One Mission, Two Funds
Proclaiming Christ in Word and Deed

Presbyterians Sharing supports the overall mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Congregations are encouraged to raise an accepted allocation each year.

Presbyterian World Service & Development is the PCC’s development and relief agency. PWS&D raises funds directly from congregations and individuals and through government grants — over and above gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. International Ministries mission personnel, funded through Presbyterians Sharing, often work with PWS&D partners.

Use these Mission Moments to highlight the mission and ministry that we are doing together. Print them in your Sunday bulletin or church newsletter, project them on a screen, integrate them into a presentation or use them on your church’s bulletin board. The text, photos and simple PowerPoint slides can be found at: presbyterian.ca/mission-moments

Your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing and Presbyterian World Service & Development are making a difference!
Celebrating Indigenous culture
Hummingbird Ministries is one of eight Presbyterian Indigenous Ministries in Canada supported by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. It is committed to bringing peace and healing to Indigenous families living in BC’s lower mainland. The ministry helps to restore hope by offering regular healing circles; working with the community in art and celebration; and providing educational and healing workshops, Bible studies, children’s art and music programs. Hummingbird Ministries also runs a children’s dance program in which Indigenous children are taught traditional Metis dances. Known as the Hummingbird Dancers, the children recently performed at a festival in East Vancouver in honor of National Indigenous Peoples Day, which recognized and celebrated the rich cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people in Canada.

Presbyterians Sharing walks with Indigenous peoples

A call to music ministry
Music is an important part of our worship and praise to God. In Ephesians (5:19), Paul encourages us to “Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.” With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Knox Presbyterian Church in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, is engaging its community through a new music ministry called PALM: peace, art, love and music. Under the PALM banner, the congregation has hosted a variety of music and art-related events for all ages including a youth showcase night, which featured several local youth musicians and included an open-mic segment. Knox has also arranged for local bands, musicians and even puppet show performers to share their gifts at the church’s hot meal gathering, which provides food and entertainment to those living on the margins in their community.

Presbyterians Sharing brings communities together

International Day of the Girl Child (Oct. 11)
Poonam was only 13 years old when she learned that her parents had arranged for her to be married in a few months. In India, early marriage is a very common practice, deeply rooted in tradition. Unfortunately, it also takes away a girl’s right to a childhood, disrupts her schooling and puts her at risk of early pregnancy. Meera Devi works with PWS&D partners in Poonam’s village to empower women and girls and prevent early marriages by running sessions that address issues of gender and sexual and reproductive rights. Because of Meera’s work, Poonam’s family understands the negative impacts of early marriage. The wedding has been postponed, and a joyful Poonam is completing her schooling.

PWS&D helps girls decide their own future

World Food Day (Oct. 16)
Hunger finds families when they are facing challenges like poverty, conflict, climate change and illness. Globally, hunger burdens over 800 million people—Rosa Martinez from Nicaragua was one of them. The effects of climate change made it difficult for Rosa to predict when to plant her crops. When she did, irregular rainfall ruined what little food she’d grown. Through a sustainable agriculture project supported by Canadian Foodgrains Bank, PWS&D helped Rosa learn to store water, grow new plant varieties and start seedlings in cups for better plant growth. Because of what she’s learned, Rosa is growing more food for her family. A sustainable source of food opens the door to abundant life.

PWS&D is working for zero hunger
Caring for creation in Calgary
The youth at Grace Presbyterian Church in Calgary are bettering the health of their local community while also supporting the well-being of the global community. Members of the congregation donated to PWS&D in support of the teens’ efforts to pick up litter, rake and sweep around the church’s property. In the end, the group collected five large bags of garbage and raised $932 for PWS&D. “We were encouraged by our faith in Christ’s love to share our gifts with the world,” shares Roberto DeSandoli, young adult ministry coordinator at Grace. Across Canada, Presbyterians are stewards of the blessings of God—sharing our gifts to build a more sustainable, compassionate and just world.

