5590 · Postage & Shipping	<u>198.90</u>
Total 5500 · MINISTRY COSTS	19,224.19
5600 · CSF Evaluation	1,024.39
5700 · TRAVEL	
5710 · Lodging	1,845.69
5720 · Fuel	867.36
5740 · Meals	739.35
5750 · Mileage	<u>1,296.00</u>
Total 5700 · TRAVEL	<u>4,748.40</u>
Total Expense	<u>53,514.86</u>
Net Ordinary Income	15.16
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
4150 · Recovered Expenses	0.00
4155 · Bank Interest	<u>378.93</u>
Total Other Income	<u>378.93</u>
Net Other Income	<u>378.93</u>
Net Income	<u><u>394.09</u></u>

Vision Casting for Bridges of Love: Community Resilience Through Faith

Introduction

As we gather for our Annual General Meeting, we are filled with anticipation for the future of Bridges of Love in Red Deer. With a legacy of over 20 years dedicated to service and outreach, we now embark on a pivotal journey to establish our key initiatives: the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI), and Alberta Recovers in our seven counties. These programs represent our unwavering dedication to fostering community resilience and embodying Christ's love in action. We want to acknowledge Tom's significant contributions over the years; he has helped Marg lay a strong foundation for us to continue to build upon. Marg and I, along with our dedicated board members, are focused on moving this mission forward together, supported by prayer and encouragement from all.

Our Vision

Our vision is to create a community where faith and preparedness are intertwined. In times of crisis, we aspire for local churches to be beacons of hope and support, equipped to respond effectively to the needs of their congregations and neighbours. As stated in Proverbs 27:17, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." By collaborating with emergency services, local organizations, and community members, we can build a robust network that serves everyone, especially the most vulnerable.

In recent years, Alberta has experienced an alarming increase in natural disasters, highlighting the urgency and relevance of our initiatives. We acknowledge that this journey will not be without challenges. Bridges of Love has faced numerous roadblocks and obstacles in the past, yet our faith remains steadfast. We are optimistic that though Marg's vision and our collective efforts, God will provide a way if it is meant to be. Together, we can cultivate a spirit of resilience, transforming setbacks into steppingstones toward fulfilling our mission.

Strengthening Community Engagement

We recently held a "Meet and Greet, Pie and Coffee" gathering that welcomed local churches. The turnout was encouraging, but we recognize the need for sustained engagement to deepen connections within the community. Our goal is to foster deeper connections within the community and encourage more churches to participate in our initiatives. This year, we will focus our efforts on three key counties: Red Deer County, Lacombe County, and Kneehill County. In the following year, we will address the remaining four counties.

Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching." This scripture inspires us to create ongoing dialogue, not only to raise awareness but to invite active participation to our mission.

We envision organizing regular community events, workshops, and training sessions that will serve as platforms for learning and collaboration. Additionally, we recognize the importance of enhancing our social media presence. In today's digital age, effective outreach through social platforms is crucial for engaging with the community, sharing our mission, and inviting others to join our cause. By promoting our initiatives and successes online, we aim to broaden our outreach and inspire support from a wider audience.

Building Partnerships

To truly make an impact, we must forge strong relationships with local emergency personnel, government officials, and the community at large. Our goal is to establish partnerships with at least two local organizations in each of the three counties by August 2025. By working together, we can align our efforts with existing community resources and establish a comprehensive emergency response framework. We will also reach out to local businesses and organizations, inviting them to support our initiatives through sponsorship and collaboration. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 reminds us, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour; If either of them falls, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who calls and has no one to help them up."

Building these relationships is essential not only for securing emergency services and government support but also for engaging local businesses, churches, and the community in general. By creating a unified front, we can leverage shared knowledge and resources, enhancing our collective capacity to respond to emergencies and disasters. We are eager to connect with others to foster a spirit of collaboration and mutual support.

Sustainable Funding

With the civil society grant coming to an end, we must focus on diversifying our funding sources. Securing additional grants, building partnerships with foundations, and engaging community members in our fundraising efforts will be crucial for the sustainability of our programs. Philippians 4:19 assures us that "God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." We are committed to being transparent about our needs and the impact of contributions, fostering a culture of generosity and shared purpose.

We will actively seek out opportunities for grants, engage local businesses for sponsorships, and cultivate relationships with individual donors who share our vision. Our new website and enhanced social media efforts will play a significant role in promoting our initiatives, sharing success stories, and rallying community support.

Living Out Our Faith

At Bridges of Love, our initiatives are rooted in our Christian mission to serve others. Our work in emergency preparedness is not just logistical; it's a manifestation of our faith in action. By equipping local churches to serve during crises, we embody Christ's love in practical ways.

In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus reminds us of the importance of serving those in need, stating, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” Each initiative we launch is an opportunity to fulfill this calling, offering support, hope, and practical assistance to those affected by crises in our community.

Measurable Outcomes

1) Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI)

- Enroll 20 churches in the FEPI program by August 2025, tracking through registration forms.
- Conduct 5 outreach events across our targeted counties (Red Deer County, Lacombe County, Kneehill County) with a minimal attendance of 10 participants per session by August 2025.

2) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

- Host 3 training summits this year with a minimum attendance of 10 participants per session.

3) Alberta Recovers

- Launch 2 fundraising campaigns over the year, aiming to raise \$10,000 to support community recovery efforts.

4) Bridges of Love

- Increase our social media following by 30% across platforms and engagement by 30% through targeted online marketing campaigns.
- Distribute 200 informational flyers to local churches and community centers, with follow-up surveys to gauge awareness levels and collect feedback.

Conclusion

As we move forward in Red Deer, let us embrace this opportunity to strengthen our community’s resilience and readiness. May God bless our efforts as we work collectively to fulfill His purpose in Red Deer. Together, let us walk in faith, trusting that He will guide us and provide for our needs as we strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those around us.

By working hand in hand, we can create a robust network of care and compassion that reaches every corner of our community. Let us lean on one another, inspired by the belief that our combined efforts, rooted in faith, will create a brighter, more resilient future for our community. With God’s grace and our united commitment, we will transform challenges into opportunities, ensuring that Bridges of Love continues to be a beacon of hope for all.

Felicia Smith