



**2016 REPORT TO THE  
*SYNOD OF ALBERTA  
AND THE NORTHWEST***

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## **2016 Report to the Synod of Alberta and the Northwest**

Camp Kannawin has been blessed over the years and continues to be blessed by committed, gifted, and faithful staff including our current Krew, Cara Penman as Camp Director and senior staff, Mac Nichol and Jenna Paterson. These three very faithful Christians have provided the oversight, direction, and leadership needed to lead the campers and the rest of the Krew through our 73<sup>rd</sup> camping season.

As in most ministry endeavours, success can be somewhat difficult to measure. It strikes me that there are important questions to be asked of church camp programs: Did the campers feel they were in safe environment? Did the campers get to know Jesus a little better? Did the campers have fun? Was there a place to ask questions that no one thought foolish? Did the campers feel loved and supported in whatever way they took part in the camps? Our anecdotal evidence along with the evaluations completed by campers, staff and volunteers indicate that our efforts to answer these questions were effective this year. They point to the highest expectations which although can never be fully met, ever challenge the staff and committee.

Alberta is going through difficult economic times, and there is evidence of that everywhere. In homes, relationships, neighbourhoods, congregations, communities, and yes, even church camps! Cara and particularly her senior staff had to do more with less this year. There was a significant drop in the number of campers registering and attending our programs and therefore a corresponding significant drop in revenue. These amazing people met the challenge and provided quality camping experiences throughout the summer!

Camp Kannawin supporters give generously and sacrificially to the campership program. These campership funds were completely spent this year and as the season progressed we became aware that many more families have need of this assistance. While speaking with our colleagues around the lake, they too experienced a similar drop in campers – most for the second year in a row. For us, this decline is the first after three years of steady and substantial growth.

Every member of the committee is more than aware and committed to using the resources given us very carefully! The committee has reviewed the past years and brainstormed for other sources of revenue to help meet the financial needs of the camp and its programs. Currently there are several sources of grants that could significantly contribute to a better financial standing. Applications will be made where the camp is eligible to do so.

With a view to the future, the committee took the time this year to evaluate the present state of the camp's ageing infrastructure. Many of the buildings on site are showing their age and need updating and even in some cases, replacement. Upkeep can be expensive as are any plans (not even yet devised) to further develop the physical plant to expand year round use of the facility. This season the committee had to unexpectedly fix or replace such things as radiant heaters/furnaces and hot water heaters in a variety of the buildings. These necessary repairs are symptomatic of the growing reality of the physical plant of the camp.

With all this said the synod and congregations have an invaluable resource in Camp Kannawin. It is a jewel and could be more fully utilized all year round if we have the vision and the resolve to see the camp strengthened and its facilities upgraded.

Our subcommittees carry out many major responsibilities and are active in many ways in the camp's life and work:

## **Communications**

Once again our Communications sub-committee was instrumental in getting the two updates published and distributed this year along with the summer brochure. In an effort to keep pace with the changing technological landscape, we reduced our print media ads to just the Sylvan Lake Community Program Guide and focused more on widening our social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Regular updates leading up to and during the summer allowed us to keep in much more consistent contact with the Kannawin Community and by paying to boost our Facebook posts we were able to extend our presence even further. This year also saw the launch of the new look for our website.

During the winter we were successful in qualifying as a non-profit with TechSoup Canada, a program of the Centre for Social Innovation that is dedicated to empowering charities, nonprofits and libraries with the effective use of technology. Through them we were able to connect with Google and were approved for their program for non-profits. The biggest component of their program is their advertising service called Google AdWords and is the method they use to place ads onto their search result pages. Since starting at the end of February, our ads have appeared on 57,000 search result pages, with 502 people clicking through to our website. The value of this advertising is over \$876 USD but Google has provided it to us FREE of charge. We have much more room to grow and will make that a primary focus for 2017 as their donation is capped at whopping \$10,000 USD per month!

