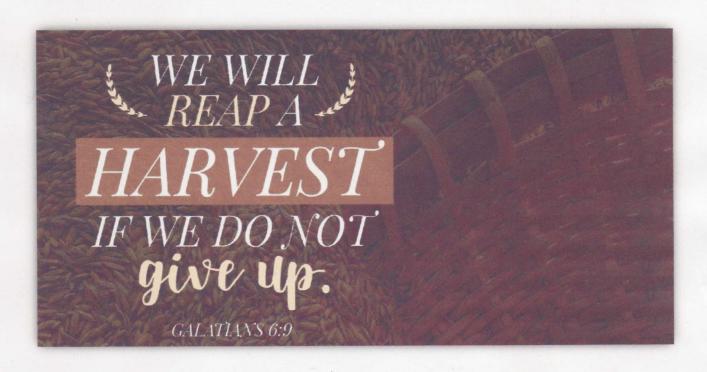
## Bridges of Love Ministry Society

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

August 1, 2021 - July 31, 2022



"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"

Galations 6:9

## Bridges of Love Ministry Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20021/2022

October 21, 2022, Noon – 2:00 pm Heritage Inn, 1104 – 11 Ave. SE High River T1V 1M4 403.649.0087

**Meeting Called** 

**Board of Directors** 

Marg Pollon

Type of meeting

Note taker

**Annual General Meeting** 

Denise Hill

Board Members

Chairman

Denise Hill, Tom Pollon, Marg Pollon,

Regrets

Guests

Gerrit Swanepoel, Judy McMillan, Andrew McMillan

#### Agenda

Call to Order		
Opening Prayer & Devotional	Denise Hill	5
Acceptance of 2020/2021 Minutes	Marg Pollon	5
Report from the Chair	Marg Pollon	5
Executive Director's Report	Marg Pollon	5
IT Report	Tom Pollon	5
Treasurers Report	Marg Pollon	5
Vision Casting	Gerrit Swanepoel	5
Discussion/Questions	All	5
Close in Prayer & Adjournment	Tom Pollon	5

#### **Additional Information**

**Observers:** 

Resource persons:

## Bridges of Love Ministry Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021 October 07, 2021



Meeting called by: Type of meeting: **Board of Directors Annual General Meeting** Chairman: Note taker: Tom Pollon Marg Pollon Time: 10:30 am Attendees: Marg Pollon, Tom Pollon, **Guest:** Agenda **Opening Prayer & Devotional Tom Pollon** 1 Thessalonians 5:4 "Only One Safe Place" Acceptance of 2018/2019 Minutes Discussion: Motion: To accept minutes as recorded: Marg Pollon Seconded: Tom Pollon Carried. **Chair Report Discussion: No Chair Report** TBA Action items: Deadline: Person responsible: **Executive Director's Report Marg Pollon** Discussion: Marg presented her report for the year. See attached. Motion: Accept Executive Director's Report as read: Marg Pollon Carried. Seconded: Tom Pollon Action Items. The report will be posted on the Bridges of Love web Person responsible: Deadline: site.

**Immediately** 

Tom Pollon

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Person responsible:	Deadline:
Tom Pollon	ASAP
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Person responsible:	Deadline:
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Person responsible:	Deadline:
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r additional Board Members for	the coming year
vs.	
Person responsible:	Deadline: ASAP
	A Part of the Part
Marg, Tom and Judy	Deadline:
	Ongoing
	Person responsible: Tom Pollon  econded: Tom Pollon Ca Person responsible: Tom and Marg  sion for the importance of the was workers who see the vision! Person responsible: Marg  r additional Board Members for ws.  Person responsible:

# Executive Director's Report

October 21,

2022

It can be discouraging to continue to do right and receive little encouragement or see tangible results. But Paul challenged the Galatians, and he challenges us to keep on doing good and to trust God for the results. In due time, we will reap a harvest of blessing.

BRIDGES OF LOVE'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



#### INTRODUCTION

Fall is traditionally a special time of year to celebrate and thank the Lord for His provisions. As we look back on Bridges of Love's activities over the past year, we certainly do have much to be grateful!

