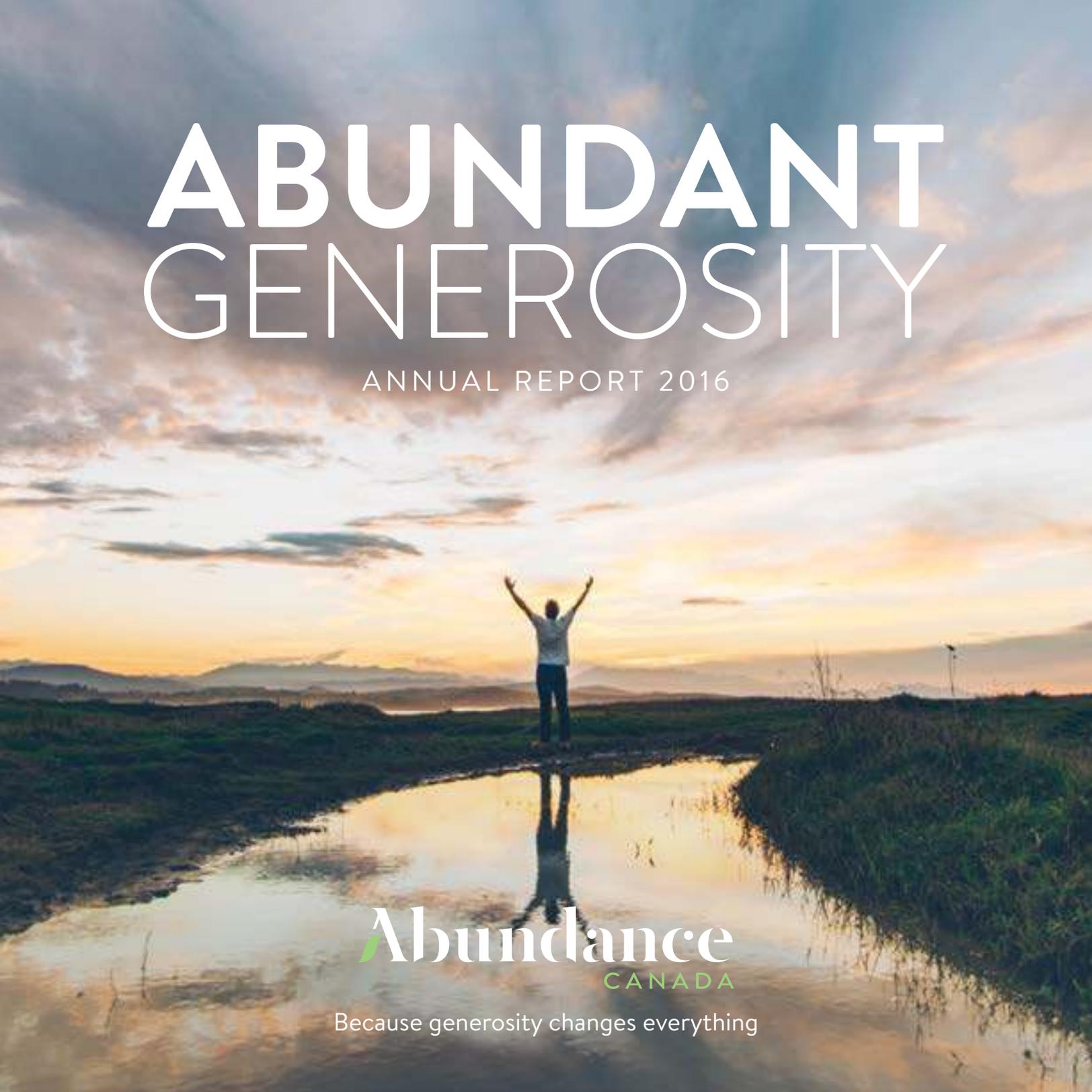


# ABUNDANT GENEROSITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Abundance  
CANADA

Because generosity changes everything



MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

# The Adventure of Abundant Living

Living in abundance sounds like an appealing experience. In the New Testament, it was Jesus who promised His followers the adventure of not just life but “life more abundantly!”

When people have been changed by the model of Jesus, they begin to live abundantly. Interestingly, abundant life is not about what we have. It is not about what we get. It is not about what we claim. It is about a counter-cultural, selfless style of living that takes place when a person has been impacted by the model of Jesus. At the end of the day, it seems an abundant life is defined not by how much we have but by how much we give away to the benefit of others.

