



**CCRDA**

CANADIAN CHRISTIAN RELIEF  
& DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



RELIEF · DEVELOPMENT · JUSTICE

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2020 – 2021**

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*Medical Ministry International*

## OVERVIEW OF CCRDA

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The Canadian Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) is comprised of organizations that are committed to integrated, transformative development. CCRDA was previously known as the Relief and Development Group (R&D Group) of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC). The group formed in 1984, and since that time it has provided a forum for members to encourage one another, cooperate, share expertise, respond to changes in their field, and speak with one voice on social and policy issues. CCRDA was officially incorporated in June 2006 and received charitable status in May 2007.

**MISSION:** Promoting unity and excellence among all Canadian Christian relief and development organizations.

**VISION:** Together, seeking God's kingdom purposes for flourishing lives and communities internationally.

**VALUE PROPOSITION:** We explore the relationship of Christian principles to international relief and development, facilitate collaboration, and promote the sharing of information, experience and expertise.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

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Faced with the monumental challenges of a global pandemic, we almost expect organizations to prioritize their own interests and shift into survival mode. This past year, though, has seen even more interaction, shared learning, and cooperation among member organizations of the Canadian Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA). This is in no small way thanks to the exceptional planning and facilitation work undertaken by our Executive Director, Laura Solberg and Director of Operations and Programs, Joella Reitsma.

Attentive to the Spirit of God and attuned to the visions and passions of the membership, Laura and Joella adeptly transitioned the content and format of our collaborative efforts. Our annual Forum, Fall Workshops, Affinity Groups, and Webinars have been some of the best facilitated and most beneficial gatherings I have experienced in years. Our two new Task Forces are taking collaboration to a whole new level. The association's finances are sound, our vision is clear, and healthy relationships are extending throughout the wider sector. In short, we are growing from strength to strength, and I, together with the rest of the Board, look forward with anticipation as to how the excellent work done this past year will enable all our member organizations to engage the challenges of the coming year, together, with even greater effectiveness.

**Greg Reader**

*CCRDA Board Chair*



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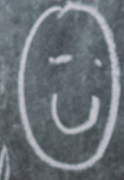
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## MEMBER IMPACT STORIES:

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*“Working with the CCRDA this past year has been a joy for BethanyKids as we seek to collaboratively create a better world.*

*BethanyKids is focused on providing compassionate and transformative pediatric care. We do that by training local pediatric surgeons across Africa, supporting children who can't afford care, and developing holistic medical programs that strengthen our surgical work. The end goal is always to allow children to flourish within their own communities.*

*Everything we do requires us to be in intentional partnerships with local hospitals and other charities serving on the ground. Being part of the CCRDA has meant we not only get access to learning opportunities through workshops, but also opportunities to connect with like minded people who care about justice, compassionate care and making the world a more loving and wonderful place.”*

**Peter Lublink**

*Executive Director, BethanyKids*

*“The CCRDA has been helpful for us in making new connections and having meaningful conversations about our work. There is a great deal of expertise among the membership and the small staff team.”*

**Wendy Fehr**

*Executive Director, CAUSE Canada*



BethanyKids

*“As one would expect in 2020, Medical Ministry International needed to adapt quickly and creatively in order to continue working towards our mission of serving Jesus Christ by providing spiritual and compassionate health care in this world of need. With fewer North American teams travelling to provide essential health care services, our local leaders were able to grow the impact of local initiatives to provide these services as well as the new demands for hygiene solutions, sustainable food sources, and caring for COVID-19 infected individuals. Fortunately, we were able to coordinate our efforts with several organizations and churches to see these needs met.*

*Collaboration with the CCRDA network has been a significant blessing to our ministry this year. Through mutual support of those within the CCRDA, we joined our voices in support of the Canadian government’s commitment to international vaccine equity, and specifically the COVAX Facility, which improves vaccine access to lower-income economies around the world. As a result of this COVAX Program, our director of Medical Ministry International Ghana, Seth Tetteh-Quaye, was able to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.*

*Through cooperative effort and shared collective voices from networks like CCRDA, our organization’s calling was not put on pause in 2020. Instead, we witnessed lasting change in lives and communities around the world together.”*

