

May 7, 2021

Dear Dom Lipa Families, Friends, Employees and Supporters,

In this communication we share information regarding COVID-19, continue answering questions posed at our recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) and continue to share profiles of our Board members.

Facility Covid-19 Exposure

On May 2, 2021, a Facility Covid-19 Exposure was declared at Dom Lipa in the basement laundry room area and the retirement home by Toronto Public Health. This was due to a member of the housekeeping staff testing positive for COVID-19. Toronto Public Health has directed that unvaccinated retirement residents at Dom Lipa must be kept in isolation until further notice. Other precautionary measures that have been implemented include increased testing and increased cleaning protocols.

AGM Q&A

We had several excellent questions raised during and following our recent AGM. We are using this platform to answer a few of these questions each week. We also welcome everyone to continue to submit questions, so we can engage regarding the issues that are most important to our community and supporters.

Q: Are there plans for implementing a Day Program for Seniors at Dom Lipa?

A: The current layout of our building does not allow for a day program to be implemented. We are however, having exploratory discussions regarding this possibility as part of the capital redevelopment work that will be commenced in the coming years to bring parts of our building up to current Ministry standards. A day program could assist Dom Lipa to provide services to Slovenian seniors and other seniors in our community, who do not live at Dom Lipa. The implementation of a day program at Dom Lipa would be subject to Board approval and government approvals.

Q: The financial statements show that less money was spent on training this year than in the prior year. Why is that?

A: During the COVID-19 pandemic, it has not been possible to facilitate any in-person group training. Therefore, we have been limited to offering on-line training to staff, which has been less costly. Staff do not cover the cost of training that is delivered and/or mandated by Dom Lipa.

In 2019, Dom Lipa also committed to providing training in the Gentle Persuasive Approach (GPA) to all employees. This training is designed for small groups of 10 to 12 people at a time. Fifty percent (50%) of staff received this training in 2019 and the 2020 budget included funds to provide GPA training to all remaining staff. Due to the pandemic, this training was unable to proceed. We hope to continue with this training as soon as we can resume in-person group education programs.

Board Member Profiles

To allow you to get to know the current Dom Lipa Board members, we will continue to share brief background profiles of each of our Board members in the coming weeks.

Maria Zajc-McDonald, President

Maria is a lawyer specialized in bioethics and health law. She brings a wealth of governance, privacy, and policy experience to her leadership role on the Board. Maria has worked as a Bioethicist at several major hospitals in the GTA. This work involves improving patient care by leading, developing and maintaining comprehensive ethics programs. Maria is also a Course Director at the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics, which is affiliated with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Further, Maria has extensive community and volunteer experience. She has served on the Boards of other organizations including: Krek

Slovenian Credit Union (now Moya Financial), Toronto Children's Chorus and the Medico-Legal Society of Toronto. She is also currently serving as a Member of the Toronto Public Health Research Ethics Board. Maria has a close connection with Dom Lipa both through her many years serving on its Board of Directors, but also due to her Slovenian heritage and links to the Slovenian community.

Clara Secnik, Vice-President

Clara is an executive with over 20 years of experience of working in finance roles in the not-for-profit health and community sectors. Clara brings to the Dom Lipa Board a depth and breadth of expertise in finance, risk management, public relations, and government relations. She also has expertise in strategy development and operations management. Clara holds a Master of Business Administration degree and the designations of Chartered Professional Accountant and Canadian Health Leader. Clara loves the Slovenian culture and traditions, as evident by being a part of the Mladi Glas, Planika and Nagelj folklore dance groups as a youngster and visiting extended family in Slovenia regularly. Clara is passionate about volunteering and has acted as a Big Sister and a Community Emergency Response Volunteer for the City of Brampton. She also provides volunteer accounting services for the annual Terry Fox Run and assisted the Red Cross with SARS. Clara has served on the Board since Spring 2019.

Jessica Ferkul, Secretary

Jessica is a Project Coordinator at Infrastructure Ontario. She holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree from McGill University. Jessica brings her construction, procurement, business and engineering skills and experience to the Board. Dom Lipa is a place of personal connection for Jessica, as she has family members who have resided at Dom Lipa and she has close ties to the Slovenian community. Jessica speaks Slovenian and has worked for a Slovenian business as a Junior Engineer. Jessica has served as a Director since 2018.

We are always looking for new Board members. Please do not hesitate to contact any Board member should you wish to learn more about the nature of the work or should you wish to join the Board or a Committee.

Thank you for taking the time to read this communication.

We wish a Happy Mother's Day to all mothers!

The Board of Directors of the Slovenian Linden Foundation – Dom Lipa

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