The true test of acknowledging how much you have is to share. Do you feel like you are not making enough money? Give some away. Not enough love? Give some away. Not enough appreciation

or validation? Give it away. Suddenly something does not feel scarce when you are giving it away. The act of giving causes us to see how fortunate we are.

Abundance Canada represents well the passion, history and vision of our founders. This organization exists to help abundance flourish—in our hearts, across our nation and through our collective influence in the world. Abundance Canada strives to nourish and grow abundant living...and abundant giving.

As a Board of Directors, we want Abundance Canada to help you grow in the adventure of the abundant life. We want to impact our nation and our world with the power of generosity and the life change that it brings. We trust that this annual report will help capture your interest and enthusiasm in joining us!



**Randy Steinwand**  
Board Chair



## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Generosity Changes Everything

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul tells us there are many gifts but the same spirit, and these gifts are from God. When we think of gifts from God, our thoughts may go to the talents we possess. We may also think of love in its many forms or the gifts of hope and compassion. Paul reminds us that each of these gifts is to be shared for the benefit of others.

Likewise, money is also a gift from God. When placed in the hands of a compassionate, thoughtful, and faithful person—a steward—it is a gift with far-reaching impact. In third world countries, which we may never visit, our monetary support allows workers to improve their lives. It can speak languages we cannot speak and cross cultural barriers that we might otherwise never learn to cross. Money, in the hands of a generous steward, can touch lives everywhere. Generosity can further the will of God, “on earth as it is in heaven.”

It is the idea that our work can further God’s Kingdom that drives Abundance Canada forward and fuels our passion. We are honoured to work with so many generous, passionate and selfless people,

who share their gifts of compassion, generosity and money. By doing so, they make a difference in their churches, their communities and around the world. Indeed, we celebrate generosity because at Abundance Canada we know that *generosity changes everything*.

We are in the early stages of a new identity at Abundance Canada.

Our name and our branding have changed, but what has not changed and remains consistent is our reason for doing our work and the incredible stories of abundant generosity. I invite you to take a few minutes and flip through this report. It is a snapshot of the amazing things God is doing through lives lived in faith and expressed through giving.

You will find a breakdown of the charitable distributions we made on behalf of clients on page 9 and our financial report on pages 18 and 19.

May you be inspired, and may you be bitten by the bug that is abundant generosity.



**Darren Pries-Klassen**  
Executive Director

## What's in a Name?

In October 2016, we changed our name from Mennonite Foundation of Canada to Abundance Canada. For more than 40 years, Abundance Canada has provided charitable gift planning services to generous people across Canada. We are founded on four principles of biblical stewardship:

1. God is generous
2. God owns, we manage
3. God asks for our whole selves, and
4. God invites us to share

Our commitment to these principles remains unchanged.

The word *abundance* means to have a large quantity. In our context, abundance means we have a large quantity of God's goodness. It's not based on our income levels, the size of our homes, or other societal metrics but on the fact that God has blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others. The feeling of having an abundance begins with gratitude for all that we have. This "attitude of gratitude" is more than a catchy bumper sticker. On the contrary, it is a way of life that is lived out by many of our clients. They truly believe that God has been and will continue to be generous, and they eagerly accept God's

invitation to share with others. We like to say it this way: "It's not the size of your wallet—it's the depth of your heart."

Changing our name was a challenging decision that was considered prayerfully and diligently. We conducted research and had many conversations with both clients and potential clients. We believe this new name opens doors for us, doors that will lead to the expansion of our mission to provide charitable gift planning services to anyone who believes in God's abundance and accepts His invitation to share.

Our staff, our board and our clients are passionate about living and giving generously. They truly believe in the biblical principles of stewardship. They have a faith-driven desire to make a difference in the world, and our new name proclaims this belief.

We are grateful to our many clients for their support and patience as we have transitioned to our new name. To those of you who might be curious and need a nudge, we invite you to experience the overwhelming joy that comes when you share your abundance with your favourite charities—*because generosity changes everything.*

*We envision a world where everyone lives generously.*



# What We Do

## SIMPLIFIED GIVING



Simplify your giving with one donation receipt, then make multiple distributions. Distribute your gift now or in the future. Give anonymously if you choose.

