

# **Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake Annual History 2016**

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Unit (511447)

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## Stake Leadership and Vision

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The Stake Presidency worked hard to create and distribute a vision for our Stake that this year would further the ideas that the Lord has been impressing upon them during the previous year.

1. President Monson's Rescue Initiative – Rescue the lost, the needy, the poor in spirit
2. Self Reliance – Have a people that are stronger, and more capable of helping themselves and others
3. Temple Work and Family History – Remember our past, and through Temple service for them build our strength

What we hoped you saw during this year were stake activities and training that illuminated these goals. Here's a summary of some of the work that you may have seen or experienced in the stake during 2016.

- There were 3 stake conferences this year (Feb, Sep, Nov)
  - Feb – the 3 goals were introduced to leaders, the idea of using Missionaries as Home Teachers to help with the Rescue, and some Family History videos were shown during conference to inspire us to find new/old ideas to record our own Histories
  - Sep – Elder Brent H Nielson from the Seventy visited and taught us more about acting upon our inspirations, the commandment to assemble, organize, and prepare, the 3 parables of the Rescue, and that we are never alone in the work of salvation
  - Nov – a multi-stake conference was broadcast from Church HQ to all stakes in the North America Central area. The presiding authority was Donald A. Rasband.
- March brought out special trainers from the Church Family History Dept, the Olers, to share principles of feeling the spirit through taking the opportunity to do family history work. We can become saviors on Mount Zion by using the Find-Take-Teach principles of family history. We can build our family tree by finding out about our ancestors, tell their stories, and do their temple work for them which can bring our families closer. The Church produced the MyFamily resources to help us do that.



**Helping Others to Take the Next Step**

FIND TAKE TEACH

**YOU HAVE A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO HELP OTHERS BECOME SAVIORS ON MOUNT ZION**

"Perhaps never in the history of mankind do we need to be serving on a one-by-one basis more than we do now" (Ronald A. Rasband, "One by One," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2000, 29).



- In May there was a special training given to stake and unit leaders from Elder Dale G. Renlund from the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and his wife, Ruth Renlund and Elder Gary B. Sabin of the Seventy. The topics included strengthening individual conversion through increasing our faith in Jesus Christ, increasing the effectiveness of our Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood quorums, and how Sabbath Day observance and the Law of the Fast can help us do that.

- Starting in August, a Self reliance committee was started and over the coming months plans were created to facilitate the use of the new materials that were produced by the Church. The first focus was on Employment and using the MyPath and MyFoundation materials.



- September brought a Stake Family History event called Family Discovery Day to Saskatoon where presenters from our stake and from Salt Lake shared ideas on celebrating Family across the Generations.

- The US and Canada Area Plan was introduced to our Stake in September 2016.



## Vision

Become, and help others to become, true followers of Jesus Christ and enjoy the blessings of the holy temple.

## Area Priorities

1. Live the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Gather Israel through missionary work.
3. Care for the poor and needy.
4. Enable the salvation of the dead by identifying ancestors and performing vicarious temple ordinances for them.

## Area Goals

1. **To live the gospel of Jesus Christ, we will:**
  - Strengthen ourselves and our families by receiving the ordinances of salvation and exaltation and keeping the associated covenants.
  - Strengthen our faith in Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ and His Atonement by regularly studying the Book of Mormon and by honoring the Sabbath day.
2. **To gather Israel through missionary work, we will:**
  - Teach repentance and baptize converts.
  - Rescue less-active members.
3. **To care for the poor and needy, we will:**
  - Build spiritual and temporal self-reliance.
  - Live the law of the fast and serve others.
4. **To enable the salvation of the dead, we will:**
  - Find family names.
  - Take family names to the temple for ordinances and teach others to do the same.

- In December, the stake met with Bishops and Branch Presidents to discuss the stake vision for 2017

## Stories from this Year's Events

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Our calendar was full with our regular meetings and events that were planned to further our 3 goals. Here's some stories about members experiences of these events.

### Calendar

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Here's the events that were planned.

#### January

- 10 Wildwood Ward Conference
- 10 Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults
- 19 Stake AP-YW Committee
- 24 Meadow Green Ward Conference

#### February

- 16 Stake AP-YW Committee
- 21 Wanuskewin Ward Conference
- 27-28 Stake Conference
- 27 Auxiliary Leadership Training
- 27 Meeting with Bishoprics

#### March

- 13 Kindersley Branch Conference
- 15 Stake AP-YW Committee
- 20 Melfort Branch Conference
- 26 General Women's Meeting (ages 8 and up)
- 29 Stake AP-YW Committee

#### April

- 02-03 General Conference
- 09 Institute Recognition
- 10 Prince Albert Ward Conference
- 12 Stake AP-YW Committee
- 16 Stake Women's Conference
- 22-24 Tri-Stake & District Youth Conference (Stoon)

#### May

- 01 Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults
- 13 Training with General Authorities
- 15 Battleford Branch Conference
- 17 Stake AP-YW Committee

#### June

- 04 Stake PEC & Meeting with Bishoprics
- 04 Stake HPQ + General Priesthood Meeting
- 04 Seminary Graduation
- 03-04 Stake Youth Dance and Activity
- 12 Flin Flon Branch Conference
- 14 Stake AP-YW Committee
- 26 Meadow Lake Branch Conference
- 28 Stake Council

