

## **Dr. David William Leonard**

*February 17, 1945 – July 3, 2025*

Dr. David Leonard was a member of the Grande Prairie & District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society whose lifelong dedication to preserving and sharing Alberta's history left a lasting impact on researchers, historians, and communities across the province.

Born in Fairview, Alberta, and raised in Sexsmith, David pursued his post-secondary education at the University of Alberta before earning a doctorate in Modern Irish History from the University of Sheffield in England. His career included archivist positions with the City of Edmonton, the Northwest Territories, and the Province of Alberta. He served as Alberta's Provincial Archivist from 1993 to 1996 and later became Project Historian for Northern Alberta.

Throughout his career, David published and edited numerous works on the history of the Peace River Country and Alberta. He worked closely with historical and genealogical organizations, helping communities preserve their records and document their stories for future generations. His efforts contributed significantly to the understanding and preservation of Alberta's heritage.

In recognition of his contributions, David was inducted into the Alberta Order of Excellence in 2007 and received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal in 2022 for his lifetime of service to the people of Alberta.

As a member of the Grande Prairie & District Branch, David shared his passion for local history and historical research. His work helped preserve the stories, records, and communities that form an important part of Alberta's collective memory.

David will be remembered for his scholarship, his commitment to preserving history, and the lasting legacy he leaves through the many publications, archives, and historical projects he helped create.