Firstly, we appreciate and thank Dennis Hill, for her prayers as our Board Prayer Coordinator. Each time we have a pressing matter, she is alerted, as how to pray. We don't always see the results exactly as we thought they should be, but God knows the best plan, so we trust His outcome.

We also thank Tom for his support in the office and at home! He continues to offer his technical expertise for our website and other technology issues that need attention. We amalgamated our two websites into one over the winter, so it was a large undertaking, but we are pleased with the results.

We appreciate those who have supported the ministry with their financial contributions. We could not have made it this far, without those who have given of their resources and support. We survived very lean COVID years due to the faithfulness of a few.

As mentioned in last year's report, the past two years were spent building a stronger foundation, so when the restrictions were lifted, we would be ready to broaden our focus. The first step was to secure a facility and outfit it for office and headquarters for CERT Canada. This has been accomplished and we continue to be so very thankful for a space dedicated to Bridges of Love's activities! The second step was to secure adequate funding to allow for staff member/s to join our team. More about this answer to prayer as I share last year's activities.

#### "MEET & GREET" October 20, 2021, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm



With COVID restrictions lifted for the summer months, we were excited to invite the High River community in to see our new space and to hear more about our activities. Even though the turn-out was small, we once again appreciated Roger Reid, MLA Livingston McLeod and a few other town members who came to enjoy a CERT Lifesaver donut and hear about our endeavors!



#### ALBERTA'S CIVIL SOCIETY GRANT APPLICATION – December 17, 2021

The second step in our planning, was to build a stronger financial base. In December, an application was submitted to the Alberta Government for the Civil Society Fund grant. This was our second attempt to secure funding through this stream. With seven affirming letters accompanying our application, we prayed for success with our bid.



#### NEW WEBSITE, January 2022

The New Year was brought in with the completion of Bridges of Love's new website. With much information on the site capturing the almost 20 years invested in this ministry, we appreciate Tom's hard work bringing it to a reality. One outstanding item we hope to incorporate soon is the SSL security, as without it, some devices internet security will not allow the website to open.

Even though there is a lot of information, we have tried to make it as easy as possible to navigate through the site. Telus does offer some stats to monitor the traffic. We have visitors from all over the world, so now we need to develop a way to connect with these visitors. The website is a great tool, and it will continue to evolve, as new information/videos are added.

#### THE CALGARY FOUNDATION SPRING COMMUNITY GRANT – February 15, 2022

A Grant Application was submitted to the Calgary Foundation on February 15 in hopes of securing funding to hire a half-time person. This second grant would also allow us to fill in some of the deficiencies such as a new computer for my station, as my Lenova was a Calgary City Surplus machine. It has been a great computer but the memory and hard drive were almost full making it extremely slow moving!

#### "Civil Society Fund" Grant Application Response – March 16, 2022

March 16, 2022 was a very special day indeed! A call came in that morning from the Alberta CSF responding to our grant application submitted in mid-December 2021. It was with great excitement and appreciation to hear the Alberta Government awarded Bridges of Love a sizeable grant for our project, "The Power of Civil Society, Moving at the Speed of Trust". We received a letter from the Minister of Social Services, The Honourable Jason Luan a few days later with these encouraging and affirming words...

"When disaster strikes, civil society is always first in line to offer a hand up to support Albertans through any emergency. This funding will help further enhance the capacity of civil society to provide immediate disaster assistance and bridge the critical gap between the time of disaster and the arrival of emergency services. I am pleased Bridges of Love will be using this funding to share resources and training with organizations across Alberta."

#### Jason Luan, Minister of Community and Social Services

With sufficient funding to now hire a Project Coordinator, we were anxious to get the Job Description posted. Unfortunately, the allocation of funds was delayed, so we were hesitant to put the word out too aggressively, until the money was in our account. We did let our monthly Newsletter recipients know that we had an opening, however, and then the waiting began.

#### Bridges of Love's 2<sup>nd</sup> Meet & Greet – March 25, 2022

We continued our quest to meet our community by inviting them in to hear about our initiatives and this time a piece of apple pie a la mode was included as an extra incentive. Posters were taken around to those who have a Community Board for advertising events, and we also advertised in our local paper for two Fridays prior to the event.

