



Pembina
Counselling
Centre

Newsletter

SPRING 2024

Photo courtesy of Steve Hiebert



A Season of Growth and Gratitude

BY CHRIS DERKSEN

Overwhelmed! That's the word that comes to mind when I reflect on what God has done and is doing in the ministry of Pembina Counselling Centre, and it's my joy to share it with you.

On April 18th we had over 350 guests come to our Spring Fundraiser and enjoy the talent and inspiration of Phil Callaway from Back to the Bible / Laugh Again. This was one of the biggest events in the history of PCC.

We are currently completing an addition to our Winkler office which will make room for our counselling team as it continues to grow. This space is also geared towards serving children and adolescents, which we're seeing a lot more of.

Speaking of counselling team, I am pleased to share with you that we have recently hired, Amber Thiesen, as our newest counsellor at

PCC. That brings our numbers to 9 counsellors. Amber and her husband, Brent, live in the Pembina Valley with their three children.

Finally, we look forward to welcome Steve Kauenhofen to PCC in September 2024. Steve is currently attending Providence College, and is enrolled in their Masters of Counselling Program. Steve will be completing his practicum with us, and we will be offering appointments with him, at a discounted rate.

It seems so cliché, but it's worth repeating; we could not do what we do without the guidance and blessing of our Lord Jesus, and without your faithful support.

I want to thank you for continuing to pray for us, your financial support, and for placing your trust in Pembina Counselling Centre. Your support and trust is truly overwhelming, and we do not take it for granted.

As we are in the wake of Easter, I'm reminded of these song lyrics, *"To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, All the glory evermore to Him. When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat, Yet not I, but through Christ in me."*

May the Lord bless you and your families!

For more information on Pembina Counselling Centre's services and upcoming events, visit our website at www.pembinacounselling.ca

Spring Fundraiser

What an incredible evening we had at PCC's Spring Fundraiser on April 18th featuring Comedian Phil Callaway! Laughter, love, and a whole lot of generosity filled the air as the community came together to support Pembina Counselling Centre.

We as an organization can't thank you enough for helping to raise **over \$60,000**. You make a real difference in the lives of those who rely on our counselling services.

Listening to Chris Derksen, our dedicated Executive Director, express his gratitude and excitement at the community's response was a highlight. He reminded us of the growing need in the Pembina Valley, and how in one week working with over 120 people in our 3 offices, around 40% of individuals / families are able to use a Reduced Rate to help cover the cost for counselling. What an incredible gift you have given.

During the event, Paul Penner, our Clinical Director, updated us on the importance of connecting with one another and how positive impacts of counselling can be felt years later.

Christine Elias, an expert on Eye Movement Integration (EMI), helped explain the science behind EMI and its significance in helping the brain process trauma. Her presentation added a valuable dimension to the event, highlighting the Centre's holistic approach to mental health support.

Finally, Phil Callaway entertained and encouraged us with stories that made us laugh and connect well with, incorporating the Gospel throughout. Thank you Phil!

The event had delicious coffee and lattes by Other Brother Roasters, and delectable desserts from DeLuca's that sweetened the experience for attendees.

To all our sponsors, volunteers, attendees, and supporters - thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your contributions will help us continue our mission of providing essential mental health services to those who need it most. Cheers to a fabulous evening and to the bright future ahead!

*Stay in the loop by visiting our website at www.pembinacounselling.ca.
Together, we're making a difference, one laugh and one donation at a time.*

Partnership Highlight

Thank you to **McMunn & Yates** and **Joey Thiessen**, Store Manager for their partnership with PCC during their grand opening.



Newest Counsellor

We are thrilled to announce that **Amber Thiessen** has joined Pembina Counselling Centre as our newest counsellor.



A Letter From Our Newest Board Member



Hello everyone,

Last year when Chris Derksen approached me about coming onto the board as a pastoral presence, it was hard for me to say no. I have known Chris for a number of years going back to before he became the Exec Director at PCC.

You may be wondering who I am? Recently added to the PCC board, I am Sean Harder and the Pastor of Grace Mennonite Church since 2018. My wife, Denise and I along with our two young adult daughters Emily and Christina, and our Golden Retriever, Chloe, moved here from Kelowna, BC. I love good coffee, golf and equipping people to be followers of Jesus.

I was a clinical counsellor for the better part of 15 years prior to the last 16 years as a pastor. But it was only for the last couple years as a counsellor that I became a Christian. In those two years, it was very frustrating, at least in BC where I was, that the healing power and wisdom of Jesus Christ could not be mentioned in any of those therapeutic relationships.

There is plenty of counselling out there that might be labelled “Christian”, but in reality there is not that much Christ-centered, biblical counselling out there. This is where PCC becomes an incredibly valuable and a rare resource to the community. Our counsellors have the academic and technical skills needed to be good counsellors, but at least in my opinion, it’s the devotion to Christ and the Word of God, that they and the rest of this organization has, that sets us apart.

This is why I said yes to being on the board, and I am committed to do my part to keep us Christ/Biblically centered in a culture that is increasingly hostile to the true healing that can only come from Jesus. Oswald Chambers once said “*Prayer does not fit us for the greater works, prayer is the greater work.*” Prayer is the ultimate power that will keep us thriving and moving in the direction of God in this world, so I invite you all to join me in consistent prayer for PCC, our community, and the world without Christ.

“Prayer is the ultimate power that will keep us thriving and moving in the direction of God in this world.”

May spring bring newness and life to your own walk with the Lord.

Peace and Grace,
Sean



On May 27, the **Morden Thrift Shop** distributed a total of \$268,000 to 27 different organizations including Pembina Counselling Centre. Special thanks to the dedicated volunteers at the Morden Thrift Shop! Your time, effort and commitment are the driving force behind our ability to make a difference in the community. We couldn't do it without you!



Thankful for this great organization, who we partner with regularly. We had a great time serving with **Central Station** at the end of May for one of their community meals.

United Way Pembina Valley Supports PCC in 2023-2024 Funding Campaign

The United Way Pembina Valley 2023-2024 campaign earmarked Pembina Counselling Centre as one of the 31 organizations who received funding. Thank you to the generous donations from individuals and businesses who helped reach their goal this year. Funding will continue to help PCC provide a Reduced Rate program for those receiving counselling and not able to afford the full rate.

Donate

Give our office a call, send us an email or visit our website to make a donation or to become a partner

Book Appointment

204.822.6622
reception@pccmb.ca

Locations

Morden: 205-30 Stephen St.
Winkler: 2B-915 Navigator Rd.
Altona: 127 - 67 2nd St. NE



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