

Canada Field Report

As summer ministry is beginning to come to an end and the planning of fall events and travel begins, there is a sense of a return to normalcy this year. Maybe the disruption of the last number of years is finally waning. It seems that the momentum in ministry has returned and that we again are finding our footing in being able to impact the lives of others for Jesus.

Highlights from the field:

- Over 200 people from south Asian people groups are gathering for a bible conference in Abbotsford, BC. The gathering will begin with a baptism service where five people of Sikh background will publicly declare their relationship with Christ.
- Three fellowships of Punjabi people gathered earlier in the summer in Calgary, all from central provinces. There were fifteen that were able to participate from the Punjabi fellowship in Winnipeg.
- The month of July at least three of the camps that InterAct Canada staff are involved with were at full capacity and fully functioning in introducing Jesus to First Nations youth. Other weekend events have taken place with smaller groups in discipling relationships.
- The new site for Midway Bible Camp continues to move forward with the hope of hosting camp on the new site in the summer of 2025. Volunteers both locally as well as from constituents allow for the development of the new camp site. Through the involvement of one volunteer team this spring, the plans for the main lodge building have been fully donated by an engineering firm.
- Waymaker youth weekend in BC had eighty youth in attendance and saw the continued development of discipling relationships across the interior of BC.
- Native Youth Conference (NYC) had two hundred youth in attendance, new commitments were made and youth from western Canada were challenged. Randy Jackson was the keynote speaker. Native Youth Conference committee has been fully trained in InterAct vulnerable sector training, finances will be reported in InterAct financial audits and we will continue to seek an InterAct member to sit on the steering committee.
- Canada had one EnGager! (summer student) with us in Calgary this year. Ruth Yang from Toccoa Falls University, studying cross cultural administration assisted David Sebald with Restora administration, got involved in local ministry in Calgary and Siksika reservation and outreach through the Mustard Seed. It was a delight to have someone from Hmong people background to serve relationally with First Nations people.

Personnel Changes:

- There are four people currently in the Canada pipeline:
 - Wyatt and Vera Henry; young couple from southern Manitoba, Wyatt is First Nations decent, but raised in a foster home. Vera is from Germany. Interested in Midway Bible Camp

- Mark Fortin; third year student at Steinbach Bible College, served the past couple of years at Midway Bible Camp, interested in serving in Manitoba with First Nations youth.
- Dhillon Bignell; First Nations background from Thompson, MB. Interested in serving First Nations youth in Manitoba.
- Jesica (Andy) Chinn; in current discussions about at transition to NAIM but remaining in ministry in Calgary. Dale Smith is in the discussion loop before final decisions are made.
- Ruth (Chitsang) Yang served on EnGage! this summer in Canada and is finishing her studies at Toccoa Falls University this coming year.
- David and Sally Cross, currently processing immigration for David to the USA. It has been a very long process. David and Sally desire to move to California and be close to Sally's family. They would like to continue to serve with InterAct, primarily they would serve in recruitment in the southern US.

Hotspots:

- Discussion as noted with Jesica (Andy) Chinn. Primary concern surrounds the role of women in ministry and a sense of misalignment with InterAct's position in this regard.

Future Planning:

- Week in September being planned to bring together next generation leaders. Primary discussion around field strategy as well as concentrated time with George Walker, Mike Matthews and Josh Beutler on A Novel Approach, worldview level ministry approaches.
- Ongoing development of Midway Bible Camp property and the full move of the program in the summer of 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Hamilton