

SASKATOON SASKATCHEWAN STAKE

ANNUAL HISTORY

2015



Saskatoon Stake Center 1429 10th St. E. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan,
Canada

Saskatoon Stake History Summary 2015

February 13th Valentine's Dance

Stake Young Women

The stake Young Women hosted a Valentine's Dance on February 13, for 14-years and older, including adults! Complete with the youth (AP/YW Youth Committee) arranging babysitting so their parents could come out. Lots of pink and red attire as well as heart decorations and twinkle lights set the mood. Fond memories of a chocolate fondue fountain and some great dancing worthy of prizes.



February 28th/March 1st Stake Conference

President Douglas W. Robertson presided over this conference. In attendance were President and Sister Greg and Linda Wood, Regina Temple President and Matron, and President and Sister Mark Thomas, Canada Winnipeg Mission.

The conference sessions were well attended, given that the conference was held in the middle of a bitterly cold winter. The Stake membership was 2040 with actual attendance was 482. Leadership attendance was higher because Stake Auxiliaries decided to conduct training at the same time to save on leadership travel.

Internet broadcasting allowed for many to attend from their units. Unfortunately, efforts to capture online attendance failed. Each of the attendance categories would likely have increased another 20%.

Priesthood Leadership Meeting	180 Invited	96 Attended	Percent Attending 53
-------------------------------	-------------	-------------	----------------------

Instruction included using missionaries in Melchizedek Priesthood Quorums and groups, and teaching in the homes of less-active members.

Saturday Evening Session	1636 Invited	164 Attended	Percent Attending 10
--------------------------	--------------	--------------	----------------------

This session focused on the theme "Individuals and Families are blessed, and the work of salvation is strengthening ministering through the Ward Council."

Sunday Morning Session	2040 Invited	482 Attended	Percent Attending 24
------------------------	--------------	--------------	----------------------

This session focused on the theme "Forever Families and Temple Work". Delightful to hear a returned missionary from Salt Lake Family History Centre share stories of family history experiences (Sister Marlene Breti, who's talk is included in its entirety in the Wanuskewin Ward History). Also, 2 youth recently called as Family History Consultants.

Releases

Phyllis Kay Butler
Shannon Gaylene Leslie
Julia Erin Noble
Becky Ruth Stott
Erin Elaina Ellis
Edmund Goldthorp

Stake Young Women President
Stake Young Women First Counselor
Stake Young Women Second Counselor
Stake Young Women Secretary
Stake Primary Second Counselor
Member of the High Council

Sustainings

Shannon Leslie
Jeanie Skitteral
Jessica Killistoff
Irina Samuylova
Donna McKay
Duane McKay
Alvin Wong
Brent Francis
Eric Graham Slocombe
Jean Lucille Slocombe
Patricia Carole Spencer

Stake Young Women President
Stake Young Women First Counselor
Stake Young Women Second Counselor
Stake Young Women Secretary
Stake Primary Second Counselor
High Counselor
High Counselor
High Counselor and Stake Sunday School President
Stake Public Affairs Specialist
Stake Public Affairs Specialist
Stake Public Affairs Specialist

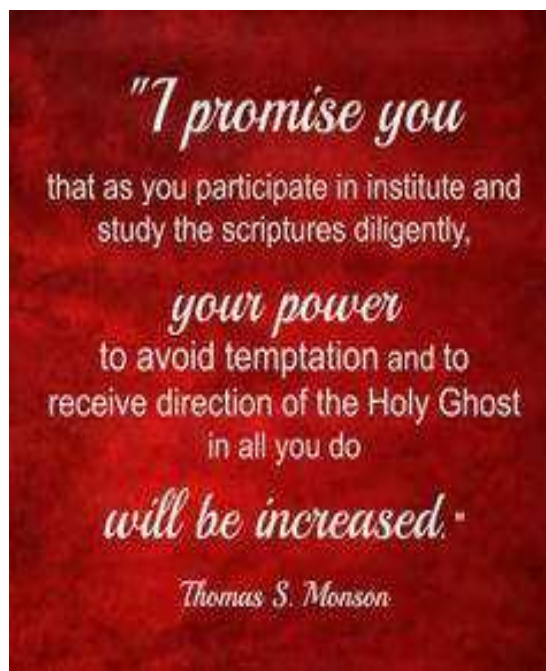
Priesthood Advancements

Received Melchizedek Priesthood and Advanced to office of an Elder
Chase Weir (Wanuskewin Ward)

Ordained to the office of High Priest in the Melchizedek Priesthood
Brent Francis (Wanuskewin Ward)

March 29th
Stake Musical Celebration





April 19th Institute Graduation

Shawn Reid was employed as the Seminaries and Institute Coordinator. His area includes all of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and we are blessed to have him and his family reside in our stake.

On April 19th, 2015 the Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake joined a combined Institute Graduation Activity with the Regina and Winnipeg Stakes. This activity consisted of a temple trip where the YSAs performed baptisms for the dead. The temple reported that it was the 2nd largest group that they had had for baptisms. The activities continued with a combined lunch and graduation service held in the Regina Stake Centre. There were about 30 YSA that attended throughout the activities. On April 19th certificates were also handed out to the YSAs in their home Saskatoon wards. Throughout the year two institute classes were offered; one online class (averaging 4 students/week) and one face to face class (averaging 15 students/week).

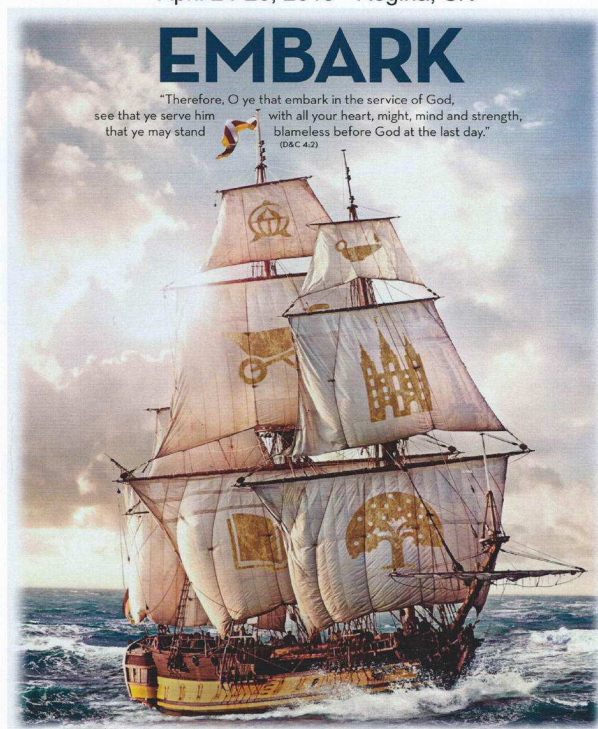
April 24th-26th Tri-Stake and District Youth Conference

Stake Youth

The Tri-Stake and District Youth Conference was held in Regina, April 24-26. A large number of youth from our Stake travelled by bus to Regina, excitement was mounting in anticipation of much fun. The weekend was filled with several dances, various spiritual workshops, good food and a terrific service project at the Regina Food Bank. Many friendships were formed, youth leadership skills were shown and testimonies were strengthened! These yearly events are not to be missed!

2015 Tri Stake Youth Conference

April 24-26, 2015 - Regina, SK



Registration forms must be in by February 26, 2015 if you'd like a Tri-Stake t-shirt
Late forms will be accepted, but you won't receive a t-shirt

Register online at our Facebook page **2015 Regina Tri-stake Youth Conference**
or ask your youth leader for a paper form

May 2nd Stake Women's Conference

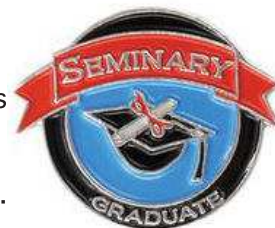
Stake Relief Society

Stake Women's Conference (theme: "Women are that they might have joy") was held on Saturday, May 2nd, 2015. There were approximately 110 sisters in attendance to enjoy sisterhood, workshops, a salad bar lunch, and service project. We donated a total of 243 Chemotherapy Care Kits to the Saskatoon Cancer Centre. Each kit consisted of lip balm, tissues, mints and gum. The kits also contained notes and messages of encouragement prepared by our sisters.