A PowerPoint presentation was put together as an introduction to Bridges of Love's initiatives and it has now been loaded onto our website for those who are visiting for the first time. We were pleased to have the Editor of the High River Times attend, who wrote a story for the Friday, April 1st paper. Dan Marcinkowski stayed for the presentation, and he seemed pleased to share the information with others in the community.

#### • Emergency Preparedness Week, "Bearing Together" - May 7, 2022



The first week of May is Public Safety Canada's time to promote the importance of being prepared across Canada. They encourage those who are involved in emergency work to support this week by engaging in a preparedness activity.

"Bearing Together" became our theme. We had hoped to be included with the Town's event, but when an invitation was not forth coming, we set up a booth, in our office parking lot. We were very

pleased to have a few of our former CERT Grads, and Instructor's come out to help. The visitor turn-out was not as expected, however, which confirmed the importance of collaboration with the town's activities. A good time concluded the event, however, as we enjoyed a bite of lunch together and a piece of apple pie.



#### APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS!



"April showers did indeed bring May flowers" but due to heavy spring rain fall, we were fearful we might have flooding! We contacted RECOVERS US to see if they would allow us to use our Alberta.RECOVERS.org website again, if we did encounter another devastating flood. We were glad to connect with Chris Kuryak, who is a Board Member, as he shared the unfortunate news. Their site suffered a catastrophic computer error that they were unable to recover! They are currently working on a new version of the software (Recovers 2.0) but they do no have a prospective launch date when we last spoke.

We did contact our Emergency Manager in High River and offered to fill sandbags if the need arose, but thankfully, the rains did subside, and the sun shone once again.

#### PRACTICUM OPPORTUNITY WITH CDI COLLEGE NORTH CAMPUS CALGARY, June 23, 2002

An email arrived from Annalyn Dela Torre, Practicum Coordinator from CDI College. She was looking for hosts for their IT student's practicum. Since we were in need of computer upgrades and still waiting for our funding, we said that we would be pleased to take a student for their four-week practicum. Eduan Geldenhuys joined us on July 4<sup>th</sup>. It proved to be a great opportunity to have our three computers upgraded, as he felt they were still good machines worth salvaging. He also introduced Cybersecurity to our office, so we are now better protected from virus attacks.

The only negative we encountered during this time was the invasion of an uninvited guest! Eduan became ill with COVID and we unfortunately, followed suit, putting us out of commission. Eduan was absent for a week and then returned to finish his tasks, while we recuperated at home. He completed the practicum ahead of schedule, leaving to graduate and seek permanent employment. We were very fortunate to have our computer systems upgraded and in order before our grant work began!

#### CIVIL SOCIETY FUND, July 12, 2022

Our CSF grant funding arrived in our Bank Account on July 12, 2022, and a copy of the Grant Agreement arrived in the mail the next week. Due to the many delays not all the activities planned for April, May, June, and half of July were completed on schedule. We did begin the process of hiring a Project Coordinator, however, with the Job Description posted in our monthly Newsletter that goes out to over 300 churches, friends, and colleagues. Once the funds were in the bank the position was also posted on Waybase, Reach Hire, the Alberta Light Magazine and thanks to Andrew McMillan, it was also posted on the Justice Institute's "online campuses" site.

A new Bank Account was secured with the Servus Credit Union, per the CSF agreement which specified the funds were to be keep separate, from our normal account. As well, Judy McMillan was asked to be our CSF Evaluation Guide giving one day per month to comply with our agreement. Thank you, Judy!

#### SUMMARY

That brings our 2021/2022 activities to a close for another year. We thank the Lord for an encouraging year where we felt His Hand upon our ministry. Thank you again to those who continue to support Bridges of Love with your prayers, support, and financials. You are indeed a blessing, as we continue our commitment to serve the Lord, demonstrating His Love.

Respectfully Submitted:

Marg Pollon, Executive Director Bridges of Love Ministry October 21, 2022

## Bridges of Love Ministry Society AGM IT Report October 21. 2022

Now that COVID regulations have been relaxed or rescinded, Bridges of Love has been gearing up to expand our base of operation to other communities across Alberta. In preparation for this, we have been working to upgrade our office equipment, infrastructure and security of our computer network and hardware.

