

**STATEMENT TO BE SUPPLIED EVERY
PERSON APPLYING FOR ADMISSION
TO THE CRAFT**

This statement is authorized and issued by
The Grand Lodge of Alberta
for the guidance of members
and for the information of prospective candidates.

No one pressured to join Freemasonry

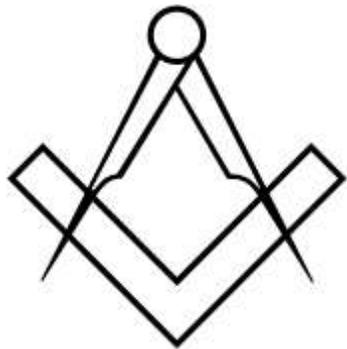
Freemasonry has in all ages insisted that men should come to its doors of their own free will and not as a result of solicitation or from feelings of curiosity, but simply from a favourable opinion of the institution and a desire to be ranked among its members. This is to ensure that only men with the highest ideals of service to God and their fellow men are admitted into Freemasonry and to ensure that they will not in later life regret they have been persuaded to join something they would not have done of their own free will. This, however, should not prevent any Freemason from giving appropriate encouragement to a worthy man who, of his own free will, demonstrates an interest in joining the Craft. The Grand Lodge of Alberta is comprised of separate Lodges in all the larger communities. It is recommended that, in general, the candidate should join the Lodge nearest his home as he is there most likely to find the greatest community of interest with his fellow members.

Aims of Freemasonry

The main aims of Freemasonry are:

1. To promote the Brotherhood of man under the Supreme Being.
2. To render practical aid and assistance to the less fortunate members of the community, and
3. By such behaviour in daily life to demonstrate to others that the teachings of the Craft have a profound and beneficial effect on all who sincerely embrace its precepts.

**INFORMATION
FOR
APPLICANTS**



**THE GRAND LODGE
OF ALBERTA**
Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons



Authorized Statement in reference to the
Aims and Objectives of Freemasonry.

To be supplied by Lodges to every person
applying for admission to the Craft.

FREEMASONRY

**AIMS AND
OBJECTIVES**

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Antiquity of Freemasonry

The origins of Freemasonry date back several centuries, and it has been a fully integrated society since 1717. Today, it comprises of about 100 Grand Lodges – each an independent sovereign body managing its own affairs – and numbers over six million members. In ancient and modern times, many of them were and are men of rank and influence. However, irrespective of rank, status, wealth, colour or creed all have met as equals in the Lodge room and have united in the Grand design of serving their fellow men, and of promoting human welfare and happiness.

Freemasonry is NOT a Religion

Freemasonry is NOT a religious order, though its ceremonies have considerable religious character and atmosphere, and contain elements common to all recognized world religions. It requires in every member a firm belief in a Supreme Being, however designated, and the appropriate volume of the sacred writings, known to Freemasons as the Volume of the Sacred Law, lies open in the Lodge during every Lodge ceremony.

No Religions or Political discussion permitted

No religious or political discussion is permitted in a Freemason's Lodge. Members are entitled to hold their own opinions but may not obtrude them on their fellow members in any way that might lead to dissension. Freemasonry, as such, expresses no opinion on any topic other than what is strictly Masonic.

Freemasonry is NOT a Secret Society

Freemasonry has sometimes been designated a Secret Society. It is nothing of the kind. The so – called secrets are details of the various ceremonies which concern Freemasons only and which enable them to recognize another Freemason and his stage of advancement in the Craft. These ceremonies are religious in character but in no way denominational. They are solemn and impressive and not lightly to be paraded to the outside world. Appropriate dignity without undue formality is of the very essence of all Masonic proceedings.

Freemasonry is NOT a Benefit Society

That Freemasonry is NOT a Benefit Society is a fact that cannot be stressed too strongly. No man should join the ranks of Freemasonry expecting to derive some financial benefit. Contributions by lodges and by individual members are used to alleviate distress and suffering in those who have met with misfortune. For them, help is always forthcoming and no deserving appeal is ever made in vain. A major thrust of Masons in Alberta is in the area of educational assistance for worthy young people. The Grand Lodge Higher Education Bursary Fund is dedicated to this end and it should be noted that the funds dispersed to students are available for all Albertans whether they are related or not to Masons. A second trust is in the Masonic Foundation which targets various charitable activities according to the decision of its Board.

Our work of benevolence is not restricted to Freemasons and their relatives, but is extended to members of the community who are in need.

Loyalty to one's Country essential

In Freemasonry, loyalty to one's country is an essential qualification, and the only men acceptable are those who cheerfully render obedience to every lawful authority, strictly obey the laws of the country and who make every endeavour to promote the interest and welfare of the nation.

Investigation of candidates

Prospective candidates should know that the suitability of every applicant for admission to a Freemason's Lodge is investigated by a special committee of the Lodge. If the committee approves, the nomination is then submitted to a ballot by members of the Lodge.

Financial obligations

An initiation fee is payable by every candidate and thereafter, an annual subscription. In addition, members may be called upon from time to time for voluntary contributions towards the various charities connected with the Craft. The amounts expected will depend entirely on the means of each member and are never burdensome. Any married man contemplating joining a Freemason's Lodge should discuss with his wife the obligations entailed before making a decision.

Regular attendance expected

Lodge meetings are usually held once or twice a month and regular attendance is expected. It must be stressed, however, that a Freemason's duty is first to his wife and family and then to his means of livelihood. After that, Freemasonry deserves the best attention its members can give it.

Freemasonry – A WAY OF LIFE

Freemasonry has been described as a way of life, for to be effective, its teachings must be put into practice. Freemasonry strives to teach a man his duty to God, to his neighbour and himself. It inculcates the practice of virtue and makes extensive use of symbols in its teachings. It has attracted to its membership men of goodwill and charity. Its doors are open to men of every race, colour or creed who are willing to subscribe to its principles and tenets, who seek no personal advantage through their membership, and who feel impelled to extend brotherly love and goodwill to all men everywhere. Freemasonry contains nothing that is in any way inconsistent with one's civil, moral or religious duties. Its principles are as true today as they were 250 years ago. Should you decide to apply for membership after considering the facts placed before you, you will after admission, be assured of a warm welcome in every Masonic Lodge under the jurisdiction of any recognized Grand Lodge throughout the world.