

FUNDS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST CONGREGATIONS WITH COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES

Imagine these scenarios occurring in your congregation or community:

- ✦ *A congregant family experiences a major fire loss but has no insurance and desperately needs financial assistance.*
- ✦ *A spouse abandons the family and leaves behind significant debts which the remaining spouse needs to meet with insufficient funds.*
- ✦ *The wage earner of a family experiences a major illness resulting in an inability to work for an extended period. The family has insufficient financial resources or insurance to “tide them over” the crisis.*
- ✦ *A recent immigrant family experiences the death of a parent in another country. They appeal to the church for assistance so at least one can attend the parent’s funeral.*



Such events happen regularly within congregations and communities across Canada and appeals are made to congregational compassion or deacons funds for assistance. Most times, funds are limited by policy or the budgeted resources available to the fund. Would your congregation welcome the ability to potentially double the assistance your compassion fund can offer in certain situations? Such assistance is available through the MAX Canada Mutual Aid Ministries Share Fund. In fact, the MAX Canada Share Fund has assisted in instances similar to each of the above examples.

MAX Canada’s Share Fund is an incorporated registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency. The purpose of the Share Fund is to encourage constituent congregations to be actively engaged in compassionate mutual aid ministry by partnering with them in their ministry.

The Share Fund will help congregations serve persons who have a financial burden created by an unexpected definable loss which creates a temporary financial burden that is beyond the reasonable resources of the affected people and their local congregation or faith community to meet. Grants are provided in partnership with and through the faith community – the congregation. Recipients do not need to be part of the congregation nor members of MAX. However, there is an expectation that the congregation assists according to its capacity.

The Share Fund is funded by a pre-tax tithe of MAX’s insurance operational profits, by an investment fund established by the former Mennonite Aid Union and by gifts from staff, board and interested individuals and companies. With the approval of a narrative application form by the Share Fund Gifting Committee, the Share Fund will partner with congregations and match up to \$2,000 in assistance offered by the congregation. The one time approved grants are gifted to the congregation as a transfer from one charity to another. The funds are then the congregation’s to use for the designated purpose.

Congregational leaders can assist the Share Fund ministry by encouraging members to consider MAX when they are considering purchase of their property and casualty insurance. For further details;

- ✦ visit the MAX Canada website at www.maxcanada.org,
- ✦ email mutualaid@maxcanada.org,
- ✦ or call Nelson Scheifele, Director of Mutual Aid Ministries at 877-770-7729 ext. 202.