

Canada Field Report
Canada Board Meeting, August 2018
Submitted by Dan Mayerle

Staff Updates

Jesse Stigile, InterAct's newest missionary on the Canada field, is settling into life in Calgary. Jesse comes from the same Bremerton, WA church as Andy and Jesi Chinn. He was an EnGage!er in 2015 and has been tracking to become part of the Urban Fire Communities ministry since then.

Mark and Emma Dabrowski joined InterAct in late winter and are gradually getting involved in the Native Bible Center ministry. Mark and Emma are former Ethnos Canada (New Tribes) missionaries who had to return to Canada because of health issues with one of their boys. They plan to work alongside Ed and Glenna Houston for a few years and gradually take on the leadership of NBC. We are looking for direction from the Lord as we consider what growing NBC's ministry should look like rather than winding NBC down because we had no-one to replace the Houstons.

Dave and Sally Cross, formerly with Goodseed Canada (producer of Stranger on the Road to Emmaus) and New Tribes, have completed applications to join InterAct and be part of the team that develops new curriculum for NBC. It will be interesting to see what God does with the NBC ministry in the next few years.

Byron and Danielle Sayer have raised the majority of their support and are now full-time missionaries. They have moved back to continue the disciple making ministry among youth and young adults connected to the Kamloops Native Fellowship. As part of that ministry Danielle works as a youth worker for the Neskonalith Indian Band. They have struggled to find housing in the overheated Kamloops market so have settled for living closer to Vernon and commuting for now.

Thomas and Nicole Olney are continuing in ministry but are planning to move from part-time to full-time ministry in northern Manitoba. They will need to increase their support level and the Canada Leadership Team will need to define a broader vision for ministry in northern Manitoba before the Olney's ministry profile is finalized.

Amy Flater, who is on maternity leave until this fall, will be reducing her time in ministry and moving from full-time to part-time so that she can focus more energy on raising their daughter.

John and Tracey Tobin, with Jack and Carolyn Teeter alongside as advocates, have completed their intensive counseling session with a Twelve Stones counsellor. John and Tracey's marriage and their ability to work as a team, particularly as it relates to their 19 year old son, continues to improve and stabilize. John's health has leveled out as well.

Dan and Barb Kees are making plans for full retirement this September. It has not been easy for them to make this decision but they seem to have come to terms with it. They will continue to live in Lethbridge and be involved in relational ministry and Camp Nookoowai as they have time and health.

Kelsey Comley's husband (Ben) has been re-assigned to an RCMP post in Baker Lake, Nunavut starting in September. That move, coupled with increasing motherhood demands has led Kelsey to a decision of resigning from InterAct once she finishes out her maternity leave.

Dan and Deanna Woodard are also resigning from InterAct and transitioning to Action International. They have clearly stated that this move is directed by the Lord and they have had much grieving over the thought of leaving their InterAct family but feel they need to be obedient to what God is calling them to do. They will complete their transition on September 30.

Wes and Carol Schellenberg resigned from InterAct effective July 31. Wes' resistance to the Biblical Counselling model/principals became a roadblock to forward momentum in the Canada Leadership Team. Wes chose to look elsewhere for employment rather than continue in administration without a leadership role. Thankfully, the Lord has provided Wes with a position as Administrator/Controller at Avant Ministries in Winnipeg.

Urban Fire Communities

Stefan and Jesse are well on the way to being prepared for 2-4 applicants to become the first Urban Fire community members. This launch will focus on the transition housing and disciple making community elements. Once David and Vicky Sebald and Brooke Wortham finish raising their support female applicants will be welcomed and the other elements of work experience and education will become a greater part of the focus. The Eichers, who were also slated to join this team, will be involved as volunteers rather than InterAct members because they were not able to sign InterAct's doctrinal statement.

Training

Center for Intercultural Training continues to be our go-to training for missionaries coming on the field. Byron and Danielle Sayer, David and Vicky Sebald, and Jesse Stigile are all attending the four week training this August.

The training sessions at the 2018 Canada staff conference will focus on practical disciple making with a focus on discussion and learning from each other. We continue to look at distance learning options for ongoing training of missionaries on the Canada field.

Administration

Wes has done a good job of training Melanie Young who has been working part-time for over a year. Wes is confident that Melanie has the understanding and resources she needs to take care of the financial operations of InterAct Canada. Dale, Greg, and I are all picking up a few of the broader administration pieces to

ensure that everything Wes was responsible for is covered. Laura Hamilton (Greg's wife) is also stepping in to ensure our Child Protection Policy continues to be applied in all our ministries.

