

Report from Chair of the Board-AGM 2020

The Manitoba Lung Association continues to be recognized as the leader in advancing lung health for all Manitobans. Our organization has had a year of change, evaluation, and growth. There have been accomplishments to be proud of as well as initiatives that will have a lasting impact on the lives of those living with lung disease. None of these successes could have been done without the support of our donors, stakeholders, and volunteers. We continue to work on our mission and goals as well as provide information and support to help Manitobans breathe with ease.

In order to be within our financial picture, we made the decision to downsize certain aspects of the organization. We transitioned our financial and donor services management to a partnership with CLA and Alberta Lung Association. Each year our board evaluates the goals, objectives and priorities of the organization which for 2019-2020 are lung education, advocacy and research. Decisions were made to ensure our staffing complement continue to meet these priorities.

Lung health education is very important in our province, especially in relation to smoking, vaping, air quality and to individuals with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and their caregivers. One in five Manitobans have lung disease and respiratory disease is the third leading cause of death (not including lung cancer). Tobacco use in Canada is the #1 preventable cause of disease and death. Vaping especially among youth is reaching epidemic proportions and needs our attention and concern. We continue to run the yearly Manitoba Quits Smoking Campaign with the parallel Indigenous campaign called "Keep the Tradition, Break the Addiction" in partnership with Manitoba Health Seniors and Active Living. Our resource "Lungs are for Life", a resource for grades 4 to 6 was redeveloped. It was presented to the Manitoba School Boards conference in November 2019 and was very well received and

has been adopted by some school boards across the province. We are very fortunate to have knowledgeable individuals within our organization to develop these resources in cooperation with our other stakeholders to reduce the impact of factors which negatively affect lung health.

COPD is the number one avoidable cause of hospitalization in Canada. LUNGtivity is a lifestyle program that can improve the health of individuals with COPD as well as reduce the impact this disease has on the health care system. This program has been identified as a priority for lung health and we were very fortunate to receive a grant from the Winnipeg Foundation to expand this program for access to more Manitobans.

We continue to be the number one advocate in Manitoba for good air quality, reduction of secondhand smoke and elimination of air pollutants such as radon. Over the past year, our organization was called up numerous times to address lung health issues in the media. We are fortunate to have our CEO Neil Johnston to provide his knowledge and expertise to these requests. We worked in partnership with Saskatchewan Lung Association and Adam Bighill from the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to have a successful Tackle Radon Program

As a member of the Canadian Lung Association (CLA) we have a long, proud history as one of the oldest health charities for over 100 years. In 1904, the Sanatorium Board of Manitoba Act was created to battle tuberculosis. Over the years, our organization changed to address other pressing lung health issues. In 1975, the Sanatorium Board of Manitoba created The Lung Association of Manitoba to focus on all aspects of lung health. This past year as we assessed and evaluated the organization it was determined to address our priorities for lung health along with its mission, goals, and objectives it was time to move forward with repealing the Act. We entered discussions with Manitoba Health Seniors and Active Living to repeal the Sanatorium Board of Manitoba Act and move forward with continuance as The Lung Association, Manitoba.

As part of Reconciliation, our board entered a partnership with the Manitoba Indigenous TB Photo Project in collaboration with researchers for the U of W. The plan once this project is complete is to disseminate these histories through a commemorative public project in collaboration with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and The Lung Association, Manitoba.

We are very fortunate to have ended this year with a positive financial picture. This is due to our reorganization, managing our expenses, good financial support from the Christmas Seals campaign and specific donors. With this positive financial outlook, looking forward to next year, we intend to continue to work on our organizational priorities as well as strive to be the recognized leader and primary resource for lung health within our province, working with all our partners and stakeholders, including The Canadian Lung Association.

In closing, we would like to thank our staff, volunteers, community partners and especially our funders and donors, for all their efforts and support to help Manitobans breathe with ease.

Brenda Dyck

Board Chair, Manitoba Lung Association