Faithful to our calling, we respond together

Providing hospitality to international youth
One of the joys of international partnership is inviting young people from churches around the world to attend Canada Youth, the PCC’s biannual youth conference. This past summer, sixteen youth from Ghana, Malawi, Taiwan and – for the first time, Lebanon, visited Presbyterian churches and experienced life in Canada. At Canada Youth, international and Canadian participants had an amazing inter-cultural experience, learning, sharing faith and having fun together. The international visitors participated in all activities with great enthusiasm! On a visit to the PCC’s national office on their last day, they passionately thanked everyone for this life-changing opportunity. Through Presbyterians Sharing, we provide hospitality to young people - followers of Jesus who live in every corner of God’s realm.

Presbyterians Sharing encourages young people

Take the Advent Challenge!
During the Advent season, we celebrate God’s amazing gift—Jesus! This gift changed the world. Inspired by God’s overwhelming generosity, we too work to make a difference for our sisters and brothers across the globe. Each week of Advent, Presbyterian World Service & Development challenges individuals and congregations to share the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love with those living in some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. In the midst of poverty, injustice and disaster, the Christ light shines. To help create bright futures through the Advent Challenge, visit WeRespond.ca/advent-challenge.

PWS&D is sharing the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ

Love letters in the Archives?
Did you know that you can find love letters among the thousands of documents housed in The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s Archives? Last year the Archives received a gift of 73 beautifully preserved handwritten letters that revealed a year-long courtship over many miles between Dr. McQueen and his future wife, Miss Catherine Robertson of Strabane, Ontario. The Rev. McQueen served at First Presbyterian Church in Edmonton, arriving in 1887 and remaining for 43 years. Dr. McQueen was the only person to serve twice as Moderator of the General Assembly. Miss Robertson served as a missionary in Canada with the Women’s Missionary Society. David and Catherine’s exchanges date from September 1889 – September 1890. Through beautiful script containing poetry and prose, their growing love for one another is revealed as is their draw to western Canada and a mutual commitment to serve the church.

Presbyterians Sharing helps connect Presbyterians with their rich history
A learning experience in rural Ontario

In the book of Acts, the disciples traveled far and wide to share the good news of Christ. Through the Rural and Remote Ministry Grant, seminary students are able to gain ministry experience in a rural and remote congregation during the summer. Emily Webb, a Master of Divinity student, participated in a recent placement opportunity at Knox Presbyterian Church in Bayfield, ON. Through this opportunity, Emily was able to develop skills in leading Sunday worship, preaching and pastoral care. Emily’s enthusiasm for mission and worship was a blessing to Knox Bayfield and, in turn, the congregation provided a supporting and encouraging summer placement for Emily.

Presbyterians Sharing supports seminary students

World Soil Day (Dec. 5)

Soil gives life and supports livelihoods around the world. In Badin, Pakistan, Rabia’s life depends on access to rich, fertile soil—she needs it to grow the crops she sells each week at the market. But an especially dry summer has led to severe water shortages in her village. Rabia’s soil was too arid to yield the produce she needs. With support from PWS&D and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Rabia has learned to adopt agricultural practices that use less water. She also received seeds to grow crops that can survive extended dry periods. “This is highly beneficial for farmers like me, who reside in water-scarce areas,” shares Rabia.

PWS&D helps farmers adapt to climate change

Human Rights Day (Dec. 10)

In many parts of the world, girls face barriers to education and other opportunities to earn a living. In Afghanistan, Zarmina felt frustrated by her community’s belief that a girl’s place is in the home and not in the classroom. In an effort to make life better for her daughters, Zarmina participated in gender equality training with PWS&D partners. Zarmina shared what she learned about a child’s right to an education with other mothers, fathers and village leaders. As a result of her advocacy, the community now enthusiastically supports girls’ education. “We hope that one day there will be no child out of school, not only in our community, but in the entire country.”

