Maritime Conference Spotlight

February 2026 Edition

Building Momentum: Youth Ministry Across the Maritime Conference

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Building Momentum: Youth Ministry Across the Maritime Conference

A New Beginning at Sandy Lake Academy

A few weeks after my arrival in February 2025, we hosted our first youth event at Sandy Lake Academy. Our church school graciously opened its doors to receive us, setting the tone for what would become a year of connection, worship, and renewed vision. It was a blessing to see youth and young adults gathered in one place to praise the Lord. That first rally marked the beginning of our initial tour of the Maritime Conference as we intentionally sought to encounter our constituent churches and their young people where they live and serve.

A Year of Connection and Youth Gatherings

Throughout 2025, our ministry focused on presence, relationship-building, and shared worship experiences. We organized two youth rallies in Halifax and partnered with local churches to host Youth Days in Moncton, Fredericton, Halifax, North Sydney, and Bathurst. These gatherings provided opportunities for spiritual renewal, fellowship, and encouragement. In addition, we conducted one-on-one visits with local youth leaders to offer support, listen to their realities, and strengthen our collaborative network. Our yearly Camp Meeting continued to serve as a cornerstone event, uniting families and youth in a spirit of celebration and spiritual growth. Alongside these Conference initiatives, I collaborated with our school by preaching monthly at school assemblies, helping nurture the spiritual life of our students and strengthening the bridge between education and ministry.

Strengthening Local Leadership

Looking ahead, a major emphasis for this year is the training and empowerment of Adventist Youth (AY) leaders. The vast geography of the Maritime territory presents unique logistical challenges. Harsh winters and long travel distances often limit the ability of our young people to gather for large Conference events. Yet within this challenge lies a significant opportunity. By equipping local leaders, we encourage churches to develop creative and innovative forms of ministry at the local level—precisely where young people practice their faith daily. Strong local leadership ensures continuity, adaptability, and a ministry that remains accessible regardless of distance or season.

Collectively, these efforts highlight a strategic commitment to sustainable youth ministry centered on leadership development, collaboration, and local empowerment. As relationships deepen and leaders are equipped, we remain confident in God's guidance for the continued growth of youth ministry throughout the Maritimes.

Teddy Bagassien
Maritime Conference Youth Director

Straight from

Catherine's Kitchen

Plant-Based Tzatziki

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of raw cashews that have been soaked overnight
- ½ cup water
- ¼ cup organic lemon juice
- ½ medium sized cucumber, peeled and shredded (about 2 small cucumbers)
- 1 garlic clove
- 2 tablespoons of fresh chopped dill (can also use fresh dill that has been frozen)
- ½ teaspoon sea salt

Instructions:

Drain the cashews and rinse thoroughly. Place into blender with the water, lemon juice, and garlic clove and blend until very smooth.

1. Take the shredded cucumber and remove excess water by Using a sieve to press out the water, or

2. Using a nut milk bag to remove the excess water. The key is to remove as much of the water as possible.

Empty the shredded cucumber into a bowl and add the cashew mix along with the chopped dill and salt. Stir so that all the ingredients are well mixed. Chill for at least 30 minutes.

Delicious with falafels and just about anything else that you want to use a dip for!

Catherine Walsh
Health Ministries Director of the Maritime Conference

Seventh-day Adventist® Church in Canada

Future Teacher Scholarship

Are you planning to pursue an education degree at an accredited Adventist® college/university in Canada or the United States?

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Deadline to apply

March 15

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Seventh-day Adventist® Church in Canada

Learn more at education.adventist.ca

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREAT

"Strong and Free Together"

In September, more than 80 women gathered at Camp Pugwash for a spiritually uplifting retreat hosted by the Maritime Conference Women's Ministries department. The weekend featured guest speaker Nicole Sydeham, the Women's Ministry Leader from the Alberta Conference, who presented under the inspiring theme *"Strong and Free Together."*

Nicole opened her heart as she shared her family's journey in pastoral ministry, offering honest reflections on the challenges and blessings they have experienced. Throughout her messages, she emphasized several key themes that resonated deeply with attendees:

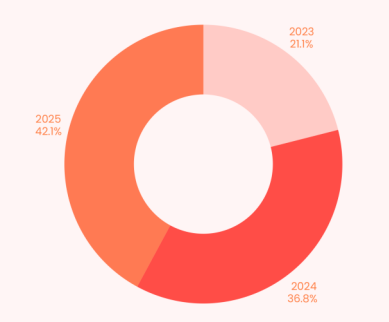
- **Mindset and Well-being:**
  She highlighted how negative thinking can weaken the vital connection between mind and body, encouraging women to cultivate healthier thought patterns.

