



## Know someone who's tired of banks that don't align with their Christian values?

Ask them to call us or visit our website and learn how we apply biblical principles to financial services.

For every new member, we'll make a donation to a community partner.\*



\*Limited time offer. Some conditions apply.

## Community Builder Membership Drive

We're excited to partner with Emmanuel Home, Mission Thrift Store and Rehoboth Christian Ministries to raise awareness of our organizations and encourage more people to become members of Christian Credit Union.

We believe there is a need for a biblical approach to financial services and we want to encourage and support members in applying biblical stewardship principles to their day-to-day finances. Members also get peace of mind knowing that their membership makes a difference in God's kingdom.

If you know someone who is tired of banks that don't align with their Christian values, ask them call us or visit our website. For every new member, we'll make a donation to one of the three community partners. More information about our community partners can also be found on our website.

**Edmonton:** 780.426.7165

**Lethbridge:** 403.328.0711

[www.christiancu.ca](http://www.christiancu.ca)

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John Veldkamp, CEO

## CEO Message

By the time you receive this newsletter, the relaxing summer days that give most of us a break from our regular routines are a distant memory. Once September starts, it does not take long for my family to get busy with school, sports, band, work and church activities. My wife and I are marveling at how our 5 boys are growing into young men as they transition from high school to finding God's calling for them in this world. Even though we are excited for them, at times we can't help longing for the days when our boys were younger and life was simpler. Despite our fears, we want to see them grow and spread their wings because it would not be good if our boys did not develop their God-given talents and experience the changes that come along with that.

I have written before how change is a constant in the life of a Christian as we prepare ourselves for the day of Jesus' return. Just like it is natural for our boys to grow and change, it is normal for our Credit Union to experience change as well. During the past year or so, Michelle Manning, Anna Barber, Karen von Klitzing and Janeanne Duker have all been blessed with a new baby. Before the end of 2019 Justine Vanderveen and Lysa Van Herk will welcome new babies as well. As a result of these maternity leaves and other departures, there are a lot of new faces at the Credit Union – you can read about them on the next page. We pray that God will bless both these young families and the new employees that God has brought to us. Exciting times!

Technology is another area where significant changes are happening in the banking industry. Recently our members have experienced some relatively minor changes to improve the performance or security of our technology. There are even bigger changes on the way: the entire banking system is modernizing to provide real-time payments in 2021 (no more waiting for days for a wire transfer!). We are thankful for our partners in the Credit Union system who are helping us navigate through this change. In addition, our online banking platform will no longer be supported after 2021. In anticipation of this we are planning to change to a new and improved online banking platform in 2020. Although this change will have an impact on our members, the good news is that this new platform will make it possible to add better features for organization members and online account opening.

Now God does not expect that we merely react to change. We are called to make plans while we trust in God's providence. At the Credit Union our planning is led by the Board, particularly during a strategic planning day with Management each May. At our meeting this year the Board set three strategic objectives for the Credit Union:

1. Implement a sustainable corporate culture that applies Christian values to financial services.
2. Grow our active adult membership by 15% by October 2021.
3. Modernize our technology to improve member service and risk management.

Management takes the direction from the Board and asks what is the most important for our Credit Union to focus on, right now. Since we are already making significant progress in making biblical stewardship an integral part of our culture, and since several technology changes are already in progress, we decided that we need to focus on adding 500 active adult members over the next year. As awareness of our Credit Union grows, we are already seeing a significant

number of new membership but adding 500 in a year will be a challenge.

As you can see from the front page, we are planning to start working on this goal with a membership campaign. The exciting part of this campaign is that we are partnering with three growing organizations: Rehoboth Christian Ministries (supporting people with disabilities), Mission Thrift Stores (supporting people with affordable products and generating profits for the mission work of the Bible League around the world) and Emmanuel Home (providing Christian senior residences to people in Edmonton and area). Stay tuned for some special events at these partners and be sure to check them out. We are hoping that this campaign will be the start of a deeper partnership with these organizations where we help each other build up and support people in the Christian community. As it says in 1 Thessalonians 5:11: *"Therefore encourage and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."*

Encouragement and building each other up will be so important as we work through the many changes that are happening at our Credit Union. Just like my wife and I as we see our boys grow and change and experience new things, we need to pray for God's strength, guidance and blessing on our plans for our Credit Union and then hold these plans loosely in case God decides to take us in a different direction. Soli Deo Gloria!