PWS&D is making a difference for girls around the world

Seeking justice for all

Through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, The Presbyterian Church in Canada is working to sow seeds of hope and respond to the justice imperatives of the gospel. God calls us to name injustices, walk with vulnerable people and work with others for the common good. Over the years, Justice Ministries has prepared responses to overtures or motions adopted by General Assembly. These range from statements on genetics, health care, sanctuary for refugees, violence in computer games, the growing gap between rich and poor in Canada and, more recently, inclusion for Presbyterians who are members of the LGBTQI community, the opioids crisis and forced labour. Through Justice Ministries, our church walks with Indigenous peoples on the path towards healing and reconciliation, partners with ecumenical agencies, produces resources and leads workshops on vital justice issues. As followers of Jesus, we are a people of hope.

Presbyterians Sharing seeks justice for all
A warm welcome for Jumai

Whenever Jumai went out into his Nepali village, he would be cruelly mocked because of his ulcers, sore patches and swollen legs. Jumai was living with leprosy and couldn’t afford to pay for ongoing treatment. Visiting the PWS&D-supported Shining Hospital changed everything. When Jumai was admitted, he was struck by something more than the timely service and quality medical care—the love and acceptance he felt was a welcome relief after years of shame and judgement. “I feel at home in this hospital,” says Jumai. “I receive such good care.” Filled with thanks for PWS&D, Jumai looks forward to a better future.

PWS&D treats leprosy with compassion

Every gift matters

Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing reflect the joint efforts and witness of Presbyterians across Canada who live out the gospel message in all aspects of life. Together, we put our faith into action by equipping congregations, ministries and presbyteries; engaging in evangelism, outreach and discipleship; embracing local, national and international mission work; living out God’s call to justice; empowering youth; engaging in healing and reconciliation; creating new faith communities and supporting congregations—and so much more! Dr. Nick Bauman, who spent the past 2 years serving as PCC mission staff in Nepal, shares, “Our lives are not our own, but are gifts, and we are entrusted by God to be stewards of these gifts.” Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing are making a difference, thanks to the generosity of Presbyterians across Canada. Every gift matters!

Presbyterians Sharing cares for vulnerable people

Where there’s a wheel, there’s a way

In a region of Saint-Marc in Haiti, three vehicles holding four nurses, a community health worker, medication and 200 kg of Nourimanba—a high calorie food that saves lives—arrive at a primary school, transforming it into a health post for the treatment of severe malnutrition. Supporting local partners through Canadian Foodgrains Bank, PWS&D is bringing care to children whose families can’t afford medical expenses or the cost of travel to medical facilities. In a region where malnutrition is a leading cause of child mortality, this support is vital. “Since they started mobile clinics, the number of hospitalizations for children with severe malnutrition has decreased dramatically,” says Dr. Martine Andrè, head of pediatrics at Saint-Nicholas Hospital in Saint-Marc.

PWS&D brings care to remote communities

Serving vulnerable people in Romania

Life is difficult in Romania. The monthly salary of a school teacher is the equivalent of about $250 USD, so many people feel forced to leave in search of work in other EU countries. This economic migration is creating new challenges for the Romanian society. There are over 300,000 migration orphans and a growing number of elderly people who are left behind. The good news is that they are not left alone. Since 2011, Diakonia Christian Foundation for Social Work of the Reformed Church in Romania has been reaching out to Roma children, people living with disabilities, and the elderly. In 2017, the foundation’s social workers and volunteers made over 8,200 visits to the elderly, providing services such as helping with personal hygiene, cleaning and providing medical care or devices. Your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing are helping to accompany and care for vulnerable people in Romania.
Providing hope for new Canadians
With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Action Réfugiés Montréal provides direct, person-to-person assistance to help refugees start new lives in Canada. They help refugee claimants, accepted refugees and sponsored refugees access protection and justice, and develop a sense of belonging in Canadian society. For more than 20 years, Action Réfugiés has provided programs to create social support and networking opportunities for newly arrived refugee families. Recently, they started a new men’s dinner program that offers a meal along with social programming. These programs help to reduce social isolation and provide practical knowledge for living in Canada.

Presbyterians Sharing supports refugees