

17 July, 2020

To 17 Wing Families,

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented situation which affects us all. As we mark the fourth month of our response to the pandemic, I wanted to provide you with an update on how the Winnipeg MFRC has been responding to the pandemic.

With the spread of COVID-19 across Canada, the Winnipeg MFRC closed its physical facilities on March 13, 2020 to help flatten the transmission curve in Winnipeg. Our staff quickly transitioned to a work from home posture in order to safely continue supporting the needs of our military families.

The Board of Directors, our Interim Executive Director, Vicki Morrison, and the MFRC staff have been focused on three main areas:

Supporting Our People – Ensuring that our staff and community members are safe is our top priority. Most of our staff members have been working from home during this time. We have been leveraging existing and new technology such as Basecamp, Zoom, and SimplyCast to stay connected with each other and with our clients. In conjunction with 17 Wing and provincial regulations, we have developed a Business Resumption Plan that maps out a flexible, measured approach to a return to a new normal.

Supporting our Military Families – While our in-person programs and services have been put on hold, our staff have been reaching out to families via warm line calls, virtual programming, emergency childcare, support for families of deployed members, and assistance navigating employment benefit programs. Our Childcare Centre has been providing childcare for essential personnel throughout the pandemic and our Intervention and Support staff have been assisting families during these stressful times. We have updated our virtual Newcomer Guide for families moving to Winnipeg to ensure that families connect to community resources and discover all that Winnipeg has to offer.

Supporting Our Business Continuity – The Interim Executive Director and Board of Directors have been working closely together to navigate this unprecedented situation. We have recently approved our Business Resumption Plan and our main and South Side facilities have passed the 17 Wing Occupational Health and Safety COVID-19 inspection. The Board continues to meet monthly via Zoom working on business plans, new policies, and preparing for our Annual General Meeting on September 24th.

We are continuing to work on the details of a safe and deliberate return to the building. We will keep the community updated as the plan is finalized. We look forward to seeing you from a safe distance soon!

Katy Wedgwood
Chairperson, Board of Directors
Winnipeg Military Family Resource Centre