

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Challenge, Change and Responsibility

Welcome to the 36th edition of the Canadian Donor's Guide – your authoritative annual directory of fundraising organizations in Canada. I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with this comprehensive reference resource and related editorial content to assist your respective responsibilities in the planned giving environment.

Our society, including the charitable sector, has seen many challenges since I wrote my 2020 Publisher's Note – and not just due to the ongoing pandemic. It has been an education like no other.

I thank our friends at the Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP) for not only presenting their annual conference (virtually) – this year titled *The Challenge of Change: Reimagining the Future of Philanthropy* – but for the courage to bring us many tough topics. The speakers and presenters were meant to get us to think, learn, talk and to call us to action. Some of those speakers appear in this year's editorial section.

The Honourable Senator Ratna Omidvar impacted me and others greatly, with her plenary speech. The Senator said *'we must accept and understand the past before we can move forward with action.'* You will find some of Senator Omidvar's words are worth a careful read on the two pages that follow. I hope you find them as inspiring as I did.

Another speaker who spurred me to action was Sharon Redsky. Sharon writes in this edition, *'There is so much richness and wisdom in traditional customs and practices that can influence transformative approaches. With this in mind, and the opportunities for the philanthropic sector to take action, I am optimistic for the future.'*

The themes of challenge and change seem to permeate this year's editorial section. You will see that in the article by Megan Leslie of

WWF-Canada. She believes we have the power to change and to meet threats head on. Megan gives us a great example of two different outcomes. By reading Natasha van Bentum's article *Voices of Indigenous-Led Philanthropy*, you learn about the Ulnooweg Indigenous Communities Foundation and the work they do to strengthen the relationship between Canada's philanthropic sector and Atlantic Canada's Indigenous Communities.

In an interview of Dahabo Ahmed Omer, by Kim Hart Macneill, Dahabo says *'It's an uncomfortable place to be, to know that these challenges are in your face and there's no way to ignore them.'* It seems time for us to become the "Warriors for Justice" that Senator Omidvar asks us to be – we need to face the challenges, say the words and follow through with action. We must recognize racism, acknowledge it and then work to eradicate it.

Inukshuk Enterprises has taken a modest first step by inviting charities that support racialized and marginalized peoples, along with those that support Indigenous peoples – and women and children in domestic situations – to submit information about their charities to be included in our Canadian Donor's Guide. This allows donors to find them here and connect with them to learn, donate or support their efforts. We are also committed to learning and finding more ways to help.

Senator Omidvar told the conference audience, that this will not be easy. Please review her five ideas. I encourage you to visit *The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada* at www.the-circle.ca (found on the inside of our back cover of this edition) and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at <https://nctr.ca/> for more information. I also recommend you review the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.



Alison Stoneman
Publisher, Canadian Donor's Guide

We thank Paul Nazareth for his thoughts about connecting donors to charities and how they can use our Guide, in print or online, to help. Another contributor who deserves our gratitude is Adam Aptowitz who keeps us current with tax considerations for charitable giving. A new contributor this year, Daniel Lanteigne, provides advice on how to become "the perfect donor" – including being bold and trusting our gut. Pretty good advice for almost every situation!

You will also find profiles of the Regional Animal Protection Agency, VICD Service Dogs and some information on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected charities across the country. We also have information about Imagine Canada's standards program.

Delivering more than 17,000 copies of our publication to key decision makers and professional advisors in Canada's donor community every year is not possible without the relationships the Canadian Donor's Guide shares with the Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP), the Canadian Bar Association, STEP Canada and Imagine Canada. We are so very thankful for their support and commitment. In addition, we could not provide this Guide without the many charitable organizations across Canada that entrust us to bring their messages to their key audiences – those charities that purchase advertising.

Thank you again for your dedicated support of the Canadian Donor's Guide as a valued resource. If you have questions, suggestions or enhancements, feel free to contact me directly. May the Guide always be helpful in your endeavours to easily and effectively match donors with charities.

Last year I ended with "Every Canadian has a legacy." This year, "Every Canadian has a responsibility."