Some of the changes will be more obvious to visitors such as the addition of a new and larger 55" monitor for the training area. This allowed the 43" monitor to the be used in the conference area for board meetings and overflow for larger training groups or breakout sessions. We also purchased another slightly used Brother printer from Buy & Sale to accommodate our new Project Coordinator and well as a new monitor in anticipation of additional staff joining our team.

Bridges of Love was able to take advantage of the services of a cyber security specialist student provided from the CDI College as a practicum for one of their programs. Eduan spent several weeks upgrading our office computers, improving the interoperability of the local area network and beefing up our internet security system. This was all at a small fraction of the cost if we were to use a commercial contractor as his labor was free so covering the cost of computer parts was our only responsibility.

We are taking advantage of the new team building and social networking provisions of Google and Microsoft 365. In addition, secure CERT and FEPI resource materials will be accessible to associates, affiliates, and graduates of Bridges of Love training on various cloud-based services.

Finally, visitors to the Bridges of Love web site will notice that changes have been made to make it more user friendly for use on multiple viewing platforms and take better advantage for social media exposure and promotion channels for increased visibility in cities, towns and rural communities across Alberta.

As always, your suggestions are most welcome and appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Pollon Director, IT October 21, 2022 CSF funds were to be allocated in April 2022, but we did not receive the first year's funds (\$75,000) until July 12, 2022. We did not wish to spend funds we had not yet received, so this slowed down our CSF activities, until the funds were deposited. We included the Job Description with our monthly Newsletter and on a few other sites that provided the service at no cost. Reach Hire, CCVO portal to advertise job postings, was the best site for the charitable sector, which is where we posted once we had the funds in the bank. It was affordable (\$120 for 60 days).

Due to funding received from our CERT Affiliate (\$500) Bob Davies, for his yearly membership for Edmonton & GEA, funds were available to purchase a 55" TV that was on sale at Visions. The 42" TV we had purchased when we first took occupancy of our office, was small for those viewing from the back and side of the room. We hung the smaller TV on the back wall, so the screens are now very visible from all locations. A larger TV was in the budget for the CSF funding, so we were able to put these funds, towards computer upgrades.

As mentioned, we were very fortunate to have a CDI student, Computer Security Specialist, join us for his practicum. Eduan spent this time upgrading the computers we already had, installing additional memory, hard drives, Microsoft Office 365 (5 licenses), and Bitdefender (2 additional licenses). He also installed a security switch, so the office computer system, is protected from virus attacks. There were no costs incurred for his services, as we just paid for the computer parts. We included \$200 in his card, as a little thank you, as we appreciated all the work he accomplished.

Again, we were not successful with our Spring application, for funding from the Calgary Foundation. This time, we were told we did not adequately answer the five W's, – Why? Where? Who? When? How? A new option was given with this application to present a video to explain our mission and proposed activities. The video had to be under five minutes, so we did our best, and learned from the experience. We were told to apply again in the Fall, however, so we are learning how to improve, each time a submission is made.

Due to the requirements of the CSF grant, we secured an Accountant, Lorac Management Inc. here is High River, to oversee our books. Carol Lyall offered to be a mentor, so we can continue inputting the day-to-day postings, which will be more cost effective. Carol shared one of her QuickBooks 2022 licenses which includes Payroll. She charges by the hour (\$60) so we should have a saving by doing what we can in-house.

#### Summary

I am learning more each time a funding application is submitted. Since they restrict the number of words used to answer each question, one must be very succinct in the response. We are thankful for the opportunities we have had, to increase our financial base, over the past fiscal year.

We continue to pray for a Treasurer to join our Board of Directors. Denise has taken on the responsibility as a second cheque signee, as per our By-Laws, so we appreciate her stepping in to fill the gap until a Treasurer is found.

Increasing our donor base is a goal for the coming year. Bridges of Love still has a responsibility to fund raise and contribute to our project activities. We cannot be totally dependent on grants as it leaves us vulnerable. Having support from those who believe in our mission and goals brings greater community and volunteer involvement.

Thank you again to all who have supported and sustained Bridges of Love over the past year. Our faith continues to increase and strengthen seeing how God provides!

