

A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND REASSURANCE TO OUR COMMUNITY

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PATTI CHIAPPETTA

On behalf of everyone at Innovative LIFE Options (LIFE) I hope you, your friends and your family are keeping safe during these very unique times. As we experience continued disruption to our daily lives and routines, we also see the continued opportunities to do things differently - to be creative, thankful and reflective, to try new things, to slow down and smell the roses! And we have seen many situations of how kind people can be to one another and to our environment.

We all have been doing some pretty wonderful things over the past many weeks -CONGRATULATIONS! I know it is has been really hard. I sometimes feels like I am in that movie with Bill Murray - Groundhog Day! Will this ever end! But all of your efforts - staying home, washing your hands, physically distancing yourself, connecting with friends and family in new and creative ways, doing some fun projects at home - ALL of these efforts have made a difference and we ARE getting through this challenging time. Thank you so much for doing your part.

It is important to note that while some gradual lifting of restrictions has begun, significant work to limit the spread of COVID-19 MUST continue. Public health officials are still advising us to remain within or close to our home communities. The request to stay home as much as possible is still in place. We must continue to physically distance ourselves, limit travel, wash our hands often, stay home when not feeling well, be creative when connecting with others, continue to do our part and make a difference!

Like so many other workplaces around the globe, the way we do our work at LIFE also has had to adjust. While these are no doubt tumultuous times, I want you to know that we have taken, and will continue to take, the steps we believe are necessary to uphold the mission of LIFE which is: To Inspire... to innovate and to include.

The health and well-being of our community continues to be of the utmost importance to us. Our efforts to be responsible as an organization, to our staff, to ICOF Employers and to the community have been successful in helping flatten the curve.

- Over the past weeks our LIFE TEAM members ensured many of you received personal protective equipment as it became available. The TEAM will continue to get you equipment as best we can always abiding by physical distancing guidelines.
- We will continue to be there for you - We encourage you to reach out to your Resource Coordinator and Senior Coordinator through phone, email or video conferencing. We want to see and meet with you BUT we know for now it is important that we DO NOT allow for any face to face meetings and we will therefore ensure we are available for meetings in different formats.
- The 120 Maryland Street office in Winnipeg will remain closed to the public, but our work most definitely continues. Laureen, Office Manager and myself, Patti are working from our home office and will respond to emails, phone calls and your inquiries in a timely manner - as will Michelle, Options for Services Coordinator and Liz, Financial Coordinator.
- We have implemented weekly team telephone calls to update, review information, ask questions and support one another at this time. Our team is dedicated to providing excellent supports and will continue to educate ourselves, work together and do our best to calm any concerns you may have.
- Our Board meetings have also gone Zoom! As we continue to ensure ICOF grows and remains strong.
- We have created a number of resources that we have posted on our website and Facebook to assist you during this time. We also have access to many more resources and tools - just let us know what we can do to help you!





A single
thread of hope
is still a
very powerful
thing.

When we work together, we have the power to take problems head on and make a huge difference in our life and the lives of others around us.