## GIFTS IN A WILL



Make it easy for your executor with one donation receipt. Update your charity distribution list at Abundance Canada without changing your will. Distribute over time if desired.

## DONATIONS OF STOCKS, BONDS & MUTUAL FUNDS



Minimize taxes and benefit your favourite charities by donating publicly traded securities, such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds.

## FAMILY FOUNDATIONS



Abundance Canada is capable of handling all the tasks involved in running a family foundation.

## ADVISORY SERVICES



Abundance Canada offers a range of tools and services to help financial planners, lawyers and accountants serve their clients better.

## STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES

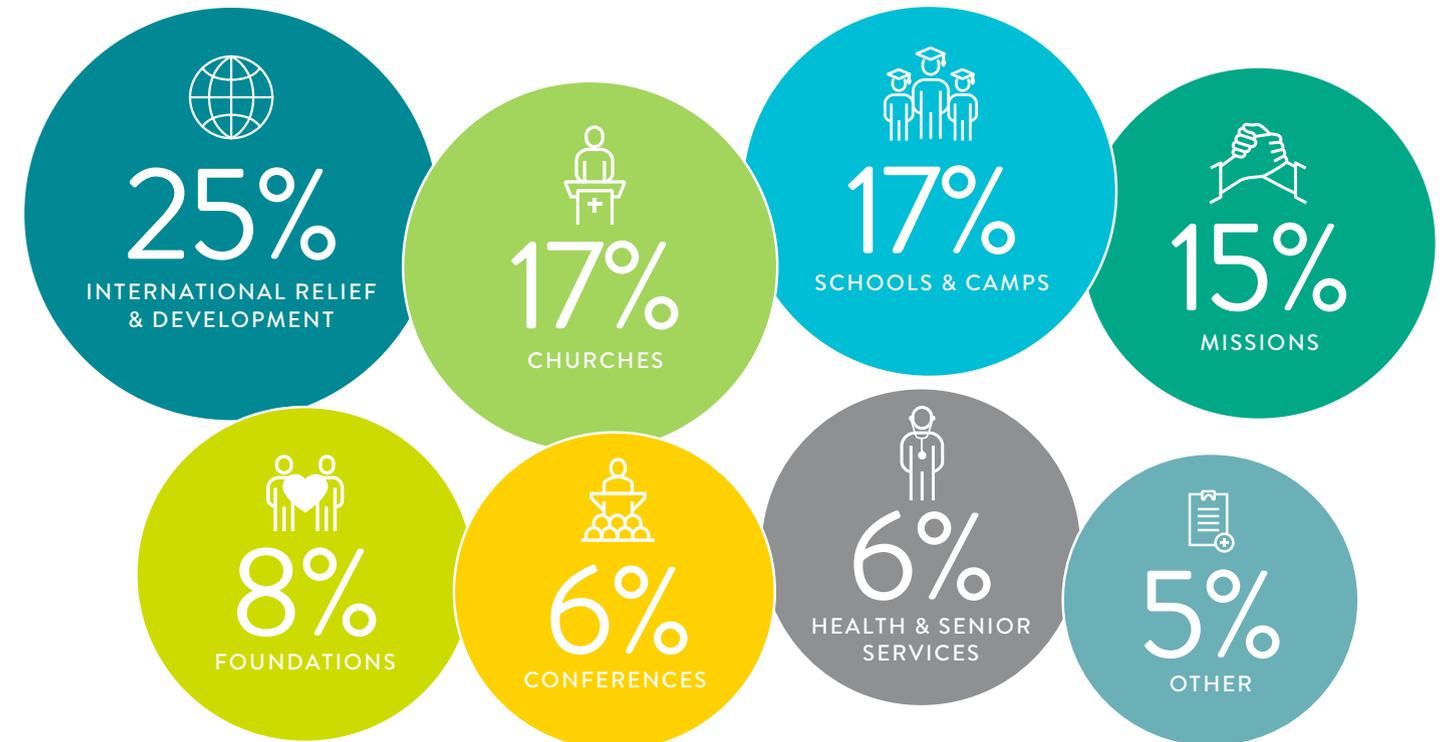


Abundance Canada provides resources to educate individuals, churches and charities on our understanding of stewardship.