#### July

- 16 High Priest Quorum Temple Trip

#### August

- Tri-Stake** YSA Conference (in Winnipeg)
- 01-04 Stake YW camp
- 27 Stake Council/ PEC (in person)

#### September

- 10-11 Stake Conference
- 11 Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults
- 17 Stake Family History Day
- 20 Stake AP-YW Committee
- 24 General Women's Meeting (ages 8 and up)

#### October

- 01-02 General Conference
- 14-15 Standards Conference
- 22 Stake Women's Activity

#### November

- 05 Stake Council/ PEC
- 05 Meeting with Bishoprics
- 06 Stake Conference (Broadcast)
- 15 Stake AP-YW Committee
- 19 Stake YW Activity

#### December

- 04 First Presidency Christmas Devotional
- 31 New Year's Eve\* (*no stake activity*)



## Stake Conferences

Here are the highlights from our conferences

February 2016

THE CHURCH OF <b>JESUS CHRIST</b> OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS		<b>Semiannual Stake Conference Report</b>	
		To be filled out by or for the presiding authority	
Stake		Saskatoon Saskatchewan	
Presiding	Conference dates		
President Douglas W. Robertson	27-28 Feb 2016		
Others assigned	Brother and Sister Oler - Family History Advisors, Brother and Sister Paulson - Temple, President Craig - Mission		
Where held	Stake population		
Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake Center	2,036		
<b>Meetings</b>			
Meeting	Number invited	Number attending	Percent attending
Stake presidency meeting (including clerk and executive secretary)	5	4	80%
Stake priesthood leadership meeting	180	128	71%
Saturday evening adult session	1,646	202	12%
Total attending Sunday general session(s) (Number of sessions: 2)	2,036	485	24%
<b>Comments:</b> Please summarize the material taught in this conference and indicate matters that may need further attention by the next visiting presiding authority.			
We utilized the new broadcasting system at portal.ldswebcast.org. It helped and hindered in some ways but in the end helped us to identify training needs in the stake. A team of youth were called as ATS and a Technology Director was called at this conference. So a team of 4 will now be 11.			
Use of role plays to demonstrate use of missionaries in home teaching and where/how they can be used. Encouraging Presidencies to consider assigning a purpose for Home Teaching visits - it's not about the lesson, but about helping each to progress toward an ordinance			
Further training on use of 10 minutes huddles each Sunday (Ward Council members) to talk about Rescue Initiative assignments			
Saturday largely focused on moving from genealogy work to Family history work. Used a lot of member made videos to show what kinds of things can be made and inspire people to tell their stories, and make it meaningful work for our families. Theme was "To Turn our Hearts". Wet snow caused some families to return early or stay home and watch via Internet			
Sunday's theme was on Self-Reliance, overcoming trials, and giving Service. Talks focused on how each of these can lead to sanctification through Christ's atonement.			

We like to jam pack our training so that leaders are not required to travel the great distances that are in our stake.

11:30-12:15 12:30 - 1:15 1:30 - 2:30 2:30 - 2:40	Stake presidency training from Area FH Advisors, Randy and Wendy <a href="#">Oler</a> Stake Presidency Meeting Stake Council, HPGLs, FHC Directors (Randy and Wendy <a href="#">Oler</a> ) (via Video Cart?) Stake PEC approves callings and/or ordinations.		
3:00 – 3:50 <b>Stake Priesthood Leadership Meeting</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chapel-Broadcast</b></p> <p>Conducting: President Willoughby Chorister: Organist: Opening Hymn: Invocation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduce the stake goals: 1) The Rescue Initiative, 2) Family History and Temple Work, 3) Self-reliance: internal, external. (President Robertson - 10 minutes)</li> <li>2. Improving weekly huddles (survey results) (President Willoughby - 10 minutes)</li> <li>3. Introduce the idea of using missionaries as home teachers (Presidents Robertson and Craig - 5 minutes)</li> <li>4. Family History information (Brother <a href="#">Oler</a> - 10 minutes)</li> </ol>		
4:00-5:00 <b>Breakout Sessions</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Invited</b>	<b>Room</b>
	Bishops, Branch Presidents	Bishoprics and Branch Presidencies, Relief Society Presidents (Video Cart)	High Council Room
	Melchizedek Priesthood	High Priest Group Leaderships; Elder's Quorum Presidencies, Ward/Branch Mission Leaders, Zone and District Leaders	Chapel
	Clerks	<a href="#">Clerks</a> , Assistant Clerks	Stake Clerk Office
	Sunday School	Sunday School Presidents/teachers	Stake President's Office
	Young Men	YM Presidencies	Young Women's Room
	Physical Facilities	PFR Reps	Classroom by Library
4:00 – 5:00 <b>Stake Auxiliary Leadership Meetings</b>	Relief Society	Relief Society Presidencies (Combine with bishops from 4:00 - 5:00)	Relief Society
	Primary	Primary Presidencies	Primary Room
5:15 – 6:15	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Supper (provided)</b> -organized by <a href="#">Brenda McKay</a></p>		

