

# Camp Spectacular

*By Alfredo Zelaya, Team Canada Delegation Leader*

After a four-year hiatus due to COVID-19, Team Canada was thrilled to once again participate in Camp Spectacular, continuing our long-standing tradition as one of the original participants. This year's involvement was made possible through a collaborative effort with the Michigan delegation, and we are deeply grateful for their support and partnership. Together, Team Canada and Michigan—dubbed "Michi-Can"—fielded a strong team of 38 participants. Our Team Canada consisted of seven campers and six staff members, including Joycelyn Dailey, Luke Cabral, Susan Abbey, Rhylan Taylor-Zelaya, Mimi Brunsdon, and Alfredo Zelaya. This is a solid foundation to build upon in future years.

A special expression of gratitude goes to the CEM leadership and staff, whose support was critical in navigating the complexities of cross-border collaboration. Their faith in the program and commitment to providing the necessary financial support made this all possible. Many thanks to the Gathering Place+ congregation for their generosity and contributions, which helped sustain this year's efforts.

Our journey began with a warm and heartfelt welcome at the Michigan Kalamazoo congregation, who made us feel like we had been invited over to Grandma's for lunch and lemonade. For over 40 years, the Davenport Congregation has graciously hosted us for an overnight stay, and this year was no different. Their generous hospitality and homemade snacks and breakfast supplies set a comforting and positive tone for the rest of our trip.

A special thanks to our dedicated staff and to Badder Bus Lines, who have been with us for 25 years, providing not just transportation but a sense of tradition and reliability. Their generous discount once again made this trip more affordable and memorable.

Looking ahead, we are excited to strengthen our Canadian presence at Spectacular, with plans to grow both our leadership team and camper participation. Thank you to everyone who made this experience possible, and we look forward to building on this year's success for future programs.