Contact a Gift Planning Consultant for a free, personalized consultation.

# 2016 Charity Distribution

Our clients used Abundance Canada's services to distribute \$15.49 million to more than 960 charities.

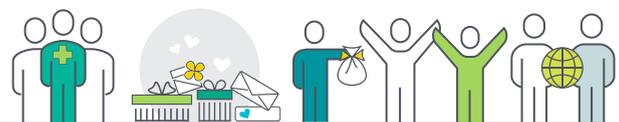


“What a tremendous service Abundance Canada has been to help us simplify and organize our charitable giving. We just wish we had discovered them a decade ago!

–Stephen & Carole Ardell, Abundance Canada clients from British Columbia

# 2016 Highlights

968 Charities supported by clients using Abundance Canada services



173

Presentations to groups, churches and charities



\$19.14M of receipted total donations

\$15.49M distributed to Canadian charities



\$11.56M donations of publicly traded securities

96% of clients said they like that we're 100% donor-advised



586 Will & estate planning consultations



Accountability Certification from CCCC

## How You Help Us

**God is generous and He invites us to share!** We envision a world where everyone lives generously. We anticipate the day when Christians fully embrace the joy of giving. Imagine the impact if all Christians gave to their full potential!

Over the past 10 years, our clients have trusted Abundance Canada to designate more than \$125 million to their favourite charities. In 2016, on behalf of our clients, we distributed \$15.49 million to more than 960 charities.

Many of our services are offered to our clients at no charge. Our stewardship ministry is supported from three sources:

- 1 A portion of the annual earnings of investments under management.
- 2 A small donation of the proceeds of sales from gifts of securities.
- 3 Donations made directly to our ministry by clients and supporters of Abundance Canada.

In 2016, \$472,638 was generously donated to Abundance Canada by clients and supporters. These generous gifts were designated as follows:

### The Spirit of Generosity Fund

This fund recognizes young people who are making a difference in their world by being generous. Selected students receive an award of \$700, 50% of which is designated to a charity of their choice.

### The Abundance Fund

This fund directly supports the ministry of Abundance Canada by providing funding for continued delivery of stewardship resources and services to our clients.

**To learn how you can greatly impact your favourite charities, visit our website at [abundance.ca](http://abundance.ca) or call toll-free 1.800.772.3257.**



DWIGHT JOHNSON

## An Outspoken Cheerleader

Dwight Johnson has become an enthusiastic cheerleader for Abundance Canada. Just ask him. “I believe in what [Abundance Canada] is doing, and I’m going to encourage our churches to work with you.”

Dwight has an important job with an even more interesting title. He is the Stewardship Catalyst for the Evangelical Free Church of Canada. With so many worthy charities competing for donation dollars, his goal is to make sure people know that the denomination needs their support as well. He also works to get people within the denomination excited about what they can do together for the Kingdom of God.

According to Dwight, working with Abundance Canada is a good fit. “Rather than reinventing the wheel, why not work with an organization that is already well-established, has a great reputation and a strong financial base?” He has been impressed with the professional knowledge of the Abundance Canada gift planning consultants he’s seen work with individuals and lead presentations in churches. “We just feel like Abundance Canada fits right into the Free Church.”

Dwight believes the Evangelical Free Church of Canada is on the right track. He is very positive about the leadership and the vision for the denomination. Since funding is essential for continued growth, he often challenges others with the question, “Have you made a provision in your will for the ministries and charities that you’re supporting while you’re alive?”

Dwight and his wife have first-hand, personal experience with Abundance Canada. Several years ago, the Johnsons met with Arnie Friesen, a former Abundance Canada Gift Planning Consultant, to update their wills. They appreciated Arnie’s thoughtfulness and professionalism during the consultation. Dwight says it was a very positive experience—an experience he encourages for others.

