



L'ARCHE®
calgary

2019-2020
REPORT TO COMMUNITY



Our story...

L'Arche began in 1964 in the French village of Trosly-Breuil. The first house was named "L'Arche", French for "the ark" after Noah's ark: a safe and secure place, and a sign of God's care and provision.

Today there are 154 L'Arche communities in 38 countries around the world.

L'Arche Calgary creates community with 19 core members (individuals with a developmental disability) plus 19 live-in Assistants residing in five homes. Our Supported Independent Living program assists five core members to live in the broader community.

In addition, we provide the Tamarack Day Program which allows 16 individuals to enjoy activities related to their goals, interests, and particular needs with a focus on helping them build relationships.

At L'Arche, we believe...

Every person deserves and longs to be loved and to find a place where they truly belong. Our abilities, or disabilities, do not make this any more or less true.

We are people with and without intellectual disabilities, sharing and creating a community rooted in shared respect and belonging.

We celebrate the unique gifts of every person and recognize our need for one another. Together we are building a more inclusive community with trust in God at the centre of our journey.



Message from our Community Leader



A year ago when I arrived back at L'Arche, we were moving into the third year of our mandate. We had a vision for growth: expanding programs, welcoming people in new and innovative ways, and broadening our outreach to share the message of L'Arche. For the first half of the year we were full speed ahead:

- We completed our Theory of Change through Innoweave, focused on reducing social isolation in people with developmental disabilities;
- We formalized our Visiting Program concept;
- The Lumino space was near completion and we were discussing how we could best use it;
- We celebrated the 5th Anniversary of Our CoffeeHouse and dreamed of how it could grow;
- We hosted our 4th annual Christmas Pageant to an even bigger crowd;
- We held a successful 10th annual Rogers Insurance Run for L'Arche, one of the first virtual events in Calgary

However, when we moved into the second half of the past year we encountered some challenges on our journey.

In February 2020, we learned the deeply shocking news about Jean Vanier as a result of the International Inquiry, something many of us are still trying to process. It is difficult to reconcile what we believed about him with what we learned about him.

A few short weeks later, in March 2020, COVID-19 emerged throughout the world and our lives were turned upside down. And then in June 2020 we lost a dear long-term member of our community, Rosie Meyers. We are still living through the changes and the grief that these significant challenges brought to our lives as individuals and to our life as a community. I am filled, though, with much gratitude:

- ❖ for how we came together right after we heard the news about Jean Vanier, reaffirming that L'Arche was never about just one person but always about all of us and the thousands of people who have lived the mission of L'Arche over the past five decades;
- ❖ for how our teams have so diligently – and lovingly – adapted to the restrictions to keep each other safe and healthy during the pandemic; and
- ❖ for how we celebrated the life of Rosie, many people contributing in many ways to ensure she was, and will be, remembered with love.

Finally, I am filled with gratitude that God continues to hold us and watch over us on this challenging journey.

It can be difficult to see beyond what we are living with right now to a future where growth and outreach and welcoming new people is possible. There is much out of our control. But I have faith in the mission and vision of L'Arche and in those who walk the journey with me and I have faith that God will continue to lead us down the path that we are to follow.

Robyn Jackson

Community Leader/ Executive Director

Message from the Board of Directors for 2019-2020



A focus of the L'Arche Calgary Board of Directors this past year has been to support Robyn Jackson, our new Community Leader and Executive Director, in her work to expand programs and services. For example, our "Lumino" initiative will provide additional space to expand our day program and support more drop-in activities. Board members have been active with committee work, fund-raising, and attending community events. The latter are always a highlight and as one board member recently shared, "I see joy when I go to these events."

This past year has brought three major challenges for our community. The first was the troubling results of the inquiry into Jean Vanier, an early founder of L'Arche. The second is funding restrictions with government budgets and the expiration of mortgage funding for one of our homes. These will need to be offset through increased donations or cost reductions. The third is the more recent restrictions and financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In true L'Arche form, the community is showing its capability to face challenges with resilience, trust in God, care for each other, and a sense of humour.