Recruitment

Two EnGage! participants spent their summer of ministry focusing on the Tsuu'Tina Nation which skirts the southwest corner of Calgary. Their focus was building relationships and the Lord opened some amazing opportunities in this community. As far as I know this community has not had much conservative evangelical mission involvement for well over 25 years. May the Lord open doors for finding, encouraging, and facilitating local believers living there.

While there are still a few people in the process of getting fully funded and prepared to serve on the Canada field there are not many people at the threshold of InterAct who are thinking/praying about joining the ministries of InterAct Canada. We need to keep praying for the Lord of the harvest to send forth workers.

Leadership Development

The Canada Leadership Team was starting to jell and now needs to adjust to Wes' transition. I am currently looking for at least one younger missionary to pick up supervision and leadership responsibility.

Thank you again for your faithful ministry as board members. There has been a lot of change since the February board meeting and it has not been an easy season. I remain thankful for the opportunity to serve a sovereign God who is intimately involved in all areas of life and ministry. I also remain thankful for His Gospel message which calls us to experience the freedom and joy of daily redemption and reconciliation in a broken world where it could be easy to focus on brokenness and sadness.

Dan Mayerle

CANADA STAFF LIST – 2018

(** denotes a change in role or involvement)

Native Ministries

Cohle and Rebecca Bergen. Full-time - Thompson, MB (Cree) – Midway Bible Camp

Josh and Joylynn Beutler. Full-time - Lethbridge, AB (Blood Tribe/Blackfoot)

Dick and Ruth Browning. Full-time - Loon Lake, SK (Cree)

Andy and Jesi Chinn. Full-time - Anahim Lake, BC (Carrier, Chilcotin, Bella Coola)

**** Kelsey Comley.** Moving to Nunavit. Resigning spring 2019

NEW Mark and Emma Dabrowski

Stefan Dick. Full-time – Urban Fire - Calgary, AB (urban Native)

**** Amy Flater.** Part-time – Anchored Warriors - Calgary, AB (urban Native), Eden Valley (Stoney)

John and Anne Giesbrecht. Volunteer, Part-time - Fort St. John, BC. (Beaver, Cree, etc)

Don and Kim Gillaspie. Full-time - Redstone, BC (Chilcotin)

Travis Harms. Full-time - Thompson, MB (Cree) – Midway Builders

Ed and Glenna Houston. Full-time - Native Bible Centre, Bible studies and relationships

Paul and Joanne Janzen. Full-time - North Battleford, SK (Cree), Coaching younger missionaries

Dottie Kasten. Full-time - Kamloops, BC. (Urban Native)

**** Dan and Barb Kees.** Retiring - Lethbridge, AB (Blood Tribe/Blackfoot)

Daniel Maresty. Part-time - Nelson House, MB (Cree)

**** Thomas and Nicole Olney.** Full-time - Thompson, MB (Cree)

Kyla Plett. Full-time - Split Lake, MB (Cree)

**** Byron and Danielle Sayer** Full-time – Kamloops, BC (Shuswap, Kamloops, etc)

Morgan and Krista Serger. Part-time - York Landing, MB (Cree)

Joel and Amanda Sewell. Full-time - Eden Valley, AB (Stoney) – Worldview Discovery coaching

NEW Jesse Stigile. Full-time – Calgary – Urban Fire Communities

Valen and Carol Straley. Full-time - Kamloops, BC. (Urban Native)

Roy and Laura Thiessen. Full-time - Cardston, AB (Blood Tribe/Blackfoot)

Boris and Mirka Vyskocil. Volunteer, Part-time - Morley, AB (Stoney)

**** Dan and Deanna Woodard.** Resigning Sept 30. Transitioning to Action International

East Indian Ministries

Akmal and Sarah Erastus. Full-time - Winnipeg, MB (Punjabi)

Sam and Judy Paras. Part-time - Surrey, BC (Punjabi)

John and Tracey Tobin. Full-time - Abbotsford, BC (Punjabi)

Muslim Ministries

Fayez and Vivian Narooz. Part-time – Calgary
David and Marlene Nelson. Full-time – Calgary

Administration

**** Wes and Carol Schellenberg.** Resigned. Transitioning to Avant Ministries

Greg and Laura Hamilton. Full-time, Ass't Field Director, Human Resources,
Supervision

Barbi Gonzales. Full-time, Prayer ministry for the Canada field

NEW Melanie Young. Hourly staff – 30 hrs/week – Financial administration