

GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON

ADVANCE PROCEEDINGS for the 107th Annual Grand Convocation

At Abbotsford, BC

September 19, 2026

MEC John M. Laing Grand First Principal

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ADDRESS OF THE GRAND FIRST PRINCIPAL

Report of the Grand First Principal
MEC John Merryweather Laing 2025-2026

Most Excellent Companion John M. Laing's address will be published later in the Proceedings for this Grand Convocation.

Report of the Grand Haggai (Grand Second Principal)
REC Hani M. Nino - 2025 - 2026

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon:

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve our Grand Jurisdiction as Grand Second Principal for the 2025–2026 term.

During the year, I had the opportunity to visit many Chapters, both in the company of our Grand First Principal and independently, throughout our Jurisdiction. I was pleased to witness and participate in various degrees and installations. I extend my sincere gratitude to the Companions who made each of these visits meaningful and memorable, and particularly for the warm hospitality I received wherever I travelled. I look forward to reconnecting with many of you in the months and years ahead.

I also had the privilege of chairing the Ad-Hoc Grand Convocation Committee, conducting several meetings throughout the year. The Committee's work included identifying suitable venues in consultation with local Chapters, coordinating logistical requirements and necessary furnishings, preparing the event budget, and overseeing the planning of the Grand Convocation. Partway through the year, it became necessary to change the venue when the originally selected location was no longer available. This change was discussed with and reported to the Board of General Purposes. Further details are provided in the Ad-Hoc Committee Report.

As Chair of the Executive Committee, I convened and chaired monthly meetings to address matters relating to the business of Grand Chapter, with the Grand Superintendents joining for the second portion of each meeting to provide updates and maintain communication regarding the state of Royal Arch Masonry throughout our Jurisdiction.

I served at the Finance Committee, which dealt with a number of important matters and decisions during the year. I will leave the details of those matters to the report of the Committee Chair.

I was pleased to organize this year's Board of General Purposes, held in April. For the first time, the Board was conducted online, with approximately 65 Companions participating. Several Chapters gathered at their respective Lodge Halls to attend together. We were pleased to welcome the Grand Second Principal of the Grand Chapter of Quebec, who is also a Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, to share his experience and insights on Companion recruitment. Following his presentation, attendees participated in three breakout groups focusing on Leadership, Administration, and Membership.

I attended the Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Alberta, where I had a productive discussion with the newly installed Grand First Principal, M.E.C. Brad Edstrom, as well as members of the Grand Line and Grand Lodge Executives in attendance. It was a valuable opportunity to exchange information, ideas, and experiences between our two Jurisdictions.

I was also pleased to be invited to conduct an educational evening at Kelowna Chapter, and in May, I had the privilege of representing our Grand First Principal at the Job's Daughters Gala Dinner.

In conclusion, serving as Grand Second Principal has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience. I am grateful for the support, friendship, and cooperation I have received from our Grand Officers, Grand Superintendents, Chapter Officers, and Companions throughout the Jurisdiction.

I sincerely thank everyone who contributed their time and efforts during the year. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you, and I look forward to continuing our work together in support of our Chapters and the future of Royal Arch Masonry in British Columbia and Yukon.

Fraternally submitted,

REC Hani M. Nino

Grand Haggai

REPORT OF THE GRAND THIRD PRINCIPAL (JOSHUA)
REC Scott Wisdahl – 2025 - 2026

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon:

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve our Grand Jurisdiction as Grand Third Principal for the 2025–2026 term.

During this year I did not get a chance to visit as many Chapters as I had hoped. I was privileged to join our Grand First on his visit to Yukon Chapter in September. I was also able to join the other two Principals at the joint Installation at Keystone, Cathedral and Majuba Chapters on March 27.

I was able to represent our Grand Chapter at the Grand Chapter of Manitoba. While I was there, I was able to speak to the Grand Scribes Ezra of Manitoba and Saskatchewan about the GSEs have regular discussions, at least in Western Canada. The Grand Scribe Ezra of Alberta has also been approached. During the Communication, at the Grand Lodge of Alberta, I had an opportunity to sit and speak with the newly installed Grand First Principal of Alberta on how our jurisdiction can work together.

As the executive rep to the Bursary Committee, it was a bit disappointing in how few applications were received, but the quality of applicants was quite high. I will leave it to the Chair of that committee to report on this. I also continued to sit on the Finance Committee, and some good work was accomplished this year, as will be found in EC Schwab's report. I had the privilege of chairing the Jurisprudence Committee and my report will be found later in the advanced proceedings.

This year, the ad hoc committee on Grand Convocations put in a lot of effort, as will be reported by the Grand Second Principal. I was able to be part of this committee which will greatly assist me and the team in planning for the Convocation in 2027 and 2028.

Fraternally submitted,

R.E.C. Scott Wisdahl

Grand Joshua

Grand Treasurer Report 2025-2026

Rt. Ex. Comp. Kris Toijonen

2025 was a stable year in our financials with the society investment accounts performing well and membership numbers maintaining. These factors balanced expenses within the estimated budget range while investments enjoyed a firm position in our market holdings and main accounts.

Investments

Our investment portfolio society accounts continue to move forward prudently, with Odlum Brown fielding a 55% investment in equities and 45% invested in fixed income stock which has resulted in an annual +14.92% return. This is consistent with prior years of +14.86 in 2024 and +13.21 in 2022 while the portfolio has produced an average of +6.95% over its 20-year inception.

Grand Chapter's primary investments are comprised of an assortment of Canadian companies and banks with a balance in U.S. IT tech stocks which continue to perform from a position of strength. There is reluctance to invest in defense stocks both from the market volatility of current global conditions and public perception. Investment in AI remains cautious due to the present overvaluations in the market while keeping watchful.

Looking forward, there is communications hopeful of projected investment growth in the Canadian energy sector to continue to create an upward push on the markets.

Grand Chapter & OHP & Convocation Accounts

At the time of this report in July 2026 the Grand Chapter Account contains $25,525 and the Regalia Reserve contains $13,168, The Order of the High Priesthood expensed a large inventory of Bibles and Jewels for the next Convocation resulting in a balance remaining of $215 though expected to recover at the convocation.

2026 Headwinds included above prior year's average costs for new and replacement regalia as well as a small increase in Grand Chapter Scribe Ezra storage fees. The regalia expenses reassured will cost less in the future, pending our companions' return of their used regalia.

Looking ahead to 2027 there is new Grandview software available for our Grand Scribe Ezra of which there is adequate funding in the account to cover this year and will be added as a line item in the future budget upon acceptance.

I would like to thank the Finance Committee and the Executive for their insights, dedication, and assistance through the last year and look forward to working together again through the upcoming budgetary fiscal year of 2026-2027.

Fraternally,

R.E.C. Kris Toijonen, Grand Treasurer

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, BC & Yukon

Report of the Grand Scribe Ezra

REC Calvin Jonas – 2025 - 2026

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon:

Introduction

This being my first year as Grand Scribe, I wish to formally acknowledge the support and encouragement of past Grand Scribe Scribe Nehemiah, R.E. Companion Peter Guichon. His experience and guidance have been invaluable as I continue to learn the responsibilities of this office.

I also extend sincere appreciation to our dedicated Scribes Ezra. Their commitment to their Chapters and to the Companions they serve is exemplary. Their work is essential to the smooth operation of each Chapter, and it has been a pleasure working alongside them throughout the year.

Grand Chapter Administration

Reporting Tools and Membership Management

Chapter Scribes have expressed the need for improved reporting tools, including fillable forms. While incremental improvements will continue, the most effective long-term solution is the adoption of a modern membership management system similar to that used by the Grand Lodge. Research conducted by Grand Chapter has identified **Grand View** as a strong candidate for our jurisdiction.

At present, each Scribe maintains their own system for managing administrative duties. Although functional at the Chapter level, the absence of standardized formats, naming conventions, and data structures creates unnecessary complexity. A system such as Grand View would:

- Automate many manual tasks
- Improve consistency and accuracy in reporting
- Simplify training for incoming Scribes
- Enhance communication between members, Chapters, and Grand Chapter

Grand Chapter Website

The Grand Chapter website continues to be an essential resource for the administration of our jurisdiction. This year, it was successfully integrated with **Zeffy**, an online event management platform, to support registrations for the Grand Convocation. The results were positive, and continued use of Zeffy for the 2027 Convocation is under consideration.

We are fortunate to have **Steven Noble** continuing as our webmaster. His prompt attention to updates and his diligence in maintaining the security and stability of the site are greatly appreciated.

For any website-related inquiries, please contact: [redacted]

Spring Board of General Purposes

The spring Board of General Purposes, held via Zoom on **April 4, 2026**, was one of the best-attended sessions in recent memory, with Companions participating from across the province. The inclusion of a guest speaker and breakout discussion rooms contributed to an engaging and productive half-day program.

Annual Reports

I extend my thanks to all Chapter Scribes for submitting their annual reports. With few exceptions—each due to extenuating circumstances—reports were received in a timely manner.

A system like **Grand View** would allow direct data entry and automated compilation of reports, reducing or eliminating reliance on complex Word or Excel paid programs at Scribes' personal expense. It also has the potential to generate Annual Returns automatically, saving significant time and effort for Scribes.

Membership Statistics

From January to December 2025, membership increased from **685** (adjusted from the 2025 Proceedings count of 695) to **700**. Many Companions are currently progressing through the degrees, and we anticipate steady growth through 2026 and 2027.

We mourn the passing of **18 Companions** who ascended to the Grand Chapter Above in 2025. We remember them with gratitude for their friendship and for their dedicated service to Royal Arch Masonry.

2025 Year End Membership Statistics

Conclusion

The past year has been one of learning, progress, and collaboration. I am grateful for the support of the Companions and look forward to continuing to improve our administrative systems and processes for the benefit of all Chapters.

Respectfully submitted,

REC Calvin Jonas, Grand Scribe Ezra

Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon

Report of the Finance Committee

For the year 2025 - 2026

Report to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon

The Grand Chapter Finance Committee (the "Committee") met a number of times this year. The Grand Treasurer has provided the annual financial reports for both the Grand Chapter and the Royal Arch Masonic Society of BC and Yukon (the "Society"). The Committee recommended the Grand Executive approve the financial reports and send them forward to the Grand Communication for approval.

The Committee noted that the Grand Chapter budget for 2025 was based on receiving per capita from 600 Companions and that the actual number was 674. The 2025 budget was established to have a net deficit to use up surpluses generated from prior years. The actual was a surplus of $2,276 which was more than the budgeted deficit ($370). There were a couple of unbudgeted items that arose. The first was to cover the costs of ritual printing. This amount was $1,088 and had been recommended for payment by the Committee and approved by the Executive. The printing of the ritual books should be covered subsequently from selling them. The second was the additional cost for regalia replacement in the amount of $2,152. While this is showing as an expense, it is covered off by a transfer from the regalia reserve in the amount of $2,152. Some of the notable decreases in the budget were for Grand Z's travel $514, Grand Scribe E's Allowance $1,504, Grand Treasurer's Allowance and Travel $500, Website $350 and Grand Convocation rooms $1,000. However, there were some expenses for the 2025 Grand Communication for supplies. After allowing for the room costs, the impact to 2025 for the Grand Chapter hosting the Communication was nil.

A budget was prepared for the Society but the only item within its direct control is the spending plan. The Society holds the investment balance for Grand Chapter in one fund and the investments for bursaries in the other fund. These funds are professionally managed by a third party whose mandate is to look for long-term investments that retain value and produce earnings from dividends and interest. The spending for 2025 out of the Society matched the budget and consisted of $5,000 ($5,000 2026) given to the Royal Arch charities and $11,284 ($8,000 2026) paid out as bursaries. The two funds earned $17,932 in the year, which means that $1,648 was re-invested.

The Grand Treasurer has prepared a budget for 2027 (the 2026 budget was approved at the 2025 Grand Communication) and has discussed the details with the Committee. The Committee finds that the budget is based on conservative estimates of 600 Companions and presented at the Board of General Purposes. Looking at membership numbers now 640 is a better estimate. This change in per capita means we should could leave the per capita at $30 running a $637 deficit. The Finance

Committee thinks that would be acceptable given the larger than expected surplus in 2025. This budget includes additional spending for regalia purchases and repairs. The Grand Treasurer recommends the per capita remain unchanged at $30 a Companion, and this Committee agrees with this recommendation and recommends the approval of the 2027 budget.

The Committee was also asked to review how Grand View would affect the budget. Grand View is a database software to be used by the Chapters and Grand Chapter to manage membership as well as improve communication and reporting. Grand View is expected to cost approximately $4,000 annually, which would require a per capita increase of $5 to $6 per Companion. If Grand View is approved, the Finance Committee recommends increasing the per capita by $5, from $30 to $35 for the 2027 budget. This would increase the deficit, but we have the surplus from the prior years.

These are the key items that the Committee is mandated to report on. Additionally, the Committee has some observations that could be reviewed by the Committee and the Grand Executive in the future.

Attached to my report is an analyst of the Grand First Principal reimbursement allowance. Our committee was asked to provide this report. At this time, we are not making a recommendation. We would like more input from our Companions and will make another report in 2027. The Annual Board of General Purposes known as "Spring Board". Between Convocation and0 spring Board of General Purposes, the Finance Committee will resend the report with a poll to the Companions to collect feedback for our final report.

The Finance Committee has recommended to the Grand Executive, and this has been approved to move $5,000 from the investments to the regalia reserve to replenish it. The Grand Treasurer will move the funds before the end of this year. We have had higher expenses to replace regalia in the last few years. They should be replaced now and we except the expense to go down in the next few years.

This is my second year as Chair, and I would like to thank the Grand 1st Principals who allowed me the privilege of being part of the Committee.