TechSoup also enabled us to take advantage of Microsoft's non-profit pricing structure and we were able to secure Office365 with hosted exchange service for three users at a substantially reduced rate of \$90 per year. We will continue to explore what TechSoup has to offer that will help us operate and expand this ministry more efficiently and cost-effectively.

This year we also added a few new items into our merchandise store including zip up and hoodie style sweaters and the very popular paracord bracelets. For their gift this year, each camper received a Camp Kannawin laundry bag and luggage tag that will not only be useful at home, but was a great help in keeping belongings organized during camp!

It is time as well to refresh our rental brochure and that will be tackled towards the end of 2016.

## **Program**

We continue to use the InsideOut Curriculum Resource that the national church provides to us at no cost. This year's theme was Fearless Faith and the resource provides a wealth of stories, activities and craft ideas that help our chaplains and KREW create programming that all ties back to the daily themes .

A few years back we revamped some of the "additional programming" that was being offered at each camp based on the ages of the campers. This was an exciting time to bring in new activities things for the campers and we have seen it be quite successful. Feedback from our campers and our KREW is that this

being the third summer with some of these activities, it is time again to change things up a bit. For example, we will be giving Slingshots a break for the Junior Arts and Adventure and replacing it with something just as fun and exciting! We know too that there are other things that are trademark “Camp Kannawin” events and it is abundantly clear that we could not change things like the Rainbow Slide or nightly campfires. Keep your eyes peeled for the summer brochure and the new things we will be offering for summer of 2017!

## **Personnel**

To successfully staff the summer programming always takes time and patience for all who are involved. Besides the Director we hired another 16 members of the KREW. They were **Jenna Patterson** (Assistant Director), **Mackenzie Nichol** (Leader and Training Director), Blake Core (Lifeguard/Counsellor), **Jarrold Crashley** (Maintenance), Hunter Wild (Lifeguard/Apprentice), **Kendrah Mantey-Annor** (Counsellor), Emily Day (Counsellor), **Isaac Laut** (Counsellor), Diana Klaassen (Assistant Cook), Jackie Morgan (Head Cook), Robert Sewell (Counsellor), Nicole Schwengler (Health Care Attendant), Colin Penman (Office Admin), Grace Baker (Apprentice), Oliva Williams (Apprentice) and Stuart Penman (Apprentice). Those names in **bold** are returning staff.

We were blessed to have the volunteers we did for this season. It is always a balancing act to make sure they have things they want to do and things we want to have done each week. We had a number of great volunteers this year with most of them filling the Chaplain role. Karima Smuts, Nick Renaud, Shane Johnson, Maria Pullen, Jocelyn Littlefair, Tristan Littlefair, Dewald Delport, Joanne Lee, Pat Parkinson and Challaine Emerson (2 times). We were also blessed by having the Praise Team from Sylvan Lake Memorial Church come and lead a Sunday evening service during our August Family Camp. Once again we appreciate all of their help at the Camp and could not have done it without them!

## **Property**

With the assistance of the Bowden Crew (just over 5 weeks this past year) and other numerous volunteers (ranging from 10 to 80 years old!!), a number of projects were completed this year.

Here is just one example of the work that the Bowden Crew gets accomplished for us in just one week:

*Bowden to do list for September 26- Sept. 30*

- 1) Take out the Floating Raft (Stays on the beach)*
- 2) Take out the deck (Stays on the beach)*
- 3) Take the rescue boat and motor and place in Grace*
- 4) Take the dock pieces, stairs, legs, feet, bumpers etc and place in Grace – nothing should be at the beach except for the floating raft, and deck pieces. Everything else should be thrown away or placed in Grace please.*
- 5) Take down the archery net and put in Grace*
- 6) Take down the low ropes and place in Grace*

