

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

THIS IS BOTH MY FIRST and last report as board chair, but I spent some years prior on the executive as secretary and as vice-chair, and I am happy that continuity will be maintained past my term, as I have the opportunity to continue to sit on the executive as past chair.

I was fortunate this year to have the assistance of Ken Friesen as long-time chair who held the position on the executive of past chair and was always available to provide advice and a listening ear. Ken gave an incredible amount of time and love to the John Howard Society of Manitoba. His contributions are much appreciated, and he will be missed.

My term of office was short, but eventful. During my tenure, we said goodbye to former executive director, Sharon Perrault. Sharon did a lot of good work for the agency, particularly on the front of financial management, cultivating positive relationships with the Correctional Service of Canada with respect to our Community Residential Facility, and expanding available programming. The impact she had on our operations will not be forgotten.

We also welcomed our interim executive director, Aiden Enns, our former communications officer. As chair, I have worked closely with the rest of the board on supporting Aiden through the transition. Aiden got up to speed very quickly and has been doing a wonderful job maintaining the good work of those who preceded him while also developing his own approach to the problems and opportunities faced by the agency.

The new executive will be tasked with filling the executive director position on a more permanent basis, but I have done what I can

to lay the foundation for that process. Over the past year, I provided an in-depth orientation to the board, worked with the interim executive director on obtaining additional support in the area of human resources, and established board committees in the areas of advocacy, fundraising, human resources and policy.

GRATITUDE

I am very thankful to everyone on the board for their commitment, their ideas, their energy, and their belief in the John Howard Society mission. This year, I am especially thankful to departing board members Alastair Clarke, who provided eight years of service and always brought valuable insight to our meetings, and to Diane Carriere, whose expertise in human resources was gratefully received, as well as to Ken Friesen as mentioned above.

I also want to extend a huge thank you to the staff of the John Howard Society. You are the heartbeat of this organization and our greatest asset. The work you do is hugely important and makes a big difference.

Finally, I want to thank our clients, our reason for being. We are all here because of their willingness to learn from their mistakes and do better, and their desire to overcome the odds against them and become contributing members of society. Our clients are living proof that rehabilitation works, and that people thrive when given the opportunity to do so.

Thank you, merci, and miigwetch.

Zilla Jones, Chair of the Board