June 5th-6th Youth Activity and Seminary Graduation

Seminary

In collaboration with the Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake YM & YM organizations a Youth Activity and Seminary Graduation occurred on June 5 & 6. The activities consisted of a youth dance and scripture based activities put on by each ward YM & YW, a meal for parents and students, and a graduation service. The event was attended by many youth from the outlying units. 12 youth graduating from high school were honored with 9 of them receiving seminary graduation certificates. Grades 9-11 were also honored. The seminary teachers that taught the youth in 2015 were: Carol Spencer, Carole Wright, Lorene Froc, Michelle McGinn; Jantz Selk, Skylar Thompson, Blanca Sofoifa, Kevin Ledding and Jean Slocombe. In the fall of 2015 the stake combined the two Saskatoon classes into one class. There were 35 youth enrolled in seminary during 2015.



July 16th-18th Stake Young Men's Camp

Stake Young Men

Stake YM Camp was held at Boehme's acreage and like all YM camps it started raining Thursday night after we had set up camp. The rain didn't stop the YM from playing "capture-the-deacon" a variant of capture-the-flag where deacons are substituted in place of flags. It rained most of the day on Friday which caused a change in plans. The YM spent much of the time Friday having fun running around in the rain making bows and shooting arrows developing a new appreciation for Nephi in the process. The rain let up on Saturday and we were able to take the YM go-karting.

August 14th-16th Tri-Stake YSA Conference

Stake Young Single Adults

A Tri-Stake YSA conference was held in Saskatoon from August 14-16, 2015. It was attended by about 60 young single adults from Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg. Workshops focused on career planning, dating and marriage, and maintaining balance in life.

The Saskatoon area YSAs met regularly for Family Home Evenings and other activities throughout the year.

September 5-6 Stake Conference

This conference was interesting, for we had more communication with Church Headquarters. First, President Boyd K. Packer, president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, wrote a letter to President Robertson, stating that Elder Per G. Malm of the Seventy would preside at conference. Then they changed the assignment, so that Elder G. Lawrence Spackman, Area Seventy, presided over this conference. Since President Packer had passed away since the first assignment, it was President Russell M. Nelson who wrote the second letter.

September stake conferences are difficult to prepare, for we have so many young student-families who go return home to work for the summer. This year, it had the added wrinkle of falling on the Labour Day weekend. We had traditionally been scheduled for the second weekend in September, but this year, it was the first weekend. President Robertson called CHQ to see if they had scheduled us for the long weekend for 2016. They had. The employee said, "I didn't realize it was also Labour Day in Canada." He promised to make a note so it would not happen again. He later called to say that they will no longer schedule conferences anywhere in Canada for the first September weekend.

In July, we had received a new mission president, so this was the first time that President and Sister John and Carol Craig attended as the mission president and wife of the Canada Winnipeg Mission. It was the last conference at which President and Sister Greg and Linda Wood would attend as the Regina Temple President and Matron, for they would be released in November.

The conference sessions were well attended, given it fell on the Labour Day long weekend. Of the 2020 members of the stake, 472 attended.

Themes included: Overcoming spiritual and temporal challenges, Family History and Temples, Ward/Branch Councils, Sabbath Day, Standing for Truth

Priesthood Leadership Meeting	110 Invited	78 Attended	Percent Attending 71
-------------------------------	-------------	-------------	----------------------

- Questions we are asking the Lord, various ways revelation can come.
- Mosiah 26
 - Working hard in the Church
 - Attitudes- how we perceive our callings- burdens? blessings?
- Giving inspired invitations
- Adversary and Apostacy

Saturday Evening Session	984 Invited	217 Attended	Percent Attending 22
--------------------------	-------------	--------------	----------------------

- Councils and how to use them to reach throughout our borders
- Every member has the right to revelation, our agency
- D&C 88: 122 Let not all be spokesmen
- Listen to each other and the Spirit
- Sabbath as a sign between me and Thee

Sunday Morning Session	2020 Invited	472 Attended	Percent Attending 23
------------------------	--------------	--------------	----------------------

- Spiritual Memory- keep connected with the Spirit, the Lord

The conference saw changes to the stake high council and auxiliaries with many releases and sustainings.

Releases

Karen Bennett	Stake Family History Centre Director
Stephanie Smith	Assistant Stake Family History Centre Director
Larry Racicot	High Councilor
Angela Rodgers	Stake Relief Society 2nd Counselor
Jantz Selk	Stake Seminary Teacher
Blanca Sofoifa	Stake Seminary Teacher
Tammy Tanner	Stake Seminary Teacher
Skylar Thompson	Stake Seminary Teacher

Sustainings

Steve Creighton	High Councilor
Kevin Davies	Stake Public Affairs Specialist
Jean Slocombe	Stake Seminary Teacher
Kevin Ledding	Stake Seminary Teacher
Stephanie Smith	Stake Family History Centre Director
Christine Burgess	Assistant Stake Family History Centre Director

Priesthood Advancements

Received Melchizedek Priesthood and Advanced to office of an Elder

Cy Callanta (Wanuskewin Ward)	Tyler Hansen (Kindersley Branch)
Blake Prete (Meadow Lake Branch)	Rhoneil Lacno (Melfort Branch)
Brett Alexander (Wanuskewin Ward)	Ace Lacno (Melfort Branch)
Peter Sagassige (Wildwood Ward)	

Ordained to the office of High Priest in the Melchizedek Priesthood

Steve Creighton (Meadow Green Ward)
Felipe Reijer (Wildwood Ward)

Changes in Leadership in 2015

In the stake, the following leadership changes were made in 2015:

- Erin Ellis (Battlefords Branch) was released as stake Primary Second Counselor, and replaced by Donna McKay (Prince Albert Ward)
- Phil Stephan (Meadow Green Ward) was released as stake Young Men president, and replaced by Don Tanner (Meadow Green Ward).
- Larry Racicot (Battlefords Branch), Phil Stephen (Meadow Green Ward), Scott Johnson and Ed Goldthorp (Wildwood Ward) were released as high councilors. Alvin Wong (Wildwood Ward), Duane McKay, Brent Francis and Steve Creighton (Meadow Green Ward) were called to the high council.
- Angie Rodgers (Meadow Green Ward) was released as Stake Relief Society Second Counselor, and replaced by Lauren Crosby (Wildwood Ward).
- Karen Bennett (Wildwood Ward) was released as the director of the stake Family History Center and replaced by Stephanie Smith (Wanuskewin Ward). Stephanie was released as the assistant director, and replaced by Christine Burgess (Wanuskewin Ward).
- Cory Wanner (Wanuskewin Ward) was released as the stake organist. He was also released as the stake executive secretary, and replaced by Russell Butler (Battlefords Branch).
- Russell Butler (Battlefords Branch) was released as the stake executive secretary, and replaced by Evan Ericson (Meadow Green Ward).

October 16th-17th Youth Standard's Conference

Stake Youth

At the October Standard's Conference, the 12-13 year old youth went to Apex Trampolines for their evening activity while the 14+ youth had a dance. On Saturday the youth participated in a large service project preparing meals for Ronald McDonald House (not sure on that on second thought). Following the service project, the youth were well taught in a series of workshops with topics ranging from Sabbath Day observance to marriage and chastity.

