

## Canadian CLERC Report, Feb. 18, 2017

### Winter Council Meeting, Langley B.C.

I believe I can now report that the problems with shipping used eyeglasses from District "I" Vancouver Island are officially over. We had some final details to fix and now the glasses should flow freely and easily off the Island. Our final few shipping problems were some clerical, which challenged my creative abilities, but the box labels are now done. Victoria, Comox, Ladysmith to Calgary should now function smoothly and easily.

Our other problem was a huge backlog of 3 years of glasses 250 boxes from Lions Carol and Joe Buczkowski's house and shed probably 400-500 pairs of glasses per box—estimated at 125,00 pairs, which sounds impressive but there was another 4-6 skids estimated at 500 -600 boxes of glasses. These headaches were solved by Lion Gord Prusky of "Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center" from Calgary and was a monumental problem to solve (estimated additional 450,000 glasses).

You will note that all the glasses collected were accomplished by the Lions of District "I" what a remarkable amount of glasses they collected, District "I" Lions continue to serve those in need of eyeglasses throughout the world.

Districts "A" and "H" are also actively collecting and shipping glasses in large numbers to our depot in Calgary.

Our community partners, two large shipping companies that by the greatest of luck work closely together and ship to each other on a daily basis are a gift given to Lions. They deserve all the accolades we can give their community service because they very strongly believe in ours and their service.

The success we as Lions have experienced thanks to our community partners serves to reinvigorates Lions. We are not alone in our efforts, "To Serve."

Supplemental: The Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in Calgary needs our donations, money, to operate, they need to buy collection boxes, \$2 each and ship them, little zip lock bags for each pair of glasses, which doesn't sound like too much until you say close to a million a year and many other supplies and equipment which add up.

My suggestion is—Clubs that collect and ship glasses already support the program and if they could send a donation it would help, most already do.

Lions clubs that don't collect glasses could help by sending a small donation to CLERC Calgary say \$50 to \$100 each to help finance the program, equipment and supplies.

Respectively submitted: Lion Barry Shiles, MD 19 Canadian CLERC Chairperson