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Celebrating the legacy of Catholic Sisters in Alberta

Sisters' contributions

- The Sisters established 44 hospitals, 67 schools and 62 social services including, soup kitchens, clothes for the children, immigrant services, orphanages, care for the elderly, boarding schools for un-wed mothers, counseling services and activities for teens.
- Religious missions played a key role in the founding of 49 towns and cities in Alberta.

Some of the firsts by religious women in Alberta's history

- On **August 3, 1859**, a fifty-three day excursion would bring three Sisters of Charity of Montreal Grey Nuns from St. Boniface, Manitoba to Lac Sainte Anne. 31-year-old Sister Emery, 23-year-old Sister Adele and 23-year-old Sister Alphonse were the first three nuns to visit or reside in Alberta; the three Sisters were the third, fourth and fifth non-Native women to travel to Alberta. They arrived September 24, 1859.
- **1863**, the Grey Nuns opened a new Convent in St. Albert, which operated as the first hospital, orphanage and a school in the Northwest Territories.
- **Canada becomes a confederation in 1867.**
- **1885** Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus open St. Mary's School in Calgary. Later that year the Calgary Catholic School District becomes the first Roman Catholic separate school district.
- **1888**, Three Sisters from the Faithful Companions of Jesus began teaching 23 students at St. Joachim, the first school in Edmonton.
- **1891**, Sisters of Charity of Montreal Grey Nuns open Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. The Calgary General opened the year before.
- **1893**, Sisters of Charity Montreal Grey Nuns open Our Lady of Seven Sorrows in Standoff.
- **1894**, six Sisters of Providence were sent from Montreal to St. Bernard Mission among the Cree at Lesser Slave Lake to run a boarding school and a small hospital.
- **1895**, Sisters of Charity of Montreal Grey Nuns open the Edmonton General Hospital.
- **1899**, The Sisters of the Assumption of Holy Mary arrive in St. Paul to teach children and run a boarding school.
- **1900**, Misericordia Sisters open the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton.
- **1901**, Sisters of Charity of Providence of Montreal open St. Martin's Hospital in Desmarais, Wabasca.
- **1902**, four Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate arrive in Strathcona from Ukraine. Their attic convent in St. Joachim Church became their first headquarters to help primarily Ukrainian immigrants with health care, education and social services.
- **1903**, more Ukrainian speaking Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate arrive 60 miles northeast of Edmonton – near Beaver Lake – which is now Mundare. The Sisters open the first Ukrainian school.
- **Alberta was proclaimed a province in 1905 and Edmonton became the capital city.**

- **1908**, Sisters of Charity of Providence of Montreal open Sacred Heart Hospital in Athabasca Landing.
- **1908**, Sisters of Providence St. Vincent de Paul open Providence Hospital in Daysland.
- **1909**, Sisters of Charity of Notre-Dame D'evron open St. Mary's Health Care Centre in Trochu.
- **1909**, Sisters of Charity of Providence of Montreal open St. Joseph Hospital in Grouard.
- **1910**, Sisters of Charity of Providence of Montreal open Father Lacombe Nursing Home in Midnapore.
- **1910**, Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame D'evron open St. Joseph's General Hospital in Vegreville.
- **1911**, Daughters of Wisdom open Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital in Castor.
- **1912** Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, sometimes called the "Good Shepards" arrive in Edmonton to open a school for girls at the request of Bishop Emile Legal and the Superintendent of the Department of neglected children.
- **1912**, the first Catholic Women's League starts in Edmonton at St. Joachim Church. The Edmonton group becomes the model for a national organization which starts eight years later.
- **1919**, Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame D'evron open St. Louis Hospital in Bonnyville.
- **1924**, Filles De Jesus open St. Vincent's Hospital in Pincher Creek.
- **1924**, Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul open St. Mary's Hospital, in Camrose.
- **1925**, Sisters of Charity of Providence of Montreal open St. Theresa Hospital in Fort Vermilion.
- **1925**, Sisters of Service open Our Lady's Hospital in Vilna.
- **1926**, Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception of Saint John, open the Sisters of Service St. John's Hospital in Edson.
- **1926**, Sisters of St. Joseph London in Western Canada open the Stettler Municipal Hospital.
- **1926**, Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception of Saint John, New Brunswick open St. Joseph's Hospital in Radway.
- **1926**, Sisters of Charity of Montreal Grey Nuns open St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul.
- **1927**, Sisters of St. Joseph London in Western Canada open St. Joseph's Hospital in Galahad.
- **1927**, Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul Halifax open Immaculata Hospital, in Westlock.
- **1929**, Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul Halifax open Saint Anne's Hospital in Hardisty.
- **1929**, Sisters of Charity of Providence of Montreal open Sacred Heart Hospital in McLennan.
- **1929**, Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate open Mary Immaculate Hospital in Mundare.
- **1930**, Sisters of St. Joseph London in Western Canada open Killam General Hospital.
- **1930**, Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul Halifax open Seton Hospital in Jasper.

Backgrounder

- **1930**, Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish open Mineral Springs Hospital in Banff.
- **1931**, Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish open St. Michael's General Hospital in Lethbridge.
- **1932**, Sisters of St. Joseph London in Western Canada open St. Paul's Hospital in Rimbey
- **1933**, Sisters of Charity of Providence of Montreal open Providence Residence and Providence Crèche in Calgary, a home for infants and unwed mothers.
- **1935**, Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate open Mary Immaculate Hospital in Willingdon.
- **1935**, the Usulines open St. Angela's Convent in Drumheller to provide social services.
- **1937**, Sisters of Charity of Providence of Montreal open Providence Hospital in High Prairie.
- **1937**, Filles De Jesus opens St. Catherine's Hospital in Lac La Biche.
- **1938**, Sisters of Charity of Montreal Grey Nuns open St. Gabriel's Hospital in Fort McMurray
- **1939**, Sisters of St Martha begin to minister in the Crownest Pass. Their work leads to the establishment of the Family Service Bureau.
- **1940**, Sisters of Charity of Montreal Grey Nuns open Youville Home in St. Albert.
- **1941**, Sisters of Charity at Ottawa Grey Nuns of the Cross open Holy Cross Hospital in Spirit River.
- **1947**, Sisters of St. Joseph Pembroke open St. Joseph's Hospital in Barrhead.
- **1948**, Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul open St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton.
- **1948**, The Sisters of Providence open a hostel for young women in Athabasca.
- **1951**, Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus open St. Joseph's Home to care for elderly men and women in Medicine Hat and the surrounding area.
- **1957** Sisters of Providence of Charity extend the scope of Providence Crèche in Calgary to include the care of disabled children.