November 7th Stake-wide Young Women in Excellence Program

Stake Young Women

We hosted a stake-wide Young Women in Excellence program on November 7. Invitations in the shape of an Instagram picture, the theme of "Picture Yourself As The Savior Does" were sent out. The cultural hall was decorated in black and white and a focal wall was decorated with all the YW's pictures hanging amongst pictures of the Savior, colourful flowers and a banner with the theme written on it.



President Robertson was asked to speak on the theme. Brother Duane McKay also spoke about the significance of Personal Progress/YW in Excellence from a father's perception. A lovely meal was served, followed by each unit who were able to be there, presenting one or two of the YW values, what it meant to them, various things that they had done under that value etc. All the girls there participated!

Some special talents were shared by the girls/leaders: musical numbers, jingle dancing, drawing, recipe boxes, computer animation, scripture studies, emergency response type courses, posters, videos and more! The Spirit was felt as we celebrated continued learning and projects being completed in our Personal Progress! The evening was complete with a #PersonalProgressRocks #PictureYourselfAsTheSaviorDoes giant Instagram photo booth to take pictures in. Decorated picture frames and Instagram shaped treats were favours to take home!

In Memorium

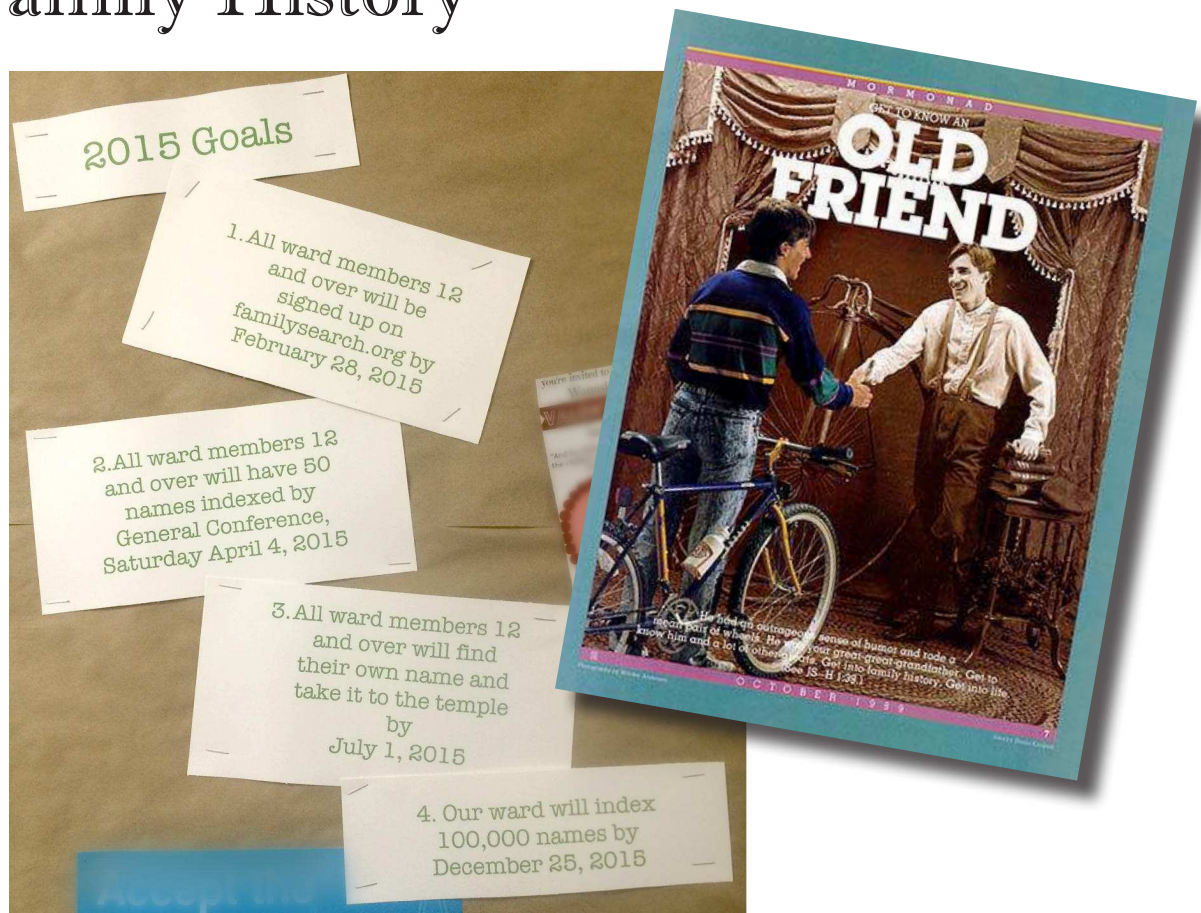
In 2015, the following members passed away who had been active in their home ward or branch:

Darlene Scarff of the Kindersley Branch passed away suddenly in October. Sister Scarff was well-loved in the community and had served in many leadership and teaching roles in the branch. She will be sorely missed. Her son, Wayne, was on his mission in South Carolina, and valiantly stayed on his mission, confident his mother would want that.



Jim Rechenmacher passed away unexpectedly in September. Over the years, he and Sue had lived in Battlefords Branch and Prince Albert Ward. Brother Rechenmacher had served in numerous callings in these units, and had been employed by the Church FM Group for several years. His cheerful voice and hearty laugh was recognized by all.

Family History



The Saskatoon Family History Centre put on a series of classes to engender research, such as Duplicates and Merging, Latin American Research, Igniting Interesting Through Stories, Recording Oral History, Preserving Memories, Image Correcting and Uploading, Editing Relationships, Asia Research Basics, Descendancy Research, etc. They also collaborated with two wards in having a friendly indexing competition, Wanuskewin Ward versus Wildwood Ward.

In the fall, the FHC started a “Parents and Tots” afternoon twice a month, wherein parents with young children could do research while a FH consultant watched the children, or involve the children in family history through puppets, skits, games, etc.

This year we had two youth serve as family history consultants: Meteghan Smith (13) of the Wanusekwin Ward, and Delaynie Crosby (14) of the Wildwood Ward. The Family History Centre was open during the hour between these two wards’ meetings to allow members more access to the centre.

Stake Missionaries

Full Time Missionaries in 2015

There were 16 full-time missionaries serving from our Stake as of March 1st, 2015:

Elder Howard Ortiz (Battleford branch)
Sister Jessica Livingstone (Kindersley branch)
Sister Kale Scarff (Kindersley branch)
Elder Wayne Scarff (Kindersley Branch)
Elder Evan Ericson (Meadow Green ward)
Elder Lucas Julseth (Meadow Green ward)
Sister Michelle Tanner (Meadow Green ward)
Elder Scott Tanner (Meadow Green ward)
Sister Amy Tanner (Meadow Green Ward)

Elder Blake Prete (Meadow Lake Branch)
Elder Will MacInnes (Meadow Lake Branch)
sion
Elder Logan Froc (Melfort Branch)
sion
Sister Santana Denk (Wanuskewin ward)
Elder Dean Cayabyab (Wanuskewin ward)
Sister Katrina Robertson (Wildwood ward)
Elder Richard & Sister Linda Watson
(Wildwood ward)

Canada Vancouver Mission
Utah Ogden Mission
West Virginia Charleston Mission
South Carolina Columbia Mission
France Paris Mission
Korea Seoul Mission
Nevada Las Vegas West Mission
Florida Tampa Mission
Colorado Ft. Collins
(Spanish-speaking) Mission
Tahiti Papaeete Mission
Mexico Mexico City North Mis-

sion
Pennsylvania Philadelphia Mis-

California San Fernando Mission
Edmonton Canada Mission
Romania Moldova Mission
New Brunswick Nova Scotia
CES Programs

Church Service Missionaries:

Elder Paul Ericson and Sister Kelly Ericson called as Addiction Recovery Specialists

Full-time Missionaries released from Mission Field in 2015:

Sister Jessica Livingstone (Kindersley branch)
Sister Kale Scarff (Kindersley branch)
Elder Evan Ericson (Meadow Green ward)
Elder Eric & Sister Jean Slocombe(Meadow Green Ward)
Sister Michelle Tanner (Meadow Green ward)
Elder Scott Tanner (Meadow Green ward)
Sister Marlene Breti (Wanuskewin Ward)

Sister Santana Denk (Wanuskewin ward)
Elder Lucas Julseth (Wildwood ward)
Sister Katrina Robertson (Wildwood ward)
Elder Richard & Sister Linda Watson
(Wildwood ward)

Utah Ogden Mission
West Virginia Charleston Mission
France Paris Mission
India New Delhi PEF S.R. Center
Nevada Las Vegas West Mission
Florida Tampa Mission
Family & Church History
H.Q. Mission
California San Fernando Mission
Korea Seoul Mission
Romania Moldova Mission
New Brunswick Nova Scotia
S&I Programs

Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake 2015 Work of Salvation Plan

The Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake goal for 2015 is to encourage each ward, quorum, auxiliary and program to align with and adapt existing initiatives and plans, to further the Work of Salvation.