Submitted on behalf of the Committee:
EC Marco Schwab. Chair
Grand 2nd Principal REC Hani Nino
REC Scott Wisdahl Grand 3rd Principal
REC Kristopher Toijonen, Grand Treasurer
REC Eric Duchesne

Addendum to the Finance Committee Report

Report on Investigation of Reimbursement Rate for the Grand First Principal

Grand Chapter Finance Committee

August 15, 2026

Background

Anecdotal information and common sense indicate that the costs incurred by Grand First Principals ("G1P") to travel around BC and visit the Chapters and Districts have steadily increased, whereas the stipend, or reimbursement, for the G1P has stayed fixed for many years. The Finance Committee was asked to investigate the rising costs and historical stipend amounts and potentially make a recommendation to changing the amount. Reports from past G1Ps indicate that what they have spent in a year has exceeded their stipend by a significant amount.

Introduction

This report only reports on what was found and does not make any recommendations relating to the stipend. After this report is digested by the Companions of the Grand Chapter, the Committee may be asked to prepare recommendations. The initial work on this report was done in late 2024; it has been updated to reflect information to the first half of 2026.

The Finance Committee determined that it would collate the historical budgets and actual costs of stipends over a thirty-year period (1994-2024), as well as look at the inflationary numbers and historical costs of items relating to travel over that same period. The final area of analysis was to try and calculate a minimum cost that a G1P would have to incur to do the minimum amount of traveling.

Findings

While no conclusion has been reached and no recommendations are being made some basic facts can be reported.

The stipend for the G1P, currently $5,700, has been that number since 2019 when it was raised from $5,500. The previous increase was in 2006 when it went from $5,000. The amount received by the G1P in 1995 was $4,200. The G1P's budgeted stipend for 2025 costs $8.50 per companion. In 2019 it was $6.27 , in 2006 $2.91 and in 1995 $1.12

Overall, the average inflationary pressure experienced from 2020 to 2026 (a period of high inflation) was 35% and from 2006 to 2026 was 102%.

The Committee found that when looking at the minimum expected travel required of the G1P in a year that average costs of transportation and accommodation (that is, not including food) was $5,800.

Historical Stipends

The Committee went back through old annual proceedings to determine, where possible, the budgeted amount for stipends as well as the actuals. Not every year

could be found or found in the annual proceedings. Additionally, over this thirty year period, the reporting periods have changed.

The Committee also captured the budgeted and actual stipends for other Grand Chapter officers, for comparison purposes. While collecting the stipend information, the Committee also collected information on the number of Companions in each year and number of Chapters.

Stipend information collected includes G1P travel allowance, G1P Whitehorse allowance, the Grand Scribe Ezra' allowance and travel stipend, the Grand Treasurer's allowance and travel stipend, and the travel stipend for the Grand Superintendent of District 10.

The stipend for the G1P as well as the total of allowances and stipends we compared against the total number of Companions each year to determine the impact on the Companions. In 2025 the cost per Companion for the G1P's stipend was $7.74 (budgeted at $8.51). In 2006 this amount was $2.91. This is simply a reflection in the reduction in the number of Companions. Looking at the total allowance basket, the cost per Companion in 2025 was $18.30 (budgeted at $21.49) and in 2006 it was $9.87 (budgeted at $10.44).

While the number of Companions has reduced over the years, this doesn't reflect in changes to the travel requirements of the G1P. What is more reflective of travel requirements would be the number of Chapters in BC and Yukon. The number of Chapters has also reduced over the years. Comparing the actual costs of total allowances per Chapter: in 2025 it was $533 and in 2006 it was $550. Looking only at the G1Ps stipend the number in 2025 was $225 and in 2006 it was $162. Of course this doesn't include a Chapter's cost for hosting the G1P.

Figure 1

Figure 1 shows, graphically, how much the stipend as an amount per Companion has gone up and compares it to the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The unusual shape relates to the amounts used during and around COVID, or more correctly, the lack of costs. The reimbursement amount only changed a few times but the number of Companions continually dropped.

Inflationary Pressures

The Committee found that over most of the thirty year time from the annual inflation remained below 2% and above 1% except for the two years during COVID. Inflation can be reported from looking at the changes in the prices of a basket of goods from one year to the next. The Committee used reports from StatsCanada and the Bank of Canada to examine this.

Figure 2: Comparison of Inflation rates to targeted inflation rate

Figure 2 shows the annual inflation rate. It should be noted that even a 1% inflation rate does compound over years and causes the same basket of goods to increase. Looking strictly at the main inflation rate the increase from 2019 (last time the G1Ps stipend changed) to 2024 was 15.4%. That means that on average, everything in

2019 would cost 15% more in 2024. If going back further, to the last change in the stipend for G1Ps, in 2006, the increase is 57.9%.

Another term used for inflation is the consumer price index ("CPI"), which measures the same thing as what is reported above. Figure 3 shows how this works over this thirty-year period.

Figure 3: Calculating increase in cost over 30 years

While the general inflation rate is important to understand how the costs for the G1Ps' travel will have increased, it is also true that specific elements of travel may have increased at a greater rate than overall inflation. The Committee was not able to specifically find reporting on changes in hotel costs, but anecdotally it has been seen that prices have dramatically increased since the pandemic, especially in tourist-centric locations like Vancouver. Interestingly, comparing the figures used when the work was first done in 2024 and then comparing to looking at hotel costs in 2026, there was not much change at all.

Fuel prices have also increased through input cost increases, carbon taxes and municipal transit levies. One study showed that the average per litre cost in 2024 in Vancouver was $1.711 and in 2020 it was $1.261 a 36% increase. Going back to 2006 the increase is 69%.
As the Grand Jurisdiction has a massive body of water between its Districts, ferry fares become important to know. Ferry costs have changed very relative to fuel costs over the period of 2006 to 2024, but more closely match the inflation rate from 2020 to 2024. Figure 4 shows the historical trend in prices.

Figure 4: Ferry cost trends

The Committee took the inflation rates, CPI, ferry rate changes and fuel increase as one average basket of costs for a G1P. This leads to the conclusion that from 2020 to 2024 the cost increase was 22.6% and from 2006 to 2024 was 62.1%.

The Committee was not able to collect a long term cost comparison for restaurant meals. As a substitute it looked at StatsCan's report on average retail food prices, which measure the total cost of a specific basket of food items in a grocery story. The basket had an average cost of $473.13 in 2017 and in 2025 that same basket would cost $656.48. As another (cheeky) analysis, the Committee looked at a report on the cost of a BigMac over multiple decades. These are reported in US$. In 2024 a BigMac, on average, would cost $5.69, in 2020 it would be $4.89 and in 2005 it would be $2.58.

Although not endorsing the concept, nor recommending it, the Committee did use some inflation calculators to determine what a 2025 equivalent of the stipend would be, based on inflation. Looking at the $5,700 stipend from 2020, its 2025 equivalent would be $6,624. Using the 2006 amount of $5,500 as a start, its equivalent in 2025 would be $8,014. The committee used the current estimated paying Companions (650) to work out the cost per Companion using the equivalent amounts. The amount ranges from $10.19 to $12.33 per Companion, per year, or a third or greater of the current per Capita charged by Grand Chapter. Figure 5 is using the same calculator over a twenty-five year period.

Figure 5: Needed change in stipend to meet inflation over 25 years.

Minimum Costs

It should be noted that the Committee does not propose that a G1P be restricted to only minimum travel nor imply that a G1P has no additional obligations for travel in his role.

The Constitution is silent on the exact requirement for G1Ps to travel in and out of their jurisdiction. In recent years the G1Ps have attempted to visit every Chapter, visit some neighbouring jurisdictions, attend Grand Lodge and often other events with the Washington State RAMs.

The Committee conducted an analysis using a concept that a G1P is only required to visit each District in the year as well as the two Chapters that report directly to him (Whitehorse and Cranbrook). Additionally, the G1P must be at the Grand Convocation.

This analysis took the view that the G1P could be from various places in BC and Yukon. To make a comparison possible, a specific location was chosen for each District and for the Grand Convocation. Then the costs for flights (booked 2 months in advance), ferry fares, fuel costs (based on an "allowance" of $0.50/km) and hotel nights. Then we compared possible home locations to possible travel locations; for example, the G1P lives in Nanaimo and is visiting District 1, based on Victoria. Figure 6 shows the locations as well as the likely method of travel.

Figure 6: Locations of meetings and G1P

Kelowna	Ferry	Drive	Drive	Fly	Drive	Fly	Fly	Fly	Drive

The initial analysis was made in 2024 and updated in August 2026. During this time the costs of flights increased almost 100% for most locations, ferry costs went up, but hotel costs stayed about the same.

The numbers come out to be very conservative and do not include meal costs. On average, it would cost the G1P $696 to travel to a District meeting and $744 to travel to the Grand Convocation ($244 if rooms have been paid for). Based on this very simply analysis, the average annual cost for a G1P to make the very minimal travel would be $5,814 with a range of $5,250- $7,200.

The Committee recognizes that no recent G1P has been able to travel for that low cost. The cost of attending an in-person Board of General Purpose (Spring Board) was also not included.

If one looks at visiting all Chapters in the jurisdiction once in the year, as well as Grand Convocation, then if the G1P was from the lower mainland the probable cost is $9,500 and if he was from southern Vancouver Island, the cost would be $11,500. This minimum cost analysis does not take into account visiting Grand Lodge or the other Grand Chapters, nor any of the other events the G1P is invited to attend.

Next steps

The Committee has drafted this information to present to the Grand Chapter. The Companions need to determine if they feel that there should be an increase in the reimbursement of the G1P. If there is a desire for this, then the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Executive should take this feedback and propose a changed amount for the 2028 budget.

It can be seen that the inflationary pressures on travel costs, and hence the cost to the G1P have increased significantly over the last 20 years, while the amount of reimbursement has changed only slightly. Interestingly, the cost per Companion for the G1Ps reimbursement has increased very close to the change of CPI, or the inflation rate. A significant portion of the Companions' per capita fees goes to reimburse the travel of the G1P.

- Actual spending for 2019 was much lower because of COVID with the stipend spent of $3,200 or $3.65/Companion

CONSTITUTION AND JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

Report of the Constitution and Jurisprudence Committee 2025-2026

LIST OF NOTICES OF MOTION

Report of Constitution and Jurisprudence 2025-2026

This year the Committee reviewed six proposed changes to the Constitution. In all six cases, the Committee found that the proposed changes are not contrary to the established usages and customs of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction. There are also 2 proposals that were tabled from the 2025 convocation.

The proposals are found on the website [illegible] (login required)

Fraternally,

REC Scott Wisdahl, Chair
MEC Len Pickell
REC Bill Hilborn
REC Ken Ward
REC Matthew Fletcher

Listing of Motions

Motion 1 (2025)	REC Bruce Allan	Recognizing Columbia Chapter
Motion 2 (2025)	REC Bruce Allan	Tri-colour (Grand) Jewel
Motion 3	REC Hani Nino	Memorial Service/Informal Open
Motion 4	REC Hani Nino	Grand Convocations
Motion 5	REC Hani Nino	Grand Registrar
Motion 6	REC Hani Nino	Requirement Past 1st Princ
Motion 7	REC Peter Guichon	Misc. technical wording changes
Motion 8	MEC Leonard Pickell	Recognizing Columbia Chapter

LIST OF NOTICES OF MOTION

MOTION 1
Form 20 – Notice of Motion
For Grand Convocation 2025

1. Original Section (if any) Number and wording in full:

1.4 "Lodge" is a Lodge of Mark Master Masons or of Most Excellent Masters operating under a Chapter.

10.6 Decides

Grand Chapter has the power to make, alter or repeal laws and regulations for the governance of Grand Chapter, Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, Lodges of Mark Master Masons and Most Excellent Masters and their members.

Grand Chapter has power to investigate, regulate and decide matters relating to the Capitular degrees, the Chapters and individual members.
Grand Chapter may grant dispensations or warrants for constituting Chapters of Royal Arch Masons and Lodges of Mark Master Masons and Most Excellent Masters. These will be under its great seal and bear the signatures of the Grand First Principal, attested by the Grand Scribe Ezra.
Grand Chapter has the power to revoke warrants.

23.3.6 Other
An honorary or other jewel or emblem is worn only if it appertains to or is consistent with those degrees, namely Mark Master Mason, (Virtual) Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Holy Royal Arch, which are recognized and acknowledged by Grand Chapter. The jewel of a Past Master of a Craft Lodge, or the jewels authorized by any concordant body, unless allowed by this Constitution, will not be worn in a Chapter or in Grand Chapter. Grand Representatives may wear the regalia appropriate to their appointment. There is no recognized jewel of a (Virtual) Past Master or of a Most Excellent Master.

23.7 Lodge Officer
The aprons, sashes, collars and jewels of officers of Lodges of Mark Master Masons and Most Excellent Masters, are those of the Chapter, according to their rank in the Chapter.

28.5 Lodges
Regular bodies of Mark Master Masons, and Most Excellent Masters are called Lodges.

28.6 Lodge Officers
The Principals of the Chapter may be the Master and Wardens of Lodges of Mark and Most Excellent Master. The other officers of the Chapter may be the Lodge officers according to their seniority in the Chapter.

29.8 Approval Granted

If the petition is granted, the Grand First Principal issues a dispensation **(Form 6 - Dispensation for Instituting a Chapter)** authorizing the members to meet as a Chapter and to open and hold Lodges of Mark Master Masons and Most Excellent Masters.

35.1 Opening
A Lodge of Mark Master Masons or of Most Excellent Masters may be opened and worked without the Chapter being first opened.

37.10.1.6 Obligations in Lodges
The First Principal or a Past First Principal administers the obligation in a Lodge of Mark Master Masons or Most Excellent Masters and may confer either degree.

