

CHAIR'S REPORT 2020

The Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation (CRCF) provides every Rotary Club in Calgary the opportunity to contribute to a capital fund, creating regular and enduring contributions, which permit those clubs to support various projects and organizations. Each Calgary Rotary Club may be represented on the Board of Directors of CRCF, which stewards and preserves fund capital, optimizing community impact for each participating club.

CRCF Board members are highly qualified and dedicated, contributing a variety of skills for fund oversight and direction. 2020 was a year like no other, and the professionalism and resiliency of the directors ensured that, even while learning to work with new technologies, the CRCF and the fund it manages, continued to grow and thrive. The Board confidently and capably steered the CRCF through a potentially volatile market in the early days of the pandemic, to strong results. Over the past year, CRCF accomplished a diversification of fund investment to include new portfolios which will better ensure the continued growth and endurance of the fund, while balancing risk and the availability of regular returns for distribution to member clubs and their respective investments in their communities. Progressing meeting efficiencies, through the adoption of streamlined meeting and governance processes, supported the work of the Board.

While I am grateful for the personal contributions and efforts made by each member of the CRCF Board, I want to express particular appreciation to the following individuals:

- Tracy Nelson, for administrative support to CRCF Members, going above and beyond, especially during pandemic times, to ensure our work is completed efficiently and thoughtfully;
- Penny Leckie, as past Chair, for her invaluable guidance and willing support;
- Mark Starratt, and the Investment Committee, for their thought leadership, and efforts in moving our portfolio forward;
- Don Dart, as Treasurer of CRCF, for leadership, proficiency, and work ethic behind the scenes, in what can often be a thankless job which includes dozens of small, time-consuming and critical tasks;
- Jim Fitzowich, for taking on the role of Vice-Chair as a relatively new Board member (he didn't know what he was getting himself into, and for sticking with it through to Chair, I am especially grateful);
- Sadaat Keshavjee for all of his varied contributions to the Board, on the executive and through his tireless work on the Communications Committee;
- Neil Fraser, for all of his work and diligence in progressing first the Gift Acceptance Committee, but also for his continuing and tireless efforts to improve CRCF's donor experience and recognition.

Special recognition is given to Tally Abougash, Ben Kormos, and Jeff Cuell who have left the Board this year and who each offered valuable support and contributions to the CRCF during their terms of service.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Chair of CRCF. I am so grateful for the tremendous learnings I have received from so many of the accomplished Members on the Board, past and current.

I have full confidence in the successor executive, including Chair Jim Fitzowich and Vice-Chair Jim Davis, who will continue to guide the CRCF to future prosperity to the great benefit of Calgary's Rotary Clubs and the City of Calgary.

Yours Truly,
Melanie Gaston
December 31, 2020