



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 2021

Foundations Committee Report

By Maria Provencher

This has been a difficult COVID year for many. Most of us have experienced loneliness, fear, a sense of deprivation or just frustration with not being able to participate in the activities we normally enjoy doing. Hopefully, one day soon, we will return back to normal. As our Provincial RTOERO Foundation Chair, Joanne Murphy, puts it, “The Majority of us will see a return to normalcy when we come out the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, for socially isolated seniors the end of the pandemic does not mean an end to loneliness. Social isolation is their norm.” These powerful words of wisdom resonate with me and clearly shout the message that the well-being of our socially isolated seniors is a concern. Research on Social Isolation is critical now more than ever. The more we learn, the better able we are to equip ourselves to deal with our seniors’ health issues.

Our Provincial RTOERO Foundation team (Mike Prentice, Deanna Byrtus, Tammy Gonsalves, and Joanne Murphy) have, despite COVID-19 restrictions, endeavoured to bring us news regarding the many projects they have been working on. This information has been received through Newsletters (Their first 8-page Newsletter: “Embrace Aging, 2020”), Facebook group, Twitter and a series of current and up to date webinars.

Several Webinar projects have been completed and very well received. They were:

- October** - Dr. Michael Nicin spoke about the concerns of **Aging in Isolation**.
- November** - Dr. Rachel Savage shared the results of the **Survey: The Impact of Covid-19 on Older Canadians**. Many RTOERO members participated in this survey.
- 2021** - Dr. Ivy Wong examined the “Challenges in The Care of Seniors” and the gaps that exist.



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Dr. Paula Rochon, Dr. Ashley Flanagan and others are scheduled for future webinars that members are welcome to participate in.

Feel free to contact RTOERO Foundation representatives for further information regarding our FOUNDATION'S important work.

- Contact Deanna Byrtus, Manager of Donor Relations for RTOERO Foundation (dbyrtus@rtoero.ca)
- Foundation@rtoero.ca,
- Phone: 1-800-361-9888 (416-962-9463), or
- Join their "End Social Isolation" Facebook group and follow them on
- [Twitter @RTO_Foundation](#).

Our RTOERO is diligent in regularly posting information and resources about seniors' issues with a special focus on highlighting SOCIAL ISOLATION.

During these times, it's more important than ever that we stay connected to one another even if it is through a simple action such as liking a friend's post on Facebook or sharing a positive comment or two. Caring about the future of the RTOERO Foundation and its mission to enhance the quality of life for aging adults is important to all of us. I am proud to be a member of RTOERO and to know that our caring Foundation team is not only keeping our members informed about our Foundation's great work, but it envisions "A Canada where seniors get the care and support they need, where, when and how they need it."

Maria Provencher
Foundation Committee Chair