

Announcing David Sztain as New Director of TOS in Canada



*Lorraine Christensen, former TOS Director in Canada
with new Director, David Sztain*

With great pleasure I announce that David Sztain of Calgary, Alberta, has been officially appointed by International TOS President, Tim Boyd, and by Nancy Secrest, our International Secretary, as the new director of the Theosophical Order of Service in Canada as of January 1, 2018.

During the past 14 years I have been privileged to serve as TOS Director, and greatly honoured to take on that role by Order of Appointment from our late International President, Radha Burnier. Work for the TOS in Canada has truly been a rewarding and enriching experience. And now, it is time for me to step down from my post.

Introducing David Sztain as TOS Director

We are fortunate to have David Sztain, well-travelled and familiar with various cultures and traditions, as our new director. David has lived on three continents as a citizen of three countries: Argentina, Israel and Canada, and is fluent in Spanish, Hebrew and English. For several years David, Chartered Professional Accountant, has been employed in Calgary, Alberta as a Controller with Replicon, Inc., a software company that specialises in cloud-based time tracking applications.

David joined the TS in 2000. Over the years, he has contributed to the Society by taking on a wide range of responsibilities, including being president for a time of the former Lotus Lodge.

Currently, David is Secretary of the Lux Study Centre in Calgary. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Theosophical Association and is the editor of the Light Bearer magazine.

With the TOS, David has served on the Administrative Committee as auditor. Recently he was appointed as editor of the International TOS newsletter.

A Brief History of TOS Work in Canada Prior to 2003

At this time of transition, I invite you to join me in looking back on our TOS history in Canada, as we get glimpses of just how alive the spirit of service has been in our country since early last century. In 1927, the General Report of the International TS mentions Krishna Lodge in Calgary carrying on work for the Humane Society, Anti-vivisection, World Peace, Child Welfare and distribution of TS Braille magazines to the blind. In a 1938 international directory, Mrs Dorothy Anderson of Calgary was listed as TOS leader in this country.

In the early 1940s, Wayfarers Lodge in Winnipeg, Manitoba was actively engaged in peace solving initiatives spear-headed by International President, George Arundale. In the 1970s, '80s and '90s leaders of the TOS included Gladys Cooper and Gaile Campbell of Vancouver, BC. From Ontario, Stanley Douglas and Gary Green, both from Kingston, and Elizabeth Smith of Wellington were TOS leaders. Elizabeth is well known for dedicating many years to promoting animal welfare and rescue work.

In the early 1980s, Gladys Cooper of Vancouver published a TOS newsletter. Among causes championed were: animal welfare, cancer research and the Tibetan Refugee Aid Society. In the late 1990s, under Gary Green's leadership, donations were raised to support the work of the Olcott Education Society at Adyar.

Accomplishments of the TOS in Canada During the Past 14 Years



Lorraine Christensen, TOS Director from 2003 to 2017

During the 14 years from 2003 to 2017, much has been accomplished, thanks to the support and participation of our members, friends and donors, such as:

-Establishing a TOS Administrative Committee and formulating its guidelines

-Raising close to **CDN \$100,000** that were donated to our major TOS approved fund raising projects for the Tibetan Delek Hospital in Dharamsala, to care for poor and destitute patients, the Theosophical Golden Link College in the Philippines, where we supported the education of impoverished children from pre-school to collegiate levels, and for the Besant Animal Welfare Dispensary at Adyar, India, supporting animal welfare initiatives. In addition, we provided financial assistance to several ad hoc TOS sponsored initiatives, including: tsunami, typhoon, flood and earthquake relief on several continents, African famine relief, and in India: the Seeing Eyes for Everyone project and a program to stop violence towards women.

-During the past years we formed TOS groups in Magog, Quebec (affiliated with Les Montagnes Bleues Lodge), a TOS healing circle in Toronto (affiliated with York Lodge) and in Calgary, our local TOS branch (affiliated with the former Lotus Lodge and its successors, Veritas and Lux Study Centres) has been very active, holding special events related to service through culture, education, the environment, health and healing, human rights and the holding of yearly UN celebrations.

-A TOS newsletter was published twice a year for ten years from 2003 to 2013 with many members contributing excellent articles related to service.

-And on the international level, Lorraine represented Canada as chairperson on the International TOS UN committee, where we published a booklet on *The Theosophical Society and the United Nations, A History of Support*. This booklet was very well received worldwide, and was translated into Hindi, Italian, Spanish and French.

All of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the participation and support of our members and friends. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed.

Now it is time to allow others to bring fresh ideas and energy to the work – to carry the TOS in Canada forward into the future. As I step down from my post, I have every confidence that under David's leadership the TOS will continue to thrive in Canada. Let each of us lend a hand in helping David as we move onwards and upwards fulfilling our role as the service arm of the Theosophical Society.

Yours faithfully in service,
Lorraine Christensen

Donations to the Theosophical Order of Service in Canada



All TOS fund-raising projects are endorsed and supported by the International Theosophical Order of Service. The ongoing generous support of our members and friends helps us to make a difference. Starting in January of 2018, please make your donation payable to the

Theosophical Order of Service in Canada

(or in shortened form to:)

TOS in Canada

and send to:

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TOS in Canada
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Calgary, Alberta T2E 7R8

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