We say farewell to Joan Faulk, who has served graciously and competently for five years. I have reached the board term limit of ten years and will step down at the June AGM. Mike Doty will become the new Board President. We are blessed with a strong board who care about L'Arche Calgary.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for our community.



Mark Richards
President (outgoing)
L'Arche Calgary Board of Directors

Our Coffeehouse – 5 Years and Going Strong

This past year, L'Arche Calgary's "Our Coffeehouse" celebrated its 5th anniversary! The original concept was a no-charge, drop-in gathering with live performances, games, and conversation one afternoon a week for anyone interested. Attendance has steadily grown to over 40 people each week, including other organizations supporting people with developmental disabilities such as Calgary Community Day Services (CCDS) and Community Living Alternative Services.

The name "Our Coffeehouse" was chosen to reflect the purpose of the program – it belonged to everyone. It was conceived, planned and essentially run by core members of L'Arche Calgary. As volunteers, they are the heart and soul of the operation. They set up, welcome, serve and clean up at the end of the day. They take a lot of pride in the job they do and in welcoming the wider community.

Shortly after we celebrated the anniversary in March 2020, Our Coffeehouse had to readjust. The COVID-19 pandemic presented numerous restrictions on large group gatherings and live performances. The desire to continue connecting through music was strong, however, and so Our Coffeehouse went virtual, with almost all of our performers back to entertain us every week.

Over the years, we have been proud to see many attendees form lasting friendships. We have also been proud to provide an opportunity for core members to engage in a meaningful volunteer role, learning skills they can potentially use for future employment. Our Coffeehouse is fully funded by L'Arche Calgary donors and we are deeply grateful. Your support has helped us continue to offer this wonderful program not only for our L'Arche community, but also for other people with disabilities in our city. Thank you!



Rogers Insurance Run for L'Arche 10th Anniversary



"About 12 years ago a few ambitious employees at Rogers Insurance thought it would be a great challenge to try and run a marathon. And if you are going to go to all that effort why not do it at the famous Marathon du Medoc in France? And then why not wrap it up with a good cause. One of those employees was formerly on the local board of L'Arche Calgary and said that L'Arche is a tremendous cause and we could tie it into a visit to Trosly-Breuil where the founder Jean Vanier lived. So it all came to pass that eight staff members of Rogers and one Robyn Jackson travelled to France to meet Jean Vanier and run in a marathon. Another employee of Rogers who could not go on the trip was struck by the stories of those who returned and suggested that we start an annual run to support L'Arche. And that employee had a friend at Economical Insurance who agreed to be the major sponsor of the run. A little ambition and a few friends are all that it takes!"

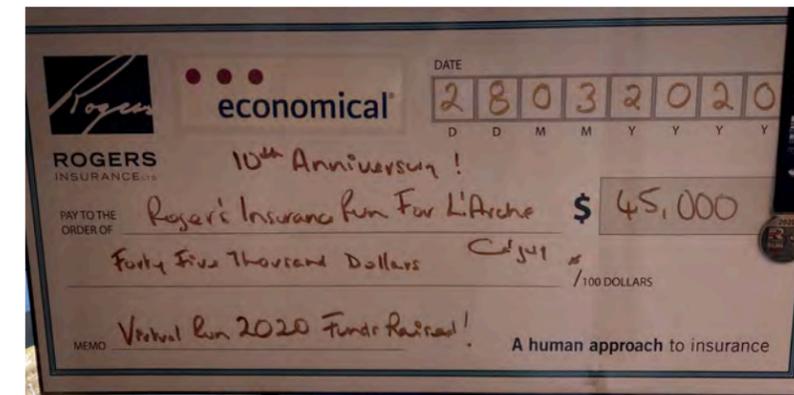
Bruce Rabik,
Chief Operating Officer, Rogers Insurance