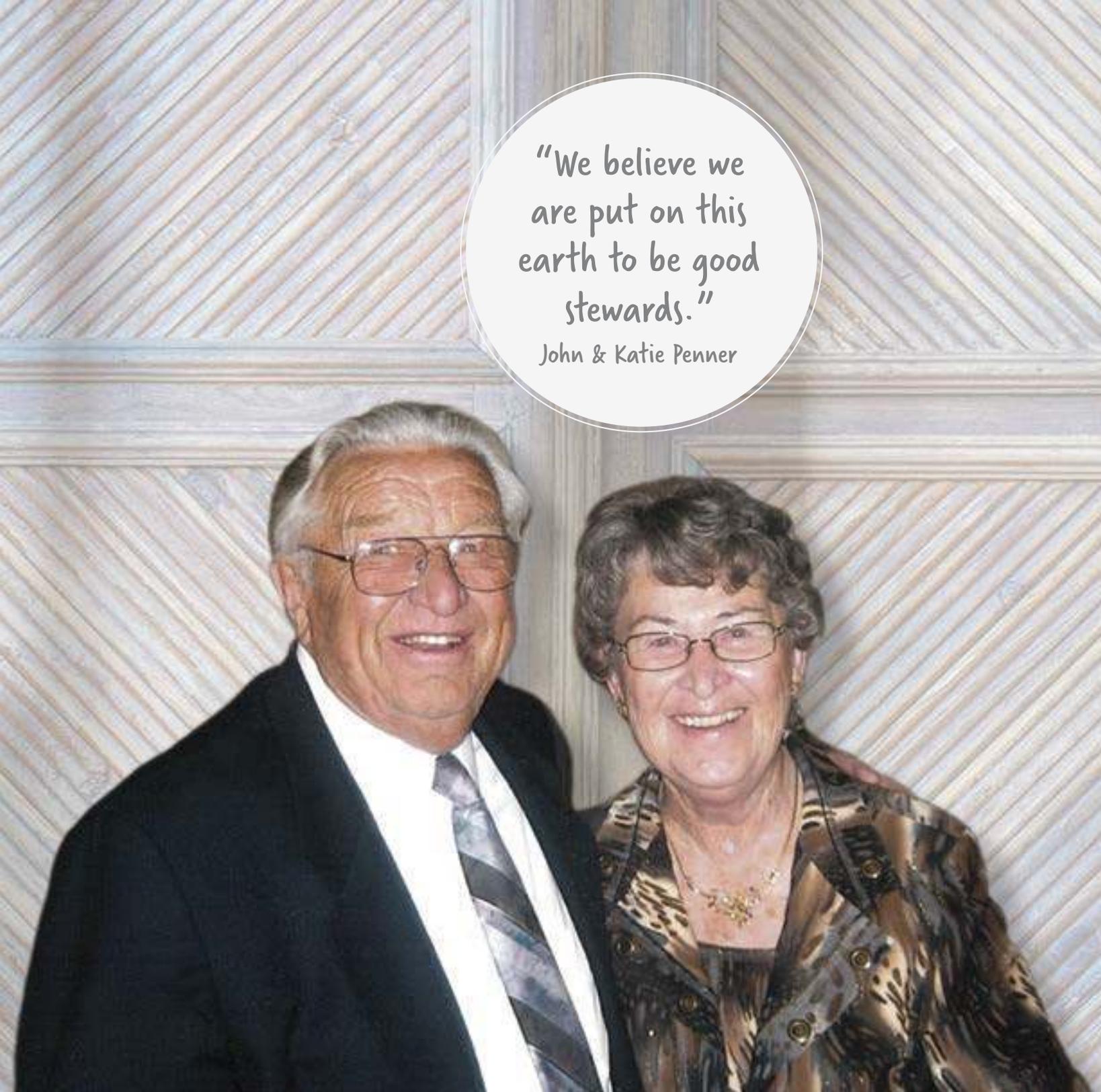
Dwight believes more and more families should choose to work with Abundance Canada to make a difference in the world.

“I have great optimism for the future. I’m hoping to develop a stronger relationship going forward between our denomination and Abundance Canada.”



*“We just feel like Abundance Canada fits right into the Free Church.”*

*Dwight Johnson*



*"We believe we  
are put on this  
earth to be good  
stewards."*

*John & Katie Penner*

JOHN AND KATIE PENNER

## Life-Long Donors

John and Katie Penner have been involved with Abundance Canada from the very beginning. Before Mennonite Foundation of Canada was founded in 1971, John was meeting with others to determine how to set up the organization. According to John, those early years were pretty lean. "We were trying to get to as far as a million dollars. We thought we would never get to that but we did. We got way more. Now it's close to \$200 million [assets under management]."