- 7) *Take apart the rainbow slide and place against the building (Hardware back in the bag and given to Cara) Throw away the poly*
- 8) *Disconnect all hoses and place in lower maintenance*
- 9) *Replace the fire rated door knobs on the fire doors at the top of the stairs*
- 10) *Fix the table in Mickey's Centre*
- 11) *Fix two outside chairs that are at the Staff trailer and place in Grace when fixed*
- 12) *Fill the wood box (Off the parking lot) with split wood from down at the compound*
- 13) *We need to split the wood in the compound and stack in the hold area*
- 14) *Take down the left firewood cover that is at the Caretakers campfire. Once down please place beside the right pile the box that is located by Gibson Hall. There is a small Wooden box that has fallen apart down by the campfire that just needs to be pitched.*
- 15) *Take down the garbage box surround at Miceys and place garbage can inside*
- 16) *Use the blue puck board to make a new basketball back board*
- 17) *In the cabins please complete the three tasks*
  - a. *Relocation of the cabin bunk boxes (Put on the beds themselves as we find the are not staying on the walls very well and kids smack them quite a bit where they are located at the moment)*
  - b. *Wash the inside and outside of the door please*
  - c. *Gorilla tape all of the rips in the mattresses and place back on the beds.*
  - d. *Put up the summer plaques in the correct cabins/buildings*
- 18) *Check the boardwalk and replace soft boards (paint before replacing)*
- 19) *New tiles on the Fireplace in Gibson – (Tiles provided)*
- 20) *Paint the chalkboard in the lower hall – Will need chalkboard paint*
- 21) *Inside/outside carpet is needed to be replaced on cabin 1*
- 22) *New Eaves trough on Gibson Hall.*
- 23) *New Down spouts on the main building and upper maintenance*

As you can see, their contributions to our site over the course of a year are truly priceless.

This year we received over \$9,000 from an anonymous donor to have the parking lot and the road down to the main entrance gate regraded and graveled. This really improved drainage and nearly eliminated the puddles of standing water after a rainstorm.

We were also very blessed to receive support in the form of a large number of items (including a lawn tractor and snowblower) from the congregation at Westmount Church in Edmonton. They were moving out of their original building and are awaiting their new space as their land is turned into a new low-income housing project for large families. The scope of this most generous donation was overwhelming and we are truly thankful.

Thanks to another donor we now have a "fleet" of three good quality lawn tractors!

We also applied for and received a matching Grant from the National Church for up to \$16,000 dollars to help offset the costs for the replacement of water heaters, cabin radiant heaters and furnaces in the main

building. We have until December 31 to get in funds to qualify for the match and through our Fall Update and our Convenor's Letter, we are asking our supporters for help to raise the money needed.

In terms of rentals, we strengthened our relationship with Camp Quality and signed another 5 year contract with them for the use of our entire facility for a week in August each year. We also saw 3 Guest Groups use our facilities in December this past year. This was awesome as December is usually of the quietest months in terms of Guest Groups. For the 2016 year we have seen the same number of guest groups as 2015, but not necessarily the same groups. Although we saw a decline in campers this summer, we hope guest groups will remain constant.

### **In Conclusion**

We would appreciate all your prayers for the camp, for the director, for the Krew (staff and volunteers), and for the vision and foresight to move forward. We would also appreciate the concerted effort on the part of individuals, families, congregations, and the presbyters to lend a hand.

The Presbytery of Edmonton Lakeland employed a theological student this last summer. Nick Renaud worked at Camp Kannawin as a chaplain as part of his experience. He pointed out that every opportunity in our lives can be missional and he certainly viewed camp's efforts as missional – sharing the gospel of Christ Jesus and the love of God with a range of people who would otherwise not receive these gifts.

Just as several years ago the Synod moved from a seasonal director to a full time director, so now there are steps needed to move forward. The Camp Committee intends to set as a top priority for itself for the coming year to move toward putting together a vision and a plan outlining the resources required. The mandate, time commitment and energy involved will need help from outside the present committee, and so the Committee foresees drawing on expertise beyond itself to accomplish this goal.