37.10.1.7 Officers of Lodges
The First Principal appoints the Worshipful Master and the Wardens of a Lodge of Mark Master Masons or Most Excellent Masters.

38.6 Power to Discipline Members

A Chapter has the power, by a two-thirds vote, to discipline its own members, and Royal Arch Masons residing in its jurisdiction, and members of Lodges of Mark Master Masons or Most Excellent Masters held within the body of the Chapter as well as Mark Master Masons or Most Excellent Masters residing in its jurisdiction. Discipline consists of and is restricted to reprimand, suspension, or recommendation for expulsion.

38.10.12 Two-week Interval

A candidate receives the Mark Master Mason degree only after two weeks have elapsed since his being balloted on. A Most Excellent Master is received or a Royal Arch Mason exalted only after two weeks have elapsed since the conferral of the preceding degree. This two-week period may be shortened by dispensation of the Grand First Principal.

38.10.13 Proficiency Test

Before the reception of a Most Excellent Master or the Exaltation of a Royal Arch Mason, a Chapter may require a candidate to prove his proficiency in the former Degree.

38.10.14 Exaltation

A brother is Exalted to the Royal Arch Degree only after he has received the Mark Master Mason and Most Excellent Master degrees and after he has handed his mark to Scribe Ezra.

38.11.2 Residence and Jurisdiction

A Mark Master Mason, Most Excellent Master or Royal Arch Mason who is not suspended or expelled and whose current dues are paid to his craft lodge and chapter, may be admitted to membership in any Chapter that will receive him. He need not affiliate with the Chapter nearest his place of residence.

40.1 M.M.M. and M.E.M.

When a Royal Arch Mason from another Jurisdiction, recognized by this Grand Chapter, presents himself as a visiting or affiliated Royal Arch Companion, and satisfactorily proves his having been exalted, any Chapter has liberty to confer on him the Mark Master Mason and Most Excellent Master degrees if he has not already received them. The only fee payable is that to Grand Chapter for registry and certificate.

40.2 Past Master

Columbia Royal Arch Chapter No. 1 may confer the degree of "Past Master" on visiting Royal Arch Masons, as a courtesy, or on its own members who are Mark Master Masons. These Past Masters become "Virtual Past Masters" without thus acquiring any privileges in a Craft Lodge. (Rev. 2014)

42.2 M.M.M. or M.E.M.

A Mark Master Mason or Most Excellent Master may visit a Lodge while working the degree attained by the visitor.

48.1 Register

Each Chapter keeps a book or books, in which are registered the names of members installed as First Principal, Second Principal and Third Principal, and the names of other officers of the Chapter. In these books is kept a list of the members giving the name, date of birth, mother Lodge, present Lodge, date of receiving Mark Master Mason, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch degrees. The books also record dates of affiliation, demission, suspension, expulsion, or death.

55.5.2 Fees
The minimum fee for Exaltation (including the Mark Master Mason and Most Excellent Master Degrees) is $100.

Existing:
Form 11 - Demit Certificate
To All Royal Arch Masons to Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greetings.
This is to certify that Brother (or Companion) who has signed his name below, is a regular Mark Master Mason (or Most Excellent Master), (or Royal Arch Mason) who at this date owes this Chapter no monies and is neither suspended nor expelled and is, at his
own request, regularly discharged from membership in Chapter No. ,
under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon.
Given under our hands and seal of Chapter No. at
(City) ,
this *(day)* of *(month)*, *(year)*. (Affix Chapter Seal)
Comp. *(Print)*, *(Sign)*, First Principal,
Comp. *(Print)*, *(Sign)*, Scribe Ezra.
Brother/ Comp. *(Print)*, *(Sign)*.

Form 16 - Application for Exaltation
To the Excellent Principals, Officers and Members of Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, No.

I, *(print name in full)* of the *(city etc)* of , occupation , Date of Birth *(year) (month) (day)* a Master Mason raised *(year) (month) (day)* in Lodge No. under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of
respectfully offer myself as a candidate for the degrees of Mark Master Mason, Most Excellent Master and EXALTATION to the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch in Chapter No. .
I hereby declare that I have resided within the jurisdiction of said Chapter for years

2. Exact wording and punctuation of the proposed New Section:

1.4 "Lodge" is a Lodge of Mark Master Masons or a Past Master's Lodge (in the case of Columbia Chapter) or of Most Excellent Masters (Excellent Masters in the case of Columbia Chapter) operating under a Chapter.

10.6 Decides
Grand Chapter has the power to make, alter or repeal laws and regulations for the governance of Grand Chapter, Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, Lodges of Mark Master Masons, (Lodges of Past Masters in the case of Columbia Chapter) and Most Excellent Masters (Excellent Masters in the case of Columbia Chapter) and their

members. Grand Chapter has power to investigate, regulate and decide matters relating to the Capitular degrees, the Chapters and individual members.

Grand Chapter may grant dispensations or warrants for constituting Chapters of Royal Arch Masons and Lodges of Mark Master Masons, Lodges of Past Masters in the case of Columbia Royal Arch and Most Excellent Masters (Excellent Masters in the case of Columbia Chapter). These will be under its great seal and bear the signatures of the Grand First Principal, attested by the Grand Scribe Ezra. Grand Chapter has the power to revoke warrants.

23.3.6 Other
An honorary or other jewel or emblem is worn only if it appertains to or is consistent with those degrees, namely Mark Master Mason, (Virtual) Past Master, Past Master – Scottish Ritual (in the case of Columbia Chapter) Most Excellent Master, Excellent Master (in the case of Columbia Chapter) and Holy Royal Arch, which are recognized and acknowledged by Grand Chapter. The jewel of a Past Master of a Craft Lodge, or the jewels authorized by any concordant body, unless allowed by this Constitution, will not be worn in a Chapter or in Grand Chapter. Grand Representatives may wear the regalia appropriate to their appointment. There is no recognized jewel of a (Virtual) Past Master, Past Master – Scottish Ritual (in the case of Columbia Chapter) or of a Most Excellent Master, Excellent Master (in the case of Columbia Chapter).

23.7 Lodge Officer
The aprons, sashes, collars and jewels of officers of Lodges of Mark Master Masons, Past Masters (in the case of Columbia Chapter, Most Excellent Masters, Excellent Masters (in the case of Columbia Chapter) are those of the Chapter, according to their rank in the Chapter.

:

28.5 Lodges
Regular bodies of Mark Master Masons, and Most Excellent Masters (Excellent Masters in the case of Columbia Chapter) are called Lodges.

28.6 Lodge Officers
The Principals of the Chapter may be the Master and Wardens of Lodges of Mark and Most Excellent Master (Excellent Master in the case of Columbia Chapter). The other officers of the Chapter may be the Lodge officers according to their seniority in the Chapter.

29.8 Approval Granted
If the petition is granted, the Grand First Principal issues a dispensation (Form 6 - Dispensation for Instituting a Chapter) authorizing the members to meet as a Chapter and to open and hold Lodges of Mark Master Masons and Most Excellent Masters (Excellent Masters in the case of Columbia Chapter).

35.1 Opening
A Lodge of Mark Master Masons or of Most Excellent Masters (Excellent Masters in the case of Columbia Chapter) may be opened and worked without the Chapter being first opened.

37.10.1.6 Obligations in Lodges
The First Principal or a Past First Principal administers the obligation in a Lodge of Mark Master Masons or Most Excellent Masters (Excellent Masters in the case of Columbia Chapter) and may confer either degree.

37.10.1.7 Officers of Lodges
The First Principal appoints the Worshipful Master and the Wardens of a Lodge of Mark Master Masons or Most Excellent Masters (Excellent Masters in the case of Columbia Chapter).

38.6 Power to Discipline Members
A Chapter has the power, by a two-thirds vote, to discipline its own members, and Royal Arch Masons residing in its jurisdiction, and members of Lodges of Mark Master Masons or Most Excellent Masters held within the body of the Chapter as well as Mark Master Masons or Most Excellent Masters (Excellent Masters in the case of Columbia Chapter). residing in its jurisdiction. Discipline consists of and is restricted to reprimand, suspension, or recommendation for expulsion.

8.10.12 Two-week Interval
A candidate receives the Mark Master Mason degree only after two weeks have elapsed since his being balloted on. A Most Excellent Master (Excellent Master in the case of Columbia Chapter) is received or a Royal Arch Mason exalted only after two weeks have elapsed since the conferral of the preceding degree. This two-week period may be shortened by dispensation of the Grand First Principal.

38.10.13 Proficiency Test
Before the reception of a Most Excellent Master (Excellent Master in the case of Columbia Chapter) or the Exaltation of a Royal Arch Mason, a Chapter may require a candidate to prove his proficiency in the former Degree.

38.10.14 Exaltation
A brother is Exalted to the Royal Arch Degree only after he has received the Mark Master Mason, the Past Master degree – Scottish Ritual (in the case of Columbia Chapter) and Most Excellent Master degrees (Excellent Master degrees in the case of Columbia Chapter) and after he has handed his mark to Scribe Ezra

38.11.2 Residence and Jurisdiction
A Mark Master Mason, Most Excellent Master (Excellent Master in the case of Columbia Chapter) or Royal Arch Mason who is not suspended or expelled and whose current dues are paid to his craft lodge and chapter, may be admitted to membership in any Chapter that will receive him. He need not affiliate with the Chapter nearest his place of residence.
Existing:

40.1 M.M.M. and M.E.M.

When a Royal Arch Mason from another Jurisdiction, recognized by this Grand Chapter, presents himself as a visiting or affiliated Royal Arch Companion, and satisfactorily proves his having been exalted, any Chapter has liberty to confer on him the Mark Master Mason and Most Excellent Master degrees (Excellent Master degrees in the case of Columbia Chapter) if he has not already received them. The only fee payable is that to Grand Chapter for registry and certificate.

40.2 Past Master

Columbia Royal Arch Chapter No. 1 may confer the degree of "Past Master – Scottish Ritual" on visiting Royal Arch Masons, as a courtesy, or on its own members who are Mark Master Masons. These Past Masters become "Virtual Past Masters" without thus acquiring any privileges in a Craft Lodge. (Rev. 2014)

42.2 M.M.M. or M.E.M

A Mark Master Mason or Most Excellent Master (Excellent Master in the case of Columbia Chapter) may visit a Lodge while working the degree attained by the visitor.

48.1 Register

Each Chapter keeps a book or books, in which are registered the names of members installed as First Principal, Second Principal and Third Principal, and the names of other officers of the Chapter. In these books is kept a list of the members giving the name, date of birth, mother Lodge, present Lodge, date of receiving Mark Master Mason, Most Excellent Master (Excellent Master in the case of Columbia Chapter) and Royal Arch degrees. The books also record dates of affiliation, demission, suspension, expulsion, or death.

55.5.2 Fees The minimum fee for Exaltation (including the Mark Master Mason; Past Master Degree – Scottish Ritual (in the case of Columbia Chapter) and Most Excellent Master Degrees (Excellent Master Degrees in the case of Columbia Chapter) is $100.

Form 11 - Demit Certificate
To All Royal Arch Masons to Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greetings.

This is to certify that Brother (or Companion) who has signed his name below, is a regular Mark Master Mason; Past Master (in the case of Columbia Chapter) (or Most Excellent Master or Excellent Master in the case of Columbia Chapter), (or Royal Arch Mason) who at this date owes this Chapter no monies and is neither suspended nor expelled and is, at his own request, regularly discharged from membership in Chapter No. ,under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon.

Given under our hands and seal of Chapter No. at *(City)* ,
this *(day)* of *(month)*, *(year)*. (Affix Chapter Seal)
Comp. *(Print)*, *(Sign)*, First Principal,
Comp. *(Print)*, *(Sign)*, Scribe Ezra.
Brother/ Comp. *(Print)*, *(Sign)*.

Form 16 - Application for Exaltation
To the Excellent Principals, Officers and Members of Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, No.

.
I, *(print name in full)* of the *(city etc)* of , occupation , Date of Birth *(year) (month) (day)* a Master Mason raised *(year) (month) (day)* in Lodge No. under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of
respectfully offer myself as a candidate for the degrees of Mark Master Mason, Past Master Degree – Scottish Constitution (in the case of Columbia Chapter) Most Excellent Master (Excellent Master in the case of Columbia Chapter) and EXALTATION to the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch in Chapter No. . I hereby declare that I have resided within

the jurisdiction of said Chapter for years immediately before the date of this application, that I am in good standing as a Master Mason

3. Reason for Change:

This will correct errors in the Constitution with regards to Columbia Chapter No. 1. For example, Columbia Chapter does not confer the Virtual Past Degree, Columbia confers the Past Master Degree – Scottish Ritual; Columbia Chapter does not confer the Most Excellent Master Degree, Columbia confers the Excellent Master Degre

4.
5. Other Sections impacted if proposal adopted:

Any other as may be determined in Section 26.3.1.3
Notice of Motion:

(d) I, Bruce Allan _____ will move or cause to be moved the above amendment.
(d) Rank: REC Name: Bruce Allan
(d) Chapter: Columbia Number: 1 (One)
(d) Signature: _____ Date: 24 Feb 2025
5. Received by G.S.E. – Date Year Month_ ___ Day ___
6. Decision of C & J Committee Date Year Month_____ Day

(a) This Notice of Motion IS acceptable as to form. [ ]

(b) This Notice of Motion IS NOT acceptable because:

i. It is incomplete. [ ].
ii. It provides insufficient rational. [ ]
1. It is contrary to established Masonic usage. [ ]

iv. Other

(c) Signature _____ _____ _

(Chairman of C&J, Committee)

(If more space is required for presentation than available on this Form, attachments with the Form will be permitted).