Together, John and Katie have been faithful stewards since they were married in 1953. They have primarily supported Mennonite organizations because that aligns with their passion. Mennonite Central Committee in Alberta and the national office, Canadian Mennonite University, their local and national Mennonite Church, church camps and Mennonite World Conference are all grateful to the Penners for years of support.

Their motivation for giving is deeply rooted in their faith. "We believe we are put on this earth to be good stewards. It's not ours, but if the

Lord gives us these things, He expects that we are doing good things." Katie adds that it's also a reflection of how they were raised, "We didn't know how to live an expensive life."

"Years ago, Katie and I made an agreement. We talked and decided together that we want to give while we are alive," John said. "We give to about fifteen different charities because we want to support them."

At age 88, these faithful stewards are looking to the future. Using the services of Abundance Canada, they have set up the Penner Family Foundation Fund and have been steadily building up the balance in their fund. Soon, they'll begin distributing to the charities they've already been supporting for many years. The Penners have invited family members to be involved by contributing to the fund and deciding which charities to support.

John and Katie Penner are life-long donors who are truly experiencing faithful, joyful giving.

# Abundance Canada Staff

## MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Darren Pries-Klassen**  
Executive Director



**Rick Braun-Janzen**  
Director of Finance



**Pamela Miles**  
Director of Gift Planning



**Barbara Chambers**  
Director of Communications

## Board of Directors

**Abe Bergen (Secretary)**, President, Kleefeld Developments

**Stan Burkholder**, Industry Trainer, Western Retail Lumber Association

**Abe Fehr (Treasurer)**, President, Uni-Fab

**Jacob Friesen**, Pastor, Morrow Gospel Church

**Clayton Loewen**, Lawyer, Integra Law

**Allister Penner (Vice Chair)**, CPA, CA, MNP LLP

**Shannon Peters**, HR Solutions Manager, Canadian Tire Financial Services

**Allan Reesor-McDowell**, Manager of Donor Engagement, MCC Ontario

**Anita Retzlaff**, Pastor, retired

**Randy Steinwand (Chair)**, President, Urban Innovations

**Kaylie Tiessen**, Researcher, Unifor

# Abundance Canada Staff

## ALBERTA



**Kevin Davidson**  
Gift Planning  
Consultant



**Peter Dryden**  
Gift Planning  
Consultant



**Cathy Dyck**  
Administrative  
Assistant

## BRITISH COLUMBIA



**Brad Friesen**  
Gift Planning  
Consultant



**Irm Nickel**  
Administrative  
Assistant

