

2021/22 Annual Report

June 23, 2022

Brenda Dyck, Board Chair

Neil Johnston, President and CEO

Governance

We have faced another year of uncertainty due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Lives have been put on hold and many individuals have faced challenges and adversity and other health related issues due to COVID-19. We continue to see the importance of lung health that needs to be addressed in our province and country. The Lung Association, Manitoba continues to be recognized as the leader in promotion, advocacy and advancement of lung health for all Manitobans.

Working through another year of the pandemic has had its challenges but we adapted and have had another successful year. The Board continues to meet virtually although we in the process of polling our board members to see if they wish to continue with virtual or begin in-person meetings or a hybrid model. We are pleased to report another year ending in a strong fiscal position. This is thanks again to careful attention to expense control by our staff and board, some additional bequests, and of course the generosity of our donors and stakeholders.

We reported in our 2020-21 annual report that in July 2021, the province of Manitoba granted a corporate continuance, moving the organization under the Manitoba Corporations Act from the Sanatorium Board of Manitoba Act (the SBM Act). Therefore, our name officially became The Lung Association, Manitoba, Inc. We are happy to report that Bill 31, The Minor Amendments and Corrections Act which included the repeal of The Sanatorium Board of Manitoba Act received Royal Assent on June 1, 2022. Therefore, the repeal of The Sanatorium Board of Manitoba Act took effect upon Royal Assent.

The Board activities for the year continue supporting mission work as well as improving internal board operations and processes. We also revised and developed some new board policies which were approved by our board at our May meeting. Thank you to Deborah Harri and Jeannie Lee for all their hard work in revising and developing these policies. We continue to work on the development and evaluation of the Current State of Assessment (CSA) with the plan to complete this in the fall of 2022.

We would like to thank the Board members for their time and effort:

- Jeannie Lee, Vice Chair
- Eric Grabner, Treasurer
- Deborah Harri, CLA Representative
- Juliette (Archie) Cooper, Chair of the Health Initiatives and Research Committee
- Michel Ziesmann, Chair of the Governance and Nominations Committee
- Kevin Stewart, Chair of the Fund Development and Public Relations Committee
- Directors at large: Arlene Draffin-Jones, Wendy Martin-White, Molly Blake, Maryam Al-Azazi,

Ian Wood, Teena Legris.

We would also like to welcome new in-coming members and Directors at Large: Marin Brown, and Jay Shaw. Farewell and thanks are offered to departing board members Ian Wood and Teena Legris.

The work of the Board is helped by the work of its committees, we would also like to acknowledge the following volunteer ad hoc Board committee members for contributing their time and talent:

Public Relations and Fund Development Committee:

- Florence Carey
- Kathi Neal

Health Initiatives and Research Advisory Committee:

- Dr Clare Ramsey MD, MSc, FRCPSC
- Dr Richard Keijzer MD, MSc, PhD, FACS
- Dr Andrew Halayko MSc, PhD, FCAHS, ATSF
- Dr Louise Chartrand PhD, RRT
- Dr Diana Sanchez-Ramirez PhD, MPH, PT

This past year, Canadian Lung Association (CLA) has been going through a governance review of the national organization with a possible reorganization. This review is called The Path Forward. As we are a member of CLA, we have been participating in The Path Forward through representation from Deborah Harri and Jeannie Lee. CLA continues to keep us abreast of their review and we will be meeting with them this month to review the models that are being considered. We are fortunate to be involved with this review and we do value our partnership with this national organization.

Our reconciliation efforts continue through taking actions as laid out in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report and continued participation as a signatory to the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord.

Specific reconciliation actions this year were:

- Conducting a Treaty Land Acknowledgement at the start of each Board meeting
- Looking to increase Indigenous representation on the Board
- Formal reconciliation work with an Indigenous consultant
- Maintaining support for the Manitoba Indigenous TB Photo Recognition Project as it transitioned into the larger scope Manitoba Indigenous TB History Project
- Looking for other opportunities to work with Indigenous partners regarding lung health

Operations

We settled into a routine working in a hybrid office model with two staff working mostly from home and two others permanently from their home offices. In addition to President and CEO and Health Initiatives Director, Neil Johnston RRT, our full-time staff complement for the year consisted of:

- Hailey Coleman CTE, Health Programs and Operations Coordinator
- Adam Anderson, Health Programs Analyst
- Our new Fundraising Officer Kyla Wiebe who joined us mid-year.

We are also grateful for the volunteer support provided to the LUNGtivity program by fitness program expert Andrea Smith.

Administration was supported by finance and donation services provided under contract by the CLA by Monte Weber, and Katherine Popowich, respectively. Our monthly e-newsletter was produced by Buffy Davy. It was our first full year in the Manitoba Possible (formerly SMD) building and are thankful for the support afforded to us.

