**BCGREA Branch 900 Meeting Minutes**
**November 18, 2026 – Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Penticton**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 with Maurice Davidson in the chair, 18 members and guests present.

Maurice introduced the guest speaker, Janet Peake, the President of the Summerland Food Bank.

The Summerland Food Bank has been in existence for about 40 years. It's home for many years was the in the United Church, and staffed totally by volunteers. Recently it has temporarily moved to the Summerland Alliance Church—with hopes of moving into their new facility in May, 2027. (Across from the Town Hall.)

This non-profit organization that started out very small has grown into an organization that has 4 paid employees (as well as a couple extras, based on grants, for summer work.)

The Center has become a Resource Coordination Center with offices for 19 services being offered—eliminating the need for residents to travel to a larger community to appointments. As well, their facility provides a shower as well as a washer and dryer that clients can take advantage of.

During summer/fall months, local gardeners as well as the Summerland Research Center donate extra produce to be distributed. The Food Bank rents some plots in the Alliance Church Community Garden to use for growing extra vegetables. Grocery stores in the area donate excess food as well.

A typical day may begin with 6-8 appointments for food hampers, but by the end of the day, drop-in requests may double that amount.

The Penny Lane Backpack program runs throughout the school year. Currently 25-50 backpacks each week are provided to students in the middle and high school who face food insecurity. As well, the food bank provides items for Food Cupboards in the schools for students.

Currently the Summerland Food Bank services approximately 199 households (300 adults and 104 children.) This year they are providing supports for an extra 35 households from the Bald Ridge Wildfire—families that are still displaced.

In December, the Food Bank organizes a "Toy Store" for clients. Parents can "shop" for that special Christmas gift for their children, from the selection of donated items. (Who knows better what their child would like to have Christmas morning than their parent!)

For such a small community, the Summerland Food Bank provides much more than food for vulnerable people in their community. For more information on this incredible organization check out: https://summerlandfoodbank.org

At the end of the presentation, Maurice presented Janet with a cheque for the Food Bank from Branch 900—the memorial gift from 2025. (Food Banks have a bigger buying power, so monetary donations go further.)

After a quick break for coffee and treats, ***the business portion*** of the meeting took place:

Maurice summarized details of the October 2026 meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** No report for this meeting.

**Membership Report**: currently 268 members.

**Old Business:**
-At the November Executive meeting, Beth McGifford volunteered to continue as Treasurer, and also do the Membership Director job. Thanks, Beth, for volunteering to maintain Branch 900's membership lists.

-Maurice attended the Remembrance Day Service in Penticton and placed a wreath on behalf of Branch 900.

-We are still looking for someone to coordinate the monthly speakers that we have. If you are interested, please contact Maurice or Darcy.

**New Business:**
*--Election of officers* for Branch 900, conducted by Larry Martin

- Elected by acclimation:
  - Co-Presidents: Maurice Davidson and Darcy McGifford
  - 1st Vice President: Paul Perkins
  - 2nd Vice President: Kip Demmings

***--Branch 900 Annual Christmas Luncheon:***
Date: Wed. December 2, 2026 (11:00-3:00. Lunch served at noon.)
Venue: Penticton Golf and Country Club
Cost: $40.00/ticket (Last day to purchase ticket: Thursday, November 26th. (Next week.)
**Contact Maurice at (250) 493-1538.**

Darcy's Deals: bring items the day of the luncheon (Call Darcy if you need more Info.)
Christmas Basket: tickets will be on sale at the luncheon (Beth in charge.)

**Upcoming Events:**
Wed. January 20, 2027: Regular Branch meeting. Speaker will be a representative from the Okanagan Gleaners Society. (a non-profit in Oliver that rescues surplus produce to make dehydrated soup mixes and dried fruit snacks for hungry communities worldwide.)

Sharon Hudson moved that the meeting be adjourned.

***For those unable to join us at the Christmas Luncheon, have a very Merry Christmas, stay safe, and see you in 2027!***




# BCGREA BRANCH 900 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MEETING October 21, 2026

VALID FROM October 17, 2026 to November 15, 2026

## Current Membership

| Members | Shared Couple | Total |
|---|---|---|
| **243** (244) | **25** | **268** (270) |
| Life 20+ Years | Honorary | Associate |
| **53** | **7** | **0** |

## Membership Changes

| New | Resigned | Deceased | Transferred[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** |

[1]Transferred – during the previous calendar month(s)

## Membership Communities (not updated for this report)

| Osoyoos | Oliver | Okanagan Falls | Kaleden |
|---|---|---|---|
| **17** | **21** | **8** | **10** |
| Penticton | Naramata | Summerland | Keremeos |
| **129** | **4** | **40** | **19** |
| Princeton | Peachland | Other BC | Outside BC |
| **1** | **3** | **9** | **1** |

## Details

| Description | Total | Opened① | Delivered② | Blocked | Bounce |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minutes (Apr 2026) **BR900Oct2026Minutes** | 193 | 139 \| 72% | 49 | 0 | 5 \| 2.6% |
| Notice **BR900Nov2026Notice** | 192 | 133 \| 69% | 53 | 0 | 1 \| 0.5% |
| Benchmarks | | 46% | | | 0.5% |

| | |
|---|---|
| Members without email addresses | **25** |
| Invalid Emails (list of members attached) | **1** |

## New Members

## Members Deceased

## Members that may have invalid emails [based on last campaign bounce]

| ToName | ToEmail | Campaign | Reason |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Audrey Briere** | **111ahbriere@icloud.com** | **BR900Nov2026Notice** | **Bounced Address** |

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① Opened **-** Clicking the email: The core action is the recipient opening and viewing the email.

② Delivered - The receiving server has acknowledged and accepted the email. At this stage, the email is in the recipient's server's queue to be placed in their inbox or spam folder.