The stake presidency will assign leaders to set goals using the Work of Salvation (see Handbook 2 section 5), and the “Area Plan 2015” (see following pages) as a guide. This applies to each ward, Melchizedek Priesthood quorum, stake auxiliary and stake program. The process is to:

1. Teach and train the leader,
2. Assign the leader to set goals according to his or her responsibility and authority,
3. Approve or assign actions to achieve the goals, and
4. Encourage, follow up and hold the leader accountable to his or her goals.

The Work of Salvation is the basis of these goals, and full-time missionaries are key resources. Each unit needs to update its Ward Mission Plan, plus report monthly on The Rescue Initiative. In addition, each auxiliary and program has its own mandate. Therefore, the challenge for each ward, quorum, auxiliary and program leader is to use inspiration to be aware of these multiple initiatives and render them down to a few goals that align with the Work of Salvation.

The stake’s single goal is to support leaders in this goal-setting process. The stake presidency will assign stake auxiliary leaders and high councilors to do much of the training and follow-up. In doing so, we will incorporate the leadership principles from Handbook 2, section 3.2, which are to:

1) prepare spiritually, 2) participate in councils, 3) minister to others, 4) teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and 5) administer the priesthood or auxiliary organization.

Programs should be simplified, not embellished, to meet local needs. The structures, programs and indicators are already in place. Follow-up should be done through existing councils, committees, and stewardship interviews. Leaders should select key indicators from the Quarterly Report. No new structure, program or metric is needed. We simply need to use existing mechanisms well.

As we focus on people and this process, we expect to baptize, retain and activate children, youth and adults. We do not include specific outcomes here, for they are part of the goal-setting process. The Work of Salvation is in God’s hands and He will hasten His work in its time (see D&C 84:73). As Paul said: “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase” (1 Cor. 3:6). We will plant a process of training, accountability and follow-up, and will measure the increase.

New Member Report

Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake (511447)

Name	Gender	Confirmed	Status	Responsibility	Current Unit
Lacno, Rhoneil	M	7 Sep 2014	Elder	Branch Clerk	Melfort Branch
Knutson-Price, Meranda	F	21 Sep 2014	Member	Primary Second Counselor, Primary Teacher	Battleford Branch
Barthe, James Richard	M	2 Nov 2014	Unordained		Melfort Branch
Mistickokat, Anita Marie	F	11 Jan 2015	Member		Wanuskewin Ward
Monz, Nathan	M	12 Apr 2015	Unordained		Wanuskewin Ward
Laviolette, Gloria Marie	F	19 Apr 2015	Member		Prince Albert Ward
Tian, Margaret	F	19 Apr 2015	Member		Wildwood Ward
Sagassige, Peter G	M	26 Apr 2015	Elder	Elders Quorum Second Counselor	Wildwood Ward
Chekowski-Padget, Alison L	F	26 Apr 2015	Member		Prince Albert Ward
Clark, Brianna Marie Kimberly	F	3 May 2015	Member		Battleford Branch
Rodriguez, Maria	F	3 May 2015	Member	Relief Society Teacher	Battleford Branch
Caribou, Shiann	F	10 May 2015	Member	Family History Consultant, Branch Missionary	Flin Flon Branch
Spoonhunter, Michael Raymond	M	24 May 2015	Member		Wildwood Ward
Cy, Callanta	M	31 May 2015	Elder	Primary Teacher, Ward Missionary	Wanuskewin Ward
Longman, Tashiena Rose	F	28 Jun 2015	Member		Wildwood Ward
Redstar, Nathaniel Vernon Lee	M	28 Jun 2015	Member		Meadow Green Ward
Hendry, Tawnya Lynn	F	28 Jun 2015	Member		Meadow Green Ward
Hendry, Lena Marie	F	28 Jun 2015	Member		Meadow Green Ward
Laviolette, Jae-lynn Autumn Rayne	F	26 Jul 2015	Member		Prince Albert Ward
Zhong, Summer	F	2 Aug 2015	Member	Nursery Leader	Wanuskewin Ward
Kryschuk, Danielle Paige	F	9 Aug 2015	Member	Primary Teacher, Young Single Adult Leader	Flin Flon Branch
Hu, Luke	M	27 Sep 2015	Unordained		Wildwood Ward
Bear Burant, Faith Alexandra Roselle	F	8 Nov 2015	Member		Prince Albert Ward
Bear Burant, Cristal Lynn Marie	F	8 Nov 2015	Member		Prince Albert Ward
Bradshaw, Brock	M	15 Nov 2015	Priest		Wanuskewin Ward
McCallum, Moses Maruis	M	15 Nov 2015	Priest		Meadow Green Ward
Iron, David	M	29 Nov 2015	Unordained		Wanuskewin Ward
Richardson-Bisson, Justin Craig	M	6 Dec 2015	Unordained		Prince Albert Ward
Wolfe, Stacey Renee	F	20 Dec 2015	Member		Kindersley Branch
Corkill, Richard	M	3 Jan 2016	Unordained		Wildwood Ward
Ninnie-Van Veen, Helen	F	10 Jan 2016	Member		Wanuskewin Ward
Rapadas, Jose Miguel Hizon	M	17 Jan 2016	Teacher		Melfort Branch
Richard, Edward Albert	M	31 Jan 2016	Teacher		Flin Flon Branch

Public Affairs Activities

The Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake saw several Public Affairs initiatives that helped the Church become more visible as a resource to the broader community.

The largest effort related to helping meet the needs of northern communities displaced by forest fires. Working first through the Prince Albert Ward, the entire Stake assisted the approximately 13,000 evacuees with hygiene kits and other emergency supplies. In addition, Stake leaders in Saskatoon and Regina contacted Church headquarters to access food and other resources. By the time families were able to return to their homes, one of the largest relief efforts by the Church in Canadian history had been completed. Roughly 70,000 meals were sent directly to the Prince Albert Grand Council or its partners for distribution. In addition, the Prince Albert Food Bank was replenished by the Church directly. Most importantly, the Stake's approach of "Tell us how you want us to help" has formed bonds of appreciation and cooperation that will carry on in the future as more emergencies are faced.

Sis. Denyse Smith shared one of her experiences helping the relief effort:

"I will never forget this experience. Upon serving a cold breakfast that morning to a little girl (around 10 years old) and her 3 small brothers I chatted with her and asked her if there was any food she was missing getting; her eyes lit up and she quickly answered "bacon". Then I asked her how long she had been here at the soccer centre. Without a second of hesitation she blurted: 26 days! My heart broke. Like she knew the exact number of days. It gives one a different perspective thinking of refugees, especially children. I'm grateful I was able to serve howbeit in a small way..."

The Stake Public Affairs representatives have also become very involved with Multi-Faith Saskatoon. All Saskatoon PA team members are now members of Multi-Faith Saskatoon and attend monthly meetings. The Church's support in planning events is building bonds between faith communities.