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2. MOTION 2

Form 20 – Notice of Motion

For Grand Convocation 2025

1. Original Section (if any) Number and wording in full:

23.3.1 Royal Arch Mason
The Honorary Jewel of a Royal Arch Mason is that jewel presented during the ceremony of his exaltation. *(This is the only jewel referred to in Article 73 and Regulation 158 of the Grand Lodge Book of Constitutions).* This jewel, of gold or metal gilt, is a red double triangle encircled in white above a triple tau. It is suspended from a ribbon on which is placed a keystone. The jewel is worn by members on the left breast, or on the sash, suspended by a narrow white ribbon. For First Principals and Past First Principals of Chapters the colour of the ribbon may be crimson.

2. Exact wording and punctuation of the proposed New Section:

23.3.1 Royal Arch Mason
The Honorary Jewel of a Royal Arch Mason is that jewel presented during the ceremony of his exaltation. *(This is the only jewel referred to in Article 73 and Regulation 158 of the Grand Lodge Book of Constitutions).* This jewel, of gold or metal gilt, is a red double triangle encircled in white above a triple tau. It is suspended from a ribbon on which is placed a keystone. The jewel is worn by members on the left breast, or on the sash, suspended by a narrow white ribbon. For First Principals and Past First Principals of Chapters the colour of the ribbon may be crimson. For Past Grand Chapter Officers the colour of the ribbon may be pale blue, crimson and purple.

3. Reason for Change:
As the crimson colour of the ribbon shows service to the Companions of a Chapter; the purple, crimson and pale blue ribbon shows service to the Companions of Grand Chapter.

4. Other Sections impacted if proposal adopted:
Any other as may be determined in Section 26.3.1.3

Notice of Motion:

(d) I, Bruce Allan _____ will move or cause to be moved the above amendment.

(d) Rank: REC Name: Bruce Allan

(d) Chapter: Columbia Number: 1 (One)

(d) Signature: _____ Date: 24 Feb 2025

5. Received by G.S.E. – Date Year Month ___ Day ___

6. Decision of C & J Committee Date Year Month_____ Day

(a) This Notice of Motion IS acceptable as to form. [ ]

(b) This Notice of Motion IS NOT acceptable because:

i. It is incomplete. [ ].
ii. It provides insufficient rational. [ ]

1. It is contrary to established Masonic usage. [ ]

iv. Other

(c) Signature _____ _____ _

(Chairman of C&J, Committee)

(If more space is required for presentation than available on this Form, attachments with the Form will be permitted).

MOTION 3

Form 20 – Notice of Motion

For Grand Convocation 2026

1. Original Section (if any) Number and wording in full.

12.1.1 Informal Opening
Grand Chapter shall hold its annual informal opening on the Friday evening immediately preceding the third Saturday in September commencing in 2010.

12.3 Informal
The Grand First Principal may convene an informal convocation of Grand Chapter at his pleasure for the reception of distinguished visitors and non- members. All present wear the regalia appropriate to their Order and rank.

12.4.2 Clothing
Officers, members and visitors must be properly clothed in the regalia of their rank, and, on being called to order, Grand Chapter is opened in proper form.

2. Exact wording and punctuation of the proposed New Section.

12.1.1 Memorial Service
Grand Chapter shall hold its annual memorial service and introduction of visitors on the Friday evening immediately preceding the third Saturday in September commencing in 2027. All present shall wear the regalia appropriate to their Order and rank.

12.3 Reception of Non-Members
The Grand First Principal may convene a convocation of Grand Chapter at his pleasure for the reception of distinguished visitors and non- members. All present shall wear the regalia appropriate to their Order and rank.

12.4.2 Clothing
Officers, members and visitors must be properly clothed in the regalia of their rank and, on being called to order, Grand Chapter is opened in proper form. Those attending the memorial service and the reception of non-members shall be dressed as required for attending the annual convocation. (see 24.3).

3. Reason for Change.

On several occasions in recent years the term "informal" has been misunderstood as permitting casual dress. This change clarifies that these events require the same standard of attire as a regular meeting.

Notice of Motion:
(x) I, Hani Nino will move or cause to be moved the above amendment.

(x) Rank: REC Name: Hani Nino

(x) Chapter: Joppa Number: 31

(x) Signature: Date:

4. Received by G.S.E. – Date Year Month Day

5. Decision of C & J Committee Date Year Month Day
   (c) This Notice of Motion IS acceptable as to form. [ ]
   (c) This Notice of Motion IS NOT acceptable because:
      i. It is incomplete. [ ].
      ii. It provides insufficient rational. [ ]
      iii. It is contrary to established Masonic usage. [ ]
      iv. Other

   (c) Signature (Chairman of C&J, Committee)

MOTION 4

Form 20 – Notice of Motion

For Grand Convocation 2026

1. Original Section (if any) Number and wording in full.

12.1 Annual (Rev. 2018)
Grand Chapter holds its annual convocation at the time and place it chooses, three years in advance, from submissions by Host Chapters to the Grand First Principal Sojourner prior to the Annual Convocation. The Grand Third Principal shall then select a venue immediately before the closing of the Annual convocation. (See also 54.2.1)

20.2.17 Convocation Budget
The budget proposed for the conduct of Grand Chapter Convocation shall be submitted by the Planning Committee of the host Chapter to the Grand Chapter Finance Committee for approval four months prior to the Annual Convocation.

26.1 List (Rev. 2012)
The following are the Standing Committees of Grand Chapter.
26.1.1 Constitution and Jurisprudence
26.1.2 Finance
26.1.3 Executive
26.1.4 Grand Superintendents Report
26.1.5 Regalia
26.1.6 Information Technology and Fund Raising
26.1.7 Bursary Fund Trustees
26.1.8 Keystone of Life Foundation
26.1.9 Royal Arch Masonic Homes Society
26.1.10 Address of Grand First Principal
26.1.11 Merit Awards
a.26.12Past Grand First Principal's Award

2. Exact wording and punctuation of the proposed New Section.

12.1 Annual (Rev. 2026)
Grand Chapter holds its annual convocation on the third Saturday in September. The location will be announced at the annual convocation at least three years in advance. The Grand Principal Sojourner will decide on the location of the annual convocation three years hence, based on advice received from the Grand Convocation Committee. A Host Chapter may also be selected for that annual convocation.

20.2.17 Convocation Budget (Rev. 2026)
The budget proposed for the conduct of Grand Chapter Convocation shall be submitted by the Planning Committee of the Host Chapter, if there is one, to the Grand Convocation Committee for consultation no later than January 31, immediately preceding the Grand Convocation. The Grand Convocation Committee will submit the budget to the Grand Chapter Finance Committee for approval prior to the Board of General Purpose (also known as 'Spring Board'). If there is no Host Chapter, the budget will be prepared by the Grand Convocation Committee. After the Finance Committee approves the budget, the Host Chapter or the Grand Convocation Committee may request that Grand Chapter make payments for required deposits on venues or activities.

26.1 List (Rev. 2026)

The following are the Standing Committees of Grand Chapter.
26.1.1 Constitution and Jurisprudence
26.1.2 Finance
26.1.3 Executive
26.1.4 Grand Superintendents Report
26.1.5 Regalia
26.1.6 Information Technology and Fund Raising
26.1.7 Bursary Fund Trustees
26.1.8 Keystone of Life Foundation
26.1.9 Royal Arch Masonic Homes Society
26.1.10 Address of Grand First Principal
26.1.11 Merit Awards
26.1.12 Past Grand First Principal's Award
26.1.13 Grand Convocation

And add

12.1.3 Change of location for Annual Convocation
If the Executive Committee determines, for good cause, that the location for the annual convocation must be changed, it will ensure that information is sent to all Scribes Ezra as soon as practical, listing the new location.

12.1.4 Selection of venue
The Executive Committee, based on the advice of the Grand Convocation Committee and the Host Chapter, if there is one, will select the venue for the annual convocation no later than the last day of March preceding the annual convocation. If, for good cause, a previously selected venue must be changed, the Grand Executive will communicate this to all Scribes Ezra as soon as practical.

26.3.13 Grand Convocation
This committee provides advice and assistance in the selection of locations and venues for annual convocation as well as for the Board of General Purpose (also known as 'Spring Board'). The committee will assist in the planning of the annual convocation or Board and any activities related to them. If there is no Host Chapter for the convocation or Board, the committee will assume this role and assist the Executive Committee with running of the events. The committee will be composed of the Grand Principals, Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Stewards and others appointed.

3. Reason for Change.

Over the last few years, the ad hoc committee on Grand Convocation has met to address the challenges faced by Grand Chapter in securing host Chapters for annual convocations. Additionally, greater flexibility is required in managing changes to locations and venue. These revisions allow the Executive Committee to more effectively plan and administer annual convocation.

Notice of Motion:
(x) I, Hani Nino will move or cause to be moved the above amendment.

(x) Rank: REC Name: Hani Nino

(x) Chapter: Joppa Number: 31

(x) Signature: Date:

4. Received by G.S.E. – Date Year Month Day

5. Decision of C & J Committee Date Year Month Day
   a. This Notice of Motion IS acceptable as to form. [ ]
   b. This Notice of Motion IS NOT acceptable because:
      i. It is incomplete. [ ].
      ii. It provides insufficient rational. [ ]
      iii. It is contrary to established Masonic usage. [ ]
      iv. Other

   c. Signature (Chairman of C&J, Committee)

MOTION 5

Form 20 – Notice of Motion

For Grand Convocation 2026

1. Original Section (if any) Number and wording in full.

11.3.2 Appointed
11.3.2.1 Grand Superintendents of Districts
11.3.2.2 Grand Senior Sojourner (Rev. 2014)
11.3.2.3 Grand Junior Sojourner (Rev. 2014)
11.3.2.4 Grand Scribe Nehemiah
11.3.2.5 Grand Historian
11.3.2.6 Grand Sword Bearer (Rev. 2018) will be appointed for ceremonial purposes, ad hoc by the Grand First Principal.
11.3.2.7 Grand Masters of the Veils, four - may be appointed at the will of the Grand First Principal (Rev. 2013)
11.3.2.8 Grand Standard Bearer (Rev. 2018) will be appointed for ceremonial purposes, ad hoc by the Grand First Principal.
11.3.2.9 Grand Director of Ceremonies
11.3.2.10 Grand Marshal
11.3.2.11 Grand Pursuivant
11.3.2.12 Grand Stewards, Three
11.3.2.13 Grand Chaplain
11.3.2.14 Grand Director of Music (Rev 2019)
11.3.2.15 Grand Tyler

2. Exact wording and punctuation of the proposed New Section.

11.3.2 Appointed
11.3.2.1 Grand Superintendents of Districts
11.3.2.2 Grand Senior Sojourner (Rev. 2014)
11.3.2.3 Grand Junior Sojourner (Rev. 2014)
11.3.2.4 Grand Scribe Nehemiah
11.3.2.5 Grand Historian
11.3.2.6 Grand Sword Bearer (Rev. 2018) will be appointed for ceremonial purposes, ad hoc by the Grand First Principal.
11.3.2.7 Grand Masters of the Veils, four - may be appointed at the will of the Grand First Principal (Rev. 2013)
11.3.2.8 Grand Standard Bearer (Rev. 2018) will be appointed for ceremonial purposes, ad hoc by the Grand First Principal.
11.3.2.9 Grand Director of Ceremonies
11.3.2.10 Grand Marshal
11.3.2.11 Grand Pursuivant
11.3.2.12 Grand Stewards, Three
11.3.2.13 Grand Chaplain
11.3.2.14 Grand Director of Music (Rev 2019)
11.3.2.15 Grand Tyler
<u>11.3.2.16 Grand Registrar</u>

And add

20.23 <u>Grand Registrar</u>

The Grand Registrar will manage the registration system and process for Grand Convocations and Spring Board. He will chair the Credentials Committee at the annual convocation and will be a member of the Grand Convocation Committee.

3. Reason for Change.

The purpose of this change is to designate an individual ideally serving for multiple years to manage the registration system used for Grand Convocations and the Spring Board. This will reduce the workload on Grand Stewards and provide continuity. The Grand Registrar will maintain event records, ensure that organizers, the Grand Scribe Ezra (GSE), and the Grand Treasurer are kept informed, collect event fees, and forward those fees to the Grand Treasurer.

Notice of Motion:
(x) I, Hani Nino will move or cause to be moved the above amendment.

(x) Rank: REC Name: Hani Nino

(x) Chapter: Joppa Number: 31

(x) Signature: Date:

4. Received by G.S.E. – Date Year Month Day

5. Decision of C & J Committee Date YearMonth Day
   (c) This Notice of Motion IS acceptable as to form. [ ]
   (c) This Notice of Motion IS NOT acceptable because:
      i. It is incomplete. [ ].
      ii. It provides insufficient rational. [ ]
      iii. It is contrary to established Masonic usage. [ ]
      iv. Other

   (c) Signature (Chairman of C&J, Committee)

MOTION 6

Form 20 – Notice of Motion

For Grand Convocation 2026

1. Original Section (if any) Number and wording in full.

15.1 Past First Principals
Only Past First Principals, who are members of this Grand Chapter, hold Grand Offices. However, any member of a Chapter may fill the office of Grand Director of Music, Grand Chaplain or Grand Tyler. For the position of Grand First Principal, he must have served as a Grand Principal Sojourner and as a Grand Principal. (Rev. 2019)

2. Exact wording and punctuation of the proposed New Section.

15.1 Past First Principals
Only Past First Principals, who are members of this Grand Chapter, hold the Grand Offices of First, Second and Third Principal, Superintendent, Principal Sojourner, Grand Scribe Ezra, Grand Treasurer, Director of Ceremonies or Marshal. Any member of this Grand Chapter may fill any other Grand Office. For the position of Grand First Principal, he must have served as a Grand Principal Sojourner and as a Grand Principal. (Rev. 2019)

3. Reason for Change.

It has become difficult to find Companions who are Past First Principals and who are willing and able to fill the Grand Offices. Many enthusiastic and competent Companions could provide valuable service to Grand Chapter by serving in these positions. This change simply allows more of the appointed officers to be selected from those who are not Past First principals.

