



An Association of Retired Educators

### Message from the President

This should have been my opportunity to send you all happy spring greetings celebrating the end of a long, hard winter. Sadly, instead we find ourselves all facing difficult circumstances that make it hard to look on the bright side. The current world-wide Coronavirus health crisis is affecting all of our everyday lives. These are challenging times for all ACRA members and their families, and we are praying for everyone's safety and well-being. We trust that you are listening to and following the recommendations to keep you and your family healthy. As of the time of this writing, the board has not heard that any of our members or their immediate families have contracted Covid-19. Please stay safe, practice social distancing and don't forget to wash your hands!

Hopefully you are finding ways to support each other in this time of adversity via social media, the phone, and the internet. The feelings of solitude that we are all experiencing now are a reminder that some of our fellow ACRA members live with this isolation daily. They would also benefit from such interaction to help boost their morale and emotional well-being. Please make it a point to reach out to a member and to others in the community who are alone. As our premier, Mr. Legault, asked of all of us, "Call someone who is alone today! Many are suffering from isolation. A call can add sunshine to their lives."

I would ask our members to also have a special thought for the unsung heroes of the battle against Covid-19 at all levels of the health care and essential services systems. We are eternally grateful for their contribution to our well-being and pray for their safety.

The Board of Directors met via conference call on April 2, 2020 to discuss ACRA activities in light of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. The decision was made to suspend the remainder of this year's social events. The following activities have been cancelled: the Spring Activity in April/May, the Annual Dinner in June, and the Golf Tournament in July.

As the progression of the pandemic is better understood, and political leaders issue new directives, the board will be able to hold discussions on when ACRA's social calendar can restart and the possible rescheduling of activities.

We realize that ACRA members and friends may be saddened by these decisions personally, but the most significant impact of the board's decisions will be on St. Gabriel's

Food Bank. It relies on the donation of approximately \$5000 from our annual Golf Tournament to help feed the neediest in the community.

Wanting to honour our association's commitment to St. Gabriel's, the board has decided to take \$3000 from unspent funds budgeted for cancelled activities, add \$2000 from the surplus, and donate this \$5000 to St. Gabriel's Food Bank where the needs are greater than ever during this difficult time. These funds will be forwarded to St. Gabriel's Food Bank immediately.

For the same reasons mentioned above, the \$3000 set aside in the annual budget for charitable donation projects will also be going out to local food banks. The Board has selected three parishes that will receive donations to support their food banks. St. Brendan's Parish, Holy Cross Parish, and Saint John Brébeuf Parish will each receive a \$1000 donation in the next few days.

I would like to end my message on a positive note. Let us be grateful for what we do have and try to have as worry-free a spring as possible. On behalf of the ACRA Board of Directors, I would like to wish you all a Happy Easter and brighter days ahead. You are not alone, and this too shall pass.

Norma

**NOT EVERYTHING  
IS CANCELLED**



**SUN IS NOT CANCELLED  
SPRING IS NOT CANCELLED  
RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOT CANCELLED  
LOVE IS NOT CANCELLED  
READING IS NOT CANCELLED  
DEVOTION IS NOT CANCELLED  
MUSIC IS NOT CANCELLED  
IMAGINATION IS NOT CANCELLED  
KINDNESS IS NOT CANCELLED  
CONVERSATIONS ARE NOT CANCELLED  
HOPE IS NOT CANCELLED**