6:30 - 8:30	<p><b>Saturday Evening Session</b> <i>- All Adult Members</i></p> <p>Theme – Turn the Hearts: Family History and Temple Work</p> <p>Conducting: President Willoughby Chorister: Organist:</p> <p>6:30 - Welcome: President Willoughby 6:36 - Talk – President Erickson (pre-recorded) 6:56 - Talk – Brother and Sister <a href="#">Oler</a> (Area Family History Advisors) 7:06 - Talk – Sister Stephanie Smith, Stake FHC Director 7:16 - Special Music: 7:20 - Talk – President &amp; Sister Paulson (Regina temple) 7:35 - Talk – President Robertson Embed FH projects by:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="#">Linka</a> (video, sent to N. Crosby)</li> <li>o Creighton (web app, link sent to N. Crosby)</li> <li>o Crosby</li> <li>o <a href="#">Schless</a> (video, sent to N. Crosby)</li> </ul> </p> <p>8:30 - Dessert in cultural hall</p>
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Many comments were made about the personal videos shown in conference and how inspiring they were for members to try and create similar items in their own families.

## Stake Conference Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

10:00 – 12:00	<p><b>Sunday General Session</b> Theme – Becoming sanctified through: 1) self-reliance, 2) trials, and 3) service.</p> <p>Conducting: President Robertson</p> <p>10:00 - Welcome: President Robertson</p> <p>10:02 - Hymn:</p> <p>10:06 - Prayer: Liz Killan</p> <p>10:07 - Stake Business: President Willoughby Melchizedek advancements Stake Releases Sustaining of Church Officers</p> <p>10:13 Sarah Logan (Wanuskewin) "Becoming More Like Christ"</p> <p>10:20 Lucas Julsath: "Developing Christ-like Attributes Through Service"</p> <p>10:35 Talk – Milton and Sherry Eyahoise "United in the Gospel"</p> <p>10:55 Talk – President Willoughby ("The sanctifying power of service")</p> <p>11:15 Talk – President &amp; Sister Craig (Canada Winnipeg mission)</p> <p>11:35 Talk – President Robertson</p> <p>11:59 Closing Prayer: Anita Mistickokat (new member from Meadow Lake)</p> <p>**** We may call upon members for impromptu testimonies to fill remaining time</p>
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The following have been released from their callings:

Harry Michael	High Councilor
Don Tanner	Stake Young Men's President and High Councilor
Steven Creighton	1 <sup>st</sup> Counselor in Stake Young Men's Presidency
Alberto Sanchez	2 <sup>nd</sup> Counselor in the Stake YM Presidency
Aaron McKay	Secretary in the Stake YM Presidency
Jeannie Skitteral	1 <sup>st</sup> Counselor in the Stake YW Presidency
Irina Samuylova	Secretary in the Stake YW Presidency
Roger Martillana	Assistant Stake Clerk

The following people have been called to positions.

Steve Creighton	YM President
Andrew Spencer	YM 1st counselor
Milton Derry	High Councilor
Dallas Munkholm	High Councilor
Larae Stephan	YW 1st counselor
Niki Nagy	Stake History Specialist
Adreanna McGinn	Assistant Stake Technology Specialist
Rihanna Wright	Assistant Stake Technology Specialist
Andi Wright	Assistant Stake Technology Specialist
Morgan Yaworski	Assistant Stake Technology Specialist
Clayton Froc	Assistant Stake Technology Specialist
Ethan Prete	Assistant Stake Technology Specialist
Liam McGinn	Assistant Stake Technology Specialist

There are currently 8 full-time missionaries serving from our Stake:

Elder Dean Cayayab (Wanuskewin ward)	Canada Edmonton Mission
Elder Logan Froc (Melfort branch)	Pennsylvania Philadelphia Mission
Sister Tricia Lacno (Melfort branch)	Canada Edmonton Mission
Elder Will MacInnes (Meadow Lake branch)	Mexico Mexico City North Mission
Elder Blake Prete (Meadow Lake branch)	Tahiti Papeete Mission
Elder Howard Ortiz (Battleford branch)	Canada Vancouver Mission
Elder Wayne Scarff (Kindersley branch)	South Carolina Columbia Mission
Sister Amy Tanner (Meadow Green ward)	Colorado Ft. Collins (Spanish-speaking) Mission

Church Service Missionaries:

Elder Paul & Sister Kelly Ericson (Meadow Green ward)  
Sister Donna Robertson (Wildwood ward)

We also announce that President Milton Derry (Meadow Green ward) has been called as the 2<sup>nd</sup> counselor in the Canada Winnipeg Mission presidency.