Notice of Motion:
(x) I, Hani Nino will move or cause to be moved the above amendment.

(x) Rank: REC Name: Hani Nino

(x) Chapter: Joppa Number: 31

(x) Signature: Date:

4. Received by G.S.E. – Date Year Month Day

5. Decision of C & J Committee Date Year Month Day
   (c) This Notice of Motion IS acceptable as to form. [ ]
   (c) This Notice of Motion IS NOT acceptable because:
   i. It is incomplete. [ ].
   ii. It provides insufficient rational. [ ]
   iii. It is contrary to established Masonic usage. [ ]
   iv. Other
   Signature (Chairman of C&J, Committee)

MOTION 7

Form 20 – Notice of Motion

For Grand Convocation 2026

1. Original Section (if any) Number and wording in full.

1.3 "Grand Lodge" is the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia, AF and AM.

5 JURISDICTION
This Grand Chapter is the sole governing body of Royal Arch Masons in British Columbia and Yukon. Its jurisdiction includes members acting under its authority.

6 CONSTITUTION OF GRAND LODGE
In matters not provided for in this Constitution or in the edicts, resolutions, bylaws, rules of order and forms adopted by Grand Chapter, the Book of Constitutions, Regulations, rules, edicts, practice and forms of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of British Columbia are hereby adopted in so far as they are applicable to Capitular Masonry and are consistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

2. Exact wording and punctuation of the proposed New Section.

1.3 "Grand Lodge" is the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon, AF and AM.

5 JURISDICTION
This Grand Chapter is the sole governing body of Royal Arch Masons in the Province of British Columbia and the Yukon. Its jurisdiction includes members acting under its authority.

6 CONSTITUTION OF GRAND LODGE
In matters not provided for in this Constitution or in the edicts, resolutions, bylaws, rules of order and forms adopted by Grand Chapter, the Book of Constitutions, Regulations, rules, edicts, practice and forms of the Grand Lodge are hereby adopted in so far as they are applicable to Capitular Masonry and are consistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

And add:

1.15 "Capitular Masonry" means all of the following: Royal Arch Masonry, Most Excellent Master, Excellent Master (Columbia Chapter), Mark Master Mason, Past Masters' Lodge (as practiced by Columbia Chapter), Virtual Past Master, Order of the High Priest

3. Reason for Change.

The first three are very technical amendments to add in the correct names and titles of the Province and Territory or remove redundant information. The addition is to define capitular Masonry.

Notice of Motion:

(x) I, Peter Guichon _____ will move or cause to be moved the above amendment.

(x) Rank: REC Name: Peter Guichon

(x) Chapter: Semiahmoo Number: 34

(x) Signature: Date:

4. Received by G.S.E. – Date Year Month Day

5. Decision of C & J Committee Date Year Month Day
   (c) This Notice of Motion IS acceptable as to form. [ ]
   (c) This Notice of Motion IS NOT acceptable because:
      i. It is incomplete. [ ].
      ii. It provides insufficient rational. [ ]
      iii. It is contrary to established Masonic usage. [ ]
      iv. Other

   (c) Signature (Chairman of C&J, Committee)

MOTION 8

Form 20 – Notice of Motion

For Grand Convocation 2026

Original Section (if any) Number and wording in full.

1.4
"Lodge" is a Lodge of Mark master Masons or of Most Excellent Masters operating under a Chapter

1. Exact wording and punctuation of the proposed New Section.

add 1.4.1
"Lodge" in the case of Columbia Chapter is a Paster Masters Lodge or a Excellent Masters Lodge operating under a Chapter

Reason for Change.

To acknowledge the Rituals as practiced by Columbia Chapter No 1.

Notice of Motion:
(x) I, Leonard Pickell will move or cause to be moved the above amendment.

(x) Rank: MEC Name: Leonard Pickell

(x) Chapter: Semiahmoo Number: 34

(x) Signature: Date: Dec 21, 2025

2. Received by G.S.E. – Date Year 2025 Month Dec Day 30

3. Decision of C & J Committee Date Year Month Day
   (c) This Notice of Motion IS acceptable as to form. [X]
   (c) This Notice of Motion IS NOT acceptable because:
   i. It is incomplete. [ ].
   ii. It provides insufficient rational. [ ]
   iii. It is contrary to established Masonic usage. [ ]
   iv. Other

   (c) Signature (Chairman of C&J, Committee)

If more space is required for presentation than available on this Form, attachments with the Form will

GRAND CHAPTER REPORT OF THE GRAND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2026

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions

of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon

Grand Chapter Executive committee meeting report 2025–2026

During the 2025–2026 Capitular year, the Grand Chapter Executive established a regular schedule of monthly meetings to provide continuity in the administration and governance of Grand Chapter. These meetings provided an opportunity for the Executive to review matters coming before Grand Chapter, follow up on outstanding business, receive reports, coordinate the work of committees and officers, and address matters requiring attention between formal meetings of Grand Chapter.

An important part of this approach was maintaining regular communication with the Grand Superintendents. Meetings with the Grand Superintendents provided a direct opportunity to hear about the activities, successes and challenges of the Chapters within their respective Districts and to discuss how Grand Chapter could provide support where needed. The increased frequency of these meetings helped strengthen communication and keep the leadership better informed about developments throughout the jurisdiction.

Throughout the year, the Executive addressed a broad range of administrative and organizational matters. Particular attention was given to improving Grand Chapter records and communications, maintaining current Chapter bylaws and historical documents, improving access to administrative information, supporting the Scribes Ezra, reviewing membership-management options, and strengthening the processes through which information is shared between Grand Chapter, its Districts and constituent Chapters. For example, a central contact list for the Scribes Ezra was established for Executive officers and Grand Superintendents, and opportunities were created for Scribes Ezra to discuss administrative responsibilities and practices.

The Executive also devoted considerable attention to membership, leadership and administration. These themes were incorporated into the Spring Board of General Purposes through dedicated breakout discussions intended to obtain input from Companions on how Grand Chapter could support leadership development, Chapter administration, membership recruitment and retention.

A significant initiative during the latter part of the year was the investigation of a modern membership-management system. Following a demonstration of the GrandView system, the Executive examined its capabilities, costs, implementation requirements and potential financial implications. The discussion also included learning from the experience of other jurisdictions and considering a phased implementation approach.

The Executive continued to oversee the financial affairs of Grand Chapter in conjunction with the Grand Treasurer and Finance Committee. Matters considered during the year included the annual budget, per-capita assessments, investments, expenses, financial reporting and the financial implications of proposed initiatives.

Considerable work was also undertaken in preparation for the 2026 Grand Convocation. This included changing the venue and registration arrangements, communications, invitations to visiting dignitaries, regalia, ritual books, ceremonial arrangements, the Order of High Priesthood, installation arrangements, and preparation of the Advance Proceedings.

The Grand Superintendent meetings remained particularly valuable in keeping the Executive informed of conditions at the Chapter level. Reports addressed membership and attendance, candidates, degree work, officer development, Chapter anniversaries and special events, administrative challenges and, where applicable, concerns about the future viability of individual Chapters. These discussions allowed issues to be identified early and provided opportunities for Grand Chapter and neighbouring Chapters to offer assistance.

Attention was also given to ensuring an orderly transition between outgoing and incoming Grand Superintendents. Recommendations and appointments were followed throughout the year, with emphasis placed on proper handovers, communication with incoming Superintendents and providing them with the information necessary to support the Chapters within their Districts.

Overall, the regular meeting structure adopted during the year provided the Grand Chapter Executive with a practical means of maintaining continuity between formal meetings, following matters through to completion and remaining connected with the Chapters throughout the jurisdiction. Equally important, the regular participation of the Grand Superintendents created a stronger link between Grand Chapter and its constituent Chapters, allowing the Executive not only to receive reports, but to listen to concerns, identify opportunities and discuss practical ways in which Grand Chapter can support the continued strength and development of Royal Arch Masonry throughout British Columbia and Yukon.

Fraternally submitted,

REC Hani M. Nino – Grand Haggai, Chairman
MEC John Laing – Grand Zerubbabel
REC Scott Wisdahl – Grand Joshua
REC Richard Trippel – Grand Principal Sojourner
REC Calvin Jones – Grand Scribe Ezra
REC Kris Toijonen – Grand Treasurer
EC Marco Schwab – Finance committee Chair
MEC Les Robinson – Past Grand First Principal
MEC Ken Overy – Past Grand First Principal
MEC Daniel McCoy – Past Grand First Principal

ROYAL ARCH MASONIC HOME SOCIETY REPORT 2025

President's Report – 2025

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to advise that this year we are celebrating the 43nd year of the Royal Arch Masonic Care Home and Royal Arch Masonic Apartments known collectively as 'the Society'. The Society would like to take this opportunity to thank the Royal Arch Masonic Grand Chapter, associated Chapters, and Life Members for their ongoing support with the Society.

The Board of Directors would also like to acknowledge the Residents, Families, Management Team, Staff, and external stakeholders such as Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, the Attending Physicians, and all of the external contractors that contribute to the Society's vision and mission. The Society is extremely appreciative of the support and good wishes and extend our thanks for the generous donations received throughout the year.

There were many exciting projects that occurred this year ranging from renovation projects to IT systems upgrades to a full facility wide review of current programs, committee structure, administrative systems and educational programs in response to changes to the healthcare system on a federal and provincial level thus positing the Society to be able to navigate any future challenges within the healthcare system over the next several years.

The Society continues in its mission and are truly committed in providing the best level of care to the 151 Residents who live at the Care Home and are equally committed in providing excellence in independent housing to the 75 Tenants residing at the Apartments. The Society is constantly looking ahead and planning future projects and is committed to reviewing and evaluating current services to ensure that the Society exceeds expectations in healthcare delivery to the Residents and their Families.

Respectfully submitted,
VEC Hans Doge, President

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE GRAND "Z's" REPORT

To be included in 2026 Final Proceedings

REPORT OF THE GRAND CHAPLAIN 2025-2026

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon:

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon.

Thank you to Most Excellent Companion John Laing for appointing me to the position of Grand Chaplain. Thank you also to the Officers and Companions who have been a part of my journey as Grand Chaplain this year.

The Role of Chaplain in days like these is challenging. No Doubt in years gone by, our masonic world was formed in a culture impacted greatly by a Judeo/Christian ethos. Today our memory of these things is often a bit more distant.

As Companions, we have committed ourselves to the belief in the existence of a supreme being – the Supreme Architect of the Universe. We also express our appreciation for and trust in the truth of the great light – the Volume of the Sacred Law. Beyond this, we offer our companions a fair bit of philosophical and theological latitude.

As Chaplain, my role has been the following . . .

1. To assist at the beginning and ending of meetings where we invoke the blessing of the Supreme Architect of the Universe upon our work and efforts.
2. To be present at several Vancouver Island chapters, installations, and meetings. And I offer regrets for my not being able to attend many mainland events.
3. To listen to companions. Some who had health challenges. Some who told family stories. Some who faced losses.
4. To offer to a companion, on a few occasions, one of our points of fellowship – to remember you on my knees and in my private devotions.
5. To share a message of hope and encouragement for the Companions who could attend the 2025 Affirmation Sunday at the USA/Canada Border.

As I conclude, may I share a message. These are thoughts and words of comfort I shared with a friend facing his immanent passing and mortality who passed within a day or two of this conversation:

Hi (Name),

This is sad news. I will miss you and our conversations about life, politics and religion.

If I had to boil down all religion into a nutshell. It would be summed up in the very brief conversation between three dying men — one Jesus, and the other two--Thieves beside him on a cross. One mocked and rejected love, kindness, mercy and grace. The other . . . You read it yourself from Dr. Luke's (A medical doctor/writer) Account in Luke 23.

> **39** One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

> **40** But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you
> are under the same sentence? **41** We are punished justly, for we are getting what
> our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."
> **42** Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
> **43** Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

(Name), it might not hurt for you to pray "remember me" as you face your last hours.

Best regards my friend. I will remember you. And will look forward to meeting you again on the other side.

Lorne

Now then, I hope that each of us as Royal Arch Masons can continue to foster in ourselves the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love. May we find encouragement and peace in our fellowship as companions in the days ahead.

Best Regards, Fraternally

Lorne Gait, Grand Chaplain (2025-2026)

REPORT OF THE GRAND HISTORIAN

Companions, let me first thank M.E. Comp. John Laing for reappointment to this office. My apologies for not being visible in Royal Arch. Other Masonic commitments, plus a return to work after 5½ years of retirement from radio (which ended with the closure of CKWX on July 7), have cut into my time.

On the Move

Last year's report mentioned the move of Semiahmoo Chapter to Port Coquitlam. It will relocate to the Masonic Hall in North Surrey, due to the sale of the hall on Shaughnessy Street. As well, Chilliwack Chapter joined the other Masonic bodies in that city in taking up residence at the cozy new Masonic Centre in Abbotsford as of April. The chapter now meets on the Third Wednesday.

Historical Sketch: Signet Chapter No. 23

Signet is one of our defunct Chapters, consolidating with Vancouver No. 2 into Triple Tau No. 21 in September 1990. A personal memory of Signet is my Most Excellent Master Degree was conferred there by courtesy on May 16, 1988. The Principal Sojourner taking me around was M.E. Comp. Bill Shippam. V.E. Comp. Worth Connolly was behind the organ and many familiar faces who were the heart and soul of Lodge Southern Cross were present. Alas, all have passed away.

The Chapter was instituted May 2, 1925. 20 signed the application for a dispensation. It was constituted July 28, 1926 at Composite Masonic Hall at 27th and Victoria Drive with Composite Chapter No. 24.