**Leanne Ferris**

*Executive Director, Medical Ministry International*

*“As a recent immigrant to Canada and then stepping into the non-profit sector, my connection with the CCRDA has been instrumental in me both better understanding the context of this space and meeting like-minded leaders.”*

**Andre Lesur**

*Executive Director, Global Disciples Canada*

## LIST OF CURRENT MEMBERS:

ACTS	Hungry for Life International
ADRA	International Justice Mission
Asian Outreach International	International Teams Canada
Bridges of Hope	Maranatha Evangelistic Association
Canadian Baptist Ministries	Medical Ministry International
CAUSE Canada	Mission Partners International
Children Believe	Missionary Ventures Canada
Christian Horizons Global	Nazarene Compassionate Ministries
Childcare International Society	North Okanagan Valley Gleaners Society
Christian Mission Aid	Ontario Christian Gleaners
Come Over and Help (COAH)	Operation Mobilization
Compassion Canada	Partners Relief & Development Canada
Crossroads Christian Communications Inc.	Partners WorldWide Canada
EduDeo Ministries	Plateau Perspectives
Emmanuel International Canada	Prairie Gleaners Society
Engineering Ministries International	The Salvation Army Canada
Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches	Samaritan's Purse Canada
Food for the Hungry	SIM Canada
Food for the Poor	THRIVE
Global Aid Network (GAiN)	The Wellspring Foundation for Education
Greater Vancouver Youth Unlimited	World Hope Canada
Health Partners International	World Renew
Hope & Healing International	World Vision Canada
Hope Story	
<b><i>Members to be Voted on at 2021 AGM:</i></b>	
BethanyKids	MissionGO
Canadian Foodgrains Bank	Seeds of Love and Hope International Society
Canadian Reformed World Relief Fund	Tearfund
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## CCRDA ACTIVITIES DURING 2020-2021

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### ANNUAL EVENTS

In 2020, the CCRDA hosted 2 annual events that we successfully pivoted to be online due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. For our Annual Forum and AGM in May, we hosted Dr. Chris Horst of HOPE International who spoke on “Rooting for Rivals: How collaboration and generosity increase impact.” We had over 100 people attend this event from across the country. In October, our Annual Workshops focused on Food Security with keynote speaker Norman Wirzba. The workshop was titled “Faith, Food & Farming: Broken systems, the looming food crisis, and why Christians should care.” We had over 90 people attend this event from across the country.

### WEBINARS

At the CCRDA, we believe it is important to learn from each other regularly as we are a community of Christ-centred organizations who desire to share skills, knowledge and support one another. In order to facilitate this mutual learning relationship, in May 2017, we introduced our first series of monthly webinars which feature one of our members or an expert in a relevant field on a topic of their expertise.

Since May 2020, we have featured the following topics in our webinar series:

- *Disaster and Emergency Response: A Canadian Model* with Alain Normand, City of Brampton/ADRA
- *Sabbath Economics under the Shadow of Pandemics* with Ched Meyers, Bartimeaus Cooperative Ministries
- *Improving Team Relationships and Culture* with Dave Blundell, Fullwell Leadership
- *Strategic Planning for COVID Times: 3 Easy and Practical Exercises to do with your Staff* with Chris Bosch, Chisel Consulting
- *Faith-Based Organizations and Official Development Assistance: Why how much the government gives matters* with Erika Richter, Cooperation Canada
- *Prepared for Change: Strengthening your organizational strategy with theory of change* with Elaine Stavitzky, Consultant
- *For the Love of Creation* with Beth Lorimer, KAIROS
- *Leading M&E Teams Remotely: A Conversation on Leadership, Coaching, Collaboration & Tools* with Tracey DeGraaf, Transformis Consultants
- *An Introduction to Spiritual First Aid* with Kent Annan and Jamie Aten, Humanitarian Disaster Institute
- *Flourishing and the Spiritual Discipline of Health* with Stan Wiens, The Health Project
- *Creating Environments in which Both Men and Women can Thrive* with Ellen Duffield, The Leadership Studio
- *Chart a New Course Forward: Chalmers Center Online Training Library* with Justin Lonas, The Leadership Studio
- *Post Pandemic Hiring Trends for Charities and How to Retain A-Players* with Mark Kraft, Nelson/Kraft
- *At-Risk Child and Youth Migration in West Africa: Highlighting human rights among vulnerable populations* with Rebekah Ledlie, Tyndale University Student
- *Healthy Organizations: What are they really and how can we be one?* with Chris Wignall, The Catalyst Foundation
- *Leaders Kryptonite: How insecurity undermines leadership and how to overcome it* with Chris Wignall, The Catalyst Foundation