## Staff Notables



Welcome to **Pete Peters**, our new Director, Member Experience. Pete has many years of experience in the financial services industry, most recently as a Branch Manager. He will be working closely with the leadership, personal banking, and business banking teams.

### Lethbridge



Welcome to **Amber Tabian**, Personal Banking Advisor. Amber has previous experience in various roles at another Credit Union.

**Leanna Vandenakker** is our new part-time Member Service Representative. Leanna has previous experience in the agriculture industry and recently completed the Administrative Office Professional Certificate at the Lethbridge College. Welcome!

Farewell to **Wanda Konynenbelt** who has decided to pursue other interests. Thank you for your service and may God bless you in your future endeavours!

### Edmonton

**Anna Pucci-Theberge** is our new Member Service Supervisor. Anna has

held various roles in the financial services industry and we are excited to have her join our team.

Welcome to **Isaac Egyir** and **Marlon Gosine**, Personal Banking Advisors, who both have several years of banking experience and are excited to serve our members!

Farewell to **Jeanette Vooys**, Member Service Representative, who retired in July. Jeanette helped members with their day-to-day banking needs and greeted everyone with a warm welcome. Thank you for your service over the past 12 years!

### Anniversaries



Congratulations to **Rob Drost**, Financial Advisor, who celebrated his 5-year anniversary in July. Rob builds a personal relationship with our members and encourages them to plan for the future using biblical principles.



**Phil Geusebroek**, Marketing Director, celebrated 10 years of service in August. Phil is responsible for managing our brand, social media communications, and promoting the Credit Union in the Christian community.

## God Uses Ebenezer House to Mobilize Prayer



The vision for Ebenezer House was born when Martin and Marlene Boardman were driving from Brooks to Drumheller, AB and stopped to look at a property for sale with a red and white chapel. They imagined a place where people could pray together, encourage each other, and be led by the Holy Spirit.

It took two years and three attempts to purchase the property and during that time the Boardmans' faith was stretched. It took time to sell their current property, and they met roadblocks with other financial institutions who slowed down the process and didn't understand their unique needs.

Christian Credit Union took the opportunity to be part of something that God was building, simplified the approval process, and provided financing in 48 hours. Recently, many prayers were answered by our heavenly Father when the vision for Ebenezer House became a reality.

*Martin Boardman is Prayer Mobilizer for Dunamis Fellowship Canada, working with Presbyterian Reformed Ministries International. For more information, visit <https://www.dunamisfellowshipcanada.org/>*



# Shred Fest

## Member Appreciation Event

Thank you to everyone who joined us for free paper shredding, some great food, and fun for the family! We hope you had a great time and look forward to seeing you next year!





# New School **youth** BANKING PROGRAM

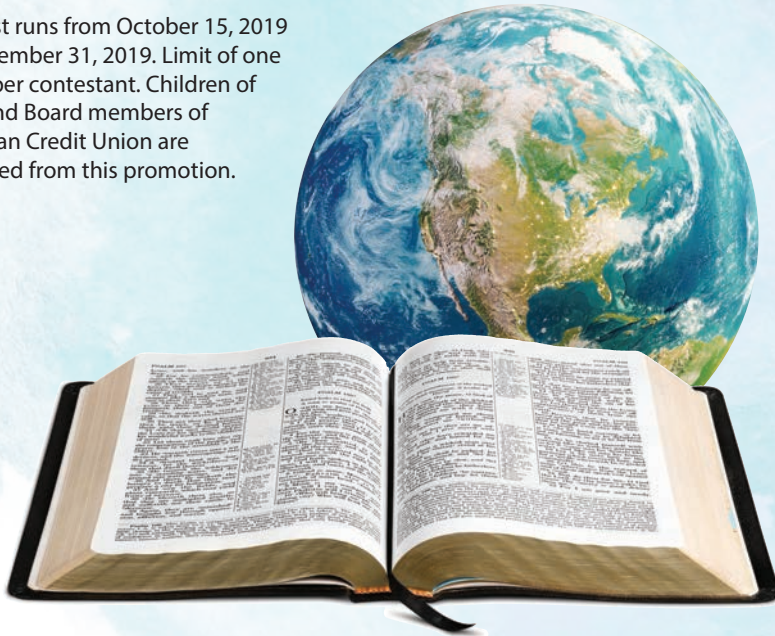
## Trivia Contest

Headstart (Grades 7 - 12)

**Do you want to learn more of what God has to say about money and possessions?**

Visit our website and watch the video from the Ron Blue Institute about Money, Contentment and the Stewardship Journey. Complete the quiz and you'll be entered to win a \$100 term deposit!