Signet was one of a number of chapters formed to serve what were considered local areas away from downtown Vancouver; in this case, Mt. Pleasant. There were two Craft lodges there: Vimy No. 97 (instituted Apr. 6, 1921) and Mt. Moriah No. 102 (inst. Dec. 6, 1922). Mt. Moriah's original membership seems dominated by those who worked on the B.C. Electric streetcar system and Scottish Freemasons, a number of them being members of the Royal Arch.

A unique distinction is the founding First and Second Principals of the Chapter went on to become Grand First Principal.

ALEXANDER MACDUFF, Z. (June 25, 1870, Leith – Oct. 20, 1942, Vancouver). Conductor, BC Electric Railway. He arrived in Winnipeg from Scotland on May 17, 1896 and came to Vancouver in 1910. He was a lover of Robert Burns and called upon to give the Immortal Memory at Burns Suppers, Masonic and non-Masonic. He was also active in Conservative Party Affairs.

Degrees in Prince Rupert's No. 1, Winnipeg: Nov. 20, 1906; Jan. 15, 1907; Feb. 26, 1907. Founder, Mt. Lebanon No. 72, May 13, 1913. Installed as W.M., Dec. 27, 1918. First W.M. of Mt. Moriah, Dec. 6, 1920. DDGM No. 14, June 18, 1926. First Secretary, Vimy, Apr. 6, 1921.

Exalted in Prince Rupert Chapter No. 52, Winnipeg, May, 1907. Z., Pacific Chapter No. 15, Jan. 10, 1921; Grand Steward, June 21, 1921. Grand Z., June 21, 1933. Installed in King Edward Preceptory No. 24, Winnipeg, 1907. Preceptor, Columbia No. 34, 1922.

ANDREW (Andy) COUTTS, H. (Feb. 8, 1880, Aberdeenshire – July 16, 1958, Vancouver). Motorman, BC Electric Railway. He served in the Lanarkshire Police. He was, however, no more than twenty years of age when he joined the South African Constabulary, with which he served in the South African War of 1899-1902. Comp. Coutts then migrated to Australia, but did not long remain there as he came to Vancouver in 1905 to work on the streetcar system.

Degrees in Mt. Lebanon No. 72: Sept. 25, Nov. 5, Dec. 11, 1919. First S.D. of Mt. Moriah No. 102, Dec. 6, 1922. Installed as W.M. Dec. 1, 1926, as DDGM No. 14, June 20, 1941. Exalted in Vancouver Chapter

No. 2, Feb. 28, 1921. Only office in No. 2 was Master of the Fourth Veil, installed Jan. 14, 1925. Installed as Z. of Signet on Dec. 10, 1927 and Jan. 29, 1937. Grand Supt. No. 2, June 21, 1933. Led all A.A. & S.R. bodies in Vancouver. Coroneted 33rd Degree, 1947. Member, Royal Order of Scotland.

CHARLES PETTIT EASTMAN, J. (Nov. 15, 1865, Ottawa – Aug. 8, 1933, Vancouver). Co-owner of Eastman and Montcrieff, manufacturer's agents, with Comp. A.G. Montcrieff. A member of the Hyack Fire Company in New Westminster in 1888. Active in the Conservative Party. Died watching the ninth inning of a ball game at Con Jones Park.

Degrees in King Solomon No. 17: Jan. 16, Feb. 23, March 8, 1904. J.D. of King Solomon on Dec. 27, 1907. Founder, Vancouver No. 68, May 31, 1912, installed as W.M., Jan. 10, 1929. Exalted in Pacific No. 15, Nov. 10, 1919. Z. of Signet on Dec 28, 1928. Member of Columbia Preceptory No. 34 and of Royal Lodge No. 5, Knights of Pythias, New Westminster.

JOHN ROSS, TREAS. (July 6, 1860, Ontario – April 22, 1953, Vancouver). Carpenter/Millwright. Came to Vancouver in 1909. Member of Reading No. 254, Redding, California. First J.W., St. James Lodge on Mar. 8, 1915; W.M., Mar, 13, 1917. Founder, Vimy Lodge, Apr 6, 1921. Affiliated with Vancouver No. 2 on April 11, 1923 from Shasta No. 9, Redding. Demitted from Signet on Jan. 16, 1932.

JOHN B. WEBSTER, S.E. There are a father and son in the City Directory, both John Blyth Webster, employed by Vancouver Lumber. The father: (Mar. 7, 1873, Scotland – May 15, 1936, Vancouver). The son: (Feb. 21, 1899, Govan, Scotland – Nov. 24, 1964, Lake Cowichan). It is unclear which one it was. A John B. Webster was a founder of Mt. Moriah Lodge on Dec. 6, 1922 from Plantation No. 581, Scotland and suspended NPD on Oct. 3, 1928. The son was a founder of Coronation No. in Duncan on Dec. 8, 1952. Our Webster demitted from Signet on Dec. 28, 1928. Also a John Webster, streetcar conductor, affiliated with Vancouver No. 68 on Aug. 10, 1922 from Gordon No. 589, Scotland. NPD, Oct. 11, 1928.

HECTOR GORDON BIRNIE, S.N. (Dec. 20, 1881, Scotland – Aug. 10, 1977, Vancouver). Conductor, BC Electric Railway.

Member of St. Clement No. 688, Aberdeen, Scotland. First Inner Guard, Mt. Lebanon No. 72, May 13, 1913, installed Dec. 27, 1919. First Secretary Mt. Moriah No. 102, Dec. 6, 1922. Z. Dec. 16, 1932. DDGM No. 14, June 23, 1933. Grand Supt., June 20, 1956.

WILLIAM THOMAS PERKINS, P.S. (Nov. 22, 1878, Denham, England – Sept. 19, 1941, Vancouver). Motorman, BC Electric Railway. Officer in the Vancouver Street Railwaymen's Union.

Degrees in Vancouver No. 68: Nov. 25, 1920, Apr. 14 and 28, 1921. First Jr. Steward of Mt. Moriah No. 102, Dec. 6, 1922. W.M. on Dec. 7, 1927. Exalted in Pacific No. 15 on Nov. 27, 1923. Z. of Signet on Dec. 19, 1930.

FRANCIS ROBERT SIMPSON, S.S. (July 6, 1886, Scotland – March 14, 1981, Vancouver). Labourer, Vancouver School Board. Founder, Mt. Moriah No. 102, Dec. 6, 1922 from St. Bryde No. 991, Kemnay, Aberdeenshire West, Scotland.

ADOLPHUS WOLFE, J.S. (March 2, 1881, Belfast – March 10, 1956, Vancouver). Manager furniture dept., David Spencer, Ltd. in Vancouver starting in 1910. Began Wolfe and Dobson furniture store in 1941. Moved from Ireland to Saskatoon in 1906, lived in Vernon and Kelowna before coming to Vancouver. His widow Mary Ellen died 11 days after his death.

Degrees in Burrard No. 50: Jan. 27, Feb. 17, Mar. 24, 1911. Founder of Vancouver No. 68, May 31, 1912. He received all his chapter degrees in North Vancouver No. 16 in 1923 and was exalted May 8. Demitted from No. 16, Dec. 8, 1925. Z of Signet on Dec. 27, 1929. Demitted March 29, 1935.

RICHARD ALBERT ROBERTS (Bert) PEARCE, ORG. (March 17, 1883, Cheltenham, England – Oct. 14, 1960, Essondale). Accountant, Marshall Wells. He was attacked by two armed crooks on Pender at Shanghai Alley of $11,000 in cheques he was on his way to deposit in Aug. 1933. He was married in England in 1909, giving his occupation as a professor of music, and arrived in Regina in 1911. Wrote the music for "Your King and Country Need You," copyrighted in 1915. In 1919, he was the organist at the First Baptist Church in Regina and the city's Rex Theatre. He left Regina for Vancouver in Oct. 1922 after his marriage was voided. Locally, he was a sidesman for St. James Anglican Church.

He joined North West Mounted Police No. 11 in Regina; degrees were Jan. 31, 1912, June 14, 1912 and Feb. 3, 1913. He affiliated with Moose Jaw No. 3 the same year. Returning to Regina, he served as W.M. of No. 11 in 1922. He affiliated with Trinity No. 98 on April 1, 1925, and Meridian No. 108 on April 4, 1958. In Chapter, he affiliated on Jan. 9, 1924 with Vancouver No. 2 from Wascana No. 121, where he was Pr. Sojourner on Jan. 9, 1922 (did not hold office in 1923). Later a member of Pacific No. 15. Held memberships in Zabud No. 1, Cryptic Rite; Columbia Preceptory No. 34 (Provincial Grand Prior in 1945) and an accompanist in Gizeh Temple. Demitted from Signet on Jan. 24, 1930.

WILLIAM KNOX, TYLER. (Oct. 18, 1886, Lanarkshire, Scotland – Nov. 11, 1931, Vancouver). In the City Directory in 1928 as "labourer," in 1929 as "Janitor, Woodwards." The birth and death dates above are for a William Brown Knox who was a Mason (not under B.C. at time of death). He arrived in Canada in 1919. Member of the Musicians Mutual Protective Union in Vancouver.

A William Knox affiliated with Mt. Moriah No. 102 from St. Paul's No. 204 in Scotland on Sept. 3, 1924 and demitted Dec. 2, 1925.

HARRY ROLAND MOORE, IPZ (b. 1879, Lakefield, Ont. – Dec. 8, 1960, Toronto). Building contractor/carpenter. His family and his in-laws moved to Regina by 1912.

He received his Craft degrees in Clementi No. 313 in Lakefield, Ont., and joined NWMP No. 11 in Regina on Feb. 12, 1912. Installed as J.W. on Dec. 27, 1912, W.M. Dec. 28, 1914. Secretary in 1921 to 1923. DDGM in 1922. Affiliated with Vimy No. 97, Nov. 8, 1926. Exalted in Wascana No. 121, Regina (Grand Chapter of Canada). Organist, Jan. 12, 1914. Z. in 1917, Treasurer, 1922, 1923 and 1924. Invested as Scribe E. of Signet, Dec. 10, 1927 and remained until he resigned from ill health in summer 1958 to move to Toronto. Preceptor of Wascana No. 51 in 1920, affiliated with Columbia No. 34 in 1925. Presiding Preceptor in 1927.

JAMES IRVINE, PZ (Aug. 18, 1853, St. Andrew's, Man. – Jan. 2, 1929, Vancouver). Rector, St. Michael's Church. Spent several years farming in different parts of Manitoba. In 1878 he entered St. John's College, Winnipeg, to prepare for missionary work. In 1882 he was ordained and placed in charge of a mission for natives, two hundred miles north of Kenora, where he remained until 1889. Moved to Garden River near Sault Ste. Marie; postmaster from 1890 until March 1994. Also served as principal of a residential school in the area for about a year, receiving praise for getting rid of hammocks and tin cups and plates and giving the children something decent to sleep on and eat with. Came to Vancouver in April 1894 and was, at first, curate at St. James Church. Appointed rector of St. Michael's Church, 1895-99.

His degrees were conferred in Hiram No. 5, Kildonan, Manitoba on Mar. 24, May 5 and June 2, 1876, as a 22 year old farmer. He was W.M. in 1880; Grand Steward, Feb. 12, 1879; Grand Sword Bearer, Feb. 11, 1880. He was the First Chaplain of Penquona No. 22, Kenora on June 6, 1882 and demitted on Nov. 14, 1883. Affiliated with Cascade No. 12, Nov. 19, 1894. First Master of St. James No. 80, Mar. 8, 1915. First Secretary, Victory No. 94, Feb. 1921. Grand Chaplain, 1897-99, 1903, 1919, 1922. Grand D.C., 1917, 1919-20.

Exalted in Keystone No. 99 in Portage La Prairie and became a member of Vancouver No. 98 (Canada) on Nov. 14, 1894. Suspended NPD in Dec. 1909 but restored the following year. Organised the first meeting on Dec. 2, 1912 of what became Pacific No. 190 (Canada), instituted January 13, 1913 and was second Z. in 1914. Superintendent (Canada), Feb. 23, 1916. Returned to Vancouver No. 98 on Jan. 19, 1918. Grand Master of the Veils (B.C.), June 18, 1919. Affiliated with Triple Tau No. 21, July 28, 1922. Presiding Preceptor, Columbia No. 34, 1906, Grand Almoner, 1907, Grand Chaplain, 1908. First PCW, Zabud No. 4, Cryptic Rite, instituted in late 1922. Also a member of Mount Pleasant Lodge No. 19. I.O.O.F. Member, Granville lodge. No. 2, Ancient Order of United Workmen (1901), Grand Deputy High Chief Ranger, Independent Order of Foresters. Chaplain, Mt. Pleasant Lodge No. 1516, Orange Order, 1898, Granville No. 8, Knights of Pythias.

Also signing

HENRY GEORGE BROWN (July 22, 1882, England – Jan. 7, 1975, Vancouver). Clerk Marshall-Wells. He arrived in Canada in 1906, and lived in Longueuil before coming to the Lower Mainland about 1912. He owned a bar in Quebec. In 1921, he was employed in Richmond as a packer in a warehouse and owned a hardware store in Eburne when he joined the chapter. He and his wife bought the Bungalow Court resort in Harrison Hot Springs in 1935 only to sue the former owner who tried to nullify the deal (they won).

Degrees in Mt. Lebanon No. 72: June 9, July 14, Sept 29, 1921, W.M. on Dec. 13, 1928. Exalted in Vancouver No. 2, Feb. 23, 1923.

GEORGE DANCEY (Feb. 13, 1883, Golden Cross, East Sussex – Oct. 30, 1967, Vancouver). Chauffeur, employed by Austin C. Taylor, president of Home Oil, and his family for over 50 years. He spelled his surname with and without an "e."