Some Leadership Photos



Stake Presidency

Keith Willoughby (1<sup>st</sup> Counselor), Doug Robertson (Stake President), Robin Erickson (2<sup>nd</sup> Counselor)



*Stake Relief Society Presidency  
Lauren Crosby (1<sup>st</sup>), Leanne Willoughby (Pres), Darlene Prime (2<sup>nd</sup>)*



*Stake Young Women Presidency  
Jessica Kilistoff 2<sup>nd</sup>), Shannon Leslie (Pres), Larae Stephan (1<sup>st</sup> )*

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS		Semiannual Stake Conference Report	
To be filled out by or for the presiding authority			
State		Saskatoon Saskatchewan	
Presiding	Elder Brent H. Nielson	Conference dates	Sept 10-11, 2016
Visitors	Pres. Anulson, Pres. Craig	Stake population	2035
Where held	Saskatoon SC		
Meetings			
Meeting	Number invited	Number attending	Percent attending
Stake presidency meeting (including clerk and executive secretary)	5	5	100
Stake priesthood leadership meeting (+ RS, Primary)	160	87	54
Saturday Evening Adult Session (18+)	1672	212	13
Total attending Sunday general session(s) (Number of sessions: 1)	2035	517	25
Comments: Please summarize the material taught in this conference and indicate matters that may need further attention by the next visiting presiding authority.			

Auxiliaries above also trained during leadership session.

Themes during leadership session - 2 types of creations - to Act  
- to be acted upon

- Commandment to assemble, organize, prepare
- Collaborating with the Missions (D+C 88:72) - raise Elders to help
- 3 parables of the Rescue - Luke 15 - be a participant, not a spectator
- why did you come? - Because you were called
- Be more Christlike

Evening Session - being consigned that these are my days

- Ministering - measure of our church isn't the numbers who attend but the numbers who hold the Gospel
- Never alone in the work of salvation
- What does conversion look like? Alma 23:7-8 they did not fight against God or their brethren and buried their weapons of war

Sunday Session

- Vision for the Stake - Believe in God - Rescue, Self-Reliance, Temple + Family History
- Be in the Temple - constantly, consistently - have a name and a standing
- Parents - If all your children knew is what you taught them, how much would they know of the Gospel?  
- By divine design - fathers are to preside in the home
- Plan of Salvation - fear is not a Christlike virtue - move forward with Faith

12:54	Elder Nielson arrives
1:00 - 2:40	<b>Stake Presidency Meeting (with Elder Nielson)</b> 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?"
2:45 - 5:00	<b>Sister Auxiliary Leadership Meeting</b> (Elder Nielson will take first 15 minutes)  (Chapel) Conducting: President Keith Willoughby      Presiding: Elder Brent H. Nielson Chorister: Victor Johnson      Organist: Adam Brulotte 3:00 - Welcome 3:02 - Opening hymn: #319 - Ye Elders of Israel 3:06 - Opening Prayer: Peter Sagassiga 3:10 - Elder Brent H. Nielson 3:35 - President Robertson 3:45 - President Willoughby 3:55 - Intermediate hymn: #19 - We Thank Thee O God, for a Prophet 4:00 - Training: Elder Brent H. Nielson 4:55 - Closing hymn: #324 - Rise Up, O Men of God 4:59 - Closing prayer (& blessing on the meal): Howard Ortiz
5:10 - 6:15	Supper (provided) -organized by Brenda McKay
6:30 - 8:30	<b>General Session</b> - All Adult Members ages 18 years and older Conducting: President Willoughby      Presiding: Elder Brent H. Nielson Chorister: Adam Brulotte      Organist: Leah Creighton  6:30 - Welcome 6:32 - Opening Hymn: #64 - On This Day of Joy and Gladness 6:38 - Special Musical Number - Stephanie Turner (The Lord is My Shepherd) 6:43 - Opening Remarks: Elder Nielson 6:53 - Sister Heidi Clarke 7:03 - President Willoughby 7:13 - President John N. and Sister Carol Craig 7:28 - Intermediate hymn: #98 - I Need Thee Every Hour 7:33 - Elder Nielson 8:25 - Closing hymn: #243 - Let Us All Press On 8:29 - Closing prayer: Carol Brate (Prince Albert ward)
8:30-10:00	<b>Refreshments</b>



**Stake Conference**  
Sunday, September 11, 2016

8:50 – 9:40	<b>Devotional with Youth (ages 14+)</b> Relief Society room Conducting: Presiding: Elder Brent H Nielson 9:00 – Welcome 9:01 – Hymn 9:05 – Opening prayer: 9:11 – Introduction of Elder Nielson: Erika Dilling 9:12 – Elder Nielson's devotional 9:38 – Closing hymn 9:40 – Closing prayer:
10:00 – 12:00	<b>General Session</b> Conducting: President Robertson Presiding: Elder Brent H. Nielson Chorister: Brenda McKay Organist: Donna Reddick 10:00 – Welcome 10:02 – Opening Hymn: #284 – Hark, All Ye Nations! 10:07 – Opening Prayer: Mary Rodriguez 10:08 – Stake Business: President Willoughby Stake Releases and <del>Sustainings</del> Melchizedek Priesthood advancements Full-time missionaries from our stake 10:15 – Special Musical Number: Joseph Smith's First Prayer 10:20 – President Robertson (subject of his choosing) 10:35 – Testimonies 10:40 – President and Sister Paulson, Regina Temple President and Matron 11:00 – Intermediate hymn: #89 – The Lord is My Light 11:05 – Elder Brent H. Nielson, Presiding Authority at conference 11:55 – Closing hymn: #134 – I Believe in Christ 11:59 – Closing prayer: Shauna Hughes
12:15	Elder Nielson meets with stake presidency (including executive secretary and stake clerk) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>

The following have been released from their callings:

Robin Erickson	2 <sup>nd</sup> Counselor in the stake presidency
Bryan Dilling	High Councilor
John Spencer	Stake Director of Public Affairs
Shannon Leslie	Stake YW president
Larae Stephan	Stake YW 1 <sup>st</sup> counselor
Jessica Kilistoff	Stake YW 2 <sup>nd</sup> counselor
Brent Francis	Stake Sunday School President
Eric Slocombe	Stake Public Affairs Committee member
Jean Slocombe	Stake Public Affairs Committee member
Jean Slocombe	Stake seminary teacher
Stephanie Smith	Stake Family History Centre director
Christine Burgess	Assistant stake Family History Centre director
Niki Nagy	Stake History specialist
Brenda McKay	Stake food specialist

The following people have been called to positions.

