

MD 19 Cabinet CLERC Report

May 31, 2018

Well where to start? Just added up the number of glasses MD 19 BC, Canada Lions Clubs have reported to me as shipped to Calgary, please note "reported" there are a lot of glasses that just make it to CLERC Calgary and I know there are a lot more shipped than I hear about., this is a lot like all Lions projects that just happen, seamless and just get her done "no big deal", we're Lions.

50,000 plus pairs this year(reported) many more shipped, and many more to be picked up and sent off to Calgary just have to find time and waiting for a call to go get them, so CLERC B.C. Lions are doing a great job.

Andrew Jacobs of the "New York Times" reported in a recent article that World Wide there are one billion people that need eyeglasses but don't have them or access to them. Some research estimates put the figure at closer to 2.5 billion people that need glasses. This need for glasses is a social and health issue, if you can't see the board at school a lot of kids aren't learning, and so are called poor learners and drop out of school, fathers can't support their families because of this handicap, mothers have difficulty looking after the home and gardens, the elderly with sight/glasses are not a burden to their families requiring a family member usually the children that should be in school instead of looking after Grandma or Grandpa.

What we do is give families independence to better provide for their families. Our core Lions Service of providing glasses to people in need all over the world for the "Lions Price" is helping a small but significant number (945,000 pairs last year from Calgary) of children and adults with the gift of vision , through a simple but significant project, "Collecting used eyeglasses" and delivering them to where they are desperately needed.

Some Lions will object to my calling our eyeglass collections efforts here small, especially with all the work and time, I know goes into collecting, sorting, cleaning and shipping these glasses. Small is just a word compared to the need World Wide, but if we continue to increase our Lions Service, with the easiest, Lions service project with the most significant impact on the people with vision needs in the World every Lion can only imagine the dramatic effect /impact we are having globally. The enormity of the need for eyeglasses only speaks to Lions to redouble our efforts and be a bigger part of the solution to global sight problems.

To all the Lions Clubs that collect glasses, a big "THANKS". To all the Lions Clubs that are looking for a "Service Project" consider collecting used eyeglasses, costs nothing-HUGE IMPACT.

Call me for "Collection Boxes" 604-594-6579 for new locations and to replace shop worn boxes, keep them looking good they have our Lions logo on them.

Lions don't forget to consider budgeting for a donation to CLERC Calgary; it takes money to provide this fantastic service. We would not want them to be unable to continue serving.

Yours in Lions

Barry Shiles

MD 19 CLERC Chair, B.C. Canada.

604-594-6579