Contest runs from October 15, 2019 to December 31, 2019. Limit of one entry per contestant. Children of staff and Board members of Christian Credit Union are excluded from this promotion.



## School Bonuses

Below are the 2018/19 School Bonus results. Youth who meet their monthly savings goal receive a bonus which is then matched by Christian Credit Union and donated to the school. \$5 is also donated to the school for every new account opened.

### Edmonton and Area

Covenant Canadian Reformed School	\$1,372.00
Edmonton Christian High School	\$714.00
Edmonton Christian Northeast School	\$303.50
Edmonton Christian West School	\$318.00
Parkland Immanuel Christian School	\$1,248.00

### Calgary

Calgary Christian School	\$340.00
Trinity Christian School	\$199.50
Tyndale Christian School	\$370.50

### Lethbridge and Area

Calvin Christian School	\$2,559.00
Coaldale Christian School	\$947.50
Immanuel Christian School	\$1,224.50
Providence Christian School	\$622.50

### Grand Total

**\$10,219.00**



## Collabria Fall Spend Campaign

From groceries to back-to-school supplies, everyday fall purchases<sup>1</sup> could get you 100,000 reward points. Simply spend a minimum of \$1,000 on your Collabria® credit card between September 1 and October 31, 2019, and you'll automatically be entered to win\* 1 of 10 Grand prizes of 100,000 reward points<sup>2</sup>, plus a Secondary prize of 10,000 reward points<sup>3</sup> in the Fall Contest. It's easy to fall for the season!

For contest terms and conditions, visit [www.christiancu.ca](http://www.christiancu.ca)  
**If you haven't signed up for a new Christian Credit Union Mastercard\* or Visa\*, call us or visit our website today!**

# 2019 Scholarship Winners!

Students at participating schools are eligible to receive a \$1,000 scholarship when they write an essay explaining how Biblical Stewardship applies to their life. They should also highlight accomplishments, volunteerism, life and career goals.

## Nadia Vink

Calgary Christian School



The idea of stewardship has been part of the world since the very beginning. After God created Adam and Eve, He entrusted the entirety of His creation to them, with instructions to rule over it but also to tend to it and care for it. This concept of stewardship carries through to everything we do throughout our lives as Christians if we believe that everything ultimately belongs to God.

Since Nadia was young, her parents taught her to love creation and to enjoy it through outdoor pursuits. They taught her to visually appreciate the world around her, taking care not to destroy it and this was her first introduction to stewardship.

Nadia has been serving her community as a lifeguard, swim instructor and a Sunday School teacher. She also volunteers at Carewest long term care center. Her career goals include completing a degree in Education and Biology to become a high school teacher.

## Julia Vandenberg

Calvin Christian School



It is not enough to be a positive moral example, we have to show regard for our fellow man. We must be cautious not to spend every penny

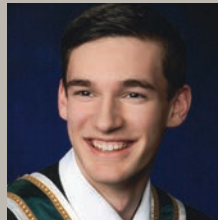
on our pleasure, we also have to give to the poor. Today, it takes a lot of will power to purchase only the necessities because of advertising. Responsible management of money gives the joy of confidence and contentment.

Julia has used the talents that God gave her by giving back to her community. She helped with various fundraising events for Calvin Christian School. She also gives back by volunteering at a thrift store and the Lethbridge soup kitchen.

Julia planned to go on a mission trip to Haiti this summer. Her career goals include getting into the Pre-Education Program of Mathematics, then the Education program at the University of Lethbridge. She hopes to become a teacher at Calvin Christian School in the future.

## Christian Slomp

Coaldale Christian School



God created everything. All that we have – our talents, our abilities, and even our faith is a gift from him. Stewardship is

showing thankfulness for these gifts by using them for God's glory. We glorify God by serving others, building up his church, and spreading his gospel. In scripture, God emphasizes the importance of helping those in need as an aspect of stewardship.

