

LCIF Report to Cabinet

November 20, 2011

Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF

The best news that I can report is the fact that a Fund has been approved by the Government of Canada as a charitable organization and is now operational. A legal agreement has been finalized with LCIF in order to receive donations through the fund from Canadian Lions and disburse these funds through grants to successful applicants from Canada. This is for personal donations only; donations by Lions Clubs are to be forwarded to LCIF in the normal way as we have done in the past.

The official name of the organization is "Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF". Personal donation cheques can be sent for the time being to:

Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF,
C/O Lion Jack Isaman,
222 Signature Way S.W.,
Calgary, Alberta T3H 2Y2

I am waiting at the present for more information before issuing any procedural recommendations to the district.

Since my last report I have made presentations before two regional rallies, at the Napanee Lions Club for Region 11 and at Millbrook Lions Club for Region 10. I have expressed the need for Lions Clubs to become more engaged by actually making a commitment by including a donation in their annual budget. By doing so, it will be easier to establish and coordinate the District A-3 funding objective that LCIF needs to be able to satisfy their fiscal requirements. With the annual disbursement of nearly 40 million US dollars it follows that the foundation needs to know more precisely what their source of funds is likely to be. At any rate, proper budgeting processes should be employed by Lions Clubs in order to function properly. We should all promote this commitment to LCIF because it is our Foundation and we all benefit from the good things that are accomplished in our name.

Donations to LCIF for MJF

Until recently, the donations that were made to LCIF went to areas of greatest need. The criteria have recently been changed and the donations now can be designated to four other areas and the choices can be made right on the application for MJF. (The MJF application can be downloaded from the new LCIF website www.lcif.org) These designated areas are as follows:

- Disaster Relief (e.g. Japan Relief Effort, Haitian Relief, or any future relief effort)
- Humanitarian Initiatives such as the Measles Initiative
- Sight Related Projects such as SightFirst
- Youth Programs

Measles Initiative

For the past two years LCIF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have been partnering in a \$700,000 pilot project to vaccinate children against measles. The project took place in four African countries, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Mali and Nigeria where 41million children were vaccinated against measles. With such good results, the Gates Foundation challenged LCIF by offering a grant of \$5 million US to LCIF if LCIF could raise \$10 million targeting the eradication of measles in Africa. Before the ink was dry on the offer, at the October LCI Board meeting a plan was approved for Lions to raise the necessary \$10 million by the end of June 2012. I recommend that all donations in this Lions year be designated to the Measles Initiative. As mentioned before, all donations to the Measles Initiative qualify for MJF credits.

Contributing Member Donations

Since the advent of the Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF, donations in the amounts of \$20, \$50 and \$100 US can be made to the foundation and not only will these donations qualify for tax receipts but a fancy pin for each of the denominations is available. Also this can be used as a reward along with a certificate to deserving Lions instead of plaques at year end.

This report respectfully submitted



Lion Harvey Gere

District A-3 LCIF Coordinator