

# **The Alberta CGIT Association**



## **Leaders' Resource Manual**

2017 Edition



# Section 1: Introduction

**In this section you will find:**

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Dedication
- ✓ History of the CGIT Movement

## Introduction

Dear CGIT Leaders:

The Alberta CGIT Association originally developed this resource tool in 1993 with financial assistance from the National CGIT Association. It was created to assist Leaders' looking for general information, resources and meeting ready ideas for their groups.

This manual is to be used in addition to already existing resources.

In developing the manual we tried to include information on topics we felt would be useful to you as leaders. It is not conclusive and we welcome any additions, corrections, and/or revisions you may offer.

Sincerely,

1993 Alberta CGIT Leaders' Resource Manual Committee:

Landis Jackson, Chair    Linda Andres    Laura Allan    Sharon Hanwell    Janet Kerr  
Lori Robertson

Updates were done by the Alberta CGIT Association members in 2010 and again, now in 2017.    Barbara Shanahan, Barbara Spence and    Stephanie Swartz



## Dedication

### In Dedication to **ELSPETH WALKER**

*She left her footprints on the sand of all that encompassed CGIT*

Elspeth was active at the National, Provincial and Local levels  
a leader, superintendent; executive and committee member.  
She was a people person, a dear friend as friends were very important.  
She listened, understood, cared, hugged, shared, supported and loved.  
She was our Resource Counselor, she loved conferences and camps.  
She wrote notes and more notes and more notes.  
She oft quoted Snoopy, Charlie Brown, and Lucy in her talks.  
Elspeth truly lived the CGIT Purpose:  
She cherished health sought truth, knew God, and served others.  
She was truly the person God would have her be.  
Thank you, Elspeth.

Elspeth Walker was born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.  
During Junior High School she contracted rheumatic fever.  
Her friend Connie Wrenshall, would visit bringing activities and books to read while  
bedridden. This friendship introduced Elspeth to CGIT.  
Her leader was Greebie Goodman who became a life-long friend.  
Elspeth met her husband, Doug Walker  
while he was attending St. Andrew's Theological College in Saskatoon.  
Doug's first placement as a United Church minister was in Strasbourg, SK.  
Elspeth became very involved in CGIT.  
They were placed at St Matthews in Calgary where Elspeth was a leader for eleven years. By  
the time they moved to Lethbridge,  
she was Resource Counsellor for CGIT. Elspeth Walker was busy  
visiting CGIT groups and helping leaders. All those in CGIT appreciated and respected her  
passion for the girls in the middies!  
Elspeth passed away in September 1992.



## **HISTORY OF THE CGIT MOVEMENT**

In 1915, representatives of the Anglican, Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist Churches, along with the YWCA, met to study the needs and wants of teenage girls. The result was CGIT - a girls' group which began as a midweek extension of Sunday School, to channel the energy of teenage girls as they acted upon their Sunday class discussions. Olive Ziegler was hired to promote the CGIT movement.

The four-fold purpose-- cherish health, seek truth, know God, and serve others—based on Luke 2:52, was the foundation for the CGIT program. In addition CGIT emphasized the importance of leaders working with girls in a democratic environment where programs and activities were chosen and planned together. By 1920, CGIT was operating at three levels: national, provincial, and local.

CGIT adopted its 'middy' uniform fashioned after the school uniforms of the day in 1919. In 1933 the Friendship Knot was introduced by the Empress, AB CGIT group. Later this became an official part of the uniform. Over the years, fashion has dictated minor changes in the uniform but the middy continues to be part of CGIT's heritage.

The Silver Anniversary in 1940 was a milestone for CGIT and the first nationwide Christmas Vesper Service was held that year. Offerings from across Canada were used to appoint full time executive secretary for the National CGIT Association. Vesper Service offerings continue to support the work of the Alberta CGIT Association.

CGIT's 50th Anniversary and successive 5 year Anniversaries have been commemorated with special themes, ceremonies, and camps across the country. The only CGIT Camp Councils remaining in Canada for the twenty-first century are Camp Wohelo, Alberta, and Camp Ryde, Ontario.

The first record of CGIT in Alberta was a Calgary Girls' Rally held in 1918.

Olive Ziegler, The National Girls' Work Secretary, was the guest speaker and educated girls about CGIT's four-fold program. Representatives of the Anglican, Baptist, Congregationalist, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches and the YWCA formed the Alberta Girls' Work Board.



## Alberta CGIT Association Leaders Resource Manual 2017 Edition

The mandate of this board was to promote girls' work throughout the province. In 1920 Evelyn Story was hired as the Provincial Girls' Work Secretary. Under her guidance and with the support of the Girls' Work Board, CGIT became a committed, strong and successful movement in Alberta.

Initially all of CGIT's expenses were borne by the YWCA but the "Y" had to curtail its support at the end of 1920. CGIT girls took over fund raising efforts. Their first project was a —Sell A Starll campaign. Each contributor —bought a star to light the way for girlsll. Over the years, CGIT has sold candy, cookies, sweatshirts, socks, hoodies, Tupperware© Weekenders©, crafts at church bazaars, baking, knitting, hosted garage sales and more!