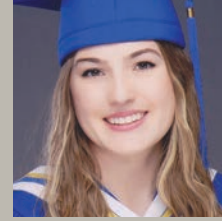
Christian has used his gifts by volunteering at his local library in a kids' reading program for several summers. He was also the captain of Coaldale's basketball team and spent a lot of time with the younger kids, helping them hone their techniques.

Christian plans to go to the University of Lethbridge for Physics and Maths. When he graduates, he hopes to use his training to pursue Apologetics. He believes that Physics is about understanding how God structures and orders the universe, and it could be an interesting way to approach Apologetics.

## Rachel Winkler

Edmonton Christian High School

J.A.J. Van Ginhoven Scholarship



Biblical stewardship is recognizing that all you have belongs to God and using it to bring Him glory. Rachel believes everything she has in

life is because of God, and as a Christian, she is called to manage these gifts and use them to honor him and serve others. "The Holy Spirit has filled me with a passion to share my faith with my peers" and she feels that if she can encourage future generations to have a passion for Jesus, then all her efforts would be worthwhile.

Rachel has volunteered at Crosspoint Community Church for six years in children ministries. She spent her summer teaching the word and having fun with kids from many different backgrounds. This year Rachel worked with a few others to start an Alpha program at her school. She wants to make a positive impact on students' lives.

When she is not busy with school or extracurricular activities, Rachel enjoys spending time with her friends or her youth group. Her current financial goal is to save money for a mission trip and post-secondary education. Rachel plans to study for a Bachelor of Science degree and become a nurse.

## Tianna Ingold

Immanuel Christian High School



In Mark 12:17 when the chief priests and teachers of the law asked Jesus whether they needed to pay taxes, Jesus replied



with, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." In this verse Jesus tells us that we need to give back to God what is His already. If God graciously gives us all that we need, we should be giving back to Him in thankfulness.

Tianna volunteers and gives back to the church community by leading Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Kingdom Seekers. She works with Students for Life Club which brings awareness to the seriousness of abortion.

Tianna also enjoys worshiping on the chapel team at school and sharing the gift of music with others. She plans to study for nursing at a post-secondary institution. She wants to give back to God and prays that He will place a desire in her heart to give to those who are in need, whether it is of her time or money.

### **Rachelle Doorten** **Parkland Immanuel Christian School**



"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17). Everything is a gift from God: our time, talents and finances, as well as our family and friends. He has truly blessed Rachelle and her family. Out of thankfulness to Him, she desires to give back to the Lord and to exemplify true biblical stewardship.

Rachelle has had the opportunity to interact with a variety of age groups as a volunteer. She has coached kids' soccer, helped at Vacation Bible School, and gained valuable experience as a counsellor at Rehoboth, a camp for adults with disabilities. She has also been on a mission trip to an orphanage in Queretaro, Mexico.

Rachelle enjoys playing basketball and volleyball and feels very blessed to be

playing on the first-ever girls' senior high soccer league at her school. She has been accepted to MacEwan University where, the Lord willing, she will study to be an Administrative Office Assistant.

### **Courtney Gruninger** **Providence Christian School**



We are stewards of God and we do things on this earth on His behalf. Genesis 2:15 says, "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it." The earth is God's beautiful gift to us, and we should be honored to take care of it without complaint. We all lead busy lives but this should not interfere with what God has commanded us to do.

Courtney focuses on her studies in school and strives to do her best. She knows that while she is proud of her achievements, the greater purpose is to honor Christ and without Him, nothing is possible. After leaving Providence Christian School, Courtney plans to become a nurse and travel the world providing healthcare for those in need. She hopes, the Lord willing, to serve on the Mercy Ships.

Courtney is also thankful that God is using others like her friends, family, peers and teachers to help her achieve her dreams, through consistent support and encouragement.

### **Rachel Pasveer** **Tyndale Christian School**



We should rejoice in the gifts we have received and use them to glorify God. I Peter 4: 10 states, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." God has blessed

everyone with a unique gift, be it athletic ability, artistic talents, or scientific understanding. We are called to use these gifts to uplift others in God's grace.