Respectfully Submitted: Marg Pollon, Acting Treasurer October 21, 2022

## Bridges of Love Ministry Society Profit & Loss

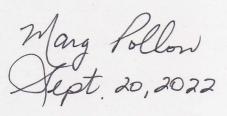
August 2021 through July 2022

	Aug '21 - Jul 22
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income 4100 - DONATIONS	
4110 · Donations - Receiptable 4120 · Donations - Non Receiptable	5,264.99 500.00
Total 4100 - DONATIONS	5,764.99
4200 · GRANTS 4210 · GOA - Civil Society Fund	5,000.00
Total 4200 - GRANTS	5,000.00
Total Income	10,764.99
Gross Profit	10,764.99
Expense 5100 - ADMINISTRATION 5120 - Bank Charges 5130 - Credit Card Charges 5150 - Insurance	54.50 19.47 390.15
Total 5100 · ADMINISTRATION	464.12
5400 · FACILITIES 5410 · Office Rent 5420 · Office Equipment	6,000.00 587.83
Total 5400 - FACILITIES	6,587.83
5500 - MINISTRY COSTS 5510 - Activity\Event Supplies	74.97
5540 · Communications 5541 · Cell Phone Charges 5542 · InternetAccess/WebPage 5545 · Telephone Services	643.25 114.57 143.40
Total 5540 · Communications	901.22
5560 · Food & Refreshment Expen 5580 · Office Supplies 5590 · Postage & Shipping	79.26 391.90 52.62
Total 5500 - MINISTRY COSTS	1,499.97
5800 · GST/HST Expense	677.37
Total Expense	9,229.29
Net Ordinary Income	1,535.70
Other Income/Expense Other Income 4150 - Recovered Expenses	70.00
Total Other Income	70.00
Other Expense 6000 · DONATION EXPENSES 6010 · Donation Given	50.00
Total 6000 · DONATION EXPENSES	50.00
Total Other Expense	50.00
Net Other Income	20.00
Net Income	1,555.70

### Bridges of Love Ministry Society Balance Sheet

As of 31 July 2022

	31 Jul 22
ASSETS Current Assets Chequing/Savings 1100 · BANK ACCOUNTS 1110 · Scotia Bank Operating 1120 · BofM Acct#1	73,355.55 0.56
Total 1100 · BANK ACCOUNTS	73,356.11
Total Chequing/Savings	73,356.11
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	73,356.11
TOTAL ASSETS	73,356.11
LIABILITIES & EQUITY Liabilities Current Liabilities Credit Cards 2040 - MBNA 13	744.09
Total Credit Cards	744.09
Other Current Liabilities 2200 · GST Recoverable 2400 · Deferred Revenue	-81.93 70,000.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	69,918.07
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	70,662.16
Total Liabilities	70,662.16
Equity 3900 · Retained Earnings Net Income	1,138.25 1,555.70
Total Equity	2,693.95
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	73,356.11



## Gerrit Swanepoel Bridges of Love's Project Coordinator



Gerrit was born in Vryheid, South Africa where his family farmed cattle and sheep. Growing up, he was always interested in business and won his first business award at the age of 13, followed with additional awards as he grew older. In 2001, they sadly lost their family farm due to the political change in South Africa. It was at this stage, they started looking at options to live in a new country, that would be safer and more prosperous for the future.

In 2008, they immigrated to Canada, settling in High River. They made it their new home working hard to be able to keep their future in this new home. Gerrit studied project management in 2012 and discovered his passion to lead different projects to success. Since that beginning, he has worked on different projects and lead them to success. In 2017, they bought their first piece of land in Vulcan County and once again started a farming operation. They are now owners of one of the biggest aquaponic farms in Canada. Unfortunately, in 2019, they suffered another loss with fire destroying the farmhouse. This made it necessary for Gerrit to head back to work, to keep operations going. until they can rebuild all that was lost.

His passions led Gerrit to be more involved in the community. When he came across Bridges of Love's posting on Reach Hire, for a Project Coordinator, he felt it was a great fit! He is passionate and saw firsthand how a program like this can change the outcome of circumstances. A program that keeps the community involved and helpful to first responders, and to the community itself, in a safe yet effective way.

