

# Spring 2026 Classis Report



## Equipping Deacons - Transforming Communities

### 2026 marks 25 years as Diaconal Ministries Canada!

In 2001, the various regional diaconal conferences across Canada voted that there should be one organization to provide training and resources to Deacons across Canada. Over the last 25 years we have seen this humble beginning grow into an amazing team of 6 staff and 15 Diaconal coaches across Canada who help deacons identify local assets, share resources and impact our community with God's love. As we celebrate 25 years of Love in Action we want to invite you to join us. While we will be celebrating across Canada at all of our fall classis meetings, we will also join together on the previous Day of Encouragement—Saturday - October 17—in Hamilton at Indwell's John Perkins Centre for an evening celebration. If you are in the area we would love for you to join us.



### PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

Recently, Erin our faithful Communications Coordinator of 8 1/2 years moved on to a new job. Before she left, she reflected on her time with us and the history of Diaconal Ministries Canada. When churches see Diaconal Ministries' name attached to a resource, a webinar, an event, or a story, our hope is that they have come to expect something **thoughtful, faithful, and helpful** for their ministry. Not flashy for the sake of attention, but meaningful for the sake of God's people and God's mission.

That trust didn't appear overnight. It was built slowly—through faithful staff, dedicated volunteers, wise deacons, and communities that kept showing up to love their neighbours well. As we mark 25 years of Diaconal Ministries Canada, we celebrate a legacy of **Love in Action**. It's a fitting theme, because the work of deacons has always been exactly that: faith expressed through practical care, justice, generosity, and community transformation.

If you would like to partner with us in communicating our stores as we enter into the next 25 years of Diaconal Ministries, check our Job Posting for a Communications Coordinator on our [website](#).



The 2026 NewGround Campaign has launched!



Our Theme is **"Faith Builds. Love Moves. Hope Lasts."** based on Ephesians 5:2 "Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (NIV) At NewGround, we believe that churches are uniquely positioned to lead with love and walk alongside their neighbours with humility and compassion. For over 50 years, we have been empowering deacons, churches, and community ministries to follow Jesus' example to walk with their own communities - bringing justice, mercy, and hope.

This year, we are excited to share the story of one of our NewGround Youth Justice Project partners. In the summer of 2024, a grassroots initiative emerged in a downtown Windsor park among young newcomer women from Syria and Afghanistan. **WINGS (Windsor Intercultural Neighbourhood Girls)** formed as these young women sought a space of belonging, empowerment and opportunity to overcome the multiple barriers they encountered upon arriving in Canada. Supported by their mentor Ruth Rodas-Kammaing, who had recently launched a coffee social enterprise that supports access to secondary education for Indigenous and Mestizo girls in rural areas of Guatemala, an idea formed for a holistic employment mentorship internship and the WINGS cafe was born.

NewGround is thrilled to continue to journey with the WINGS women as they have now applied for a Community Ministry grant to build more connection and opportunity in their community.

If you haven't already had a collection for NewGround we would love for you to add us into an upcoming Sunday. Digital resources for the 2026 NewGround Campaign can be found [here!](#) Including a video to play during the collection.



WINGS CAFE