Alberta held its first Provincial Camp Council in 1928 at Camp Kasota. By 1930 the Camp Council girls had decided to create a CGIT magazine that would provide programming suggestions for CGIT groups and "The Gleam" was born. It was the first magazine of its kind in Canada.

The first Christmas Vesper Service was held in 1940—the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CGIT. Girls wore small silver bells on their middy cuffs to celebrate. The Vesper Service was written by various congregations—Presbyterian, Baptist and United Churches with National.

More recently, the Vesper Service has been written by provincial groups on a rotating basis. In many communities across Canada, this annual Christmas service is an event. The whole congregation will turn out, even the whole town!

A Provincial Girls' Executive was set up in 1943 to give girls the opportunity to accept more diversified leadership roles and in 1952 and 1956 Alberta girls attended CGIT's National Camp Council in Ontario.

Membership in Alberta peaked in 1962 with 591 CGIT groups and 6,254 girls. At this time the Religious Education Council of Alberta disbanded and the Girls' Work Board was taken over by the Alberta CGIT Association, which was incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta.

In 1965 girls all across Alberta celebrated 50 years of CGIT at huge rallies in the Calgary and Edmonton Jubilee Auditoriums. In 1968 the Alberta CGIT Association made a move to decentralize its organization and local boards in Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer were created. Committees responsible for programs and events such as: Leadership Training, Field Letters (letters which maintained contact between the Association and the individual groups). Camp Council and Senior Girls' Conference continued to be affiliated with the Association. In 1991-92 the Association researched and implemented an "Organizational Assessment Project" in an effort to clarify



## Alberta CGIT Association Leaders Resource Manual 2017 Edition

roles of the Association and CGIT in Alberta. The Association confirmed objectives of CGIT program but redefined its Mission Statement and organizational structure.

The Association continues to:

- provide leadership development for leaders and girls
- support, coordinate and promote CGIT within Alberta
- act as liaison between Alberta groups.

The Mission Statement is:

*"CGIT provides a place for learning and communicating where girls and women may experience acceptance and the presence of God as they become the people God would have them be."*

The new organizational model for the Association has three teams - Administration, Contact and Program. The Administration Team is comprised of Association executive and oversees all activities of the Association. The Contact Team is responsible for building and maintaining networks with CGIT groups, churches and general public. The Program Team is responsible for planning events and preparing resources for girls and leaders. The Association and continues to seek ways to provide support to the leaders and girls of CGIT and greatly values the work of local leaders who work with teenage girls.

### Dates in CGIT History

**1918**- First CGIT camp, Lumsden, Saskatchewan. Camping was, from CGIT's beginning, an integral part of the program. In fact, many of the women who were girls during these years admit that camp was the highlight of the CGIT year!

**1919** - CGIT got its first uniform and pin. This was really an adaptation of the clothes the girls wore to school, and, therefore, was readily obtainable. Brightly coloured middies, and vivid ties were fashionable at the time; but CGIT chose the white middy, worn with a dark skirt.

A blue tie was suggested and the maple leaves were to be worn, preferably on the cuff.



## Alberta CGIT Association Leaders Resource Manual 2017 Edition

**1921** - The CGIT hymn, *Now We Unite*, was written by Mary Edgar. The first National Camp Conference for leaders was held in Geneva Park, Lake Couchiching, Ontario. The four-fold purpose: cherish health, seek truth, know God, and serve others is based on Luke 2:52.

**1921** - The first leaders' manual was available for CGIT leaders, replacing the booklets.

Camping, Initiations and Ceremonies for CGIT camps; first CGIT song book, games and treasure hunts. The first Camp Council in Ontario, 60 women attended to discuss vital issues of CGIT with the emphasis on relationships.

**1924** - First issue of *The Torch* – a resource magazine written for leaders.

**1928** - First Camp Council in Alberta and girls' own paper, *The Gleam*.

**1930** - The Four-Square Knot group in Empress, Alberta, developed the four-square friendship knot for our tie. If you've ever tried to tie this knot or teach a group of 12 year olds to tie, you'll know why girls won't allow their mothers to untie it—even for laundering.

**1935** – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – —*20 Years-a-growing.*”

**1936** - CGIT materials were used in Japan, Africa, Bermuda, China, Trinidad, and Labrador.

**1937** - First National CGIT week observed in Canada.

**1940** – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: We celebrated by wearing tiny silver bells attached to a badge worn on our uniform. The tiny silver bells tinkled through a whole school week!

Tradition begins - our first National Christmas Vesper Service. Offerings collected each year made possible the work of the National Girls' Work Secretary.

**1945** – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**1950** – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**1952** -- First National Girl's Camp, Kwasind, Ontario.

