

December 19, 2023

Dear Dom Lipa Families, Friends, Employees and Supporters,

In this communication we invite you to continue contributing to our Lipathon 2023 to help us reach our fundraising goal of \$100,000. We share with you the topics discussed during a recent meeting with the Minister of Long-Term Care, Stan Cho. Finally, we tell you how to use the new garden level door, and wish you all Merry Christmas.

Help us reach \$100,000 in donations for Lipathon 2023!

Thank you to our donors and supporters for your wonderful generosity!

So far, we have received \$75,375! Help us reach \$100,000 by the end of 2023! It is not too late to make a donation and get a donation tax receipt for 2023.

If you missed our virtual music fundraiser Lipathon, the various segments have been posted at www.facebook.com/lipathon2023. Watch the many performances by musicians, singers, spoken word artists, as well as chats with special guests.

Each year we need to cover annual repairs and maintenance, and we also put a bit aside for major building repairs and equipment replacement. We are also planning a refresh and renovations of the original 30 rooms so they are wheelchair accessible and meet new Ministry standards.

Meeting with Minister Cho

On November 27th, Maria Zajc McDonald, President of the Board, representing Dom Lipa and representatives of 11 additional ethnic and cultural homes, met with Ontario's newly appointed Minister for Long-Term Care, the Honourable Stan Cho. We urged the Ministry to support the status of cultural homes and assist the process for admissions. The Minister agreed on the importance of having ethnically and culturally appropriate homes for seniors.

M. McDonald shared the importance of involving community members with our ethnic and cultural homes. She highlighted the need for the Minister to help preserve the strong community by ensuring a better admissions process to long-term care (LTC) beds. Dom Lipa needs to stay strongly connected to the Slovenian community; representatives of the ethnic and cultural homes who were present concurred on behalf of their communities.

Dom Lipa, similar to the other homes, is so thankful for the wide range of caring and dedicated volunteers from the community, including:

- Gardening volunteers who work tirelessly over the summer. They create raised garden beds so residents can nurture plantings and pick vegetables. They plan and maintain our beautiful flower gardens.
- Social activity volunteers who come to chat with seniors and take them for walks in our welcoming gardens.
- Volunteers for our board of directors who bring critical expertise and experience to the governance of the home, and who want to give back to our community.
- Musicians and families from the community who attend weekly to play for residents. It is so heartwarming to see residents clapping or tapping their feet and nursing staff twirling around as they listen to the polkas and other traditional music.
- Children who come for intergenerational programs from the Scouting groups and the Slovenian Language school.
- Dancing groups who come to perform in their colourful national costumes.
- Priests from the Toronto and Hamilton Slovenian communities who regularly come to celebrate Mass in our chapel.

Last but not least, Dom Lipa and other ethnic and culture homes fear losing the critical financial support of the community to help maintain buildings and provide a few extras for residents. It is the community members who contribute the largest part of annual donations.

M. McDonald further emphasized that it is our community who will help fundraise for the redevelopment of old LTC beds. Members of the Slovenian community remember well how their parents helped to fundraise for the purchase of the property and the building of Dom Lipa 35 years ago.

We reminded Minister Cho that only with the dedication, volunteerism and financial donations by our community members, can we proceed with redeveloping the LTC beds.

We asked the Minister for help to maintain our strong communities, which greatly enrich the lives of our seniors as well as our community members.

The CEO of Advantage Ontario, L. Levin, has been advocating for the Toronto area ethnic and cultural homes. The Executive Director of Dom Lipa, J. Linde and others are meeting with the Home and Community Care staff this week to discuss further admission procedures to ethnic and cultural LTC homes.

Below is a photo of our meeting with Minister Cho on November 27, 2023.



Access Through Garden Floor to Back Gardens

Families and visitors with Dom Lipa access cards may also use them to operate the automatic door leading from the garden level to the rear gardens. We are grateful to Mrs. Cveta Arhar-Stojko for her vision and her generous donation to help install the automatic door system for a convenient access to the rear gardens.

The directors, management and staff of Dom Lipa thank you, our dedicated donors and supporters of Dom Lipa! We wish you a blessed Christmas season and hope the New Year brings you good health, success, and many joyful moments!

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the Slovenian Linden Foundation – Dom Lipa

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