

BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

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"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." - Charles Dickens

The above quote quite adequately encapsulates the strange and challenging times which have confronted us all over this last long year due to the continued challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic. It has been another difficult year for our clients- the children, youth and their families- along with the gallant CMHLG staff who have had to pivot to ensure mental health supports were in place-like virtual services- resulting in stable service being provided. Your collective efforts and determination have provided strong service, as well as consistent support, to the children, youth and families we serve. On behalf of the Board I would like to formally recognize and profoundly thank you for your tremendous work and dedication during this past year. As a Board we are impressed and grateful for your innovation, resilience and ongoing commitment to fulfill the agency's vital mission and vision to promote children and youth mental wellness. The Board continued to hold virtual meetings via Teams to carry out its governance duties and responsibilities, ensuring that the important work of leadership and staff was supported. To further strengthen that support the Board is moving to incorporate a generative governance component into its governance framework, in order to enhance its ability to guide the organization's response to current and future challenges. Challenges like the one imposed by the developmental evolution of the OHT to which the Board responded by being part of the LLG Governance network as well as attending countless webinars offered by provincial organizations on OHTs. Additionally, the Board agreed to be an Anchor member of the LLG- OHT Connected Care, and an affiliate member of the 4 Rivers OHT. The Board commends and supports the extra time and extraordinary effort that Lorena has put into responding and helping lead the unfolding OHT process.

The Board's fiscal oversight, led by the Finance Committee, helped ensure that CMHLG maintained and sustained a balance budget. Additionally, thanks to regular Quality Assurance presentations to the Board, we were assured that the strategic goals and operational objectives were being monitored which facilitated informed comments by the Board. Two major initiatives are on the horizon for the Board and CMHLG, with the first being the upcoming accreditation process. This will validate the great work being done as well as identify any shortfalls which the Board and the organization will address. The second initiative will be the development of a new strategic plan. This will see CMHLG reflect on merging trends, challenges strategic issues which may impact the organization. This in turn will inform and assist CMHLG to develop a plan to help it strategically and successfully navigate the years ahead.

Finally, a component of the AGM is to acknowledge and thank Board members who are leaving the Board. This year's departures are significant as we say goodbye and deep thank yous to Gary Green, our long standing treasurer who so skillfully oversaw the financial performance of CMHLG. Chrisine Kivi whose legacy knowledge and humour will be missed at the Board table. Also, Sharon Chapman who brought a fresh perspective to the discussions at the Board table. We are pleased to welcome two new Board members to CMHLG; Paul Edge and Trea Tuck. We also say thank you to manager Steve Martin who thoughtfully compiled and presented the aforementioned Quality Assurance reports which the Board found

invaluable. Lastly, it seems appropriate to close with another Dickens's quote "*Happiness is not a gift and the trick is not to expect it, but to delight in it when it comes.*" So until we can happily and safely meet once again in collaborative collegiality, stay safe, stay strong and stay connected to friends, family and colleagues.

Sincerely,
Steve Elliott, Chair of the Board