



Dear Friends of Camp Arnes,

It's that time again, where we see God's creation renewed as the buds start forming on the trees that line the driveway leading to our main Camp area. The white and brown scenery is about to be changed into a lush green landscape that displays the glory of our magnificent Creator. As the cold temperatures dissipate, the birds are chirping a little louder and the harmony of voices belonging to our guests at Camp is increasing, signaling that Summer Camp will soon be upon us. Soon, we will be living out our mission of leading young people into a growing and meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ through adventure in creation.

The changing of seasons also brings with it our joyful celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior. With this major event, we no longer fear the sting of death but hold strongly to the redeeming message that we are saved through our faith in Jesus Christ! How amazing that we can all be part of an organization that exists to spread this message to all the campers that will make their way through our gates in a few short months?

We can't express the importance of how we all need to work together to ensure this gets done. Just like the body has many parts that work together to form one body with Jesus as our head, we need to bring forth our gifts and talents to fulfill the great commission as laid out in Matthew 28: 16-20:

*"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"*

**We NEED your help right now!** In the last week, we've received word from one of our funding agencies that they will no longer contribute to our organization based on our mission! They don't want to support religious organizations that exist to advance the Gospel. In their words: "Programming with a central mission to lead participants to a relationship with Christ does meet the policy's definition of proselytizing, and therefore would be ineligible for a grant." This puts us in a position where we are no longer eligible for more than a hundred thousand dollars of funding for big projects each year.

With some infrastructure issues in our buildings caused by laying dormant through COVID, the timing couldn't be worse. Grants from government and foundations are becoming harder to obtain for Christian organizations like ours, but we will not waiver in our mission to spread the Good News because even during challenging phases, Camp Arnes can be thankful that we have such great supporters on whom we can rely. During the pandemic, we asked for your help in preparing to re-open Camp and we were able to raise over a million dollars to pay for staffing, taxes and utilities, equipment, and facility improvements. Last December, we put out an appeal for help to replace the roof on our dining hall, which leaks whenever we have a downpour of rain. We continue to deal with the unexpected repercussions of being shut down for two years during the pandemic, needing to replace furnaces, hot

water tanks, and failing pumps that are causing water damage in our buildings. You have always helped us when we needed it. You continuously answer the call to ensure that the saving message of Jesus Christ dying for our sins will continue to go out from Camp Arnes! You have no idea how much we appreciate your contributions to the Kingdom work that we are trying to accomplish, but our need for financial help continues to exist. As we react to the needs of keeping up with building maintenance, we are trying to address the issues with sustainable and long-term solutions in mind. With sixty-five aging buildings on-site, here are some of the ways that these gifts will make an impact at Camp and help us work towards being proactive in how we address future problems:

- Gifts of \$50 to \$250: can replace the current lights in cabins with LED lighting.
- Gifts of \$250 to \$500: can replace a toilet, sink, sump pump, or other plumbing fixture.
- Gifts of \$500 to \$1000: can replace a window with a high efficiency alternative.
- Gifts of \$1000 to \$5000: can replace a hot water tank or furnace.
- Gifts of \$5000+: can upgrade one of our dining hall water tanks, which are approaching the end of their life and requiring more maintenance as they age.



*“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”*

-Galatians 6: 9-10

If you have the capacity to contribute, please **ACT NOW!** We need prayer! Pray for our sustainable future at Camp. Pray for our team that’s working so diligently to be resourceful with the limited funding that we have coming into the organization. Pray for the Governments of Canada and Manitoba, that they will be blessed and continue to govern in a way that’s pleasing to God. We need volunteers; we need people up at Camp to help complement our staffing team. And finally, we need your continued economic support of the work that’s being done for God’s purpose.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Buffington", followed by a horizontal line.

Chris Buffington,  
Executive Director

*PS. All charitable donations are tax-deductible! Call us or visit [www.camparnes.com](http://www.camparnes.com) to for more information on volunteering or to donate!*