



## Canadian Advancement Report

*Fall 2023*

Wow, time flies! It's hard to believe that it's been just five months since I assumed the role of Canadian Director of Advancement. Meeting all of you, our incredible Canadian churches, has been an absolute joy! Let's tackle a question that many of you have been curious about:

### ***What exactly is Advancement?***

Advancement is not just a buzzword or a mere fundraising function. It's a dynamic process that involves leveraging our collective resources, talents, and passions to propel God's kingdom forward.

Advancement encompasses strategic planning, innovative thinking, and intentional collaboration to maximize the impact of our ministries and missions. It's about fostering a culture of growth, generosity, and Kingdom-mindedness within our churches. It's about embracing new opportunities, empowering leaders, and equipping our congregations to make a lasting difference in the world.

Perhaps you haven't realized it, but every one of you is already actively engaged in advancement work through your churches' participation in ministry shares. By contributing to ministry shares, you have made a powerful covenant—a promise to stand shoulder to shoulder with our fellow CRC churches as we collectively pursue the advancement of God's kingdom. This beautiful alignment of financial resources with a shared vision represents a united purpose to elevate God's kingdom at the very core of everything we do.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Our Canadian CRC Churches contributed **\$6.3 million dollars** in the last fiscal year to the ministry shares program. That staggering sum has been harnessed to propel God's kingdom forward! *(We are still awaiting the submission of certain classes, meaning the final figure will be even more!)*

Get excited about the impact and transformative work being accomplished with \$6.3M through Thrive, ReFrame, Resonate, Calvin and the Canadian Ministry Office! From spreading the gospel to uplifting church communities, empowering the marginalized, supporting missions, and

fostering spiritual growth, the reach and influence of such a substantial investment are boundless. Your church and your classis, are an integral part of this amazing work we're cheering for! Every single dollar you commit to our shared ministries brings these remarkable advancements in God's kingdom to life. It's your generosity and commitment in action!

## EMPOWERING YOUR ADVANCEMENT JOURNEY

We're all about supporting and empowering your church as you steward God's resources. Being part of our CRC family comes with some incredible perks that you don't want to miss out on! We've got a whole bunch of denominational services, resources, and networks just waiting for you to tap into. Check out just a taste of what we have available for you:

- **Access Grant Opportunities:** If your church is undertaking something remarkable and requires additional funding, our advancement team can provide guidance on grant applications and help your church prospect partners.
- **Comprehensive Insurance Solutions:** Our denomination has worked tirelessly to provide robust insurance coverage tailored to the unique needs of our churches.
- **Giving Made Simple:** Revolutionize your church's giving experience with the Bridge App and Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). These innovative tools streamline the donation process, making it effortless for your congregants to contribute and support your church's mission.
- **Church Will Clinics:** Discover the power of offering your congregants thoughtful estate planning, ensuring that your church's vision and mission are carried forward for generations to come.

## CHALLENGES TO ENGAGE

We find ourselves at a crucial juncture, where individual Canadian church contributions towards Ministry Shares have decreased slightly. Let's explore a few possible reasons:

- Your church might be going through a rough patch financially, like a rollercoaster with a few too many unexpected loops.
- There could be some unspoken tension between your church and the denomination over synodical decisions on human sexuality.
- Your church might not have emphasized the significance of tithing and Ministry Shares as a covenant relationship.
- Perhaps your church tends to focus more on local matters rather than global causes, like having a soft spot for the neighborhood ice cream truck instead of the exotic gelato from faraway lands.
- And sometimes, despite our best efforts, the offering plate simply doesn't overflow like a magical cornucopia of generosity.

It's essential to acknowledge and honor the validity of all the reasons that contribute to our current situation. Each challenge faced by our churches holds its own weight and significance. However, we cannot ignore the conundrum that lies before us. The need for Jesus is not diminishing, but rather growing at an exponential rate across North America and around the globe. As leaders in our churches, it's crucial that we adopt a growth mindset, a mindset that strategically embraces the expanding needs and opportunities for spreading God's love.

Do you believe in the CRCNA's ability to rise to this challenge? We possess a powerful system that is already in place: Ministry Shares. Now is the time to reignite the flame of excitement within our hearts and congregations. Let us remind ourselves of the profound impact we can have when we unite in purpose and commit to supporting Ministry Shares.

I am delighted to extend a warm invitation to each of you to scan the QR Code and schedule a one-on-one Zoom call with me. In the coming 12 months, I will be reaching out personally to each and every Canadian church. My goal is to gain a deeper understanding of your local church, its vision, needs, and opportunities to share God's resources strategically.

Using the QR code, you can take the initiative to book this meeting in advance and get a head start on our productive conversation. I genuinely look forward to connecting with each of your churches and exploring ways to advance God's Kingdom together.

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARE Fiscal July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 Financials are based on the funds received as of June 30, 2023 Number of churches includes both emerging and organized			
Classis	Total Given	# of churches who gave/ total # of churches	Number of gifts
Classis Alberta North	\$883,055	24/31	547
Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan	\$458,841	16/18	196
Classis B.C. North-West	\$222,420	16/19	155
Classis B.C. South-East	\$548,144	19/25	203
Classis Eastern Canada	\$441,200	19/19	361
Classis Hamilton	\$522,630	15/16	231
Classis Huron	\$835,417	20/22	393
Classis Lake Superior	\$132,488	7/8	87
Classis Niagara	\$620,937	12/14	366
Classis Ontario Southwest	\$624,076	23/28	435
Classis Quinte	\$553,123	17/20	320
Classis Toronto	\$502,697	20/22	356
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,345,028</b>	<b>208/242</b>	<b>2650</b>

Warmly in Christ,

***Roshani Morton***

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