One article about the pending JustServe initiative was published in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix. In addition, the Stake Social Media specialist has started a Facebook page, highlighting Church activities and interests.

JustServe a more efficient model for volunteering



SASKATOON STARPHOENIX

[More from Saskatoon StarPhoenix](http://thestarphoenix.com/author/thestarphoenix) ([HTTP://THESTARPHOENIX.COM/AUTHOR/THESTARPHOENIX](http://thestarphoenix.com/author/thestarphoenix))

Published on: July 18, 2015 | Last Updated: November 9, 2015 9:35 PM CST

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is all about service.

“It’s what we do,” says John Spencer, director of public affairs for the Saskatoon LDS stake. “It’s part of our culture, and fundamental to who we are. We believe in following the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ who told us to love God and love our neighbour. If we can smooth the roughness in some one else’s path, that’s what we want to do.”

A recent survey conducted by the Pew Research Center revealed that LDS church members give eight times the volunteer service hours than the average religious North American. A lot of it is directed within the church, Spencer says, “but now, more and more, we’re working outside the church.”

He gives the example of someone from the congregation who heard The Lighthouse was in need of people to help in its soup kitchen. “That person organized a pool of people to go to The Lighthouse, set up, serve the soup, and clean up afterward.”

LDS volunteers also assisted with sorting clothes and building hygiene kits for people displaced by the recent forest fires in the North.

The church is also committed to an annual blood drive for Canadian Blood Services. “We like to do it with another faith community,” Spencer says. “One year, we partnered with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. That’s a good example of what we want to do outside our own membership. It would be rare to have an opportunity otherwise to sit down with Muslims like that. I believe sharing in a service gives both of us common ground.”

Service could be deemed a direct mandate for the LDS church. A statement from the body’s president, Thomas S. Monson, declared: “We have a

responsibility to be active in the communities where we live ... to work co-operatively with other churches ... It's important that we eliminate the weakness of one standing alone and substitute for it the strength of people working together ... Unless we lose ourselves in service to others, there is little purpose to our own lives."

That philosophy is behind a brand new LDS initiative, JustServe, which Spencer calls an even more efficient model for volunteering.

JustServe has been in place for a little more than a year. The Canadian rollout was in Vancouver in late 2014, and in June, the go-ahead was given to establish JustServe in Saskatoon.

JustServe matches faith, non-profit and government organizations that need volunteers with volunteers willing to provide help. It does so through a website (JustServe.org). Spencer says the underlying aim is to relieve suffering, care for the poor and needy, and enhance the quality of life in the community. The initiative has four general guidelines: The best service opportunities are collaborative – working side-by-side with others in community; humanitarian service opportunities should assist the poor and those in need of a helping hand; community service opportunities should enhance the quality of life in the community; and Just-Serve projects should never involve volunteers in fundraising, have a political focus, or be for-profit oriented.

Eric Slocombe is in charge of searching out service opportunities for JustServe Saskatoon.

One of the opportunities on the list will definitely be SARBI, the Saskatchewan Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured. SARBI helps people with acquired brain injury (ABI) in three main areas of recovery and rehabilitation: psychosocial rehabilitation, recreation programming, and family support.

Slobombe says there is always a great need for volunteers at SARBI.

"Volunteers can assist with recreational activities like socializing, playing cards and attending community events and festivals. They can create healthy bonds with ABI survivors, act as role models, and help them rebuild their social skills."

Slocombe is aiming to have at least 15 projects identified when JustServe Saskatoon launches in the fall. "We're actively looking for suitable projects,"

he says. “We have a screening process in place to ensure the projects are legitimate.”

Some may be more relational in orientation like the Knitting/Crocheting Social on Vancouver’s JustServe website where volunteers give their time to sit and knit or crochet with someone with an intellectual challenge. A local sewing circle is exploring how to make their circle a service option.

Slocombe will maintain regular contact with the agencies in the long term to keep the relationships alive and make sure volunteers are doing what they’ve pledged to do.

The LDS church has three congregations in Saskatoon, with about 1,000 members in total. Spencer says the average member age is young, since many are students. He sees JustServe as an ideal tool to enable these younger members to have sustained volunteer service.

He says, “Dag Hammarskjold said, ‘You have never done enough so long as you have something more to contribute.’ That’s our mantra, whether the doing involves energy, resources, or love.”

Comments

We encourage all readers to share their views on our articles and blog posts. We are committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion, so we ask you to avoid personal attacks, and please keep your comments relevant and respectful. If you encounter a comment that is abusive, click the "X" in the upper right corner of the comment box to report spam or abuse. We are using Facebook commenting. Visit our FAQ page (<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/news/story.html?id=7195492>) for more information.

0 Comments

Sort by **Oldest**



Add a comment...

 Facebook Comments Plugin

Evaluation of the Church's Emergency Response to the 2015 Saskatchewan Wildfires



Submitted to: Ferren Squires, Area Welfare Manager, North America Central

Submitted by: Doug Robertson, President of the Saskatoon Saskatchewan
Stake, in conjunction with Yves Noblet, President of the Regina Saskatchewan
Stake

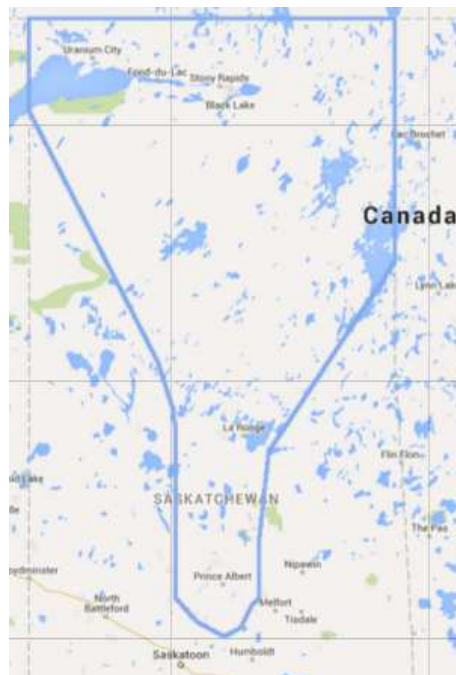
November 16, 2015

Evaluation of the Church's Emergency Response to the 2015 Saskatchewan Wildfires

Background to the 2015 Wildfires

In 2015 Saskatchewan had a record 684 wildfires, which triggered the largest mass evacuation in its history. Dozens of fires were over 100 sq. miles in size and 12-15,000 people from 54 communities were evacuated for several weeks, most of which were First Nations (FN) people. Ninety-nine structures were destroyed, tens of thousands of square miles of forest burned. Fortunately, no lives were lost, and no damage was done to Church buildings or property.

Most of these fires were in the boundaries of the Prince Albert Ward in the Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake, but the impact was felt in both the Regina and Saskatoon stakes. Evacuation centers were established in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and Cold Lake, Alberta. Many evacuees elected to stay with friends or relatives, which made it difficult to precisely state how many people were affected.



The Government of Saskatchewan's department of Emergency Management and Fire Safety dealt with the disaster on the front lines. Emergency Social Services and Regional Health Authorities led the evacuation efforts. The government contracted the Canadian Red Cross (CRC), which subcontracted food services to The Salvation Army. The CRC needed to offer consistent services in accredited facilities, so they declined assistance from other agencies. This was not the time to vet potential partners' qualifications. Such relationships should be established in advance. Assessing the quality and suitability of equipment and supplies should be done before a disaster, not during.

Another background element is the FN efforts to establish themselves as self-governing. They had requested from provincial and federal governments the authority and funding for disaster response. This did not happen, and the FNs saw this disaster as an opportunity to prove they could look after their own. Some bands set up independent evacuation centers. Nonetheless, the CRC was the sole agency to receive government funding to receive evacuees, and did not pass on funding to them.

