

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

MEN'S SHEDS CANADA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I reflect on 2024–25, I am filled with pride and optimism for the future of Men's Sheds Canada (MSC). This past year was transformative – marked by growth, innovation, and deepening connections across the country.

A pivotal achievement was earning our designation as a Canadian Registered Charity in January of 2025, a milestone that positions MSC to establish corporate sponsorships, planned giving programs, and other funding opportunities– laying the foundation for long-term sustainability and expanding the reach and impact of Sheds nationwide.

Together with the Provincial Men's Shed Associations in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario, we welcomed 53 new Sheds, bringing our pan-Canadian network to 150 registered Sheds by the end of the fiscal year (March 31, 2025). We also took crucial steps to support the establishment of a new Provincial Association in Quebec. These efforts demonstrate not just numerical growth but strengthened partnerships and shared commitment to the Shed movement.

Our digital presence took a major leap forward in 2024-25, with a new website and new social media channels. At the close of the fiscal year, our first bilingual Impact video had more than 3,000 views in its first month, bringing to life stories of purpose, connection, and well-being that define the Shed movement. We also hosted a landmark national webinar in November, featuring internationally recognized Men's Shed expert and researcher Dr. Barry Golding, drawing participation from members of the research, academic, health, and aging sectors, and underscoring the growing recognition of Men's Sheds as a powerful model for connection and community well-being.

To support Sheds directly, we launched monthly Shed Zoom Learning Sessions covering topics including Fund Development; Getting Started with Grants; Embracing Diversity and Fostering Inclusion; Paths to Financial Sustainability; and Incorporation Fundamentals - as well as the monthly Cross-Canada Shed Check-in series for informal conversation.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

We also introduced the weekly SHEDnews e-bulletin, keeping our growing community of Shedders informed and engaged across Canada. Complementing these initiatives, we developed the SHEDhub online community, a "digital home base" for MSC Member Sheds and Provincial Associations, subsequently launched in early 2025-26.

Building the capacity and infrastructure of the organization itself was a major focus. We expanded Board advisory committees to include Research and Advocacy, Marketing and Communications, and Fund Development, alongside Finance and Membership. These committees support our transition from an operating Board to a governance-focused Board, allowing MSC Board members to provide long-term strategic direction rather than day-to-day management.

As part of this shift, we began to build a small but talented staff team to oversee the areas of operations, fund development, and marketing—laying the groundwork for sustainable growth and greater impact.

We are especially grateful for the vision and generosity of the Waltons Trust, whose support has been instrumental in helping us build the organization and chart a course for growth. Their commitment has not only strengthened MSC's ability to serve Sheds today, but has also inspired us to imagine the true scale of what is possible for tomorrow.

Looking ahead, our ambitions are bold: launching our first national campaign, *The Shed Effect*, for International Men's Day in November 2025, expanding our French-language resources and including a French version of our website, and building our research capacity and partnerships to create compelling Canadian evidence of the social impact of Men's Sheds.

It is inspiring to witness how a simple idea—men coming together with purpose, companionship, and skill—has grown into a vibrant movement touching thousands of lives across Canada. All of this progress positions us well on our way to achieving our longer-term goal of 1,000 Sheds across the country by 2032. Reaching this milestone will ensure that Men's Sheds can contribute a strong voice to the development of a clear Canadian health strategy for older men. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved and even more excited for the journey ahead.

Robert Goluch

Dr. Robert Goluch
President, Men's Sheds Canada

OUR VISION

A Canada where every man feels valued and engaged in his community, experiencing purpose, belonging, and well-being in his aging journey.

OUR MISSION

To grow and strengthen the Men's Shed movement in Canada.

We do this by:

- Supporting the creation of new Sheds;
- Connecting existing Sheds for peer learning and mentoring;
- Providing education programs and communications opportunities;
- Working with provincial Men's Shed associations; and
- Engaging in research and other partnerships.

