



President's report – 2021

This is my very first report to you, dear members, volunteers, employees and donors of this beautiful organization which is NOVA West Island. I am therefore very proud to share with you this journey of my first year as president.

Let me first start with an overview of the past year, ending March 31st. As was already the situation at our annual general meeting last year, many of our programs had to close or had to be reinvented because of this pandemic. Our adult day centers have therefore transformed themselves into online sessions with nearly 120 participants! These sessions allow a minimum of stimulating and social contacts for these people with cognitive impairments, while offering respite to their caregivers. Thanks to a generous donation from the Grace Dart Foundation, this program is being expanded with additional resources (additional hours and two hires), as well as the purchase of iPads that NOVA can lend to people without access to this technology, so that they may participate in our popular online sessions. As for our main mission of cancer and ALS palliative care, we also saw fit to extend this service to people at the end of their life (less than 3 months) to help the CLSCs of the West Island. We have also made good progress on our documentation digitalization project. This will soon allow our nurses to have access to real-time, off site information. This project is partially funded with financial assistance from PME Montréal.

Marie-France's team can be very proud this year of income sources from foundations, events and fundraising activities. In addition to the \$200,000 received from our NOVA Thrift Shops, who worked very hard during this pandemic, knowing that they could only reopen in February 2021 with a limited number of customers in their stores, NOVA was able to meet and often exceed its goals for all our other sources of income! With the help of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), NOVA's finances have been doing very well during this far from ordinary year! To highlight a few examples of the generosity and dedication of people in our community, I can confirm that our Annual Campaign has been more successful than last year. We also had great success with our very first online auction which brought in over \$10,000 in profits. We will repeat this fundraising activity next spring. A new golf tournament was also added to our October schedule, bringing in over \$15,800. And this is after our traditional re-imagined tournament still netted over \$56,000 in profit. It's remarkable how many organizations think of NOVA West Island as the beneficiary of their activities. As for foundations, they have all been very generous. We surpassed last year's results by almost \$ 280,000! At the risk of repeating myself, I am definitely very proud of the work from our fundraising team and from our Board of Directors members, who also contributed very generously to this collective effort.



Thanks to these income contributors who continued to believe in us during these difficult times, we were able to continue to provide the quality services for which NOVA West Island is so well known for. Without stealing the punch from anything in Marie-France's report, I would like to point out that we were able to continue to offer our palliative care services to more than 400 persons. And perhaps as a side effect of the pandemic, NOVA was able to support 99 clients to end their journey peacefully at home amid their loved ones. This represents a 136% increase from last year! Our bereavement support program also assisted nearly 45 people. From all our programs combined, an impressive 646 persons have used our quality services. Thank you to our 30 employees, as well to our 187 volunteers, without whom NOVA the West Island would not be what it is today!

During the fiscal year, the Board of Directors met 7 times. Unfortunately, the end of the year was also marked by the departure of our Treasurer Conrad. His passion for numbers and his talent for managing portfolios have brought a lot to NOVA. In return, this year also welcomed two new directors to the Board: Nathalie Fauteux and Lorenzo Salvaggio, bringing to the table excellent knowledge in terms of human and financial resources. I confirm that they are already excellent additions to the organization for their recent respective contributions, among others, to our online auction as well as to the finance committee. Speaking of this committee, now led by our new treasurer Lorenzo, it was reorganized last fall for governance purposes. The Committee's first concrete task is to set up a partnership with an external firm to help manage our investments. All this is also supported by the Board of Directors.

In closing, it has been a whole year filled with challenges and surprises (not always good!). Despite this, I feel that all our volunteers are ready to tackle this next year in a positive way, with their heads held high, committed and all proud to work for this great cause that, we hope, will continue to exceed the expectations of our West Island customers for a very long time to come. Thank you again for your remarkable support over the past few years as well as over these somewhat more difficult months!

Thierry Faucher
President of the Board of Directors, NOVA west island