**1955** – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



**Alberta CGIT Association Leaders Resource Manual  
2017 Edition**

- 1956** -- Second National Girl's Camp in Kwasind, Ontario. 68 girls, ages 16-18yrs attended.
- 1960** – 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Mission Study theme was —'Into All the World Together'.
- 1961** -- First National Leaders Conference, Lennoxville, Quebec. 262 delegates from across Canada attended.
- 1964** - Revised standards for Chevrons. Chevrons are the "V" crest on the left sleeve of the uniform. One was earned each year of CGIT, up to six, for completion of the year's work.
- 1965** —50 Golden YearsII - CGIT girls and leaders across Canada raised \$50,000 for a Christian Education Conference and Camping centre near Djakarta, Indonesia. In Toronto, a joyful crowd filled the Maple Leaf Gardens for an anniversary celebration.
- 1966** - Centennial Camp Council pilot exchange between the Maritimes and Saskatchewan.
- 1967** - "Triple "C": Centennial Camp Council" Celebrates Canada's Centennial, 500 girls and leaders participate at eight camp sites across Canada with an exchange of four girls and two leaders from each of two provinces, Alberta hosted B.C. and Ontario.
- 1968** - Completion of National CGIT Resource Project; 38,000 girls and 4000 leaders. The project stressed improved relationships and communication.
- 1969** - Value of Chevron questioned and put on hold for three years. It has not returned.
- 1970** – 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. "The Torch" becomes a magazine for CGIT leaders and girls.
- 1972** - Leadership '72 - equal number of girls and leaders attended training events at three centres in Canada: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Whitby, Ontario, Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia.
- 1973** - Restructuring of the National CGIT Committee on a trial basis to emphasize cooperative and regional approaches to CGIT projects and programming.
- 1975** – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. An anniversary booklet: —Sixty Years of CGITII was published.
- 1976** - Olive Zeigler Fund honouring the last living founder of CGIT is established. MELD I



## Alberta CGIT Association Leaders Resource Manual 2017 Edition

(Multiplier Effect in Leadership Development), Part I, a National Workshop for leaders held at Aurora, Ontario, for one week. Four delegates from each province or region attended—a total of 32 delegates.

**1977** - MELD II - Part II - Five Oaks, Paris, Ontario. Same groups as MELD I

**1979** - MELD III- Calgary, Alberta, to focus on leadership in camping.

**1980** – 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Money raised in Alberta for a portable suction machine for the operating room at Amp Pipal Village Hospital, Nepal. Dr. Helen Houston, the missionary doctor, first learned of needs in Third World countries when she attended CGIT camp in Alberta and became a doctor. Ontario held a two day Jamboree to celebrate 65 years. Other provinces held various celebrations.

**1982** - Shoes: CGIT Exchange Program: a packet based on the theme "Help me not to judge my neighbour until I have walked a mile in her/his moccasins" available for groups planning an exchange with another group.

**1985** - "Young and Alive in '85." 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Special project to raise \$50,000 for a medical van to be used in Vellore, India. Goal was matched by CIDA. National Camp Council at Camp Brereton, Manitoba with girls from Nigeria, Trinidad, Bermuda attending. A Commemorative Garden (blue and white), was at Cullen Gardens Nursery, ON. Seven leadership events were held across Canada with senior resources: "Our Purpose for the '80's".

**1987** - Cheque presented to Vellore, India for Rural Community Health in the amount of \$120,000 (\$70,000 from CGIT and \$50,000 from CIDA).

**1988** - MELD IV, Aurora, Ontario, focus "The Waves of Change."

**1990** - "75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Let Loose the Flame. Provincial celebrations listed in The Torch. Spring 1990.

**1992** - LDEP (Leadership Development Enhancement Program) fund established to encourage leadership and resource development.

**1994** - First issue of *Creating Great Ideas Together*. National CGIT Association exhibits at the



## Alberta CGIT Association Leaders Resource Manual 2017 Edition

Canadian Christian Festival in Hamilton, Ontario and the United Church General Council in Fergus, Ontario. Girl's newsletter established, "Creating Great Ideas Together." written for CGIT girls by CGIT girls.

**1995** - "Soaring to New Heights" 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—Special project to raise funds towards building a home for homeless teen girls in Christalins, Brazil. CGIT groups raised \$31,675 and CIDA donated \$38,000.

**1999** - National CGIT Website debuted.

**2000** - "Hands with a Purpose" 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—First national online rally.

Alberta sold sweatshirts and hoodies printed with the Anniversary theme.

**2002** – National CGIT Office and Board disbanded. Provincial Associations

assumed *'TheTorch'* and website maintenance on a rotating basis.

**2005** – 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – —"Steps to Tomorrow". Alumnae Teas were held in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Drayton Valley, Calgary—an Observer photographer was present at two events. Alberta hosted a Camp Council at Camp Wohelo, Pigeon Lake with Linnea Good as Music Resource for the entire week! Ontario and Maritimes hosted Camp Councils at Ryde Lake, ON and Nova Scotia at CampTatamagouche.

**2010** – "CGIT Is An Attitude!" 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary--Alberta girls chose the theme with L'il Redheaded Girl. Other groups in Canada used the theme:

"Celebrating God's Gifts in Ten" (2010). Alumnae Teas were held across the country.

**2015** – "One Hundred Years With A Purpose" Alumnae Teas across Canada and

Alberta hosted a weekend camp at Camp Wohelo". Special mementos: tote bags, pins, key chains and stickers were available from groups across Canada.