OUR VALUES

- **Collaboration:** We work hand-in-hand with our members, associates, and partners to benefit Men's Sheds and the communities they serve.
- **Inclusivity:** We promote open and diverse communities of respect, companionship, and purpose for all Shedders.
- **Autonomy:** We respect and champion the grassroots independence of local Sheds and Shed Associations across Canada.
- **Integrity:** We foster a culture of trust, transparency, and accountability in our business practices and relations with our members, associates, and partners.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Growth of the Men's Shed Movement

Men's Sheds Canada strengthened the network of Sheds across Canada, through resources and ongoing collaboration with Provincial Shed Associations.

New Sheds in 2024-25:

- 53 new Sheds launched (20 BC, 21 AB, 1 SK, 1 MB, 3 QC, 7 ON), exceeding annual national target and bringing the total at year-end (March 31, 2025) to 150.

Collaboration with Provincial Associations (PAs):

- British Columbia (MSABC): Held a joint MSC-MSABC Board meeting in Vanderhoof; participated in a regional gathering with 70+ Shedders; facilitated Strategic Plan development; administered grant funding from United Way of BC.
- Alberta (AMSA): Held a joint MSC-AMSA Board meeting in Edmonton; co-hosted a research symposium with 35 researchers, participated in a regional session with 50+ Shedders and community allies; awarded a Capacity-Building Grant; and supported AMSA's Strategic Plan development.
- Manitoba (MMI): Supported the renewal of MMI (i.e. election of a new Board and development of a Strategic Plan) and awarded a Provincial Capacity-Building Grant.
- Ontario (MSO): Held a joint MSO-MSC Board meeting to review Strategic Plan development.
- Quebec (MSQ): Participated in inaugural Quebec SHEDfest in Knowlton, engaging six men's groups in the prospective development of a new PA; awarded Provincial Capacity-Building Grant.
- Co-developed a provincial Outreach Best Practices guide with MSABC, AMSA, MMI and MSO.

Outreach Support:

- Launched an ongoing Community of Practice with PAs to facilitate sharing of best practices and development of new outreach strategies.
- Initiated a project to provide a MSC-hosted website for each Provincial Association, to be completed in fiscal 2025-26.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2. Grants and Funding Supports

We provided targeted financial support for the establishment of new Sheds, the sustainability of existing Sheds and the growth of Provincial Shed Associations.

Shed Start-up Grants:

- Awarded 19 grants (up to $1,000 each) to help emerging Sheds get started.

Capacity-Building Grants to Sheds:

- Administered 10 grants (up to $10,000 each) to established Sheds to increase member engagement, financial sustainability, and community awareness.

Capacity-Building Grants to Provincial Associations:

- Awarded to Alberta, Manitoba, and Quebec to strengthen administrative and outreach capacity, collection of impact stories, and organizational planning.

3. National Profile and Awareness

MSC expanded its external digital communications to showcase the value of Sheds to a broad national audience.

- **Website Launch** (Oct 2024): Dynamic new website saw page views more than double in the last quarter compared to the same period the previous year.
- **Lee Valley Video Series** (October 2024): The Arnprior-McNab-Braeside Men's Shed was prominently featured in a four-episode edition of Lee Valley's *Inspired to Make* video series, which was widely promoted to their national customer base.
- **National Webinar** (Nov 2024): International Men's Shed expert Dr. Barry Golding drew participation from the research, academic, health, and aging sectors across Canada.
- **Social Media** (Feb 2025): YouTube, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook channels launched with robust content strategies and paid awareness campaigns.
- **Impact Video** (Feb 2025): Bilingual documentary-style video was accompanied by a series of 11 SHEDtalk clips and attracted more than 3000 views in its first 30 days.
- **How to Start a Shed Animated Video** (March 2025): Created to support outreach strategies for Provincial Associations.
- **External Presentations:** MSC Team and Board members Participated in multiple panels and presentations with like-minded organizations in the men's health and aging sectors.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4. Digital Resources for Sheds

In 2024–25, we strengthened the support system for Sheds by developing a suite of digital tools and programs designed to share knowledge, foster connection, and provide practical resources for Shed operations and growth.

