



**DAYBREAK**  
Rebuilding lives. Inspiring hope.

## **From our Operations Manager**

I hope you're enjoying the last bit of summer. Our houses continue to remain full, and our waiting list grows. Staff are focusing on life skills programming for our residents, particularly with managing personal hygiene, laundry, and keeping individual rooms clean and organized. Assisting residents with employment is another goal and we are now working with a new government-funded employment agency which offers training and work opportunities for the under-employed. Many residents have expressed interest in participating.

Two of our female residents have started working at the nearby grocery store. They were initially apprehensive about the challenges and commitments they made, but now seem to be enthusiastic about keeping busy, meeting new people, and making some money.

About 80%, of our residents have now had both vaccine doses. We organized the appointments, including transportation to and from the vaccine locations when required.

When I first met with the city staff involved in oversight of our program two years ago, I asked them about their expectations and goals for Daybreak. They responded, "Keep them in safe and stable housing for as long as you can". These words have resonated with me ever since, as I navigate multiple, ongoing, and increasing issues among residents. Unfortunately, not everyone is suited for our organization, or able at this time in their lives to meet our basic residency requirements for paying minimal rent, not using drugs or alcohol in the houses, and observing some house rules. We try to treat everyone fairly, and to give as many breaks as we deem wise before we evict, but unfortunately, managing issues and anti-social behaviour among residents continues to occupy a lot of our time, and there have been a few evictions recently.

Staff and I take great pleasure in maintaining contact with our residents who have moved on from Daybreak to independent living, or other circumstances. One former resident who unfortunately ended up in jail even reached out to me from there! Knowing they do not have a lot of supports in their lives, we are happy to try to continue to be positive influences for them.

Rob Dekker (past President) organized a successful wine and chocolate virtual evening in June. Thank you again for those that purchased a ticket for the event. Is there an event you would like to see happen? Perhaps a live trivia night or something else? Let me know – [richard@daybreakhousing.org](mailto:richard@daybreakhousing.org)

Our AGM was held again virtually in early June. This year we had 6 new board members join us and we are excited to see the contributions that they will bring.



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### Meet our Residents

Pat (L) and Mike (sitting). Both Pat and Mike have been with us close to 4 years. Pat described his time at DB as the most stable in his life; this is the longest continuing period he has been in stable housing as an adult. Mike told me that he really likes the camaraderie at the house and that during COVID, when everything was closed, there was always company in the house. I asked them how long they hoped to stay at Daybreak, and both replied in unison, 'We do not want to leave!'

### Thank you to our Supporters and Volunteers

Another big thank you to our cake makers Laurie, Estela and Kyle. Our birthday cake program has been active about a year now. What's great to see is that the cake gets shared around so that everyone can enjoy a piece.



Last but certainly not least, a big thank you to all of our supporters, especially to **Khalsa Aid** who provided us with comforters, bedding, toiletries and towels for all our residents. The expenses involved in maintaining 5 aging properties are considerable and growing, and every dollar you contribute goes right back to housing our residents.



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