## PARTNERSHIPS

**Funding:** In 2020, the CCRDA continued to partner with The Charis Foundation, The Falle Foundation, The Maranatha Foundation and The John & Ellie Voortman Foundation who generously provided grants to the CCRDA. With funds from these grants, the CCRDA has begun to develop an online “office space,” including a members’ portal. This online space will help us to integrate many of our virtual programs and communications into one, user friendly place where information about the CCRDA, its activities and work will be easily accessible for both members and the general public. Funding from these grants also enabled us to pivot responsively to our members’ needs as they grappled with the initial impact of COVID-19 on their work. We are extremely grateful for the partnership of these funding bodies.

**Preferred Partner Network:** Through our Preferred Partner Network, we have initiated and continued partnerships with a variety of organizations, institutions, and companies that serve the relief and development sector, including training discount partnerships with Plan to Protect, NextAfter, and Arrow Leadership Ministries. In Fall 2019, we formed an official partnership with the Chalmers Center at Covenant College which ensures that our CCRDA members have a free license to access the Chalmers Online Learning Platform. We also formed a partnership with Wheaton College of Graduate Studies to offer our members tuition discounts on their M.A. in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership Program.

The Preferred Partner Network also features a select group of pre-vetted consultants that have committed to work within the collaborative spirit of the CCRDA at accessible rates for our members. A list of our current Preferred Partner Network consultants can be found here: <https://ccrda.ca/preferred-partners.php>

*“The CCRDA has allowed the Humanitarian Disaster Institute to connect with dozens of ministries who are doing great work to serve others and honor Christ. This partnership is valuable to us because of CCRDA’s team, their mission, and the way they enable collaboration that enable us—together—to more effectively make a difference for others and serve in God’s kingdom coming.”*

**Kent Annan**

*Director of Humanitarian & Disaster Leadership, Wheaton College*

*“CCRDA is an important hub for organizations interested in listening, sharing, and enhancing our capacity to love our neighbours. It’s a pleasure to go shoulder to shoulder with CCRDA to provide forums of mutuality, curiosity, and care for each other’s missions. CCRDA represents the vision we seek for all our work- cooperation in the service of helping more people. Who wouldn’t want to be part of that!”*

**Chris Bosch**

*Chisel Consulting, CCRDA Preferred Partner*

*“CCRDA promotes a vision where excellence and performance matters. In our fast-paced industry where we observe the convergence of new partnerships from private, public and academic sectors, this idea resonates with me the most! If you want a place where you can have discussions, share ideas and promote new innovations where people are respectful, reflective and prayerful- then CCRDA is the place to do that.”*

**Phil Tanner**

*EPIC Consultancy, CCRDA Preferred Partner*



## NEWSLETTER

CCRDA's newsletter, Excellence @ Work, is distributed to members quarterly (with the Annual Report comprising the spring's quarter) via email and on the website. For each issue, member agencies are invited to write about a specific theme in addition to submitting general news and announcements. This publication is meant to act as a forum where members can keep each other informed, share their knowledge, and learn from others' best practices. Since last summer, the newsletter has focused on the following themes: Impacts and Challenges of Navigating COVID-19, The Rise in Food Insecurity during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and Highlights of 2020 and Plans for 2021.

## AFFINITY GROUPS

In Spring 2019, we initiated Affinity Groups for members to share experiences and challenges, learn from one another, and make connections with a network of like-minded individuals. Since June 2020, the Fundraising Affinity Group has met quarterly on the following topics: Donor Engagement/Fundraising, Grant Acquisitions/Institutional Donors, It's Time to Fail Fast and Get Personal During COVID-19, and Legacy Planning. Since June 2020, the Disaster Relief Affinity Group has met quarterly on the following topics: Food Security in COVID-19, The Role of Faith Leaders in Disaster Response, WASH and Disaster Response, and Medical Disaster Response. The Senior Leaders Affinity Group and Operations Affinity Group have continued to meet quarterly. In Spring 2021, we initiated the first group meetings for a Programs Affinity Group and Monitoring & Evaluation Affinity Group that will continue to meet quarterly.

