

## Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center: CLERC Report.

The Law of Unintended Consequences:

In my last report of October, 2019 I reported we had received 150,000 pairs of lenses (5,000 lbs) in 81 boxes. Well the company donating these, I'm pretty sure, didn't really know how many they had because we are going back for a second load equal to or larger than the first and this not the last of them. The unintended consequences are so positive as to be game changing. CLERC Calgary has collected these loose lenses in the past but had very limited use for them.

The next time we receive an offer of a donation that we don't know what we are going to do with it until after it's in our hands, ALWAYS TAKE IT ,YOU NEVER KNOW HOW IT WILL WORKOUT, the Lions in Calgary started discussions on how to deal with 81 boxes (5000 lbs)of lenses,

" Where to store them" (prison in Calgary) has free secure space for storage,

What to do with them, we need a machine to put them in glass frames, a Calgary Lions member is an Optometrist and is buying a new "Edger machine" (\$35,000) and offered the old one to CLERC for \$1,000 then said it's for Lions I'll donate it. As a result we have the ability to put lenses in frames. This is an entirely NEW service that CLERC is now able to offer "thanks to this company's and this Lions donation and Lions ingenuity and willingness to serve more people with vision needs."

We have also reached out to NWLERC, the reason being is CLERC now has the ability to use the loose lenses that NWLERC used to discard or had no ability to use. So we now have CLERC and NWLERC working together on vision services in our MD and World Wide. Loose lenses will be dropped off at MD Office picked up and sent to Calgary and put to work helping the vision impaired.

Another thing that happened, the company that donated the lenses sends lenses to a lot of eyeglass shop as part of their business of supplying lenses. They cover a large geographical area and they have volunteered to distribute collection boxes to those (their customers) that don't have them. This will give Lions many more collection points---result, thousands more glasses collected. In the words of our old friend CC/ID Burrell Hardan, "It was a fortuitous happenstance".

Lions are keeping the glasses coming in at a very good rate. BUT there is always room for more glass collections so I am asking all clubs especially the ones not collecting glasses to get involved in collecting glasses. We are told by CLERC that they have a huge need for more used glasses. We need our Lions to honor the call to serve as "Knights of the Blind" for their communities and the world help us fulfill this commitment.

Please don't forget that CLERC takes all types of glasses including: readers, bi and tri focal, sunglasses, broken glasses, loose lenses, all prescription glasses.

Shipping and handling of used glasses they can be easily sent to CLERC by just calling Barry Shiles at [barryshiles@dccnet.com](mailto:barryshiles@dccnet.com) or 604-594-6579 and we can arrange drop off or pickup in the lower mainland at NO COST to your Lions Club

We also have contacts with shippers in all of BC if there are shipping problems to Calgary. CLERC operates on a budget of approximately \$200,000 per year and they supply collection boxes for free to Lions clubs and clean, package and grade all those glasses we send them in a warehouse needed for this purpose. Please budget or send a donation to help offset their

expenses. The boxes alone cost \$5.00 each and we get them free. A nominal donation of \$100 made by each Lions Club or individual Lions would help CLERC's budget greatly. Speaking of eyeglass collection boxes CANADIAN LIONS CLUBS PLEASE don't order you collection boxes from Lions International or US Lions sources, they have US information on them that does not apply in Canada and they are very expensive plus shipping and handling. YOU CAN GET THEM FREE FROM MY SELF OR CLERC CALGARY.

Call me at 604-594-6579 or email: [barryshiles@dccnet.com](mailto:barryshiles@dccnet.com) or call Gord Prusky at CLERC, Calgary 403-640-1056, or [info@clerc.ca](mailto:info@clerc.ca)

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Submitted Respectfully  
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