John Spencer	2 <sup>nd</sup> counselor in the stake presidency
Kirt Prete	Stake High Councilor
Don Tanner	Stake High Councilor
Tevita Lui	Stake YM 2 <sup>nd</sup> counselor
Larae Stephan	Stake YW president



Katrina Julseth	Stake YW 1 <sup>st</sup> counselor
Jessica Kilistoff	Stake YW 2 <sup>nd</sup> counselor
Bernice Buell	Stake Primary secretary
Jean Slocombe	Stake Public Affairs Director
Angela Rodgers	Stake seminary teacher
Christine Burgess	Stake Family History Centre director
Elizabeth Killan	Assistant stake Family History Centre director

These brethren have been interviewed and found worthy to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood.

Martin Johnson	Meadow Green
Ken Stewart	Wanuskewin
Ashley Wuttunee	Wanuskewin
Jared McKay	Prince Albert

There are currently 11 full-time missionaries either serving or soon to be serving from our Stake:

Sister Jessie Konopelski (Battleford branch)	Canada Montreal Mission
Elder Wayne Scarff (Kindersley branch)	South Carolina Columbia Mission
Elder Ty Hansen (Kindersley branch)	Canada Vancouver Mission
Sister Stephanie Tanner (Meadow Green Ward)	New Zealand Wellington Mission
Elder Will MacInnes (Meadow Lake branch)	Mexico Mexico City North Mission
Elder Blake Prete (Meadow Lake branch)	Tahiti Papeete Mission
Elder Benton Froc (Melfort branch)	Adriatic North Mission
Elder Logan Froc (Melfort branch)	Pennsylvania Philadelphia Mission
Sister Tricia Lacno (Melfort branch)	Canada Edmonton Mission
Elder Dean Cayayab (Wanuskewin ward)	Canada Edmonton Mission

Church Service Missionaries:

Elder Paul & Sister Kelly Ericson (Meadow Green ward)
Sister Donna Robertson (Wildwood ward)

### Tri-stake and District Youth Conference – Apr 22-24

Press Forward was the theme. The youth conference was a huge success. We had over 220 youth and leaders attend the conference, held in Saskatoon this year. The Friday night arrivals went well, with each person receiving a lanyard (designed by Jo Clark & Kjell Erickson) and a cardinal red shirt (logo designed by Tallasse Crosby)

We had a fun dance, that began with a flash mob taught by a dance teacher from Meadow Green Ward. Then we continued the dance with great music, lights, and fun. The dance was DJ'd by Morgan Yaworski.

Saturday morning seemed to come quickly for some. We had a great breakfast, followed by an absolutely amazing keynote presentation by Brother Shaun Reid. We broke into our groups and cycled through the other presentations. We had Andrew Spencer, Jayson Earle, Maja Russell, Russel and Beth Butler, and President Doug Robertson present and all were very well done. The youth all reported feeling very spiritually uplifted.

After lunch we braved the cool windy weather to participate in the million graves project at Woodlawn cemetery. We were guided by Ward Historian, Sister Christine Burgess. Afterward, we played games until it was time to get changed for a formal supper and dance.

Sunday was another early start, including a change of venue, the Fairmont Chapel, to finish our conference. We had a beautiful testimony meeting, full of heartfelt emotions. Way to go, youth!! Afterwards, the youth packed up, grabbed their lunches, had many hugs and tears, and went back home.

The food was all fantastic, provided by Sister Brenda McKay, and assistance from all of the city wards. Everyone pitched in to make this a great experience.

### Seminary Graduation – June 4

In collaboration with the Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake YM & YM organizations a Youth Activity and Seminary Graduation occurred on June 4th. Out of 33 enrolled seminary students, 21 attended the youth activity in the afternoon, which was planned by the Stake Youth Committee, providing a variety of outside and inside games to help the youth interact with each other. One highlight is that four grade 8 students, that will be attending seminary for the first time in September attended the youth activity and graduation service (Jo Skitteral, Owen Clarke, Kelvin Creighton, and Jackson Reid), with Pacey Ledding attending the graduation service as well. After the activities, there was a meal in which around 60 individuals attended. After the meal, there was a graduation service to honor the efforts of all the seminary students. 19 out of 33 enrolled students received a certificate. Charlene McKay and Tallasse Crosby were the grade 12 seminary graduates and both bore heart felt testimony. There were youth from Kindersley, Prince Albert, Melfort and all city units in attendance.

