



Board chair, Ken Friesen (right), with Bill Dinsdale, our advisor from Assiniboine Credit Union, at his side at the literacy fundraising banquet, October 3, 2019.

WELCOME FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

TO SAY THAT THIS PAST YEAR has been difficult would be an understatement. First, by mutual agreement, we parted company with our long-time executive director, John Hutton. Fortunately, our manager of programs, Sharon Perrault, has extensive experience managing non-profit agencies. When we asked, she stepped up and agreed to serve as our acting executive director in addition to keep doing her own job as well.

In this time of leadership transition, I'm pleased to see that the staff has carried on in a very professional manner, delivering their programs and performing their tasks.

That is, until they couldn't. In the middle of March, due to restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the John Howard Society of Manitoba, like most of the rest of Manitoba, went into lockdown mode.

We have been very fortunate in having a sympathetic partner in the Correctional Service of Canada. They guaranteed the level of support for our Community Residential Facility (CRF). We are also very fortunate to

have such a supportive financial institution, Assiniboine Credit Union. We have had numerous meetings with Bill Dinsdale, our ACU advisor.

Over the past year, our board has been extremely supportive and willing to attend extra meetings. The board executive, Cassandra Golindrina, Zilla Jones, and Glen Mazur provided wonderful assistance and helpful advice.

Unfortunately, Cassandra will soon be leaving the board. On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to wish her the best in pursuing her future endeavours. I would also like to acknowledge the good work done on the board's behalf by Glen Mazur, our former treasurer, who passed away suddenly in February.

Finally, thank you to Sharon and her wonderful staff who have managed so well in a difficult year.

*Ken Friesen, Chair of the Board
The John Howard Society of Manitoba*