

**Chair's Report to the
Annual General Meeting of the Members of The Vitanova Foundation**

June 27, 2017

It is my pleasure to present this report on The Vitanova Foundation for the fiscal year 2016-2017, in many ways an historic one for this organization. I say that because in August of 2016, Vitanova was accredited by the Canadian Centre for Accreditation. Accreditation is the end-result of a comprehensive review by independent experts of every aspect of an organization and its operations, accomplished by means of a thoroughgoing review of written policies and on-the-ground practices, surveys of funders and collaborating agencies, as well as interviews with directors, staff, volunteers, and clients. The achievement of this milestone in our thirty year history is due to the unflagging efforts of four individuals: Franca Carella, founder and executive director; Cindy Cepparo, program director and leader of our accreditation working group; Pierina Minna, executive assistant to the executive director, responsible for the electronic transfer of the vast amount of information which the accreditors required of us; and Tony Carella, our senior volunteer, whose knowledge of the accreditation process as the former chair of our sister agency, the Vaughan Community Health Centre, proved invaluable. Without a doubt, the most gratifying part of the process was what the accreditors noticed when they spent two days on site conducting interviews. In the reviewers' words, *"The commitment and dedication of staff, volunteers and especially Franca the executive director is just profoundly moving."*

The term of accreditation is four years. In the meantime, we will be providing annual reports to the CCA in anticipation of re-accreditation in 2020. As well, we have already begun to streamline how we document policies, to make the next round of the process more efficient.

Other matters you should be aware of:

- We are in the process of developing a new strategic plan, to guide Vitanova over the next five years. A draft plan will be presented to the board in September for its approval
- Program staff are in the process of developing a three-year quality improvement plan, a follow up to the previous plan which was completed with great success
- The chapel project is well underway, with conditional approval by the City of Vaughan in hand. Outstanding matters should be concluded in the next little while, with construction to commence later in the year.
- Donation solicitation and fundraising efforts were immensely successful over the past year, with a new event--the Heart to Heart Gala organized by Director Nancy Postiglione and her team--added to the annual calendar of such initiatives.

On your behalf, I thank everyone who has made this past fiscal year such a success, of which we can all be very proud.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Federico

Chair of the Board of Directors