Finding Our Niches

When our stakes offered help to the Health Regions and the CRC, we were declined, as were other agencies, religious groups, or corporate donors. This was consistent with their pre-existing strategy, and



understandably so. Therefore, the stakes found other niches in which to serve. We had several options due to our histories of service in the communities (see Appendix for details). For example:

- The Prince Albert Ward met with the Prince Albert Grand Council and offered to work through them.
- Saskatoon Stake members volunteered for The Salvation Army to serve food, sort clothes, etc. One ward's Young Women organization provided an evening of activity to entertain the children. Leaders spent many hours communicating and planning with the PAGC and other agencies.
- The Relief Society coordinated efforts to provide 210 hygiene kits and two van/car loads of children's items (books, games, crafts, blankets, strollers, play pens, etc.).
- The Regina Stake worked through the Regina Food Bank on two fronts: 1) to deliver food ordered from our Church storehouses, and 2) to package food donated by a local corporate donor.

Working with the Prince Albert Grand Council and Regina Food Bank

The Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) is one of the largest councils of First Nations in Canada, representing twelve FN bands and over 38,000 people. They told us their biggest challenge was caring for evacuees not registered in evacuation centers. Generations of distrust due to "the sixties scoop" and Residential Schools (where FN children were forced into government-sanctioned schools) led to evacuees not trusting the shelters. Many FN people went to their own families. One home reportedly had 22 people in it. Local resources were tapped and the PA Food Bank shelves were depleted.

Emergency Social Services estimated 3000 evacuees were not in registered shelters. They were encouraging evacuees to register in shelters in order to better manage the situation. We realized that if we helped the unregistered evacuees, we would be flouting the government's request to not interfere. We decided to take the risk and ordered 6300 meals (300 people for a week), for the PAGC to distribute. This served two purposes: 1) it opened channels as Bishop's Central Storehouse in Lethbridge placed the order, and 2) it gave the stake a chance to see if PAGC had the capacity to distribute the food. Before the PAGC could distribute the food, however, evacuation orders were lifted, so PAGC sent it to the hardest hit community where several homes were lost.

Now in the *recovery* phase, our help was welcome. Ferren Squires, Area Welfare Manager, facilitated approval for an additional 63,000 meals, plus diapers, laundry detergent, etc. The food was sent from the Regina Co-op and was packaged and distributed by the Lac La Ronge Indian Band (part of PAGC). It was great to have their involvement in the labour and cost of trucking the food to the remote areas. The Church also supplied over 13,000 items of dried and canned goods to the Regina Food Bank, which forwarded it to the PA Food Bank. In addition, the Regina Food Bank received a donation which it estimated would take three weeks to package. Regina Stake volunteers packaged it in three days.

During these weeks, Saskatoon Stake had about 95 volunteers giving 320 hours. In Regina, 110 volunteers donated about 330 hours of time. We were relieved that our support for the poor and needy families did not interfere with CRC or the provincial government's policies. Our relationship with the PAGC was strong, and we did not damage relationships with the provincial agencies.

Lessons Learned

- Ward and stake councils work. Working together not only facilitated better decisions, but also allowed more to be done in a timely manner and with greater confidence. We also learned to build upon each other's actions to be more effective.
- The PA Ward honored the PAGC's role in looking after its own people, which gave us clear insights as to how we could best help. PAGC appreciated the Church's efforts to work side-by-side, revise commodity orders based on need, and ensure that those most in need were the primary recipients.
- Our efforts to provide hygiene kits, clothing and games were well received. We cleared this with Emergency Social Services, for we did not want to create a disincentive that detracted from the sanctioned evacuation centers. At the same time, it allowed us to meet the needs of the evacuees who were being sheltered by friends or family.
- Several agencies commented on the Church's approach to welfare was admired. For example, the Regina Food Bank was impressed how members worked with their young children, and consequently lifted age restrictions. The Food Bank was impressed with our approach to self-reliance, and not creating deeper dependencies.
- The only way Saskatoon members could serve in evacuation centers was to register as volunteers for The Salvation Army (TSA). We worked with TSA's volunteer coordinator to expedite the process. The Salvation Army was grateful.
- Cam Murray's advance work (from the Bishop's Central Storehouse) expedited food distribution in the midst of an emergency. Ferren Squires, Area Welfare Manager was a delight to work with, offering insights that were helpful, and requiring local priesthood leaders to make the assessments. This built the relationships on the ground.
- The Church's professional and compassionate response had a wonderful effect on relationships with the PAGC, the Lac LaRonge Indian Band, and others. They indicated that they are looking forward to working with us on future projects. The Lord opens doors and helps us build relationships that would otherwise never evolve. "I will hasten my work in its time" (D&C 88:73).
- We learned the age-old lesson that disaster response works better when relationships and a plan is in place before disaster strikes.



- One of our biggest lessons was on choosing our niche. Saskatchewan's Commissioner of Emergency Management and Fire Safety, Duane McKay, is a high councilor in the stake. He said, "We have professionals who respond to the disaster, but when it is over, they move to the next disaster. The gap is in recovery." Not only is



that the gap, it is a clear opportunity for our stakes. In the four areas of disaster (preparation, response, recovery and mitigation), we have the option of choosing our niche. There is the "red ocean" of disaster response, where professional are hampered by the feeding frenzy of political agendas and misguided efforts. There is also the calm, cool and clear "blue ocean" of preparation or recovery, in which we can build relationships and self-reliance. *We can choose our niche.*

Next Steps

The long-term goal is to contribute to self-reliance. The Regina and Saskatoon Stakes will determine what our long-term role can be in that endeavor.

1. The PA Grand Council gratefully received our offer to help cleanup, and asked for time to organize work bees. Our members responded with great enthusiasm at the opportunity. It has not yet unfolded, but we do look forward to working with them.
2. The Saskatchewan stakes need to agree in advance on how to interact with First Nations, provincial and federal governments. This will reduce misunderstandings in the midst of an emergency, and help foster relationships before such events.
3. Since Emergency Preparation and Recovery is so much about relationships, we will use our Public Affairs Council to work with people of influence. For example, the Canadian Public Affairs Council recently asked which provinces have a documented agreement to work with the CRC. Saskatchewan does not, but should explore the benefits and obligations of doing so.
4. The Presiding Bishop asked if initiatives could be applied to build self-reliance (e.g.: Pathways, North America Indian Initiative, Addictions Recovery Program, etc.). We need to explore how the Church's resources could help build independence in the long run. For example, PAGC suggested we work together for emergency preparation in the future. We have many programs which might interest them.
5. By early December, the Regina and Saskatoon stake presidencies, stake Relief Society presidents, directors of Public Affairs, and high councilors with responsibilities for emergency preparation or First Nations relationships will meet. The purpose will be to refine our strategies and prepare to meet with Ferren Squires, Area Welfare Manager. We will learn which Church resources might best fulfill those strategies, and discuss this with First Nations leaders and other people of influence.

