Overview of Canadian Province

Sisters of Our lady of the Missions
• In August, 1898 the first four Sisters arrived in Canada from Europe. The first mission of education was in Grand Clairiere, Manitoba where they taught 20 boys and girls from six years to fifteen years of age.

• During a November blizzard the holes in the walls of the convent were stuffed with old clothes!

• In 1899 houses were established in Brandon and Lebret.
• In 1905 two Sisters arrived in the new Province of Saskatchewan to teach a private class for seven to ten pupils. Sacred Heart Academy was officially begun and the Sisters ‘influence in the Catholic life of Regina was begun.
The Sisters went on to establish houses in the early 1900’s in Elie, Portage la Prairie, Wolseley, Letellier, St Joseph and Winnipeg in the service of education.

It is worth noting that they were continually confronted with challenges, be they the weather, lack of room, poor living conditions and death. Their spirit of hope and trust in something larger than themselves never waivered.

One author notes that their bond of unity and level of trust in God seemed to increase in the face of intense poverty.
• In 1914 the Sisters opened a foundation in Fort Frances.
• Between 1940 and 1950 four houses were opened: Sioux Lookout, Wapella, Ville Jacques Cartier and Saskatoon.
• 1948 marked the 50\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the Sisters in Canada. It also marked a new beginning with a new Foundation being established in the Province of Quebec.

• 1948 also marked the beginning again (after 15 years) of foreign missionary activity with two Sisters going to India.
• In 1968 the Canadian Province began a new missionary outreach to Peru. At present we still have three Canadian Sisters in Peru and Bolivia, who live and work with Peruvian and Bolivian Sisters.

• After the second Vatican Council in the late 1960’s many Sisters in the Province began new ministries in pastoral work, communities for the physically and mentally challenged, prison chaplaincy, hospital chaplaincy, work with First Nations in Northern MB at Oxford House and Norway House, and in Northern SK at Sandy Bay, and Ile a la Croix.
Over the years the Sisters have made a significant contribution to education at elementary, high school and tertiary levels in the Provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Alberta.
• In the early 1980’s the Sisters began sponsoring and working with refugees, the first of them coming from Somalia.
• The International Chapter of 1990 reaffirmed working with refugees. In 1992 Hospitality House in Winnipeg began as a welcoming home for them on their arrival in the country. This was an ecumenical venture, the house being owned and supported by St John’s Anglican Cathedral.
• Today there are 57 Sisters in the Canadian Province.
• The age range is between 35 and 100.
• The median age is 82 years.
• Most Sisters live in Regina or Winnipeg.
• Three Sisters live in Brandon.
• One Sister is studying in Ottawa, one Sister lives in Melville SK, and one in St Rose Du Lac MB.
• In Regina we have 25 Sisters, with 7 in a nursing home.
• In Winnipeg there are 24 Sisters with 8 in
• The Sisters continue to be involved in pastoral work, education, group facilitation, spiritual direction, counseling, alternative healing ministries, work with First Nations’ persons, Returning to Spirit, chaplaincy, care for the elderly, organic farming, and canon law.

• Sisters also serve as volunteers with other organizations.
St Adolphe: Organic Farming

Wednesday, July 13, 2011
• We continue to send Sisters where their skills and presence are needed. Until 2010, we had three Sisters working at the International Formation Center in Davao, Philippines. One Sister continues to live and work there.

• Some Sisters are involved in short term International Formation work in Vietnam, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India and England.
• In 2009 we welcomed the first Vietnamese Sister to Canada for study and leadership development.
• We hope to welcome more international Sisters as students in the future.
• The grace and gift of fewness is a theme that informs us at this stage of life in our Canadian Province. Many of our former landmarks (buildings and ministries) are no longer a part of our lives.
• We are alert to new signs of the times. We are growing in our ecological consciousness and commitments.
As we grow into a reverence for every aspect of our planet earth “we believe that our deep call today, which touches on every aspect of our religious missionary lives is to stay awake to the call of earth...one bread, one body, one mission, we set ourselves to the task of living our way into new understandings of this clarion call.” 2008 Chapter Document.