- **Shed Learning Sessions:** Offered monthly Zoom sessions for Shedders on key operational topics including Fund Development Essentials; Getting Started with Grants; Embracing Diversity and Fostering Inclusion; Social Enterprise and Earned revenue; and Incorporation Fundamentals.

- **Cross Canada Shed Check-in:** Created a series of informal monthly Zoom meetings, offering Shedders across the country the opportunity to engage with and learn from each other.

- **SHEDnews:** Launched a weekly e-news bulletin for all Shedders to share updates, resources, and event information.

- **SHEDhub:** developed this centralized “online home base” for MSC Member Sheds, including searchable digital ToolBoxes on Shed Governance, Fund Development, Marketing and Communications, Diversity and Inclusion, and Advocacy; as well as interactive spaces for sharing and peer networking. (The portal launched in early 2025-26 and resource development is ongoing).

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

5. Organizational Development and Sustainability

MSC strengthened its internal structure, team, and governance to support growth, fundraising, and long-term impact.

- **Charitable Status:** Achieved January 20, 2025, enabling tax-deductible donations, grants access, and development of fundraising programs.
- **Successful Financial Audit:** Received a clean financial audit, affirming MSC's commitment to transparency, accountability, and sound financial stewardship.
- **Governance:** Laid the foundation for a transition from an operating to a governing Board; initiated recruitment for new Board advisory committees including Research and Advocacy, Marketing and Communications, Fund Development.
- **Operations & Human Resources:** Contracted team members to establish Operations, Fund Development and Marketing functions; implemented policies and procedures for Finance, Risk Management, IT, Governance, and more.
- **Constituent Relationship Management(CRM)**: Selected the Canadian Member365 software platform to manage organizational and Shed contacts and electronic communications (implemented in early 2025-26).

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

6. Research and Advocacy

In 2024–25, we advanced Men's Sheds Canada's role as a thought leader and advocate for men's health and well-being, building evidence and relationships to strengthen the movement's impact.

- **Research Partnerships:**
  - Expanded collaborations with universities and other organizations to grow the evidence base on the social and health impacts of Sheds.
  - Initiated a research study to evaluate the effectiveness that a Men's Shed has on participant mental health, and feelings of loneliness and social belonging.

- **Policy Engagement:**
  - Began developing a framework to articulate the role of Men's Sheds in addressing men's health and aging issues, with the long-term goal of contributing to a Canadian health strategy for older men.
  - Welcomed the Honourable Joanne Thomspon, Minister for Seniors, to tour the Squamish Men's Shed, meet with its members and see first-hand the impact of the Shed's community volunteer projects.

- **Knowledge Transfer:**
  - Participated in the Canadian Association of Gerontology Conference with an exhibit and a half-day pre-conference symposium that discussed how Sheds support the mental health and wellbeing of older men, and explored current Canadian research on Sheds and knowledge gaps.
  - Created a Men's Health Research Compendium on MSC website; and a compilation of international Men's Shed research studies.
  - Participated in research studies and presentations of several other organizations.

LOOKING AHEAD

As Men's Sheds Canada looks to the year ahead, we do so with optimism, ambition, and a clear sense of purpose. Building on the accomplishments of 2024–25, we are committed to strengthening the Shed movement across Canada and expanding opportunities for connection, learning, and growth for older men in every community.

The coming year will focus not only on supporting the creation of new Sheds and nurturing existing ones, but also on deepening collaboration with Provincial Associations, expanding our bilingual resources, and engaging more Canadians in the transformative power of Sheds. We are also committed to welcoming more local Sheds into MSC membership, ensuring they have access to our full suite of support resources, including the ongoing development of our our suite of ToolBoxes.

We will continue to build the organization itself, growing our small but talented team, refining operational structures, and empowering the Board to transition fully from an operating to a governance model. We are deeply grateful for the generous support of partners and funders whose commitment makes this work possible, including the Waltons Trust, whose vision continues to inspire and sustain our progress.