Mission

The Lung Association, Manitoba continues to be recognized as the leader in the promotion, advocacy for, and advancement of lung health for all Manitobans. Despite the trials and tribulations of the pandemic, our mission work continued and expanded modestly. We are grateful for the funding support provided by Manitoba Mental Health and Community Wellness for our smoking and vaping reduction work, Health Canada for our radon exposure reduction work, and the Winnipeg Foundation for the funding that started the development of LUNGtivity™. We are also grateful for the unrestricted education grants and patient resources provided by Boehringer Ingelheim, Astra Zeneca and Johnson & Johnson. We also would like to recognize our partners in lung health that support and complement our activities including: The Manitoba Thoracic Society, the Canadian Thoracic Society, The Canadian Lung Association, and Lung Saskatchewan.

Here is a partial list of our programs and mission work provided over the year:

- Online evidence-based health breathing resources available 24/7.
- Phone/email access to a respiratory therapist in our office.
- Phone access to a Certified Respiratory Educator through the CLA Lung Health Line.
- Smoking Cessation: Facebook support group, MB Quits Spring Break and Cold Turkey Challenges, in-person (virtual) cessation counselling; partnered with Pharmacy Manitoba to support the province-wide cessation program rolled out in April 2022; updated the Last Drag program focused on LGBTQ+ people; and started developing a program focused on blue collar workers.
- Youth Smoking and Vaping Prevention: Lungs are For Life (LR4L) expanded to 204 schools and continues development to include high school components and Indigenous sections for implementation in 22/23 year.
- LUNGtivity: The development of our ongoing rehab program for people with chronic lung disease continued. We ran in person classes in the fall and winter, following health guidelines and produced videos to help with remote access to the program. We have recently been working with Shared Health Manitoba and the WRHA and fitness facilities to increase access to LUNGtivity.
- We continued to provide awareness about radon and access to home radon testing kits. The Lungs Matter grant program to aid radon mitigation for low-income homeowners was established in partnership with the national Take Action on Radon program, local mitigators as sponsors and contributors. The first grants are expected to be issued in the next few months.
- Support Groups:
In addition to the MB Quits on-line cessation support group, we continued the in-person (virtual) Lung Transplant Support Group. We initiated a Long COVID patient on-line support group and welcomed the long standing independent Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF) support group,

coordinated by volunteers Debbie Homik and Amy Webb, into our association. The PF Support Group volunteers are working on an in-person patient education event for the fall, our first event of its kind since March 2020.

Advocacy

- We supported the effort to get the interstitial lung disease drug OFEV (nintedanib) covered by Pharmacare, and this was approved this year.
- We co-hosted a province wide tobacco reduction summit with the Manitoba Tobacco Reduction Alliance (MANTRA) and steps on a devising the strategy in conjunction with stakeholders were initiated.
- Letters to various ministers of relevant portfolios were sent to encourage support for radon testing and mitigation, particularly for low-income homeowners. This resulted in meetings with two Ministers coming up, so far.
- We were approached by members of the Liberal MLA Caucus and NDP Caucus independently to assist in their work to advocate for better radon exposure reduction regulation and funding support.
- We also submitted a letter to the government in support of maintaining the ban on cosmetic herbicides to reduce exposure by children to substances that affect lung health.
- We are working with MANTRA, Cancer Society, and Heart and Stroke on a 2023 provincial election strategy to include increased vaping regulation in party platforms.
- The Winnipeg Free Press published our Letter to the Editor complimenting Winnipeg City Council on their air quality initiatives.
- We were interviewed several times by radio and TV media on air quality and access to diagnostic testing issues.

Supporting Research

Our ongoing local research projects are:

- Dr. Chris Pascoe, Effects of Vaping in Children, Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM), LAMB is a community advisor.
- Dr Erin Millions, Manitoba Indigenous TB Photo Naming Project (recently expanded to become the Manitoba Indigenous TB History Project), University of Winnipeg, we are sponsors in-kind. This is a CIHR funded project, 5 years, about \$500,000.00. Additionally, we supported an adjunct grant from Manitoba Northern and Indigenous Affairs grant for \$25,000.00 for electronic sharing of the photos.
- Dr. Richard Long, TB Pathways Phase 3, CIHR supported grant, we are providing \$30,000 from the Panchyshak bequest, for an Indigenous Graduate Studentship to work on community outreach and inclusion in TB care.
- Dr. Roberta Woodgate of the U of M Faculty of Nursing. Qualitative approach to analyzing the experiences of children with immune compromising health condition and impact of COVID-19. CIHR funded for 3 years, \$350,000. We are a community advisor.

- We awarded a \$30,000 research operating grant to Dr Diana Sanchez-Ramirez PhD for her project: *“Association between physical activity, cardiorespiratory responses and symptom exacerbation in patients with post-COVID-19 syndrome.”*
- We Awarded a full Master’s degree Studentship of \$12,000 through Research Manitoba to Michelle Wuzinski in the Department of Medical Microbiology in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba. The title of Ms. Wuzinski’s project is *‘Rapid Mycobacterium tuberculosis detection directly from patient sputa and prediction of antimicrobial resistance using whole genome sequencing.’*

Support for the CLA national research program continues through our research program allocation agreement. The CLA also supports our research program by conducting the grant application and adjudication process.

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 breath with ease.