

# The Grand Council Allied Masonic Degrees of Canada

## Report of the Condition of Allied Masonic Degrees 2024

To the Most Venerable Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of Canada

Most Venerable Sir and Brethren, Greetings.

I must first thank those District Deputy Grand Masters and their Secretaries for furnishing me the reports of their Official Visits to the Councils in their respective Districts. I would also be remiss if I did not thank M. Ven. Bro. Brian Rountree, the Grand Secretary, for supplying me with information that was sent to him and not to myself. Reports were received from 5 of District Deputy Grand Masters and as at the time of writing of this report the District Deputy Grand Master of District 5 had not submitted any reports. This makes it difficult to fully report accurately on the condition of our order. Attempts to acquire this information have not been responded to and has proved unsuccessful.

The District Deputy Grand Masters report that they were received in proper form and Grand Honours were extended to them in all Councils with one exception where the Most Venerable Grand Master was in attendance and the DDGM chose to defer to him. All District Deputy Grand Masters were received warmly in all Councils that they visited. Several of the Councils had an informal lunch or dinner.

A Degree was conferred or exemplified in most of the Councils, and most was done from memory, however there were a number of instances where the work was read. It should be stressed that it is our duty to impress the candidate and I do not believe that can be accomplished by performing ritual with a book in hand. It is unfortunate that situations such as this occur due to absences of members for a variety of reasons, stemming from private and personal to masonic conflicts due to belonging to too many bodies or lack of preparation, but kudos to those who take parts of the ritual on short notice.

On the occasion of the Official Visits of the DDGM's 12 Councils presented papers and in three councils more than one paper was given. This is an encouraging sign as if this number of papers are delivered on Official Visits how many are presented at regular meetings. It would suggest that we are fulfilling our mandate of providing education and enlightenment.

The District Deputy Grand Masters of Districts 2 and 4 reported having District Meetings this past year and at the District 4 meeting the Order of the Red Branch of Eri was conducted.

Membership or lack thereof in every masonic body is a topic of conversation and concern and ours is no exception. As a national organization one would think that we would have a large membership but no we only have 25 Councils across the country and from numbers that I have obtained from the DDGM's reports show that the largest Council has 29 members. I contacted the Grand Secretary to see what the national total of membership is, and he informed me that as of December 31, 2023, the reported membership was 513 but when those with dual or multiple memberships 79 are subtracted our actual membership is 437. We could certainly admit more members as the

statistics from the Grand Secretary show that between December 31, 2022, and December 31, 2023, there were 39 members initiated or restored but deaths, demits and suspensions numbered 52. The deaths are uncontrollable but demits and suspensions are. How can we control the number of demits and suspensions that are received each year? We can first ask the member why he wishes to apply for a demit or why his dues are not up to date and not just automatically demit or suspend. If we do not know why then how can we effect positive change to retain these and future members. We can also consult with the 79 members who hold dual or multiple memberships in our councils. I am sure they don't belong to more than one council because they are having trouble filling the hours, they belong because they enjoy what our councils have to offer and how they can make our councils and meetings more successful by offering their time and support. Members stay when the meetings are meaningful, beginning with memorization and delivery of ritual from the opening of the council to the performance of the degree, supported by interesting and thought-provoking papers to the close of council. When one leaves a meeting impressed with the work of the day, they will be inclined not only to return but to actively take part. If the meeting is nothing more than reading and lacks preparation, why return. It takes work and if something is worth doing it is worth doing well.

The Allied Masonic Degrees of Canada has many positives as indicated in the DDGM.s reports, the number of educational papers presented, the conducting of the supplemental degrees which is the reason we exist as masonic body. Let us build on the foundation that we have. We have very much to offer, and it is up to each and every member to promote the benefits of membership in the Allied Masonic Degrees and how it enhances the "Masonic Career".

In conclusion it was optimistically reported by two of the DDGM's that there was interest in forming two new councils one in Saskatchewan and another in Alberta, hopefully this will come to fruition.

Respectfully submitted,  
R. Ven. Bro. Richard B. Allgood  
Grand Senior Warden