

Organizational History of New Ventures

The Districts have had an essential role in shaping New Ventures over the past 14 years. Our shared history demonstrates a steady trajectory toward a common name, communications and practices across Canada.

2008: General Assembly

New Ventures began to formally take shape at the 2008 General Assembly.

As the District Superintendents at the time had embraced and prayed through the newly announced vision prayer, “Oh God with all our hearts we long to be a movement of churches transformed by Christ, transforming Canada and the world,” they were moved to launch the 5th S: Sea to Sea, with a vision to create and sustain a national church multiplication movement in Canada.

The District Superintendents shared their excitement for this new endeavour through a presentation at Assembly by performing a skit delivered in uncharacteristic but bold bright yellow tracksuits. They also invested in an attractive video to share the launch. With the launch of Sea to Sea, they identified the need for a network that would represent a shared desire across Districts to learn and work together and recognize Canada as a mission field.

The District Superintendents committed to sending a representative from their District one to two times a year to meet with other District leadership in various locations across the country.

2009-2013: Forming a Network

Over the next few years, a formalized network developed out of this commitment around relationships, learning and sharing resources. It was determined that implementation of sea to sea and the multiplicative environment would look different in each District. Eventually, this network was named the National Implementer Network.

In 2011, the National Implementer Network made a recommendation for a common platform to share stories around church planting to keep communication moving forward across all Districts. The District Superintendents agreed to

National Implementer Network leaders in 2011

- Larry Eide, CPD (had an established structure for church planting)
- Doug Balzer, WCD (partnered closely with C2C)
- Ron Goerzen, CMD (worked closely with First Nations Ministries)
- Ron Bonar, CCD (represented the DS Team and was a part of church planting and Century 21 systems for years)
- Dave Enns, ECD (started a new environment called New Ventures)
- Francis Pearson, SLD (represented the DS Team after Ron Bonar and was an active participant of this network)



cover the costs to make this happen. The National Implementer Network continued to meet together to learn and share resources regularly.

2013-2019: Beginning to share practices and work together across Districts

With conversations beginning in Fall 2013 over to Winter 2014, the three DEXCOM Committees in Eastern Canada made a decision to share the practices and values of the newly coined “New Ventures” environment. They also committed to a shared team structure, which created space for additional Implementers on the ground to become involved.

In 2015, “New Ventures” became the cross-district language for multiplication ministries that included (a) new churches, (b) new congregations, and (c) start-ups (defined as any multiplication endeavour that had the potential and permission to become a local church). The existing National Implementer Network remained ad hoc rather than becoming more formalized at this time.

In May 2018, the District Superintendents met to re-establish a formalized national “New Ventures Network” (NVN) and recommitted to funding the attendance of representatives in an annual meeting. Their hope was to invest in the relational connection for the regional representatives and to support them to meet annually to share best practices and mutual coaching and encouragement at a regional level. Together they also affirmed a shared environment to plant churches and “spawn New Ventures.” They further agreed that having a national New Venture website that communicated common movement, stories, and the “why” nationally was a good platform.

Later in 2018, the western Districts began to discuss sharing New Ventures practices across the country. The Canadian Pacific District and the Canadian Midwest District engaged this conversation. At this time, the Western Canadian District was undertaking some significant changes (The Issachar Project) and re-engaged the conversation after the project was complete.

2019-2021: Transition and alignment

In the spring and summer of 2019, a number of changes affected New Ventures.

In April, the Central Canadian District stepped out of the Eastern Canada partnership model to focus on New Ventures within their own context. Change also came about in District leadership in the St. Lawrence District and the Eastern Canadian District.

In August 2019, the New Venture Network gathered and decided to no longer meet as District representatives, but as the Implementer Team, opening up the team to even greater regional



and demographic representation. At the same time all Districts agreed upon common practices of New Ventures: cultivate the environment, discern pathways, coordinate support, and assist church engagement.

In October 2019, Dave Enns transitioned to the National Ministry Centre as New Venture Developer to support the Implementer Team, and to further engage the National Ministry Centre as a partner in New Ventures.

Today

Today the Implementer Teams now include: Troy Wiesner (SLD) Jasmine Hum (SLD), Malcolm Billing (ECD), Regan Neudorf (CCD), Bernard Tam (ECD), Tung Hoi Yu (CCACA), Ron Goerzen (CMD), Kendall Schmitke (CMD), Nick Kadun (WCD), Cress Cassimong (CFAM), Howard Jolly (IA), Nathan Weselake (NW/NE), Long Truong (AVAC), Melad Markos (AA), Richard Raya (AA) and Andy Lambkin (CPD).

In Fall 2022, the Implementers met and affirmed three things. First, a cross-district vision statement: We commit to utilizing Partnership Agreements on Basecamp and the partnership model. The partnership model for church multiplication organizes around the New Venture and invites partnership from churches, networks and districts. Second, we affirm the vision, values and processes of New Ventures. And third, we recognize that the place of strategic implementation lands at the District and Regional level. The role of the National Support Team is to identify and support those places of strategic implementation, encouraging alignment and communicating previous experience.