

**Report to the  
Annual General Meeting of the Members of The Vitanova Foundation  
June 25, 2019**

The 2018-2019 fiscal year has seen a number of important developments at Vitanova. As the new chair of the its board of directors, I have had the privilege of observing these developments up close and am happy to report on them; specifically,

*Community engagement:* Much attention and effort has been put into the second phase of our new community engagement strategy. After comprehensively reviewing our internal and external engagement strategies in year 1 of this project, during this past fiscal year (year 2) we began the design of a strategy that will focus on social media, which design is now being implemented in this present fiscal year. On your behalf, I want to thank the members of the board's Quality and Risk Committee, for setting the future direction on this important project.

*Organizational development:* A staff-volunteer committee led by Program Director Cindy Cepparo has spent a good part of this past fiscal year preparing for re-accreditation by the Canadian Centre for Accreditation to take place next year. All indications are that we will be successful once again in attaining this important recognition of how well we operate in all organizational and addiction-specific sectors, whether in governance, program design and delivery, human resources, and so on.

*Quality Improvement:* Also under the program director's leadership, clinical staff have devoted significant resources of time and thought to improving the quality of a key point along the road to recovery---the intake process: specifically, the shortening of wait times between a prospective client's first contact with Vitanova and their assessment, and between assessment and admission. This has facilitated the in-flow of more new clients at a time when demand for service is on the increase.

*Opioid Project:* Our outreach capacity has also increased significantly as we have been engaged with other mental health and addiction agencies in the catchment area of the Central Local Health Integration Networks in dealing with the opioid crisis. To that end, we have also added six new beds to our domiciliary unit.

*Finances:* Donation solicitation and fundraising efforts have resulted in another successful year from the perspective of finances. In that regard, I want to thank all of our donors, and everyone who has been part of the many efforts---by us and by friends of Vitanova---to make all our fundraising projects so successful.

Lastly, I take this opportunity to especially thank our founder and executive director, Franca Carella, for her continuing leadership and example. She remains an inspiration to us all.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Grando, Chair of the Board