



NEWS

from the President



December 2015

Reasons to Celebrate

The holiday season is drawing near and VRA Canada has so much to celebrate. Since this time last year, and as of November 27th, we have welcomed more than 220 new members and have awarded more than 133 new designations. This is a good news story as it points to so many more qualified professionals working with people with disabilities.

In spite of technical issues and with thanks to the Board, KMG Health Partners and Managing Matters, we were able to make substantial progress on our strategic direction plan and keep the business moving. Managing Matters' contract ends November 30th. I want to thank Jenny Faucher, Lindsay Belanger, Michelle Prior, and the rest of the team at Managing Matters for taking care of us during 2015—their support and assistance was appreciated.

Welcome to Megram

I'm pleased to announce the appointment of Megram Consulting Services Ltd. (www.megram.com) as our new management company, effective November 1st, with the hand-over of responsibilities from Managing Matters starting at the beginning of December. Megram currently manages more than a dozen national and international not-for-profit organizations, and Megram president Bob Cross has more than 40 years of hands-on association management experience. The transition is well in-hand and all of us on the Board of Directors look forward to having them support VRA Canada in the years ahead. Welcome to the Megram team!

New VRA Address

The introduction of Megram to the mix means that, effective immediately, we have a new VRA Canada office. The address and contact details are as follows:

3-247 Barr St., Box 370

Renfrew, Ontario,

K7V 1J6 Canada

Toll Free: 1-888-876-9992

Fax: 613-432-6840

info@vracanada.com



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KMG Health Partners

By now you have probably had opportunity to engage with, at some level, our other key provider, KMG Health Partners (info@vracanada.com). Gail Kovacs, KMG Director, started in February as our Board Designated Representative providing guidance, advice, and professional support to the Board of Directors. She is also responsible for all communications and promotion. Gail and her team have pitched in during difficult times to provide support to Managing Matters, to help with transitions between contracts, to recommend more efficient and effective processes and structure, and to assist with education/CEU activity. KMG is currently supporting VRA Canada with an Education Coordinator, Charity Warwick, who works with you directly on your professional development needs. Kat Abraham, also under contract to KMG, continues to produce our now enhanced *Rehab Matters* and Voice newsletter, and to manage our social media sites. My sincerest thanks to Gail and her dedicated and efficient team of professionals. As a Board and organization, they have truly advanced VRA Canada.

Our Website

I am happy to report that our new website developers, Graphix Works, are diligently tackling the “rebirth” of our website. When it re-launches in a few weeks, it will be fully functional, accessible, as automated as possible, more informative, and more user/member friendly. Stay tuned for further details.

Thank You and Best Wishes

I would be misinforming you if I told you it has not been a challenging year. Without challenges, though, there is limited progress. Lessons have been learned, we have introduced two new providers who appreciate our needs and expectations, and we have overall growth. Our clients and customers are receiving excellent support and services thanks to you, our members, and the foundation of this organization. VRA Canada thanks you for your patience, understanding, and support during a difficult year of transition. There are better days ahead. Meanwhile, I wish you and yours a happy, healthy, and prosperous holiday season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Addie Greco-Sanchez'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Addie Greco-Sanchez
President