Even or especially for its usual work the Camp Committee could actually use 6 more members than the current committee members have been able to recruit.

I close with this thought. Camp Kannawin has been and I pray will continue to be an instrument of mission within the orchestra of the Synod of Alberta. I pray that we all share this hope and give Camp Kannawin the resources it needs to continue to provide strong, inspired, and loving Christian camping experiences to a *growing* circle of people throughout every season of the year.

Respectfully submitted,



Reverend Charlie McNeil, Convenor

and the rest of the 2015-2016 Camp Committee: Rev. Bert de Bruijn, Marilyn de Bruijn, Rev. Heinrich Grosskopf, Colin Penman, Eric Taylor, Darlene Eerkes, May Gillis, Rev. Joanne Lee, Mackenzie Nichol, John Rhoad, Rev. George Malcolm, and Ralph Richards.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the report and its recommendations be received and considered.
2. That the Synod increase the camp committee's grant for 2016 to \$90,000 from the current \$80,000.
3. That the Synod endorse the camp committee's initiative of drawing in expertise from beyond itself to begin the future planning process for Camp Kannawin.
4. That the Synod ask the presbyteries of Edmonton Lakeland and Calgary McLeod to designate a second presbytery representative to the Camp Kannawin committee.
5. That the Synod's grant to Camp Kannawin be \$90,000.00 for 2017.
6. That the report and its recommendations be adopted.

## Director's Report – Summer 2017

How time really does seem to go by in a flicker the older I get! Not only has this been my fourth summer as the Director, but I also got to celebrate my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in August. As I continue in this role and on this journey, I am always amazed at how the camp impacts the lives of those that come in contact with it.

Toby Gaskarth from St. Giles in Calgary writes:

*“My daughters love coming to Camp Kannawin. It is the highlight of the summer for them. In fact, they spend the months leading up to camp talking about what they are anticipating at camp. The months after camp, we hear about everything that they did! For Shannon, it helps to build her sense of independence and confidence in her abilities. Both girls thrive on the friendships and the community that forms during the week.*

*After one week at camp, I see how they are changed by their experiences. Camp broadens their perspectives about life. They learn how to interact with others beyond the confines of family, school and the dance studio where they spend most of their time. They are excited that they are at the same camp that their grandmother and aunt attended.*

*My daughters are already planning to be LITs. This is particularly amazing for Shannon, as she is shy and anxious in new situations (although I am sure that she is completely different at camp!). Camp is helping them to develop leadership skills and the confidence to put these skills into action. I am grateful that Camp Kannawin exists to provide these opportunities to our children and I pray that the camp continues into the future.”*

We are so pleased to report that this year was much better in terms of filling our KREW positions with all of the hiring done before May 30<sup>th</sup>! We did unfortunately have a few of the KREW that left us over the summer for a variety of reasons. The only one that required a replacement was the Head Cook who left us on June 22. I ended up taking on this role and although it was intended to be on a temporary basis, it ended up being for the entire summer. From all accounts though, everyone was very happy with the food. 😊 We even saw some kids learn to be open minded and try new foods (nothing too wild – things as simple as chili with rice) and walk away loving it! Having some of the returning senior staff, combined with our intensive cross training for the month of June, allowed for the summer to still run pretty smoothly overall.

We are so excited to have had another 7 campers in the Leader in Training Program again this year and quite a few of them are looking forward to applying as a KREW member for the 2017 summer season. It is great to start to see some positive momentum and organic, internal growth of the KREW.

Another great example of growth is in the Senior Wilderness Camp that we have run out in Nordegg over the last few years. Our registrations swelled to 11 campers for this year versus the 3 last year. Two of these campers even served as part of our KREW this summer as

Apprentices and with their contracts finishing just before this camp, were able to attend. We also saw a record breaking 26 campers at our youngest aged camp - six to eight year olds.