- **Personal Empowerment:**
  She reminded each woman of her God-given ability to reshape her story, choose positivity, and refuse to be defined by circumstances.

- **Contentment and Gratitude:**
  Nicole urged participants to embrace each day as a gift from God and to avoid wasting precious time on negativity.

- **Navigating a Fast-paced World:**
  Acknowledging the pressures of feeling overworked, overcommitted, and overwhelmed, she affirmed that God still calls His people to praise and glorify Him in every season.

- **Perseverance:**
  She reinforced the conviction that giving up is never an option for Christian women who walk in faith. The retreat provided a meaningful space for encouragement, spiritual renewal, and deepened unity. Women left feeling strengthened, refreshed, and reminded that they truly are strong and free together.



Our Annual Women's Retreat has experienced consistent growth over the past three years. In 2023, approximately 40 women attended. Participation increased to around 70 women in 2024 and continued to grow in 2025, reaching approximately 80 women. Women's Ministries across the Maritime Conference continues to grow as women come together in faith, unity, and service. Guided by God's leading, we remain committed to strengthening local ministries, equipping godly leaders, and creating spaces where women are encouraged, connected, and empowered. Through our active Women's Ministries Facebook page, we continue to engage, encourage, and reach women beyond our gatherings. As we look ahead, our prayer is to build a vibrant ministry where women stand strong, serving their churches and communities with purpose and love.

Luci Germosen
North Sydney SDA Church

communion in action

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY 2026

MARCH 21ST, 2026

Prayers for the Grande Prairie Seventh-day Adventist Church

Following A Tragic Bus Accident

Many of us were probably devastated when we heard the tragic news regarding the bus accident involving the Grande Prairie SDA Church's Pathfinder Club in Alberta. On the evening of February 7, 2026, when returning home from the Pathfinder Bible Experience event in Edmonton, their charter bus left the roadway between Valleyview and Grande Prairie. Their beloved Pathfinder Club Director Lillian Banda lost her life, and multiple Club members and leaders sustained injurie66*remaining hospitalized to receive medical care.

In the wake of this tragedy, the Alberta Conference provided comprehensive support for the Grande Prairie Church for individuals affected by the incident. We continually encourage the families within our Conference to keep our brothers and sisters affected by this tragedy in our prayers. Pray for the injured Club members and leaders as they are recovering physically and emotionally. Pray for the Grande Prairie Church and their local community. Pray for the pastoral care team ministering to the affected families during this difficult time.

During these times of unimaginable sorrow, God ever reminds us in His promise in Psalm 46:1 that "[He] is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

The funeral for Lillian Banda was held at the Christian Fellowship Assembly in Grand Prairie on February 16, 2026. May the Lord continue to surround her family with the comfort and the unwavering support needed during this time.