Rachel enjoys volunteering at Rehoboth Christian Ministries camp. She has learned a lot from her experience and hopes to go back year after year. As a high school student, she was presented with many opportunities to share the gospel and to be a light to others.

Rachel's career goals include completing an English degree at the University of Calgary and using her education to become a writer. She hopes to travel the world and write about God's creation using her adventures as inspiration. Rachel wants to make an impact on other people's lives through her writing, offering a Godly perspective on creation.

### **The King's University Scholarship**



A \$1,000 scholarship is available to a returning student who is enrolled in the Bachelor of Commerce degree program

at The King's University. Selection criteria include demonstrated Christian commitment, understanding of the Biblical principles of stewardship and academic standing.

This year's winner is So Youb Kim. She is a 3rd year, International Business student. She chose King's for the awesome academic opportunities based on Christian faith. She is learning how to live as a Christian businessperson, and can see her own growth.

So Youb is thankful for the scholarship which will help her with the effort and financial burden of studying in a foreign country. Having that support makes her feel more confident and motivated.





**David van Berkel, CFP®, CKA®**

Perhaps the least known registered plan is the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). Launched in 2008 by the federal government, the RDSP is a tax-deferred registered savings plan open to Canadians eligible for the disability tax credit. Up to \$200,000 can be invested in the plan but far less than this amount needs to be contributed to take full advantage of generous contributions made by the government of Canada by way of Canada Disability Savings Grant (CDSG) and Bond (CDSB) money. Contributions are not tax-deductible, but all earnings and growth grow tax-deferred until withdrawn from the plan.

There is a formula that determines the exact amount of government contribution that will be made to the RDSP by way of the CDSG and CDSB. There is a maximum annual entitlement of \$1,000 in CDSB (subject to a lifetime maximum of \$20,000) and a maximum annual entitlement of \$3,500 in CDSG (subject to a lifetime maximum of \$70,000). This is based upon a plan holder's contribution of only \$1,500 per year. The exact amount of bond and grant that goes into the RDSP from the government is based upon family income. An RDSP holder can potentially receive \$90,000 in CDSG and CDSB over twenty years with only having made \$30,000 in contribution prior to age 49. This is a generous long-term savings program meant to assist a qualified individual to put funds away for later in life. The RDSP is best viewed as a long-term savings plan because there are some rules surrounding withdrawals and the amount of time that must pass between

## Understanding the Registered Disability Savings Plan

the last government contribution and the time when withdrawals can begin. There is a formula for when the time comes to begin withdrawing from the RDSP. Withdrawals must begin by the end of the year in which the beneficiary turns 60. The formula is designed to allow the RDSP to provide a consistent amount of income for about twenty years, however accelerated withdrawals can be made for reasons such as a reduced life expectancy.

In most provinces, including Alberta, the RDSP is considered both an exempt asset for, and exempt income when, determining eligibility for disability benefits. In the 2019 federal budget the government relaxed rules that required RDSP holders to collapse their plan if the beneficiary lost their 'disability' status, i.e. lost their eligibility for the disability tax credit.

If opening an RDSP for an individual under the age of majority, who qualifies to be the beneficiary of a plan, then either a parent, legal guardian or person legally authorized to act for the beneficiary can open the RDSP. Then when a beneficiary reaches the age of majority and is contractually competent they can

open the RDSP for themselves. If the beneficiary reaches the age of majority and is not contractually competent a qualifying family member can become the holder or open an RDSP.

A qualifying family member includes a spouse or parent of an individual but not, at this time, a sibling unless they have become the beneficiary's legal guardian. An RDSP can be set up at Christian Credit Union through Credential Asset Management Inc. by any one of our financial advisers. The rules and specifications of the RDSP are complex and can be overwhelming. Carol, Rob or David would be happy to answer your inquiry and, if able, assist you or a loved one to open a plan.

**David van Berkel, CFP®, CKA®**  
Financial Advisor  
Christian Credit Union  
Credential Asset Management Inc.

Mutual funds are offered through Credential Asset Management Inc. The information contained in this report was obtained from sources believed to be reliable; however, we cannot guarantee that it is accurate or complete. This report is provided as a general source of information and should not be considered personal advice. Please speak to your personal financial representative before making any financial planning decision or implementing any strategy.