We had a great time with our 13-18 year old youth. We had a few fun hours of games both inside and outside on this beautiful sunny day. We played human foosball, giant jenga, giant kerplunk, spoons, and capture the flag. So much laughter! Then everyone got changed and we had a great meal followed by a wonderful celebration of the hard work done by our youth. Tallasse Crosby and Char McKay both graduated.

## Stake Young Women's Camp – Aug 1-4

Theme was "O be Wise, "Owl" endure to the end"

This fun, owl-themed event was held at Shekinah Wellness Retreat near Waldheim, SK. The girls showed up mid-afternoon on the Monday and started putting up their tents. Each tent was a different age group, with the 13-year olds being the largest group. We had 40 people present, with 25 girls. We were blessed to have sister Tawna Hansen as our camp director and she exceeded all our expectations.

Night one had us gathered to hear a fireside by President Robin Erickson. He spoke to the girls and as he finished we watched a beautiful owl fly soundlessly overhead. Talk about Meant to Be!!

It took the girls a long time to settle down for the night. Sister Larae Stephan took the 15 year olds on a star walk, and had a very special, spiritual experience.

The next day was a flurry of activity. After breakfast and devotions, the hike was on! Our great leaders took the girls all over the place and had a blast. The afternoon brought zip-lining alternating with a cute wooden owl craft, designed by Sister Hansen. We had a great greek feast that night, followed by skits and a fireside by President Robertson. Everyone was pleasantly worn out and went to bed quickly.

The next day, Wednesday, started out cool and foggy with an ominous forecast for pounding rain. With this in mind, we decided to end the camp early. While a few groups went rock climbing, others stayed back to take down the tents before rain started. Bishop Prete and President Roberston lead the YCL in a holding the rod, avoiding Satan activity. We had a great testimony meeting while eating BBQ'd hotdogs, and we packed up and headed out. It was a short camp, but packed full of wonderful experiences.

## Stake Priesthood Preview – Nov 5

We held a Stake Priesthood Preview November 5, 2016. The event was attended by eleven boys who are preparing to receive the Aaronic priesthood in 2017. Each unit represented had a member from the Bishopric/ Branch presidency and a member from the Primary presidency, as well as most parents in attendance as well. Brother Creighton, Stake Young Men's president, and Branch President Andrew Spencer both spoke to the boys and their parents, and the boys were able to meet one another from across the stake.

A second success from this event was the opportunity to invite all the less-active 11 year old boys as well. There were a few special contacts made as invitations were hand delivered to these boys so they could know they are loved and remembered in our wards and branches.

### Institute Graduation – Apr 9

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 around 30 individuals attended the institute graduation event for the Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Stake. These individuals consisted of young single adults, and leaders with their spouses. The theme of the event was “Family Dinner”. The institute class that semester was The Eternal Family and those planning the event felt that having an informal family meal would be fitting. Chinese food was ordered and married couples and young single adults were able to converse about different life stages and experiences. 11 completion certificates were given out and one diploma was awarded to Katrina Robertson. President Keith Willoughby, a counselor in the stake presidency, provided the evenings remarks encouraging the students to continue with their spiritual learning. Many young single adults stayed after the meal to play games.

### General Women’s Meeting – Apr 16

We held a stake Women’s Conference with the theme “Abound in Hope”. A total of 110 sisters attended. Our day was filled with opportunities for sisters to strengthen their resolve to overcome challenges and become stronger followers of the Savior. We learned about how to look for hope in all aspects of daily life.

Our workshops varied from the eternal importance of hope to the significance of laughter in our lives.

For our service project, we collected a total of 168 brightly-colored children’s pillow cases. These were made and donated by the sisters in the hopes of brightening the lives of children battling long-term illnesses.

### Visit from an Apostle of the Lord – the Renlunds – May 13

In May, we were invited to attend a Priesthood Leadership Conference (PLC), which is often led by an Apostle, and attended by leaders from dozens of stakes. In the past we had travelled to Edmonton to join. This year, were invited to go to Winnipeg. We had priced out a bus to take 45 priesthood leaders, and were preparing to go. I asked our Area Seventy, Elder Spackman, how we might pay for the transportation. When Elder Spackman passed on the query, the planners from church headquarters asked, “Why do you ask? Is distance a problem?”

I confirmed that distance is not “a problem” *per se*, for we are used to travelling. Dozens of brethren were willing to take Friday off work to travel the distance to Saskatoon, and then the eight hours to Winnipeg and stay overnight. The trip would be enjoyable. Nonetheless, we could not afford the bus, so we wanted to know if the cost could be shared. When the organizers heard of us investing two days per leader (a total of about 800 hours in travel time), they quickly offered to broadcast it to us. One of the Quorum of the Twelve, however, had a different idea. Elder Dale G. Renlund offered to come here.

When I heard that, I asked if the training could be opened to the auxiliary leaders. Sister Ruth Renlund, a successful lawyer and leader, offered to speak to the sisters in the Relief Society, Primary and Young Women auxiliaries. A week later, she had extended it to be a devotional for all the sisters in the stake. This would require the use of the chapel, so the priesthood leaders would now need to meet in the Relief Society room. A detailed seating plan was drawn up to ensure the 67 brethren from northern Saskatchewan (and some from Manitoba and Alberta) could squeeze in.