Despite these wonderful bright spots, we did also see some decline in registrations this year, especially with the family camps. While last year we had almost 90 campers at the two family camps, this year we were just under a combined 50. I am aware that although the dates did not work for quite a few of the families this year, they are looking forward to coming again next summer.

While out in the community, I consistently heard stories of hardship come up again and again with our families. It was not uncommon to find out that a parent in the family had lost their job and camp was financially not feasible this year. Instead they followed us on Facebook and other social media streams and were able to stay connected to Kannawin Community.

We had another very active family that has been sending their campers to multiple camps each season, have been avid donors in the past and have even offered to pay any shortfall if we missed our mission project goals. Part way through the summer however, one of the parents lost their job and they could no longer even support the mission project. It shows that there have been a lot more families affected by the economy this year and it has caused a decrease in our numbers for the first time in four years! The good news however is that some of these families have now had the spouse secure a new position and the campers are already planning on being back next year.

We have always strongly felt that giving back is just as important as receiving and for our Mission Project this year we chose to support PWS&D. In the past two years we have brought in about \$1200.00 a year towards our projects, yet with the economy this year, the donations we received for it was just over \$200.00. It is better than nothing and even with the small amount we collected this year, we will continue to support a mission for the 2017 summer season.

I personally would like to say THANK YOU to the many churches that supported by sending specific children to camp, donating generally to the operating budget, camperships, those who came out and worked at getting the site ready for the summer season, and those who keep the Camp in their prayers. I am available January through April to come and visit your congregation and share about the vital ministry that is taking place at Camp Kannawin. Reach out now to me and reserve your date!

Thank you for taking the time to read this report and for your continued support of me, our Committee, and your Camp.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Penman".