Appendix: History of the Stakes' Efforts in Caring for the Needy

Like most LDS Church units, the two stakes had been involved in caring for the needy in their local areas. Here are some examples:

- For years, Regina Stake had been volunteering and developing a sound relationship with the Regina Food Bank. The most recent event was a youth conference in April, wherein we almost tripled the Food Bank's previous record for the number of volunteers in a day.
- The leaders of the Prince Albert Ward have good relationships with the FN communities there.
- In 2012, the Saskatoon Stake hosted a multi-faith, multi-sector emergency planning session, including the provincial Emergency Management and Fire Safety, the Saskatoon Emergency Measures Office, Mennonite Disaster Services, The Salvation Army, Bahai's, Muslims, The Red Cross, and interested citizens. Some relationships blossomed (e.g.: joint service projects with a Muslim Community in doing food, clothing and blood drives).
- Cam Murray, Manager of the Bishop's Central Storehouse in Lethbridge, had done a pilot project with Regina Stake in forming a partnership with the local Co-op for local welfare needs.
- Prince Albert Ward has done several food drives with the PA Food Bank. For over a year, our missionaries have volunteered there every week. This led to good press when some food arrived. The Prince Albert Herald carried the headline "Mormons Satiating Hunger" and had a complimentary article stating, "In addition to assisting the Prince Albert Food Bank, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have played a central role in sending food up north to help evacuees settle back home after this summer's wildfires." The Herald quoted, "Christ always said to serve others, so I just think it's a great thing to help out where we can," Elder Jonathan Gottenbos said after loading the food. The group of four is in the midst of an 18 to two-year stint in Prince Albert, during which they're following through on their Christian-guided mission. "We teach people about Jesus Christ ... and we serve people by doing things like this," Sister Kaitlin Veylupek explained.



2:00-2:45	Stake Presidency Meeting		
3:00 – 3:30	<p align="center">Combined (Chapel-Broadcast)</p> <p>Conducting: President Erickson Chorister: Steven Miller Organist: Donna Reddick Opening Hymn: The Day Dawn Is Breaking #52 Invocation: Karl Ozeroff (Physical Facilities Representative-Meadow Green Ward)</p> <p>Presentation: Model a presidency working with missionaries: Meadow Green RS (5 mins.) Presentation: "You can be blessed as you carry out the the Work of Salvation as a member of Ward/Branch Council" President Erickson (5 mins.) Presentation: "Your Goals and Plans as a Leader" President Robertson (5mins.)</p> <p>Announce to close with prayer in individual sessions</p>		
3:35 – 4:55 Leadership Training	Organization	Invited	Room
	Bishops, Branch Presidents	Bishoprics and Branch Presidencies (Phone Conference)	Stake President's Office
	Melchizedek Priesthood	High Priest Group Leaderships; Elder's Quorum Presidencies	High Council Room
	Relief Society	Relief Society Presidencies	Relief Society
	Primary	Primary Presidencies	Primary Room
	Clerks	Clerks , Asst Clerks	Stake Clerk Office
	Missionary Work	Ward/Branch Mission Leaders, Zone Leaders	Young Women Room
	Young Men	YM Presidencies	Stage
	Young Women	YW Presidencies (PVC)	Nursery
	Physical Facilities	PFR Reps	Classroom by Library
5:15 – 6:15	<p align="center">Supper (provided) -organized by <u>Brenda McKay</u></p>		

6:30 – 8:00	<p>Saturday Evening Session <i>- All Adult Members</i></p> <p>Theme – “Individuals and Families Are Blessed and the Work of Salvation Is Strengthened by Ministering through the Ward Council”</p> <p>(Conducting: President Willoughby) Chorister: Sis. Larae Stephan Organist: Bro. Cory Wanner</p> <p>6:30 - Welcome: President Willoughby 6:31 - Hymn: Rejoice, the Lord Is King! #66 6:35 - Prayer: Sister Danae McGinn – Wanuskewin Ward 6:36 - Talk – President Robin Erickson 6:56 – Talk – Sister Ruby Ortiz (RS President, Battleford Branch) 7:16 - Special Music: Be Thou Humble #130 7:20 - Talk – President & Sister Thomas (Canada Winnipeg Mission) 7:35 – Talk – President Doug Robertson¹ 7:55 - Hymn: True to the Faith #254 7:59 – Prayer: Sister Gayle Francis - Wildwood Ward</p>
-------------	--

¹ President Robertson will use the lap mike, and will need a cordless mike for audience participation. He will also has PowerPoint files.

Stake Conference

Sunday, March 1st, 2015

<p>10:00 – 12:00</p>	<p>Sunday General Session Theme – Forever Families and Temple Work</p> <p>Conducting: President Robertson</p> <p>Chorister: Bro. Victor Johnson Organist: Bro. Cory Wanner 10:00 - Welcome: President Robertson</p> <p>10:02 - Hymn: On This Day of Joy and Gladness #64 10:06 - Prayer: Benton Froc, Melfort Branch 10:07 - Stake Business: (President Erickson) Melchizedek advancements Stake Releases Sustaining of Church Officers</p> <p>10:13 Talk – Sister Meteghan Smith (5 mins.) 10:18 Talk – Sister Kay Butler (10 mins.) 10:28 Talk – Sister Marlene Breti (10 mins.) 10:38 Talk – Sister Maggie Clarke (10 mins.) 10:50 Hymn: Families Can Be Together Forever #300</p> <p>10:55 Talk – President Keith Willoughby (20 mins.) 11:15 Talk – President and Sister Wood, Regina Temple (15 mins.)</p> <p>11:30 Special Music: We Love Thy House, O God #247</p> <p>11:35 Talk – President Robertson (20 mins.) (w/ Delaynie Crosby)</p> <p>11:55 Hymn: Let Us All Press On #243</p> <p>11:59 Closing Prayer: Sheila Cook, Wanuskewin Ward</p>
	<p>Setting apart of Stake Callings? - ensure Stake Clerk is informed</p> <p>(Priesthood Ordinations overseen by High Council – ensure Unit Clerk is informed)</p>

Officers Sustained—Stake

CHURCH HISTORY LIBRARY
15 E NORTH TEMPLE ST
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84150-1600
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Unit number

511447

The General Authorities of the Church, the Area Seventies, and the officers of the stake are to be presented for sustaining in the first stake conference of each year (or the second conference, if the first is a broadcast). Only new stake officers are to be sustained during the second stake conference.

A member of the stake presidency is to present the full names of officers for sustaining. He should present only the officers listed on this form. The stake clerk should prepare this form in time for careful review by the stake presidency to make sure it is accurate.

After the conference, the stake clerk should include this form in the Annual History for Stakes and Districts (32299).

The conference of the Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, held at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on 1 March 2015.

It is proposed that we sustain as General Authorities of the Church:

Thomas S. Monson as prophet, seer, and revelator and President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Henry B. Eyring as First Counselor in the First Presidency; and Dieter F. Uchtdorf as Second Counselor in the First Presidency.

Those in favor may manifest it by the uplifted hand.
Any opposed may so manifest it.

Boyd K. Packer as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles; and as members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: Boyd K. Packer, L. Tom Perry, Russell M. Nelson, Dallin H. Oaks, M. Russell Ballard, Richard G. Scott, Robert D. Hales, Jeffrey R. Holland, David A. Bednar, Quentin L. Cook, D. Todd Christofferson, and Neil L. Andersen.

The counselors in the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles as prophets, seers, and revelators.

Those in favor manifest it.
Any opposed manifest it.

All other General Authorities, Area Seventies, and general officers of the Church as presently constituted.

Those in favor manifest it.
Any opposed manifest it.

It is proposed that we sustain:

Douglas William Robertson as president of the Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake of Zion, with Keith Allan Willoughby as first counselor and Robin Leigh Erickson as second counselor.

Those in favor manifest it.
Any opposed manifest it.

As members of the high council:

1. Evan Jerad Clarke
2. Bryan Raymond Dilling
3. Bradley Kevin Fowler
4. Brent Keith Francis
5. Duane Henry McKay
6. Eric Lehi Michael
7. Harry Lanza Michael
8. Hans Jurgen Michelmann
9. Larry Edward Racicot
10. John Alvin Geoffrey Spencer
11. Donald Edwin Tanner
12. Alvin Hiu Kui Wong

As stake clerk:

Kim Walter Carlson

As stake executive secretary:

Russell Greg Butler

As assistant stake clerk(s):

Roger Nicol Martillana

Jonathan Roy Derry

Rory Douglas Hancock

Nicholas Crosby

Christopher Joseph Layes

As stake patriarch(s):

Earl Wayne Campbell

Those in favor manifest it.

Any opposed manifest it.