Degrees in Mt. Moriah No. 102: Apr. 4, May 12, Aug. 15, 1923. Received all his chapter degrees in Triple Tau No. 21, the Mark and MEM on March 14, 1924, the Royal Arch two weeks later.

BENJAMIN FLETCHER (Dec. 29, 1859, Oxford, Ont. – July 27, 1939, Vancouver). Labourer. He graduated from the Ontario veterinary College and arrived in Moose Jaw from Winchester, Ontario in March 1891 where he became veterinarian, deputy sheriff and later sheriff. He resigned from the last job in April 1914, content to raise horses and farm in Regina 10 years later.

Affiliated with Vimy No. 97 from Moose Jaw No. 3 on Feb. 9, 1925. Likely belonged to Moose Jaw Chapter No. 162 (Canada). He was Master Workman of the A.O.U.W. Lodge in Moose Jaw in 1894.

GEORGE HENRY EDWARDS (Apr. 22, 1870, Wales – May 14, 1932, Vancouver). Mechanical engineer.

Degrees in Ymir No. 31: Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 1901. Founding member of Vimy No. 97, Apr. 6, 1921. Affiliated with Mt. Moriah No. 102, Jan. 5, 1927. Member of Rocky Mountain No. 7, Cranbrook.

GEORGE DUNCAN (1869, Kirkcaldy, Scotland – Jan. 20, 1953, Vancouver). Barrister. This brother joined the Craft in Vancouver but there's no indication this is the one who belonged to Signet. He was president of the Vancouver Scottish Society, the Vancouver Shakespeare Society, the Vancouver Amateur Swimming Club and an officer in the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society.

Degrees in Western Gate No. 48: Oct. 24, Nov. 28, 1910, Feb. 2, 1911.

ALEXANDER GEORGE MONTCRIEFF (Sep. 25, 1881, Harriston, Ont. – April 12, 1968, Coquitlam). Co-owner of Eastman and Montcrieff with Comp Charles Eastman. He affiliated with Vancouver No. 68 on June 14, 1928 from St. Alban's No. 200, Mt. Forest, Ont.

WILLIAM CHARLES McKEOWN DOIG (Mar. 13, 1882, Scotland – Mar. 6, 1951, Vancouver). Carpenter.

Degrees in Maple Leaf No. 74: Mar, May and May 18, 1914. W.M. Dec. 27, 1943. Mother chapter unknown. Installed as Z. in Signet on Dec. 19, 1941; the officers remained for two years. Also in Pacific Court No. 7627, Ancient Order of Foresters.

STANLEY NEWTON (Feb. 4, 1878, Buckingham, Que. – Dec. 26, 1950, Buckingham, Que.). Newton graduated from the Ontario Business College, and lived in the Chase and Kamloops areas during the 1910s; he was employed by the Hedley Shaw Milling Company. Is in the 1921 Census return for Port Moody. Left Kamloops either during his year as W.M. or IPM. In 1924, he was working on a grain elevator project at the foot of Salsbury Drive when he fell and a horse moving some lumber fractured his skull by kicking him in the head. A notice in the *Province* in 1933 stated he was being sought for an inheritance, but he had returned to Quebec to live the rest of his life; the 1931 Census records him as a millwright in the pulp mill village of Temiskaming before returning to Buckingham.

Affiliated with Kamloops No. 10 on May 10, 1910 from Acacia No. 71 in Aylmer (Gatineau), installed as W.M. in 1921 (date unavailable). Exalted in Revelstoke No. 9, April 7, 1920.

Signet's originally meeting place was the Mt. Pleasant Oddfellows Hall at 2214 Main Street near East Sixth Avenue (destroyed by an arsonist Dec. 13, 1993). On Jan. 21, 1933, the Grand Z. gave permission to move to the Knights of Pythias Hall at East Sixth and Scotia (it still stands). An attempt to relocate to University Lodge's hall on West 10th Avenue near Sasamat Street failed in 1948. Finally, the chapter found accommodation at Trinity Lodge's hall on Main Street south of 49th Avenue on Sept. 15, 1969. Unfortunately, the change meant it now met the same night as Triple Tau and Joppa chapters. The 1987 returns show it relocated to Zenith's lodge hall at Triumph and McDonald in North Burnaby, where it remained until consolidation.

Archives

Our Grand Chapter has rented archival space for our documents. After urging this for years, your Historian has not done anything to move our Proceedings, Annual Returns and miscellaneous papers into it. Several decades of Returns that had been in storage after residing at the old Temple on West 8th Avenue have not been located.

Around the Chapters

These reports get lengthy, so for the last several years, I have not been reporting much on chapter activities. Very few items are of a real historic nature. Kalum Chapter submitted an excellent report (the only chapter that took the time to do so) and appears to be busy. On the flip side, there are chapters that cannot get nine companions to open in the Royal Arch degree; they conduct business in other degrees instead. And the largest chapter in the jurisdiction could not confer the Supreme Degree in June because there were not enough available fill-ins for missing officers.

My thanks to Scribes E. who have sent their notices (as per the Constitution) and those who have forwarded their minutes.

Fraternally,

Jim Bennie, Grand Historian

KEYSTONE OF LIFE FOUNDATION

REPORT FOR 2026 Grand Chapter Grand Convocation
COVERING PERIOD August 2025 to September 2026

The Keystone of Life Foundation (KLF) is a registered non-profit organization, and a charity supported by the Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and the Yukon.

Last year, KLF celebrated it's **50th year** since incorporation and has delivered during that half century, in excess of $550,000 of grants to over 50 hospitals and medical facilities throughout BC and Yukon for purchase of much needed primary care equipment not available to them on their provincial budgets.

KLF is still experiencing a slower take-up of potential grants than in past years and now actively seeks out potential grantees.

KLF relies significantly on Royal Arch and Craft masons identifying hospitals in their home areas , making initial contact with the fund raising foundation there and raising their awareness of the potential for a KLF grant. Not only does this approach benefit the hospital and the community it serves, but it also expands the public awareness of Masonry by the publicity that would result from a successful grant award.

Wherever possible, representatives from Chapters local to the grantee hospital are invited to be present at formal grant cheque presentations to assure such public awareness.

Over the period covered by this report, KLF has issued or approved grants to Canuck Place Children's Hospital, 100 Mile House hospital, BC Cancer Foundation, Langara College of Nursing, Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital, Peace Arch Hospital, Comox Valley Hospital, Pemberton & District Health Care Foundation, Northern Health, Yukon Hospital Foundation. It frequently takes 9 months or more for hospitals to acquire granted equipment; so period from grant request approval to payment of a grant can be up to a year.

The KLF acquires its funds for grant awards from donations , membership fees, and bequests together with income from invested assets. Investments are prudently managed by Odlum Brown and have shown significant growth over the past 12 months.

Donations from some individual Masons, Chapters and other Masonic organizations do continue to be received, and for those we are very grateful. However, we are encouraging the message of KLF's needs to be spread by **all Grand Chapter (& Lodge) officers** whilst visiting, and in their own Chapters & Lodges, to try to resurrect the same level of enthusiasm and financial support your KLF charity enjoyed a decade ago. **The KLF Board particularly encourages gifting through planned regular giving, bequests and non-monetary donations such as insurance policy and securities transfers.** Any Companion or friend of the Foundation can contact any Board member of KLF to set up the simple process of making such donations. Tax receipts are always available for donations from individuals.

KLF is registered with "Canada Helps", a national website database of all Canadian charities that allows potential donors to make an on-line donation using a credit card, or donations can be made by e-transfers. to thekeystonecflife@gmail.com

The Foundation thanks all donors and members for their continuing support of this Royal Arch Charity.

Work is still ongoing to encourage more individual membership from RA Masons, Craft Masons, and their families throughout the region. Our aim is for each and every Royal Arch Mason throughout the jurisdiction to become a member of KLF! Our Foundation is always seeking life members who wish to be more involved with KLF to become nominated for Trustee positions on our Board at each November AGM.

The KLF Board is committed to increase awareness of the Foundation amongst all Chapters and Lodges in this jurisdiction and to increase membership in the coming year.

By the end of September 2026, KLF will be publishing its own website, which will sit alongside its web page on the Grand Chapter web site, and enable grant applications, membership applications, and payments to be effected online.

The KLF Board continues to work hard to raise money for this important charitable cause, and to distribute grants to needy hospitals whilst keeping the Foundation's operating costs to an absolute minimum.

KLF recognizes that there are many worthy causes deserving of a Freemason's charitable support and that we all have limited resources to donate to these causes, but we earnestly encourage all Royal Arch, and indeed Craft Masons, to consider this Foundation a prime object for their charity.

At our last AGM, the role of KLF secretary was passed from Don Neilson to Joe Boni, and we are very grateful for the many years Don served us as secretary. We also welcomed Derek Scott to the board of trustees.

Some examples of the grants awarded to various hospitals can be seen on the Keystone of Life webpage of the Grand Chapter website and our newest brochure.

Thank you for your support!
Respectfully submitted by

Peter Edwards
KLF President - August 2026

Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon

Report of the Information Technology Committee

2026

Companions:

I am pleased to report steady use of the member area of the Grand Chapter website. Springboard was conducted through Zoom, enabling real-time participation regardless of location. I encourage Companions to continue using the resources available on the site and to help identify matters of interest for members throughout this jurisdiction.

As noted in my previous reports, our Grand Scribe Ezra, REC Calvin Jonas, continues to work closely with webmaster Steven Noble to ensure relevant and timely information is uploaded. Please remember that the Grand Scribe Ezra serves as the administrator for any material you may wish to have included.

I conclude this report with several statistics from the past 12 months. The site remains consistent with about 8,000 visits, and the top five countries by visitor count, in order, being the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, China, and Australia.

Finally, members are reminded that access to the member area requires registration. If you wish to participate with this committee, please reach out.

Respectfully submitted:

MEC Ronald R. Smith
Committee Member

Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon

Report of the Superintendents Committee

2025-206

In general, chapters in urban areas are healthy while rural chapters continue to face recruitment and demographic difficulties.

In **District No. 01**, comprising Pacific Rim, North Island, Majuba, Columbia and Tzouhalem Chapters, all are prudently governed, and financially stable. Pacific Rim, North Island, and Majuba Chapters exhibit positive activity and officer engagement, while Columbia and Tzouhalem maintain stability through dedicated members.

District No. 2 is comprised of Simon Fraser Chapter No. 40, Semiahmoo Chapter No. 34, Georgian Chapter No. 39, Joppa Chapter No.31, Chilliwack Chapter No.19, and NVKS Chapter No.16

Simon Fraser Chapter has benefited from a steady influx from local Craft Lodges, and a smooth treasurer transition. Semiahmoo Chapter recently relocated but has supportive members and incoming new members. Georgian Chapter is growing with enthusiastic new members. Joppa Chapter is proficient in ritual and degree work and has regular officer attendance. Chilliwack Chapter has dedicated senior companions but needs broader district support to ensure long-term sustainability. NVKS Chapter has experienced guides and committed younger members.

District No. 3. Penticton Chapter No. 22 has exalted three new members this year. However, ritual is being read all the time from the book, with no lectures being delivered from memory.

In District No. 4 comprising Rocky Mountain Chapter No. 4 and Yukon Chapter No. 38, both Chapters are exceptionally remote without nearby sister chapters for support and are experiencing declining membership. Yukon Chapter held only two of four scheduled meetings in 2025 and failed to hold an Installation or change officers. The Grand First Principal currently acts as Superintendent due to a lack of local candidates.

In District No. 6, comprising Kaien Chapter No.13 and Kalum Chapter No.37, thirteen new members were initiated, Tyee Lodge being a principal source. The Chapters now have fully filled chairs and a sustainable future.

Respectfully submitted, REC Stephen Coffey

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon
Report of the Bursary Committee 2025 – 2026 (interim report)

🎓 The complete report will be published in the Proceedings.

Overview: This year a total of $8,000 was awarded to eight successful applicants for a Royal Arch Bursary, disbursed as follows:

Vancouver Island U	Criminology Year 1 [$1,100]
UVIC	Computer Science Year 3 {$900]
Langara College	Nursing Year 3 {$1000]
Thompson Rivers U	B. Arts Year 2 {$1,100]
North Island College	Early Childhood Ed. Year 1 {$1000]
UBC	Applied Science Year 2 {$1000]
UVIC	B. Psychology Year 2 {$900]
Dalhousie University NS	Medicine Year 2 {$1000]

2025-2026 Bursary Committee

VEC Cole Harvey, Chair

MEC Jimmy Catala

VEC Bernard Favreau

REC Scott Wisdahl (ex officio)

Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon

Report of the Regalia Committee

2025-2026

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon,

The Grand Chapter Regalia Committee continues its ongoing work to maintain, preserve, and account for the regalia of Grand Chapter. This duty, though quietly conducted behind the scenes, remains critical to ensuring the dignity of the Officers of Grand Chapter.

Over the last year the Committee has done a full audit of the Grand Chapter Regalia in order to replace the regalia that, for one reason or another, has been lost. After the completion of this audit, the Committee has ordered the following regalia:

Grand Officer collar WITH fringe (x5) Grand Officer collar WITHOUT fringe (x8) Grand Chapter Officer Sash (x1) Grand Junior Sojourner Apron Grand Junior Sojourner Jewel Grand Director of Ceremonies Apron Grand Marshal ApronGrand Officer collar WITHOUT fringe (x8) Grand Chapter Officer Sash (x1) Grand Junior Sojourner Apron Grand Junior Sojourner Jewel Grand Director of Ceremonies Apron Grand Marshal Apron Grand Marshal Jewel Grand Persuivant Apron Grand Persuivant Jewel Grand Steward Jewel	Grand Marshal Jewel Grand Persuivant Apron Grand Persuivant Jewel Grand Steward Jewel Grand Director of Music Apron Grand Tyler Apron Grand Sword Bearer Apron Grand Sword Bearer Jewel Grand Standard Bearer Apron Grand Standard Bearer Jewel Grand Master of the Veil Jewel (x4) Grand Sword Bearer Apron Grand Sword Bearer Jewel Grand Standard Bearer Apron Grand Standard Bearer Jewel Grand Master of the Veil Jewel (x4) Grand Director of Music Apron Grand Tyler Apron

With the exception of the Grand Masters of the Veil aprons and a few collar jewels which our suppliers were unable to source, we are pleased to report that Grand Chapter now has a full complement of regalia. In the hopes of preventing further loss of regalia, the Committee, in association with the office of the Grand Scribe Ezra, will be introducing and evaluating new policies regarding the loaning of regalia to Grand Chapter Officers. We also hope to work with the office of the Grand Treasurer to establish a more stable annual budget for the repair and replacement of regalia where such replacement may reasonably be expected as a result of normal wear and tear.