Key initiatives of focus will include the national campaign *The Shed Effect* around International Men's Day in November 2025, the first pan-Canadian SHEDfest conference in Spring of 2026, the growth of the SHEDhub online community, and our ongoing commitment to evidence-based research—enabling MSC to reach more men, strengthen provincial networks, and foster a vibrant, connected, and sustainable Shed movement nationwide.

All of this positions us well on our journey toward the bold goal of 1,000 Sheds across Canada—ensuring older men have not only places of connection and purpose, but also a collective voice in shaping a clear national health strategy for men as they age.

THE SHED EFFECT
CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF MEN'S SHEDS

2024-25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Robert Goluch

President
Squamish, B.C.



Andy Tamas

Vice President
Arnprior, ON



Audrey Fennema

Treasurer
Fraser Lake, B.C.



Robert Elhen

Director
Knowlton, QC



Jim Millar

Director
Port Moody, B.C.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Provincial Men's Shed Associatons

MEN'S SHEDS Manitoba

MEN'S SHEDS Ontario

MEN'S SHEDS ALBERTA

MEN'S SHED ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MEN'S SHEDS QUÉBEC

National and Community Partners

WALTONS TRUST

United Way British Columbia

CANADIAN MEN'S HEALTH FOUNDATION

MOVEMBER

Canadian Mental Health Association

genwell HUMAN CONNECTION MOVEMENT

ADDING LIFE TO YEARS AND YEARS TO LIFE
Oasis

Lee Valley

BUDDY UP

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bergeron &Co. CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS COMPTABLES PROFESSIONNELS AGRÉÉS

Pierre Bergeron CPA,CGA*
Simon Belzile CPA,CGA*
Mathieu Lepage CPA,CGA*
* Professional Corporation

August 15, 2025

Men's Sheds Canada
206, 8925 82 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T6C 0Z2

Dear committee members,

Re: Audit findings
This letter has been prepared to assist you with your review of the financial statements of the Men's Sheds Canada for the year ending on March 31, 2025.

Significant Matters Arising from Our Audit
Changes to Audit Plan
There were no changes to the audit plan (as previously presented to you).

Other Matters
We have not identified any significant matters that would be of interest to those charged with governance.

Significant Difficulties Encountered
We have not encountered any significant difficulties.

Comments on Accounting Practices
Accounting Policies
With regards to the significant accounting policies used by the organization, no changes have occurred in the current year.

Other accounting policies
- We did not identify any significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas.

Significant Accounting Estimates
The following significant estimates/judgments are contained in the financial statements:
- Net realizable value of accounts receivable and allowance for doubtful accounts;
- Book value of tangible capital assets including wages capitalized to leasehold improvements;
- Accrued liabilities;
- Deferred revenue, and;
- Deferred contributions related to tangible capital assets

Significant Financial Statement Disclosures
We did not identify any financial statement disclosures that are particularly significant, sensitive or require significant judgments, that we believe should be specifically drawn to your attention.

Significant Deficiencies in Internal Controls
A deficiency in internal control exists when a control is designed, implemented or operated in such a way that it is unable to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis, or when a control necessary to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis is missing.

200, 8925 82 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T6C 0Z2 T 780.468.1667 F 780.468.2565 TF 1.800.668.6013 E info@bergeron-cpa.ca
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FINANCIAL REPORT

A significant deficiency in internal control is defined as a deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control that, in the auditor's professional judgment, is of sufficient importance to merit the attention of those charged with governance.

We did not identify any control deficiencies that, in our judgment, would be considered significant deficiencies apart from those outlined below:

i) Documentation of Voided and Damaged Cheques

Maintain complete records for all voided and damaged cheques, including the reason for voiding, details of any replacement cheque issued, and either the original cheque or a scanned copy if the original is shredded.

Avoid issuing cheques out of numerical sequence to ensure accuracy in reconciliation and audit tracking.

ii) Tax Coding and Receipt Documentation

Review and monitor tax coding in QuickBooks to ensure accuracy and consistency with CRA requirements.

