

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master

Brethren, first of all, I want to tell you how proud I am to be Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. Although it sometimes seems I have been involved for quite a length of time, it also in reality, has actually been just a short splash in life. I look forward to serving the next two years, to hopefully move our fraternity to better our gentle craft. In saying that, let's take our hats off and bow for a moment to M.W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell, Past Grand Master and the dedicated and distinguished manner in which he served as our Grand Master. On behalf of our Grand Jurisdiction, I want to thank you for the leadership you provided to us, and personally for your guidance and friendship given to me during my term as Deputy. We all wish you success in the future.

Brethren, as we are beginning another Masonic Term, I want to congratulate R.W. Bro. Paul Todd on being elected as our Deputy Grand Master. I can assure you that he has already demonstrated his knowledge and enthusiasm in just a few weeks and we look forward to his contributions. I also want thank all the Masons who allowed their names to stand for a Grand Lodge Office at our last Communication in July. Your desire and interest to further serve Freemasonry speaks well about you as Masons. It makes our fraternity stronger and we will benefit from the thoughts and philosophies you related to us, during your travels to introduce yourselves throughout Ontario.

Brethren, I want to take a moment to ask Lodges, Districts and all our members to further consider the many programs offered by Grand Lodge. I also recognize there are a number Districts who offer some variation of the programs due to their particular geographic location. I have identified many situations where using the various programs are successful. Lodge Resources has BROTHER to BROTHER; FRIEND to FRIEND/MENTORS; OFFICER PROGRESSION and CORNERSTONE initiatives that, when presented, can be quite successful in assisting Lodges to encourage and motivate their members. This year we are emphasizing the [FIVE STEPS to APPLICATION] which was introduced at Grand Lodge this past July. This is an

effort to assist Lodges receiving applications. We all realize, in this electronic age of communication, there will be times when no one in the Lodge knows any background or history of the applicant. We believe this guide will be of assistance to Lodges in those situations. Although developed by our own personnel, much of the background originated from the Grand Lodges of British Columbia and Michigan, who are realizing success from similar reference. We recognize using this type of information is not mandatory for Lodges but does offer possible solutions to certain situations that arise during the process of receiving an application.

Brethren, I want you to display the pride you have being a Mason. Whether it is at home, at work, at church or at the coffee shop, let people who are not involved in Freemasonry, see that you are proud to be a Mason. Indicate you are a better person for being a Mason. We may not think about it every day, but when we look back on our life, since we became Masons, many of us realize we are better people when dealing with our family, friends, colleagues at work and society in general.

On a more solemn note, we all have to deal with difficult situations within our families from time to time and this week, while writing this Communique, thoughts and prayers go out to a number of families who have had to deal with the death of loved ones. All of these have touched me in one way or another during my Masonic life. May their God guide and comfort them. The Mackey, Dainard, O'Brien, Rutherford and Grant families all deserve our support and prayers.

On a much lighter note, we have all heard how busy some people are and how they never have time to relax. Recently a very humble kind and gentle Past Grand Master went golfing. On his first shot of the day he scored a HOLE-in-ONE! I was a nearby witness but don't have permission to publish his name, so you will have find out for yourselves. I guess I could mention all the other Past Grand Masters who *didn't* get a hole-in-one but I think I will just leave you guessing.

Sincerely and fraternally,
John C. Green
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master

Brethren, as the days grow shorter and summer comes to an end we, as Masons, know a new Masonic year has begun and we all look forward to another year of continual growth in membership and Masonic knowledge.

As you may be aware, one of the responsibilities of the Deputy Grand Master is managing the work of several Committees of the Grand Lodge. The Committee structure is made up of thirty-four Standing and Special Committees, led by a combination of Committee Chairmen and Team Leaders.

These Committees are divided into five groups: Craft Stewardship; Training & Education; Communications; Finance & Operations; and Community Outreach. Each of the five groups has a member of the Management Committee assigned to that group as a liaison.

The various duties of the Management Committee liaison are:

- to be knowledgeable regarding suggestions put forward by their committees
- to report, at each Management Committee meeting, the ongoing or completed work of their designated Committee
- to communicate recommendations or decisions, of the Management Committee, to the Chairman and or Team Leader
- If more information is required and before a decision is made, invite the Chairman or Team Leader to make a presentation at a meeting of the Management Committee

Your Grand Lodge Committees are guided by a five year Strategic Plan. Each year, upon approval by the Deputy Grand Master, the Strategic Planning Committee (formerly known as Long Range Planning Committee) assigns Tactical Plans to specific Committees. Their reports are developed under the headings of Rationale; Strategic Goal; Deliverables; and Measurements.

These Committees work under strict timelines and are continually monitored by the Strategic Planning Committee, with their progress being reported to the Management Committee. This year, eight Committees of Grand Lodge were assigned a Tactical Plan.

Those Committees, which are not assigned a Tactical Plan, work under their mandates. Two examples are Condition of Masonry Committee which is a Standing Committee and Building Infrastructure Committee which is a Special Committee.

The Condition of Masonry Committee is under the leadership of R.W. Bro. Richard Kaufman. It has undergone many positive changes over the last few

years. In summary form, its mandate is to review the annual reports of the several District Deputy Grand Masters and to also study the state of Masonry for possible recommendations for the benefit of the Craft each year.

The Committee uses electronic forms; the **L1** form is completed by the Lodge Master, Secretary and perhaps members of the Lodge, the **L2** is completed by the District Secretaries and the **L3** by the District Deputy Grand Masters. This year, as the result of Condition of Masonry Committee recommendation, the Finance Advisory Committee created **L4** which is completed by the Lodge Treasurer, thus eliminating the need of Lodges sending in copies of their financial records.

The complete report of the Condition of Masonry Committee can be found in the soon to be released Annual Proceedings. However, those who saw the presentation by this Committee, at the Annual Communication this year, witnessed a very effective visual report.

The Building Infrastructure Committee is a Special Committee of Grand Lodge under the leadership of R.W. Bro. Perry McConnell. The Committee's mandate is twofold; one: to insure that all Lodge Buildings are fire inspected every three years and two: to insure all new or renovated Lodge rooms are compliant with our Masonic standards.

In August of this year, a request was sent by the Chairman of Building Infrastructure Committee to all District Deputy Grand Masters requesting them to send the name, address and contact information of all Lodge Buildings in their District. ***This task will be completed by November 1, 2015.***

On ***January 15, 2016,*** using the Lodge Building Compliance Policy Distribution Process, V.1, e-mails will be sent specifically to the District Deputy Grand Masters of the 21 identified Districts (Algoma to Ontario) informing them Fire Inspection must be booked and ***Fire Inspection completed by March 15, 2016.***

On January 15, 2017 notices will be send out to the remaining Districts (Ottawa 1&2 to York). By March 15, 2017 all Lodge Buildings have once more been inspected for another three years.

In future Communiqués I will continue to highlight the work of other Grand Lodge Committees and the more than two hundred hard working committee members.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Paul E. Todd
Deputy Grand Master