Administration

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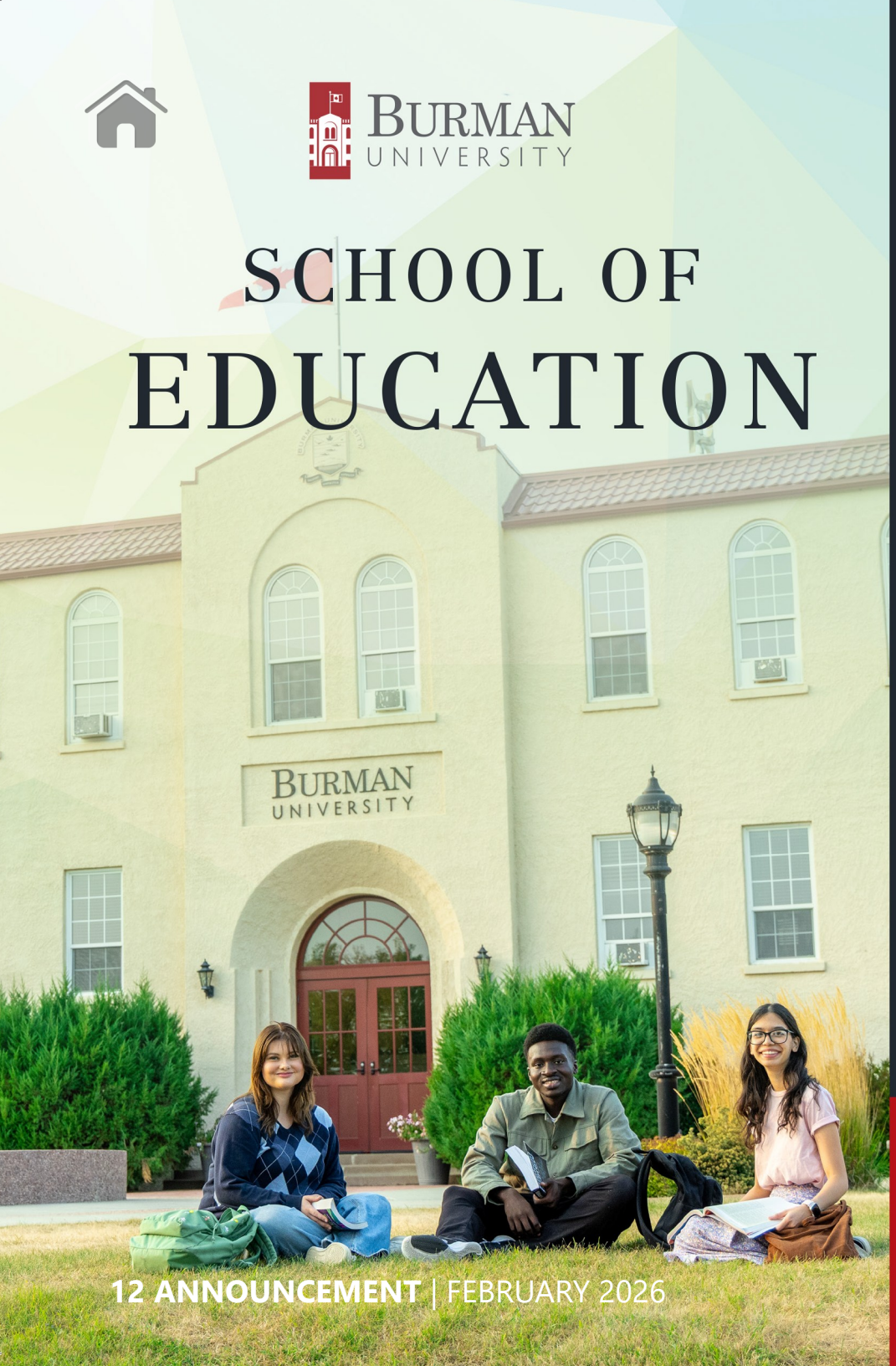
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



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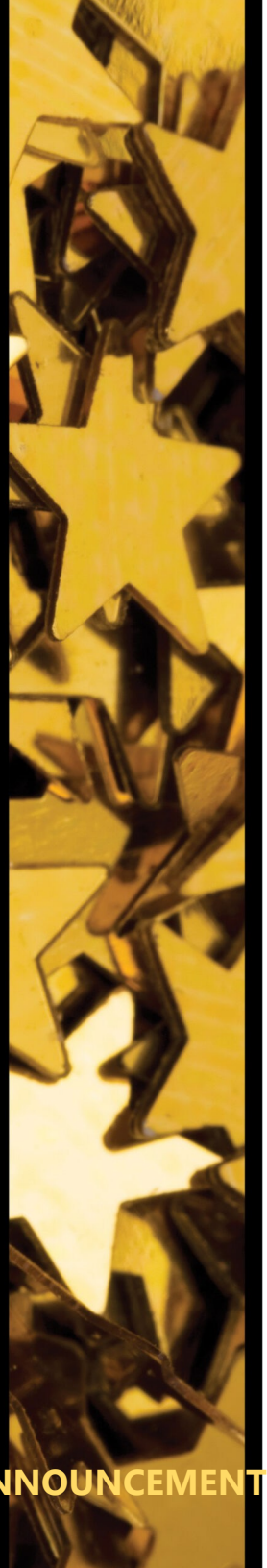
I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.

Isaiah 45:2,3 NIV

But …

Can He be trusted to do it … for me?