The Committee continues to welcome expressions of interest from Companions who wish to assist in this important work of stewardship and preservation.

Fraternally submitted,

VEC Connor Massey, GDMus PGTyler
MEC Ron Smith, PGZ

Yours Aye,

Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon

Report of the Merit Award Committee

2025-2026

The Merit Committee takes great pleasure to announce **Companion Brian McLeod**, Scribe Ezra of Cathedral Chapter No. 35, asd the recipient of the **2025-2026 Merit Award**.

New to Capitular Masonry, Companion McLeod took over as Scribe E when his long serving predecessor needed to relinquish those duties.

Our Chapter has been blessed by his work ethic; if something needed doing, it was done! He has recruited good Masons to join the Chapter, though himself not yet inclined yet to progress through the Chairs.

As the longtime First Principal of Cathedral Chapter I cannot praise him highly enough!

Respectfully submitted. REC Alex Hart

Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PAST GRAND PRINCIPALS' REPORT
2025 - 2026

To be included in the official proceedings.

Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon
AD Hoc Convocation Committee Report
2025-2026

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon:

The Ad Hoc Committee on Grand Chapter Convocations was established following the 2024 Grand Convocation with a mandate to improve the planning, organization, and delivery of our annual Grand Convocations. This mandate continued throughout 2025–2026, with the Committee focusing on developing a more consistent approach to planning, reducing the operational burden on the Grand Line, improving cost efficiency, and enhancing the overall Convocation experience.

During the year, the Committee met regularly and continued its work in several key areas. This included identifying and evaluating suitable venues, working with local Chapters to coordinate logistical support and necessary furnishings, preparing and monitoring the Convocation budget, and overseeing the planning and organization of the various events associated with Grand Convocation.

Convocation 2026 – Abbotsford

Early in the planning process, the Committee learned that the previously selected venue, the North Vancouver Holiday Inn, was undergoing a change in management to Hilton and was no longer able to guarantee the room rates that had previously been discussed.

To maintain affordability and accessibility for Companions travelling from throughout the Jurisdiction, the Committee reviewed several alternative venues and unanimously recommended to the Grand Executive Committee that the 2026 Grand Convocation be relocated to the Sandman Inn & Suites in Abbotsford, a venue previously used for Cryptic Rite. The Grand Executive approved the recommendation, and the change was subsequently reported to the Board of General Purposes in April 2026.

The Grand Stewards led negotiations with the hotel and reviewed the banquet and catering arrangements, including buffet-style meals, the Meet & Greet, and bar service. As originally contemplated for 2026 and 2027, the Convocation is being organized directly by Grand Chapter and the Committee without a host Chapter. The Grand Stewards have taken an active role in the planning and operational arrangements, with support from local Chapters for furnishings and other logistical requirements.

One of the significant improvements introduced this year was the launch of a new online registration platform. The system provides designated officers, including the Grand Treasurer, Grand Scribe Ezra, and the Grand Stewards, with real-time access to registration and

payment status, attendee event selections, and communication information. This has provided a more efficient and organized approach to managing registration for the Convocation.

The Committee also finalized arrangements for the Order of High Priesthood and confirmed the schedule for the two-day event.

Seating and protocol arrangements will follow the Grand Convocation Manual, including the Head Table and established VIP seating arrangements. Plans have also been made for the ceremonial presentation of the flags, a piper, and appropriate music for the proceedings.

The Committee also reviewed the policy regarding complimentary meals for visiting jurisdictions, in keeping with the reciprocal practice now followed elsewhere. Complimentary meals will no longer be extended on a general basis, with registration continuing to be comped.

Convocation Planning Handbook

The Committee continued its review and development of the Convocation Planning Handbook, with contributions from Committee members based on their respective areas of responsibility.

This year's work incorporated the Prince George Convocation spreadsheet as a budgeting and planning template. The Committee is also developing a calendar-based planning model that identifies key milestones and responsibilities by working backwards from the dates of Grand Convocation.

Following the 2026 Convocation, the Handbook will be further updated to incorporate the experience gained this year, including lessons from the mid-year venue change and the implementation of the new online registration platform.

Committee Structure and Operations

To make the planning process more efficient, the Committee formalized a smaller operational group led by the Grand Stewards to assist with registration, hotel and vendor coordination, event logistics, and on-site operations. This allows the full Committee to concentrate more effectively on overall planning and oversight.

Committee membership was also expanded to include greater involvement from the Grand Scribe Ezra and the Grand Director of Ceremonies, reflecting the increasing administrative and ceremonial requirements involved in organizing Grand Convocation.

Future Convocations

2027: Following approval by the Grand Executive and the update provided to the Board of General Purposes, the current plan is to return to the Sandman Inn & Suites in Abbotsford for the 2027 Grand Convocation.

2028 and 2029: The Penticton Trade and Convention Centre remains identified for the 2028 Grand Convocation, which is planned to be organized directly by Grand Chapter and the Committee without a host Chapter. Discussions are also underway with the Grand Third Principal Elect regarding the possibility of retaining the same venue for 2029, which could provide additional cost savings and simplify future planning and coordination.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Over the past two years, the Ad Hoc Committee has worked to address the challenges Grand Chapter has faced in securing host Chapters and organizing the annual Grand Convocation. Through this work, the Committee has developed a more structured and continuous approach to planning, including venue selection and negotiation, budgeting, online registration, event coordination, and the development of standardized planning tools.

The experience gained over these two years has demonstrated the value of maintaining continuity in Convocation planning from one year to the next. It allows knowledge and experience to be retained, planning to begin earlier, and responsibilities to be better coordinated rather than starting the process again each year.

Based on this experience, the Committee recommends that the Grand Convocation Committee be established as a Standing Committee of Grand Chapter. This would provide continuity in planning and allow the Executive Committee to more effectively plan and administer future Grand Convocations. In furtherance of this recommendation, a Notice of Motion has been submitted to Grand Chapter proposing that the Grand Convocation Committee be established as a Standing Committee under the Constitution.

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The Committee remains committed to serving the best interests of Grand Chapter and to ensuring that our future Convocations are well organized, financially responsible, and reflective of the dignity and traditions of Royal Arch Masonry.

Fraternally submitted,

REC Hani M. Nino – Grand Haggai, Chairman
MEC John Laing – Grand Zerubbabel
REC Scott Wisdahl – Grand Joshua
REC Richard Trippel – Grand Principal Sojourner
REC Calvin Jones – Grand Scribe Ezra
REC Peter Edwards – Grand Director of Ceremonies
REC Kris Toijonen – Grand Treasurer
VEC Hans Doge – Grand Steward
VEC Bernard Favreau – Grand Steward
VEC Gerald Anderson – Grand Steward
VEC Rick Dawson – Member
REC Rod Holmes – Member

Report on Proposed Membership Software for Grand Chapter – Grand View

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon. This is a report outlining the proposal to purchase and establish software to manage membership for the Grand Chapter.

The Grand Executive did a brief search for appropriate software, and one name came up a number of times, and it was "Grand View" (Grand View Systems -). It is well known by the Grand First as it is used with the jurisdictions, he belongs to in Washinton State. In the Executive's review, this software is about to be used by a number of Canadian Grand Lodges as well as Canadian Grand Chapters.

The Grand Executive and a selection of Chapter Scribes Ezra participated in a demonstration of the software and a question-and-answer period with the company. The result of which is that the Executive feel that our Grand Chapter should move to adopt this system in 2027. The Finance Committee has been given the annual cost estimates (about $3,900 Cdn per year) and has calculated the increase to the per capita that will be needed. This will be brought forward for a vote at this Convocation.

The main purpose of moving to this software was to provide a effective and economical system for managing the membership of the Grand Chapter. It replaces various spreadsheets and other less effective processes. Grand View will also be available to the Chapters and will allow Scribes Ezra to use a single system and not need to maintain their own membership lists. In exploring the software, a number of time savings were found for the Chapters and Grand Chapter.

A number of serious concerns were addressed by the company. First, the data will be stored on cloud servers in Canada. Secondly, they have built a process that allows the Grand Chapter to extract its data in case we move away from Grand View. The third issue was whether it is designed for Chapters in Canada and ongoing support. The company already has other Grand Chapters as clients and is onboarding at least one Grand Chapter in Canada. All maintenance and support needed for the software is included in the annual cost. The fourth issue was how would the conversion work. The company dedicates resources to completing the inputting of data and onboarding of the users and will be able to move data into the system without significant work on the part of the members.

Beyond simply managing membership data across the Grand Chapter (and within each Chapter) there are a number of other features that will assist the membership, especially Scribes and Treasurers.

- **Dues Cards** – Grand View can produce traditional dues cards but also supports virtual dues cards and also has produced customized permanent dues cards
- **Collection of dues** – Grand View is set up to collect dues as well as manage the recording of payments and issuing receipts
- **Reporting simplification** – Grand View integrates the membership data which will make the job of submitting annual reports incredibly fast and easy, and it will also improve the general reporting back to Grand Chapter (replacing many of the forms)
- Newsletters/communications – Grand View allows for Chapters to send out "newsletters" which also allows for sending out summons, minutes and other communications and allows for Grand Chapter to send out information (see below for planned future processes)
- **Data storage** – Grand View provides the ability for Chapters to store their records as well as Grand Chapter to do this; this will prevent the loss of documents if the

Scribes had not had effective storage systems, and allow for better transition between Scribes

- **Convocations** – we believe we should be able to use Grand View in the future to collect registrations and payments for future Grand Convocations and other events

Grand View is continually looking to improve their system. They are just about finished developing an app for smart phones that the members can use for Grand View which will easily allow them to determine how they receive communications and to update their information.

What is the Executive looking for from Grand Chapter? First to endorse the plan to move to a membership software system. Secondly, to approve the concept and empower the Executive to purchase and adopt the software if all further due diligence proves successful. Third, to approve the revised budget and per capita for 2027.

If Grand Chapter provides its approval, then the Executive still have further due diligence work to do:

- Review the contract and making sure it fits our needs
- Conduct interviews with other Canadian jurisdictions who are in the process of implementing Grand View
- Continue to perform user testing on Grand Views testing system including involving a group of Chapter Scribes Ezra

If the Executive has approval and there are no issues raised from the due diligence work, then the plan would be to begin implementation in 2027 which will first involve inputting data and conducting quality reviews of this and then train the primary users (Scribes Ezra) on the software, and finally roll it out to the membership.

BIO FOR GRAND PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER

Biography of REC Eric Duchesne

Companions All

Eric Jean-Pierre Charles Duchesne was born March 8th 1968 in Lyon France. He attended school in Antibes, France, between Nice and Cannes, and lived for the most part in the medieval village of Biot, France. Eric finished his high school year at Stone Mountain High School in Atlanta Georgia, receiving a diploma in Noise relation and Air Conditioning. He decided to return to France and take up employment using his diploma with a small but successful company. Eric was married in France and has a daughter named Manon but when his marriage didn't work out, he decided to further his education, leaving France and arriving in Seattle, WA. where he pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and French Literature.

Being tired of traveling the world he heard that they speak French in Canada and decided to apply for entry to Quebec, within thirty days he landed in Montreal during the terrible winter storm of 1998. In Montreal March 2nd 2002, he married Akiko Omura. Both finding the weather not to their liking they decided to travel west and see a bit of Canada. Arriving in Vancouver and finding both the weather and scenery to their liking they decided to make Vancouver home and have nurtured two beautiful children,21-year-old Daughter Yuka and 17-year-old Son Tyler. Eric was initiated into Freemasonry on October 25th 2002 in Mount Lebanon Lodge No 72.

He became the Master of Heritage Lodge No 63 on May 16th 2016 and served as such for three years. The brethren insisted that his accent was too strong so he had to stay until most could understand him.

Eric became the first principle of Joppa Royal Arch Chapter No 31 in January 2020. He is a Past Thrice Puissant Grand Master and Past Most Wise of the Valley of Fraser Valley for Scottish Rite He is also enrolled in the Cryptic Rite with Zabud Council No 1 and the Most Puissant Master of the Red Cross of Constantine of Scotland.
Eric was the D.D.G.M for District # 13 from 2020 to 2022
Eric was the Grand Director of Ceremonies for the Grand Chapter of BC and Yukon 2022.

R.W.Bro Duchesne also holds a variety of positions with other associations: The Masonic Building Association, Park Building Association, Joppa Royal Arch Society and the Mount Lebanon Society.

One of R.W.Bro Duchesne's hobbies is his love of researching the Histories and Mysteries of Freemasonry and of the other governing bodies he is a member. He has written numerous educational papers which he has presented at the various lodges here in Vancouver, also in his homeland France and on his frequent trips to Japan.

R.W.Bro. Eric Duchesne

Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon
Report of the Ad Hoc Protocol Review Committee
2025 - 2026
No Report Received

2026 GRAND CHAPTER ADVANCE PROCEEDINGS

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...the Grand Third Principal
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