Require all receipts submitted for reimbursements to be itemized, clearly showing the nature of each expense, in order to support transparency and compliance during audits.

iii) Issuance of T4A Slips

Ensure T4A slips are issued to all individual contractors who are paid more than $500 in a calendar year, in accordance with CRA regulations. This will support accurate tax reporting and mitigate the risk of non-compliance penalties.

We would like to thank management and staff for the assistance they provided to us during the audit.

We hope the information in this audit findings letter will be useful. We would be pleased to discuss them with you and respond to any questions you may have.

This letter was prepared for the sole use of those charged with governance of the Men's Sheds Canada to carry out and discharge their responsibilities. The content should not be disclosed to any third party without our prior written consent, and we assume no responsibility to any other person.

Yours truly,
Bergeron & Co. Chartered Professional Accountants

Per: Mathieu Lepage CPA, CGA

Bergeron&Co.

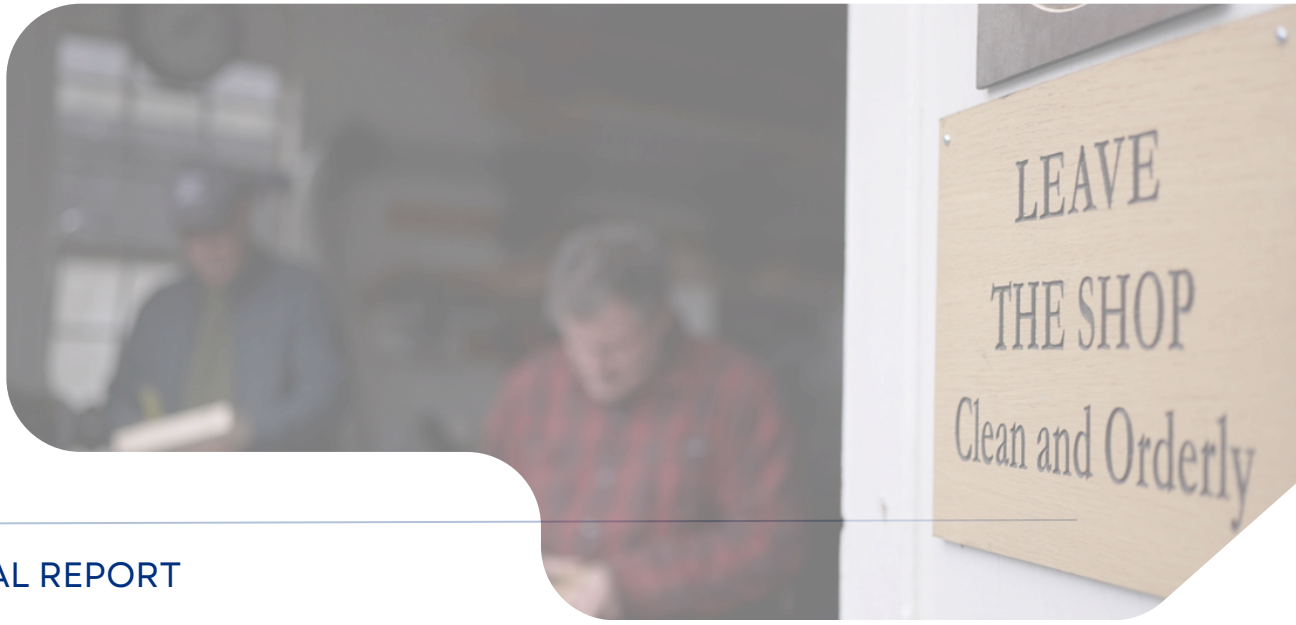
Note: For complete Financial Statements, please inquire at info@mensshedscanada.org

CONNECT WITH US

info@mensshedscanada.org

www.mensshedscanada.org

587.735.1587



“When men come together with purpose and friendship, they build more than projects – they build stronger lives, stronger families, stronger communities, and better mental health.”

Robert Goluch, Men’s Sheds Canada President

Charity Registration # 763553302RR0001