#### Bridges of Love's Vision Cast, 2022+

Since Bridges of Love's CERT and FEPI programs have been successfully tested in Calgary, we have been working on how we can implement them into the smaller towns and communities. Bridges of love received a grant allowing us to broaden our scope and get more involved in the smaller communities,

Our initial strategy is built around communicating with the leaders in the town to gain support and then move to the rest of the community to implement and find the volunteers.

Before we could enter this stage some of the needed background support had to be put in place first.

- 1. Build a updated, user-friendly and secure (SSL) website (completed)
- 2. Create a social media platform to keep up with newer generations (on-going)
- 3. Creating an online log-in to support CERT trainees
- 4. Creating an online log-in to have access to FEPI resources, 24-hr. contact info, volunteers, facility
- 5. Build a new online marketing platform.

Both programs have reached amazing heights in the past, but we have found that as time passes after a disaster event, so does the community willingness to be involved in disaster preparedness and training. This makes the process of getting more people involved a challenge! New innovative strategies need to be implemented to continue the momentum that has been achieved to date.

Newer generations of people perceive and receive information on different levels, hence why social media was created, to reach new people who see the benefits and value for getting involved. Smaller communities know firsthand their waiting times will be longer for first responders to arrive on the scene. This program allows for collaboration; to do what they are trained to do, before the first responders arrive to take over the response. Minutes saves lives because someone already knew how to assess a situation, and assist safely for themselves and who they are helping, from an unsafe event.

Having the option for CERT trainees to log in to the web portal gives them the option to call for additional trained volunteers. They also have access to CERT training materials on-line to refresh what they learned in the training. Informed and calm people make smart choices but when in a stressful event, some may need a reminder. That is what the new web portal offers to all CERT trainees. Moving online with social media and the secure website, will also, promote donations to support our initiatives.

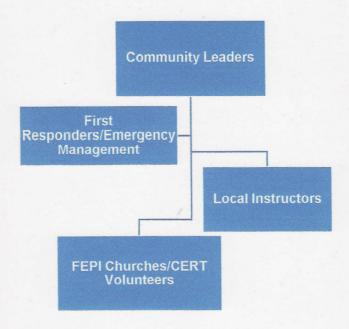
The website allows for FEPI members to register online, so FEPI Associates (Lead community churches) have access to the data base so they will know what each church has to offer, for any catastrophic event. The website was built to be user friendly and easy to navigate; assisting the church community to access resources, helping the community with greater effectiveness and speed.

Implementing these programs into smaller communities allows groups to not only work together within the community, but with neighboring communities as well. Starting off in new communities will be more difficult, however, since the programs are relatively unknown to many. That is why it is critical to connect with community leaders first and educate so if asked, they will support Bridges of Love's endeavors. They already have trust in those elected leaders of the community. A positive response will affirm our programs.

To keep costs down on CERT equipment, an effort will be made to connect with different companies to see what can be donated, or acquired at a better price; pushing the program to become self-sustaining for the future.

CERT instructors in communities supporting their own members, will develop teams of qualified trainers and CERT graduates, who will be equipped to deal with disasters/emergencies in their locality. A starting

point between Emergency Management, First Responders, and Community Leaders together with Bridges of Love's programs, makes for a cohesive and effective relationship, working at the speed of trust!



Order of contact for engagement

#### Marketing

To expand into new areas, communities firstly need to know who you are, what you stand for, and how you operate.

That is why we will be reaching out to the community with targeted advertisements with social media; which provides insight into our new programs, giving a desire to see it implemented in their community.

Targeting a town on social media to approach, a subliminal support system is built. They see an ad displayed on their social media network, allowing them to gather information and see the benefits before it is personally introduced. 75% of people are already on social media, so this initial introduction, breaks the barrier they might feel, from just showing up and trying to introduce a new program.

We will also be attending more markets trade shows etc. explaining who we are, what we do, and how it benefits the community, building those critical relationships of trust.

Last but not least we will be printing flyers and placing them in the local stores and community boards just so that people can see our logo and read a little about the program. This will be the same as the social media ads be done in advance of approaching the leaders of the community.

The revised platform supporting out CERT trainees is built. FEPI churches also and have a strong foundation to proceed and implement the program in new communities. Once we have the word of mouth on our side, with community leaders and members excited about working together, the result will be more resilient communities across Alberta.