"Economical has been a proud presenting sponsor of the Rogers Insurance Run for L'Arche since its inception 10 years ago. We're very fortunate to have broker partners who help us identify and champion causes that make critical changes in various communities across Canada. Our team is grateful to have been given this opportunity to work together to help raise funds for L'Arche Calgary. For the past decade, dozens of Economical employees in Calgary and Edmonton have participated in the run each year, volunteering alongside employees from Rogers Insurance. Beyond being able to team up with one of our broker partners to bring an event like this one to life, Economical remains committed to supporting charities and causes that help improve the communities and regions where we live and work."

Chris Weber,
VP Western Region, Economical Insurance



Rogers Insurance Run for L'Arche 10th Anniversary



This year's run was to include over 600 community members, runners, volunteers, and community partners, but because of COVID-19, organizers quickly adapted to create the Virtual Rogers Insurance Run for L'Arche. Participants received a package of L'Arche running swag in the mail and were encouraged to make tracks in their own neighbourhood.

Many runners took up the call, still happy to give their time and energy to the cause in whatever way they could. Dozens of runners from all around the province, and some from farther afield, posted their finishing times for the various distances on www.startlinetiming.com, maintaining the momentum and positive spirit of past runs for L'Arche.

The harsh realities of COVID-19 have brought many hard-learned lessons. The isolation that was brought upon us by the pandemic was difficult for our L'Arche community but we learned that even at a distance, community can still thrive. We are humbled and grateful for the continued support of our donors and community partners, like Rogers Insurance and Economical Insurance.



L'Arche in the Time of the Pandemic



Life in a Pandemic by the Numbers

- # of masks used: 4,600+
- # of gloves used: 18,000+
- # of hours in Zoom calls: 1,000+
- # of Dance parties: 60+
- # of walks : 1,300+
- # of movies watched: 200+
- # hours in prayer: 110+

At the time of the publication of this Report to the Community, we are still living in a pandemic. Life is much different than we are used to. As a licensed service provider, we have many restrictions we need to comply with, and we do so gladly in order to keep each other safe and healthy. It is not easy but our sense of community is no less present. While apart, we are together: in art, in prayer, in meals, in music, in video, in mourning, in heart, and in spirit.

The time of the pandemic is time to slow down and press 'pause' on the busy-ness of our days. It is a chance to build on and build new relationships in a time of quiet and creativity. While we are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to all come together again, we find peace and life in simplicity. At this time next year, we hope to be back to "normal", sharing life together in the ways we missed, but we will be grateful for the time we had truly connect with one another.



Thank you to all of our Donors and Sponsors

We are deeply grateful for the many gifts of continued friendship, volunteer time and financial assistance provided by all of our supporters.