In Winter 2021, we initiated two Task Forces for members to take a step further in their learning and action with other CCRDA members to affect change: Equity, Diversity & Belonging and Creation Care. These groups members are developing a learning journey/strategy, developing a resource bank for equipping members, and developing and deploying an engagement strategy for beyond the CCRDA.

*"I thought that I had enough knowledge about the topics to be able to just listen with one ear. But I soon realized that what I knew was just the tip of the iceberg and the real success lies in what is going on underneath the iceberg. Just to try new approaches or strategies without proper research or planning is actually a waste of your time. There must be a method to your ways or else you are just not going in the right direction but playing a game of chance. I really learned so much more than I expected and found myself getting excited about doing my work in a more organized and planned manner. Thank you for all your information. I am currently using a lot of what I learned in my role as Sponsorship Representative at ChildCare International."*

**Melanie Willemse**

*ChildCare International*

*"In the ED Affinity group, I met Tanya Nace of World Hope (Wesleyan Church) in a break-out group. I mentioned that NCM Canada was partnering with the Salvation Army for Disaster Response in Canada in that the Salvation Army are providing training for Nazarene volunteers. Nazarene volunteers who complete the training and pass the screening are then registered with the Salvation Army enabling them to work under the Salvation Army in times of disaster. Tanya was very interested as World Hope was also considering training of Wesleyan volunteers in disaster response within Canada, and I subsequently connected her with Salvation Army personnel. Now both Nazarene and Wesleyan volunteers are being trained as volunteers by the Salvation Army and able to work under the Salvation Army direction in times of disaster in Canada."*

**Elaine Bumstead,**

*Executive Director, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada*

*"I've appreciated the quality of networking and opportunities to share learning offered by the CCRDA fundraising affinity group."*

**Quentin Fincaryk**

*The Wellspring Foundation for Education*

## BOARD, STAFF, AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

### BOARD MEMBERS

 <p>CHAIRPERSON <b>GREG READER</b> International Teams Canada</p>	 <p>DIRECTOR <b>ALLISON ALLEY</b> Compassion Canada</p>	 <p>DIRECTOR <b>GINA JACKLIN</b> Hope Story</p>	 <p>TREASURER <b>AARON ROGERS</b> Global Aid Network Canada</p>
 <p>INCOMING DIRECTOR <b>RYAN GEELYNSE</b> EduDeo Ministries</p>	 <p>INCOMING DIRECTOR <b>CLAUDIA BERLONI</b> World Vision</p>	 <p>INCOMING DIRECTOR <b>JOSE PREM</b> Childcare International</p>	

### STAFF



In November 2019, **Joella Reitsma** was promoted from CCRDA Coordinator to Director of Operations and Programs. Having served faithfully in the Coordinator role with the CCRDA for 9 years, Joella's role has evolved and grown to the point where much of our operations and programs rely on her knowledge, work and expertise. Joella has an MA in Development Studies and a passion for encouraging collaboration among CCRDA members to enhance relief and development activities.



**Laura Solberg** joined the CCRDA staff as Executive Director in September 2018. After being on the board of the CCRDA since 2013 and serving as chair for two years, Laura was excited to make the transition to Executive Director. Under Laura's diligent leadership and expertise, the CCRDA has increased its professional excellence.



## MEMBERSHIPS

### COOPERATION CANADA, ONTARIO COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND BC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

We maintain memberships in Cooperation Canada (formerly the Canadian Council for International Cooperation), the Ontario Council for International Cooperation and the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. Through the CCRDA's membership in Cooperation Canada, we were honoured to facilitate a session on Faith as a Competency in International Development at their 2020 Cooperation Forum in June of last year. We have also joined sector-wide work facilitated by Cooperation Canada, including advocacy efforts for changes to the regulatory environment for Canadian charities operating overseas, and increased official development assistance, as well as signing on to the Sector Framework for Anti-Racism.

### CANADIAN CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

The CCRDA is a member of the Canadian Centre of Christian Charities (CCCC). Throughout the year, we have endeavoured to share information and networking opportunities that have been circulated by CCCC. The board of directors seeks to remain in alignment with the CCCC, and regularly looks for ways to collaborate with the CCCC to the benefit of our membership. Executive Director, Laura Solberg, meets regularly with the leadership of the CCCC to explore other collaboration opportunities.

### JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE

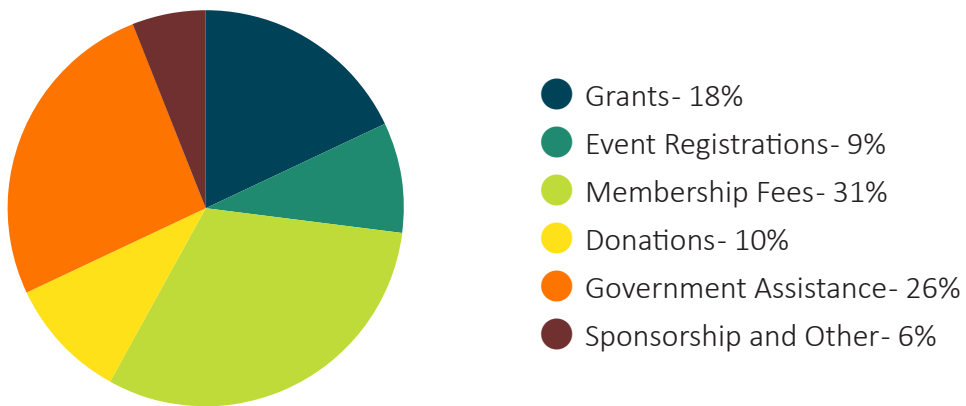
The CCRDA is a member of the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, “an international collaboration of evidence for faith groups’ activities, contribution and challenges to health and wellbeing.” The membership allows the CCRDA to access evidence-based reports, webinars, and learning hubs on topics like Anti-Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery; Ending Violence Against Children; Gender-based Violence; Mobilization of Local Faith Communities, and; Refugees and Forced Migration.

## FINANCES

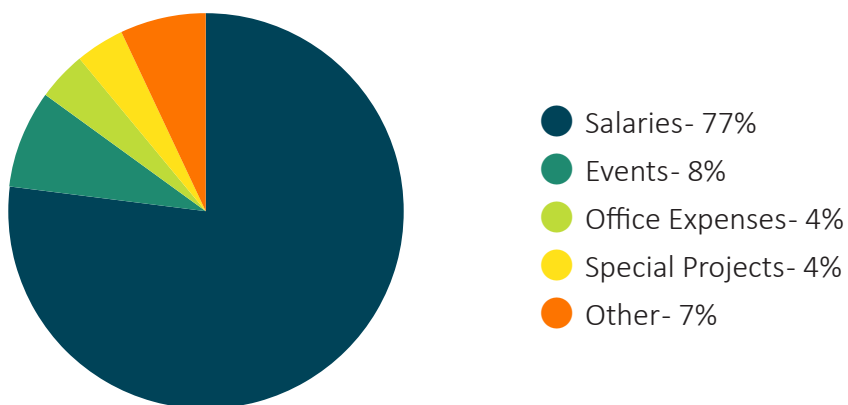
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In early 2021, CCRDA had an external audit of the 2020 fiscal year by Norton McMullen LLP. The financial statements have been approved by the Board and sent to the membership for review at the AGM on May 19, 2021. The 2020 audited financial statements are on our website.

### INCOME, JANUARY 2020-DECEMBER 2020



### EXPENSES, JANUARY 2020-DECEMBER 2020





## CLOSING

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What a year it's been since I last wrote this update! Along with the rest of the world, the Canadian Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) has been grappling with the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2020 and into 2021.

Our member organizations continue to deal with the first and second-hand impacts of COVID-19. All around the world, CCRDA member organizations address the health, food security, education, and economic effects that disproportionately impact those already living in poverty. The need for unity has never been more apparent. It has become evident that we cannot tackle either the global pandemic, its far-reaching secondary impacts, and the poverty experienced by so many, working alone. The CCRDA's collaborative work has never been more important.

I hope that the stories of impact included in this report provide encouragement in the midst of a taxing time; that the work of the CCRDA and our members will be a bright spot in your day and throughout the rest of 2021.

God continues to move and work for the flourishing of all creation.

We are in this together!

In unity & excellence,

**Laura Solberg**

*Executive Director*



**CCRDA**

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& DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



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