So we saw a delightful act of service as Elder and Sister Renlund changed their schedule to save us from travelling. They decided to hold the PLC in Saskatoon on Friday, May 13, and then fly on to Winnipeg to join the other leaders the next morning. I picked up the Renlunds from the airport late Thursday, arriving at their hotel near midnight. Before they

retired, however, Elder Renlund was mindful that in addition to presiding at the PLC, the Lord had a specific purpose for him to come to Saskatoon. He asked me, "Is there anything I need to do while here?"

Elder Renlund did not know that a few days before he arrived, Don Tanner had asked for a blessing. He had an intractable infection and which had stumped the specialists using the most powerful antibiotics. The specialists had run out of options, and Brother Tanner's life was now in danger. At his wife's bidding, a brother had called me to ask for a blessing from Elder Renlund. A General Authority holds no more priesthood power than does a humble elder for blessings, so we are discouraged from making requests such as this. Nonetheless, I made the request, for its genesis was long before this trip was planned.

Years ago, Don Tanner had worked as a nurse with Elder Renlund when he was a practicing cardiologist. Brother Tanner viewed Dale Renlund as a "father figure" and one in whom he could confide. Over the years, Elder Renlund was sent to serve as a General Authority in Africa and then ordained as an Apostle, but he did not forget Brother Tanner. When Elder Renlund heard of Don's illness and dilemma, he enthusiastically obliged. The next morning, Elder Renlund met the Tanners. They embraced, and a Don received a blessing of healing. Elder Renlund said, "This may be the reason why I came here."

Nonetheless, there was still lots of work to do. The Renlunds presented to a zone conference of missionaries in the afternoon. That evening they presented at the PLC and the sisters' meeting.

Elder Renlund commented on how prepared and eager the participants were. He spoke on:

- Growing the church as in ancient times through the use of pairing the weak with the strong (84:108).
- Keeping the Sabbath day holy and the law of the fast.
- Giving a "reasonable effort" to our callings, and keep a balance. Be "aerobic, not anaerobic" so that we don't build up the spiritual equivalent of lactic acid. Even so, we are asked to contribute of our own free will, and there is a sacrifice attached to it.

Saturday morning, the Renlunds were up at 3:30 a.m. to catch their flight to Winnipeg. In my journal, I wrote, "I just dropped Elder and Sister Renlund at the airport an hour ago, and am filled with wonder at their willingness to come here, work all afternoon and evening with the missionaries and stake leaders, then leave early this morning to repeat it in Winnipeg. It was fascinating to see the anticipation of the brethren and sisters last night as they came to learn at the feet of an Apostle and his wife."

### Visit from the Renlunds – Visit with the Sisters – May 13

Sister Ruth Renlund, wife of visiting apostle, Elder Dale G. Renlund, shared an evening with 155 sisters of the Saskatoon Stake.

As a true teacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ, Sister Renlund led a discussion on the talk given by President Russell M. Nelson, in Oct. 2015 conference entitled "A Plea to My Sisters". With thoughtful questions, she encouraged participation and guided our discussion to help us recognize that we as sisters in Zion, have priesthood power through our covenants.

We can call down the powers of Heaven to help us and to receive personal revelation in our daily lives. She reminded us of the power of a righteous woman's example and encouraged us to extend our sphere of influence. She taught us that the Savior enables us to do His work and sends us His godly influence as we partake of the sacrament each week. As we "tie ourselves" to Jesus Christ, He will help us to overcome our challenges. As we work together with our priesthood

leaders, we can, in quiet ways, gain their trust and confidence. In our marriages, we are to work together with our husbands as equal partners. Sister Renlund asked us to take to heart President Nelson's plea.



*Stake Relief Society Presidency*

*Shannon Leslie – Stake YW President, Leanne Willoughby – Stake RS President,  
Sister Ruth Renlund, Joan Julseth – Stake Primary President*

#### Stake High Priests Quorum Temple Trip – July 16

On July 16, the stake High Priests Quorum traveled to the Regina Temple taking family and other Church members with them. Over forty Saskatoon members attended, some traveled over 800 kms round trip to attend. Of the experience, President Doug Robertson said, “There was a wonderful feeling of camaraderie.” President Sid Paulson of the Regina Temple commented he had never seen so many people at the noon session since being called as President last November.

We planned the temple trip in lieu of the annual High Priests Quorum meeting, where we often discuss how to increase temple attendance. This time, rather than talking about it, we did it.



### Tri-Stake YSA Conference – Aug 3

The tri-stake YSA conference hosted by Winnipeg was a great success. Seven showed up from the Saskatoon stake. We had some great workshops and activities. Our stake shook up the dance floor with our unprecedented moves and style. We were also able to visit the National Museum of Human Rights. The sacrament meeting and testimonies on Sunday were also highlights of the conference. It was a great weekend of fun and spirituality that brought all closer to Christ.

### Seminary Parents/Teacher Meeting – Aug 28

On Sunday August 28th, 2016 the Saskatoon Saskatchewan Stake held a meeting at the Stake Centre for the youth, parents and teachers of the combined early morning Seminary class. Youth, parents and teachers for the online Seminary class were not required to attend. The purpose of the meeting was to: 1) introduce the teachers for the upcoming year, 2) discuss the logistics behind where classes will be held, 3) introduce the course of study for this year (New Testament) and requirements for course completion, and 4) strengthen youth's spirituality by sharing of testimonies by teachers and church leaders.