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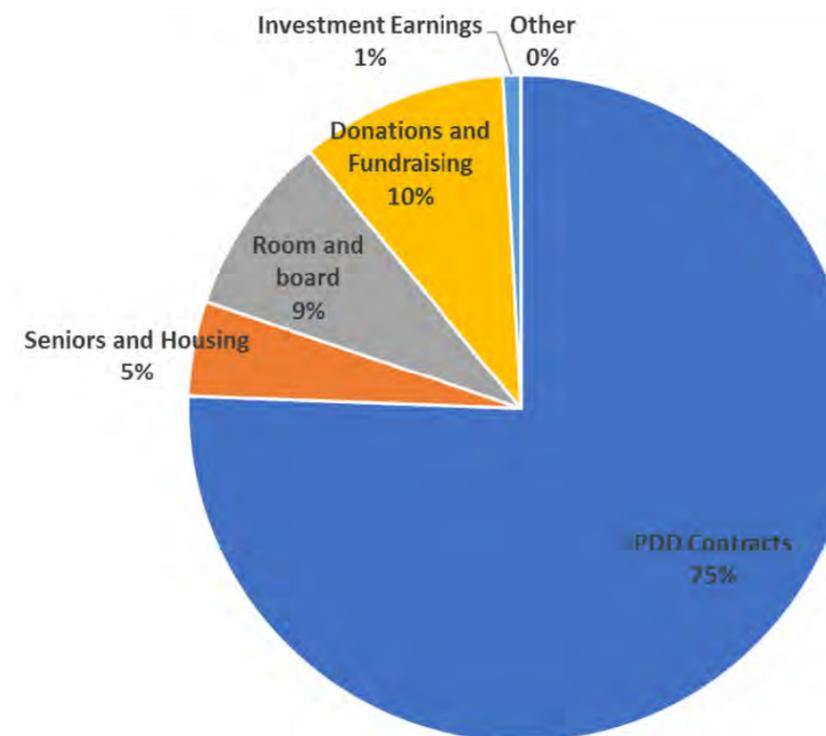
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"I believe in L'Arche because of what the community is and represents. An open, safe, secure place of belonging where people share experiences and grow collectively and individually. It truly has evolved as an organization to be a sign of how community can function and look after some of its most vulnerable people.

I am very proud to say I am part of the extended community of L'Arche." ~~
 Gord Berkhold, Berkhold Family Foundation

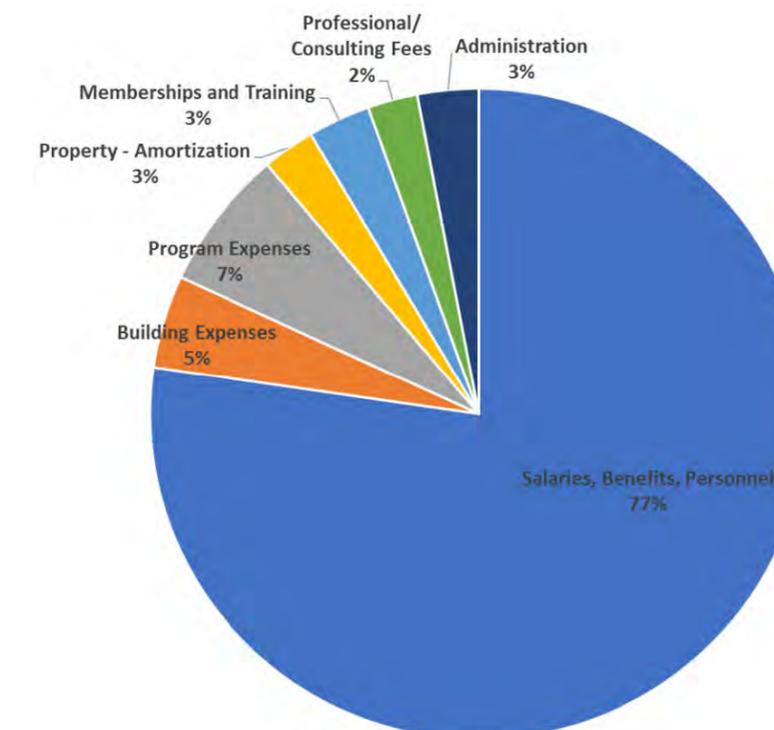
2019-20 Financials

Revenue



Revenues	2020
PDD Contracts	\$ 3,083,096
Seniors and Housing	\$ 189,123
Room and board	\$ 358,763
Donations and Fundraising	\$ 412,273
Investment Earnings	\$ 35,001
Other	\$ 572
Total Revenues	\$ 4,078,828

Expenses



Expenses	2020
Salaries, Benefits, Personnel	\$ 3,122,078
Building Expenses	\$ 186,604
Program Expenses	\$ 281,871
Property - Amortization	\$ 103,820
Memberships and Training	\$ 124,110
Professional/ Consulting Fees	\$ 99,020
Administration	\$ 121,103
Total Expenses	\$ 4,038,606



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