Maritime Prayer Ministries



Excellence in Education Awards 2026

Nominate your Adventist school, principal or teacher

Deadline April 15

Nomination forms can be found at
education.adventist.ca
Resources - Awards, Scholarships & Internships
Excellence in Education
or you may call the
SDACC Office of Education at
905-433-0011 for a nomination packet

Seventh-day Adventist Church
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CANADA

Adventist Education
A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE
FAITH WISDOM SERVICE

MARITIME CONFERENCE 2026 CALENDAR

Date	Upcoming Event
March 14	Global Children's Day
March 15	Annual General Meeting (online)
March 21	Global Youth Day
March 21-28	Youth Week of Prayer
April 25	District Education Sabbath
May 07-10	CAYS (PEI)
May 10	Board of Directors Meetings (Face-to-Face)
May 15	Pugwash Campgrounds Open
May 15-17	SEWW (Spiritual Emphasis Weekend & Work bee
May 19-23	ACF Institute (SDACC)
May 29-31	PrayerShop 2026

CAMP PUGWASH

Alumni Reunion

Coming this summer - Alumni & Friends Family Camp

August | 3-7 | 2026

Family Camp is a great way to enjoy all
that Pugwash has to offer, together!

Registration opens soon!

Camp Pugwash

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Whether you were a staff member last year or back in 1975, we hope you will stay connected with us!

Join our new mailing list!

This will allow us to provide you with important info about exciting opportunities to engage with Camp Pugwash including our **alumni reunions,** volunteering opportunities, and fundraisers.

You can join the mailing list by filling out the contact form under the alumni tab on our website.

https://www.camppugwash.com/

ADVENTIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

UNSHAKEN

I SHALL NOT BE MOVED

AUGUST 20-23, 2026
AUSTIN, TEXAS

AYP.ME/CONVENTION

AYP is a Supporting Ministry of the SDA Church

ADVENTIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

We foster Christ-centered community through spiritual growth, leadership development, and impactful service.

RESTORE 2026

YOU ARE INVITED

Join us for a friendly, informative session on our lifestyle and its impact on mental health.

- Divine Hour Speaker: Lorne Hawkins - Health and the Sanctuary
- Gabrielle McNeil - Trauma and Trust

14 March 2026 at 11am and 3pm
870 Grandame St, Fredericton, NB E3B 3Z8

Lunch provided and refreshments provided

Health is Wealth - Learn How to Protect Yours!

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When farmers from a previous ADRA project in Ghana faced undercutting by buyers, it became more profitable for them to burn their cashew trees for charcoal. We decided it was time to turn that story around and bring sustainability full circle. Now, fair prices for their cashews uplift both the farmers and their entire community.

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WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR CHURCH?

We want to know what God is doing in your church! Don't keep the blessings to yourself! Let us know so that we can be inspired!

Submit your reports for the MC Spotlight to ron.marshall@maritimesda.com before the 15th of each month (except for July & December, it will be on the 03rd)

"Tell the world about Jesus...tell them about His love...as you go... tell the world!"

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WE MIGHT HAVE WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR!

Get what you need and support Adventist businesses and services at the same time!

Click here to check out our Business Directory:

https://heyzine.com/flip-book/6f16ee7a01.html

ATTENTION ALL ADVENTIST BUSINESS OWNERS!

If you are interested in sending your business information to us to have your business publicized in our directory, please send your information to ron.marshall@maritimesda.com. **We want to support you in whatever capacity that we are abled to.**

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION MINISTRIES

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

We are excited to announce the launch of the Indigenous Reconciliation Ministries (IRM) **SEED Planning Process** for all IRM constituent ministry partners (CMP) - members, churches, schools, and conferences involved with regional Indigenous Reconciliation Ministries.

Please visit the SDACC Indigenous Reconciliation Ministries Department webpage to register. Registered CMPs will receive ongoing **support** and learn more about upcoming **funding opportunities**.

https://www.adventist.ca/departments/indigenous-ministries/

A FIT AND RESILIENT "HEART"

Maritime Health Emphasis Day

SABBATH

MARCH 28TH

WHOLE BODY

HEALTH

How Healthy is your Heart?

A heart becomes truly fit and resilient when it's strengthened not only by healthy habits, but by the presence of God shaping the mind, body, and spirit. When the mind is renewed by truth, the body is cared for as His temple, and the spirit stays anchored in Christ, the heart grows steady, courageous, and able to endure. This kind of resilience isn't just physical—it's a reflection of God's sustaining grace working through every part of who we are.

Maritime Health Ministries 2026

Seventh-day Adventist® Church

MARITIME CONFERENCE