## MANITOBA AND SASKATCHEWAN



**Rebecca  
Braun-Huynh**  
Accounting Assistant



**Elisabeth Dowler**  
Accountant



**Harold Penner**  
Gift Planning  
Consultant



**Gina Turnbull**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Shelly Wilcoxson**  
Administrative  
Coordinator

## ONTARIO AND EASTERN PROVINCES



**Gayle Fangrad**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Marlow Gingerich**  
Gift Planning  
Consultant



**Sherri Grosz**  
Gift Planning  
Consultant



**Wendy Helgerman**  
Communications  
Specialist



**Julia Machacek**  
Administrative  
Assistant

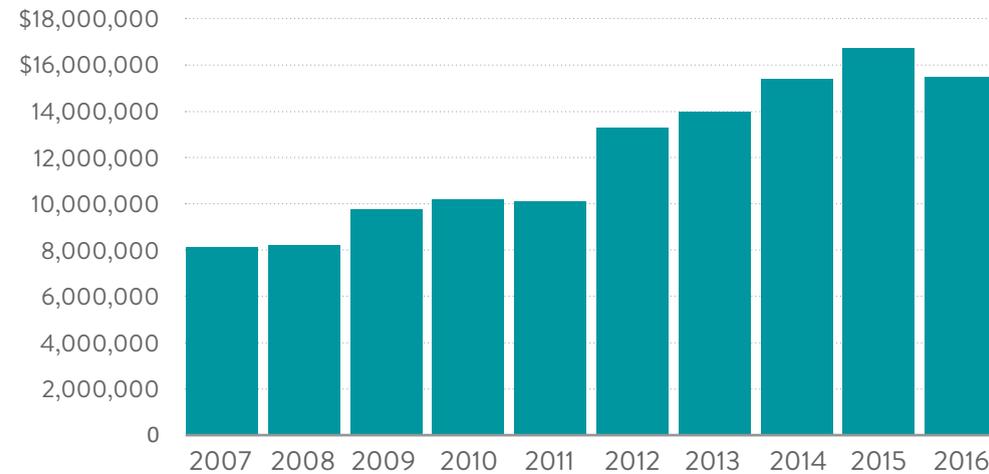


**Denise Mazik**  
Office  
Administrator

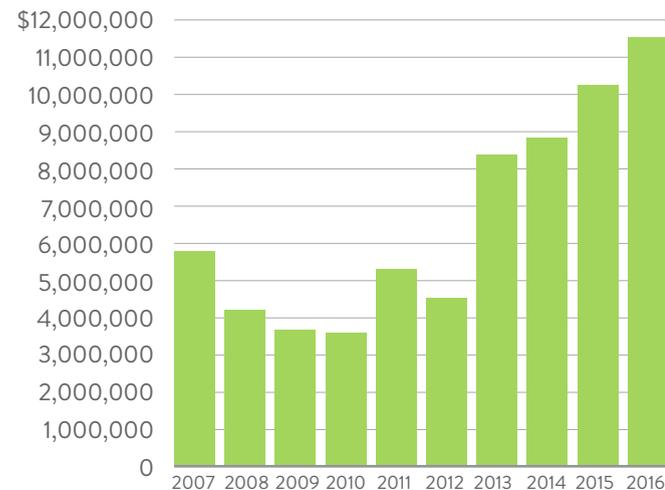
# 2016 Financials

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

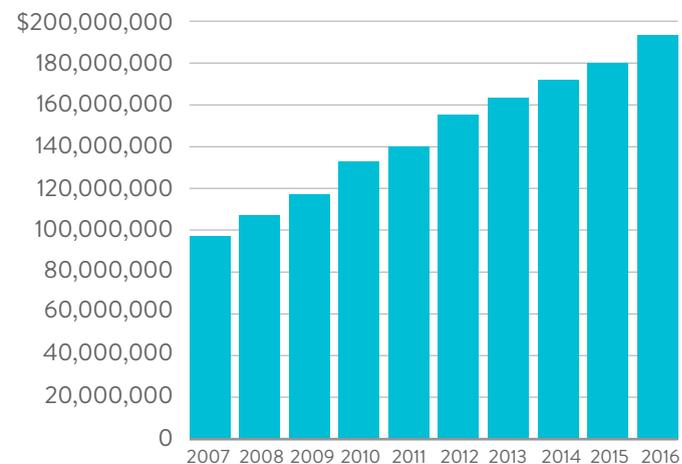
## CHARITY DISTRIBUTION



## SECURITIES DONATED



## ASSETS MANAGED



## BALANCE SHEET

### Assets

Investments	191,996,724
Investment income receivable	718,825
Capital assets	890,239
Other assets	161,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>193,767,688</b>

### Liabilities

Accounts payable	145,325
Earnings payable	1,616,236

### Capital held for investment

Managed funds	93,686,576
Endowment funds	36,697,301
Non-endowed gifted funds	55,084,379
Invested in capital assets	890,239
Internally restricted funds	5,647,632

**Total** **193,767,688**

## STATEMENT OF OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Investment income	8,780,399
Other income	404,090
<b>Total income</b>	<b>9,184,489</b>

Earnings paid on funds (5,767,321)

Operating expenses (3,507,481)

Operating deficit for the year (90,313)

Unrealized losses in fixed income portfolio (2,058,750)

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets (2,149,063)

**Distributions to charity in 2016** **15,492,086**



The ability to direct donors with gifts of securities to Abundance Canada may be convenient, but it is also important to know they will be treated in a respectful manner. That's key since Abundance is acting on behalf of MennoHomes. How they treat donors reflects on us as a charity.

—Dan Driedger, MennoHomes

**“... Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” 1 Chronicles 29:14**

Thank you God for Your grace and blessing toward this ministry.

Thank you to all our clients who use the services of Abundance Canada. We are honoured to assist you in being more generous.

Thank you to the Abundance Canada Board and staff for your faithful service in making generosity possible to our clients, churches, organizations and professionals.



Because generosity changes everything

1.800.772.3257 | [abundance.ca](https://abundance.ca)

Charitable number: 12925-3308-RR0001