In attendance were Bro. Shawn Reid, the S&I Coordinator for SK & MB, Bro. Alvin Wong as the HC Liaison for S&I, our two Seminary teachers for the combined early morning class (Sis. Angela Rodgers and Bro. Kevin Ledding) along with ten to twelve youth plus their parents for an approximated total of thirty people.


I certainly felt the hand of the Lord in guiding this meeting, from the planning all the way through to its execution. Agenda items were efficiently identified, invitations to participate in the meeting were quickly accepted, and the Spirit guided our discussion in resolving any logistical issues that were raised. I believe all who attended felt that they were given a chance to voice potential issues, as well as the comfort to know that the various levels of leadership would be receptive to any suggestions raised to improve the program as the year progresses. The sharing of testimonies by our two teachers certainly helped our youth get a better feel for the importance of having a strong gospel foundation in their lives. The expectations for course completion, while challenging, will certainly teach everyone involved how to grow through adversity.

I believe it was a positive experience for all who participated.

RootsTech

# Family Discovery Day

Saturday, September 17, 2016



## Celebrating Families across Generations

Join us at family discovery day and strengthen your family ties, past, present, and future.

- Discover how to find names to add to your family tree
- Learn new techniques to create and preserve your family legacy
- Find out how to share your discoveries with others
- Be inspired with new ideas
- Enjoy activities for all ages that will improve your family connections.

**DATE:** Saturday, September 17, 2016

**TIME:** 8:30am - 2:00pm

**LOCATION:** 1429 10th St E, Saskatoon

**REGISTER ONLINE AT:**  
[lds.org/familydiscoveryday](http://lds.org/familydiscoveryday) or email [familydiscoveryday2016@gmail.com](mailto:familydiscoveryday2016@gmail.com)

[lds.org/familydiscoveryday](http://lds.org/familydiscoveryday)

# Schedule

**8:00 a.m. Registration**

**8:30-9:00 Orientation**

**9:15-10:15 Workshops**

Where in the World? (Chapel)

Capture It: Going Beyond 'Say Cheese!' (Workshop 1)

**10:30-11:30 Workshops**

Begging for Spit (Chapel)

Storytelling Championships (Workshop 1)

Family History for People Who Hate Family History  
(Workshop 2)

**11:30-1:00 Luncheon**

**1:00-2:00 Final Workshops**

Our Faith Heritage (Chapel)

Could You Prove it in a Court of Law? (Workshop 2)

One of the guest speakers is well known in Family History circles and is from our Branch in Flin Flon. They edited a book about Church History in from it's beginnings called *The Mormons*, an Illustrated History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Roy Prete gave a presentation about our faith heritage on the Prairies.





### Stake Women's Self Reliance Activity – Oct 22

We held a stake Women's Activity focused on the principles of self-reliance. Our sisters participated in a large variety of workshops throughout the day. These workshops included "Turkey 101", trimming hair, home-made laundry soap, meal planning, encouraging innovative approaches to building food storage, a basic sewing project and making Christmas trees with names of the Savior.

The scriptural theme for our stake Women's Activity was Doctrine and Covenants 29:34:

"Wherefore, verily I say unto you that all things unto me are spiritual, and not at any time have I given unto you a law which was temporal..."

Sisters from each unit in our stake provided a table centerpiece depicting their vision of self-reliance.

This was a great day of hands-on learning, sharing of talents, and strengthening our sisterhood with just over 100 sisters in attendance.

## Public Affairs Activities

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The Public Affairs Committee was active in Saskatoon Multi-Faith, attending meetings and many events sponsored by various faiths. The Stake Presidency also enhanced our Public Affairs contacts by attending various events.

- John and Carole Spencer organized a multi-faith group to make 1000 lunches for YXE Connects, a one-stop service event for inner city residents in May.
- Members and missionaries participated in a multi-faith clean-up at the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation area on July 9.
- Jean Slocombe presented a talk at the fall meeting of the Religion in the Public Forum group. The topic was Death and Dying in our Religious Tradition.
- On November 20, Jean Slocombe presented a talk at an event sponsored by the Sai Baba group on "Selfless Service -The Spirit of Oneness" She presented the Christmas initiative "Light the World", showed the Light the World video, and distributed the service advent calendars.
- Public Affairs sent out materials about the Light the World Christmas initiative, encouraging wards and branches to participate.

Public outreach events included:

- The Kindersley Branch held their 26th Live Nativity in December. This was advertised on the Mormon newsroom site along with nativities across the country.
- Prince Albert Relief Society invited women from the Community to a special event "Angels Among Us"
- Melfort Branch held their annual Bottle and Food Drive with the help of the Community and Missionaries from the Manitoba Winnipeg Mission.



- The PAC submitted articles and photos to Mormon newsroom.



*"Representatives of many Faiths, including Latter-day Saints, gathered to discuss "Selfless Service - the Spirit of Oneness" at an event organized by the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre on November 20, 2016."*