

Privacy Policy

In accordance with applicable laws, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (the “Church”) is committed to protecting the privacy of its members, adherents, donors, volunteers, employees, directors, officers and any other persons about or from whom the Church collects personal information. The Church embraces the principles of the Canadian Standards Association *Model Code for the Protection of Personal Information* to ensure that all personal information is properly collected, used only for the purposes for which it is collected, and is disposed of in a safe and timely manner when no longer required.

1. Accountability

The Church is responsible for maintaining and protecting the personal information under its control. The Church has appointed a Privacy Officer who is responsible to ensure that the Church complies with its privacy obligations in accordance with applicable privacy laws.

2. Identifying Purposes

The Church collects and uses personal information for a variety of purposes including, but not limited to,

- providing services to individuals ministered to by the Church;
- establishing and maintaining members lists;
- managing payroll and benefits;
- employee performance evaluations;
- establishing and maintaining lists of donors. The Church shall identify and explain the purposes for which it collects personal information, to the person from whom the personal information is being collected, before or at the time the information is collected.

3. Consent

Consent will be obtained from the person whose personal information is collected, used and disclosed, unless obtaining the consent would be inappropriate or not required by law. Sometimes the person’s consent may be implied by virtue of membership in the Church or because of the person’s conduct within the Church. When it is appropriate, written consent will be obtained.

Written consent will be kept on file for as long as the information is reasonably necessary. A person may withdraw his or her consent at any time, subject to legal or contractual restrictions and reasonable notice. The person will be informed of reasonably foreseeable implications of the withdrawal.

4. Limiting Collection

Information collected will be limited to that required for the purpose or purposes identified by the Church. The Church is committed to collecting personal information in a fair, open and lawful manner.

5. Limiting Use, Disclosure and Retention

Personal information shall not be used or disclosed for purposes other than those for which it was

collected, except with the consent of the person or as required by law. All collected personal information shall be destroyed, erased or made anonymous as soon as the purpose for which it was collected is no longer relevant, or as permitted by the law. Nothing in this Privacy Policy prevents the elders or pastoral staff from collecting, retaining, and using information related to individuals ministered to by the Church, since such information assists in providing quality services to those individuals.

6. Accuracy

Personal information shall be maintained in as accurate, complete and up-to-date a form as necessary in order to fulfill the purposes for which it is collected.

7. Safeguards

Personal information will be protected by security safeguards that are appropriate to the sensitivity of the personal information. This safeguarding could include physical measures such as locked filing cabinets and premises security, organizational measures such as restricted access to files with personal information, or technological measures such as security software.

8. Openness

Information regarding the privacy policy of the Church, as well as the personal information management, shall be available as requested. The information will include:

- name and address of the Privacy Officer
- means of gaining access to personal information held by the Church
- copy of any brochures or other information explaining the Church's policies, standards, or codes

9. Access to Personal Information

Access to personal information will be granted, where the Church is legally required to release the information and provided that the disclosure does not violate any applicable statutes or contracts, to the person to whom the information pertains where there is an appropriate written request. The existence, use and disclosure of the personal information will be granted within a reasonable period of time. Any inaccuracy or incompleteness of personal information will be amended as required.

10. Challenging Compliance

Complaints or inquiries about the collection, use, disclosure or retention of personal information and the Church's compliance with these ten principles should be directed to the Privacy Officer. The Privacy Officer will investigate complaints and ensure that appropriate measures are taken.

11. Website Analytics

The Church uses Google Analytics 4 to understand how visitors use its websites and to improve website content, performance and functionality. Google Analytics may collect information such as pages visited, approximate location, device and browser information, and interactions with the website through cookies or similar technologies.

This information may be processed by Google outside Canada and may therefore be subject to the laws of the jurisdiction in which it is processed. The Church does not intentionally provide names, contact information or other directly identifying information to Google Analytics.

Where required by applicable law, visitors will be given an opportunity to consent to or decline non-essential analytics technologies.