It is proposed that we sustain:

As the presidency of the stake Relief Society:

Leanne Doreen Willoughby, president; Darlene Carol Prime, first counselor; and Angela Rodgers, second counselor; with Donna Joy Reddick, secretary.

As the presidency of the stake Primary:

Joan Doreen Julseth, president; Lourdes de Duran Soliz, first counselor; and Donna Marie McKay, second counselor; with _____, secretary.

As the presidency of the stake Sunday School:

Brent Keith Francis, president;
_____, first counselor; and
_____, second counselor; with
_____, secretary.

As the presidency of the stake Young Men:

Donald Edwin Tanner, president; Steven Daniel Creighton, first counselor; and Alberto Sanchez Saucedo, second counselor; with Aaron Edward McKay, secretary.

As the presidency of the stake Young Women:

Shannon Gaylene Leslie, president; Jeanie Mae Skitteral, first counselor; and Jessica Elizabeth Ann Killistoff, second counselor; with Irina Yur'evna Samuylova, secretary.

Add in Stake Public Affairs: (SEE OTHER PAGE)
All other stake officers as now constituted.

Those in favor manifest it.

Any opposed manifest it.

For the information of stake members, the number of members of the stake serving full-time missions is 16.*

* As appropriate and approved by the presiding authority, the number of members serving in the military may be added.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

SASKATOON SASKATCHEWAN STAKE

August 15, 2015

Re: Stake Conference on September 5-6, 2015

Dear

President Russell M. Nelson, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, assigned Elder G. Lawrence Spackman an Area Seventy to preside at our stake conference. It will be held at the Stake Centre (1429 10th Street East) in Saskatoon. We invite you to prepare for and attend the following sessions:

- Saturday evening adult session from 6:30 – 8:30 PM (all members age 18 and over).
- Sunday Young Single Adult session 9:00 – 9:30 AM (for single members ages 18-30).
- Sunday general session 10:00 – 12:00PM (for all ages; guests are welcome).

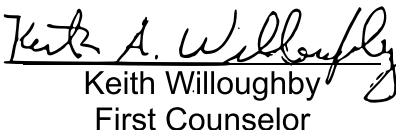
The purpose of stake conference is “to strengthen faith and testimony” and “to conduct stake business” (Handbook 2, p. 142). We realize that this is scheduled during a long weekend and encourage you to prepare accordingly to attend to fully feel of the spirit of the conference. If you are unable to attend in person a limited number of internet broadcasts logins will be available. Please contact your bishop or branch president for the Internet address.

Stake conference will be scent free. Please refrain from using perfumes, colognes, and heavily scented deodorants.

We invite you to join with us in preparing for this wonderful opportunity to learn from Elder Spackman and feel of the Spirit.

Sincerely,


Doug Robertson
President


Keith Willoughby
First Counselor


Robin Erickson
Second Counselor

12:54	Elder Spackman arrives
1:30 - 2:45	Stake Presidency Meeting (with Elder Spackman) Specifically discuss “What are the most significant spiritual and temporal challenges facing the various members of your stake?” Or, as Elder Bednar recently taught us, “What are the things that please you the most and what most concerns you?”
3:00 – 5:00 Stake Priesthood Leadership Meeting	(Chapel) Conducting: President Keith Willoughby Presiding: Elder G. Lawrence Spackman Chorister: Victor Johnson Organist: Adam Brulotte 3:00 – Welcome 3:01 – Opening hymn: #264 – Hark, All Ye Nations! 3:06 – Opening Prayer: Andrew Spencer, Meadow Lake branch YM president 3:07 – President Erickson (subject of his choosing) 3:27 – Special musical number – Quartet? 3:32 – President Brock Wilde - EQ President contribution in work of salvation 3:42 – Brother Rick Bennett - Temples and family history 3:52 – Intermediate hymn: #75 – In Hymns of Praise 3:57 – Elder Spackman 4:55 – Closing hymn: #255 – Carry On 4:59 – Closing prayer (& blessing on the meal): Adonis Ortiz, Battleford branch 2 nd couns.
5:15 – 6:15	Supper (provided) -organized by Brenda McKay
6:30 – 8:30	General Session - All Adult Members ages 18 years and older “Individuals and Families Are Blessed and the Work of Salvation Is Strengthened by Ministering through the Ward Council” Conducting: President Robin Erickson Presiding: Elder G. Lawrence Spackman Chorister: Brenda McKay Organist: Donna Reddick 6:30 – Welcome 6:32 – Opening Hymn: #266 – The Time Is Far Spent 6:37 – Opening Prayer: Brother Brett Alexander, Wanuskewin Ward 6:38 – President Willoughby (“How ward and/or family councils might be employed to meet the specific needs in the stake”) 6:58 – Sister Beth Butler (“How the ward council can assist individuals and families to make and keep sacred covenants”) 7:08 – Sister Christine Burgess (“How Sabbath Day observance has blessed their lives”) 7:15 – Special Musical Number: Consider the Lilies – Sister Yobelli Clark 7:20 – President John N. and Sister Carol Craig 7:35 – Intermediate hymn: #6 – Redeemer of Israel 7:40 – Elder Spackman 8:25 – Closing hymn: #254 – True to the Faith 8:29 – Closing prayer: Sister Anne Yonpam, Wanuskewin Ward
8:30-10:00	Refreshments

Stake Conference
Sunday, September 6, 2015

9:00 – 9:40	Meeting with YSAs Relief Society room Conducting: Sister Michelle Tanner Presiding: Elder G. Lawrence Spackman Chorister: Camille Cayabyab Pianist: Renlee Martilliana 9:00 – Welcome 9:01 – Hymn 9:05 – Opening prayer: Sister Danae McGinn 9:06 – President Robertson 9:11 – Elder Spackman 9:36 – Closing hymn 9:40 – Closing prayer: Brother Chase Weir
10:00 – 12:00	General Session Conducting: President Robertson Presiding: Elder G. Lawrence Spackman Chorister: Adam Brulotte Organist: Leah Creighton 10:00 – Welcome 10:02 – Opening Hymn: #227 – There Is Sunshine in My Soul Today 10:07 – Opening Prayer: Meranda Price (YSA, new member, Battlefords Branch) 10:08 – Stake Business: President Willoughby <i>Stake Releases and Sustainings</i> <i>Melchizedek Priesthood advancements</i> <i>Full-time missionaries from our stake</i> 10:13 – President Robertson (subject of his choosing) 10:33 – Special Musical Number: Brightly Beams Our Father’s Mercy 10:37 – Blake Prete, Priest from Meadow Lake Branch (“How I can stand...”) 10:43 – Charlene McKay, Laurel from PA Ward (“How I can stand for truth...”) 10:49 – President and Sister Wood, Regina Temple President and Matron 11:04 – Intermediate hymn: #220 – Lord, I Would Follow Thee 11:08 – Elder Spackman, Area Seventy, Presiding Authority at conference 11:55 – Closing hymn: #243 – Let Us All Press On 11:59 – Closing prayer: Santana Denk, Wanuskewin Ward, recently returned missionary)
12:15 – 12:45	Setting apart of Stake Callings? - ensure Stake Clerk is informed (Priesthood Ordinations overseen by High Council – see room allocations)
12:45 – 1:45	Elder Spackman meets with stake presidency (including executive secretary and stake clerk) and their wives, plus mission president and wife. • Please invite each person to listen for the messages taught by the Spirit during the conference that are applicable to the stake. Please ask them to be praying to “hear” what the Spirit would have us hear and then share with us the thoughts they feel comfortable in telling us. The notes from that meeting can form the basis of what the Lord would have us learn and do.

1:45 – 4:45	Ministering visits to families and individuals Sarah & Richard Schiess Josh and Arianne Crosby Dori Lemke Ryan Hill
4:45	Elder Spackman departs for Saskatoon airport (flight is at 5:55 PM)