Cara Penman, Director

## Camp Kannawin Budget 2016

	YTD Sep 12	Budget 2015	YTD Sep 6	Budget 2016	YTD Aug 31	Budget 2017
<b>Receipts</b>						
Camper Fees	\$28,254.17	\$45,000.00	\$35,902.57	\$50,000.00	\$38,022.76	\$47,500.00
Camp Rentals	\$19,742.33	\$35,000.00	\$32,009.60	\$59,200.00	\$30,714.97	\$59,200.00
Other income – Presbyterian & Government employment grants	\$13,200.00	\$19,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,373.00	\$0.00
Catering	(\$1,624.23)	\$2,500.00	\$3,342.86	\$8,500.00	\$2,510.00	\$7,500.00
<b>Staff Program Revenue ** New Category</b>					\$1,262.00	\$1,000.00
Sale of merchandise	\$147.00	\$1,000.00	\$646.43	\$2,500.00	\$1,291.52	\$2,000.00
Synod grants	\$77,000.00	\$87,000.00	\$77,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$80,000.00
Donations/Fundraising	\$24,042.46	\$81,000.00	\$54,602.37	\$71,000.00	\$39,188.65	\$73,000.00
Camperships	\$3,489.90	\$2,500.00	\$5,110.00	\$7,000.00	\$4,529.50	\$7,000.00
Interest/Misc	\$211.68	\$0.00	\$549.57	\$0.00	\$353.13	\$0.00
GST Collected	\$2,629.35	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Gifts in Kind including mileage donated						
Waterfront Donations	\$36,892.33		\$4,600.00		\$700.00	
Waterfront - Net	(\$84,455.56)					
<b>Total Receipts</b>	\$119,529.43	\$276,200.00	\$213,763.40	\$278,200.00	\$196,245.53	\$281,200.00
<b>Expenses</b>						
Summer Staff	\$45,681.94	\$55,000.00	\$42,806.73	\$55,000.00	\$53,371.66	\$62,500.00
Camp Director	\$44,134.14	\$61,945.00	\$42,885.00	\$61,945.00	\$47,959.80	\$61,945.00
Catering Staff			\$700.00	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,500.00
Repairs, Maintenance	\$16,172.70	\$16,000.00	\$13,983.82	\$16,000.00	\$14,316.40	\$16,000.00
Insurance, Taxes	\$20,748.05	\$23,000.00	\$21,785.59	\$22,000.00	\$14,431.47	\$25,000.00
Food and Tuck - Campers	\$12,788.55	\$16,000.00	\$12,656.00	\$17,100.00	\$14,195.29	\$17,000.00
Food - Catering			\$2,907.73	\$4,250.00	\$3,805.79	\$4,250.00
Health Supplies	\$302.82	\$800.00	\$445.52	\$500.00	\$959.24	\$550.00
Housekeeping	\$1,741.19	\$2,000.00	\$1,534.06	\$2,000.00	\$1,080.95	\$2,500.00
Program	\$1,165.23	\$12,000.00	\$5,642.69	\$4,500.00	\$4,424.21	\$4,500.00
Administration incl. payroll expenses	\$9,079.28	\$12,500.00	\$11,520.43	\$13,000.00	\$13,765.52	\$15,000.00
Fundraising	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$455.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Advertising & Communications	\$4,154.11	\$5,000.00	\$4,322.83	\$5,000.00	\$2,148.46	\$5,000.00
Camp Committee Expenses	\$599.60	\$2,000.00	\$2,274.98	\$2,500.00	\$1,365.98	\$2,000.00
Committee Development	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Travel - Committee	\$2,436.40	\$3,000.00	\$2,269.06	\$3,000.00	\$634.80	\$2,500.00
Director Professional Development	\$2,007.45	\$3,600.00	\$1,628.98	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Travel - Director	\$1,300.20	\$3,000.00	\$3,633.96	\$3,000.00	\$1,800.52	\$3,000.00
Promotional Material	\$3,811.50	\$4,500.00	\$4,415.87	\$8,000.00	\$2,002.27	\$4,500.00
Utilities	\$18,107.00	\$22,000.00	\$15,804.80	\$20,000.00	\$13,014.94	\$20,000.00
Professional Fees	\$250.00	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00	\$4,500.00	\$3,184.21	\$4,500.00
Property Tax	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,747.20	\$1,850.00	\$1,742.57	\$1,800.00
Compulsory training	\$1,773.90	\$2,500.00	\$1,715.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,611.70	\$2,700.00
Capital	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$5,846.00	\$16,000.00	\$9,070.48	\$10,000.00
Software	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,098.56	\$4,100.00
GST Remission		\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$850.00	\$850.00
Camperships		\$3,000.00	\$260.00	\$8,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$186,254.06	\$276,095.00	\$204,491.41	\$277,845.00	\$216,434.82	\$280,695.00
<b>Excess of Receipts over Expenditures</b>	(\$66,724.63)	\$105.00	\$9,271.99	\$355.00	(\$20,189.29)	\$505.00



## Camp Dates for Summer of 2017

June 30 <sup>th</sup> – July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	July Family Camp
July 3 <sup>rd</sup> – July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lionhearts (7-9 yrs)
July 9 <sup>th</sup> - July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Trailblazers (13-15 yrs)
July 16 <sup>th</sup> – July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Jr. Arts and Adventure Camp (9-11 yrs)
July 23 <sup>rd</sup> – July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sr. Arts and Adventure Camp (12-14 yrs)
July 30 <sup>th</sup> – August 4 <sup>th</sup>	Pathfinders Camp (10-12 yrs)
August 4 <sup>th</sup> - August 7 <sup>th</sup>	August Family Camp
August 7 <sup>th</sup> – August 11 <sup>th</sup>	Bravehearts (6-8 yrs)
August 13 <sup>th</sup> – August 17 <sup>th</sup>	Explorers Camp (9-11 yrs)
August 20 <sup>th</sup> – August 24 <sup>th</sup>	Senior High Wilderness Recharge (14-18 yrs)
July 30 <sup>th</sup> – August 11 <sup>th</sup>	Leaders In Training (15-16 yrs)