

## Message from LIFE's Executive Director

Monday, March 23, 2020

Hello LIFE members,

From our self isolation to yours, how is everyone managing? I want to express sincerely how much we care about each and everyone of you.

As the global effect of COVID-19 continues to evolve it has left many of us feeling anxious and concerned for the future. Because of this I wanted to write to you personally as one human being to other and as the Executive Director of The LIFE Institute. Like many of you, I have experienced over my lifetime, unexpected challenging times. For me, one was SARS. When SARS took place, I was working right in the area that was hit the hardest. Was this a scary time period, yes, however like others myself included the experience left us so much wiser and knowledgeable about the possibility of future events like this to occur. Fast forward and here we are going through once again extremely difficult and uncharted waters with one difference, it's global. One of the many lessons I took away from the experience is to remain calm and never lose hope. This too will pass, our lives will continue at some point or another. How we communicate and do business with one another may change creating a new normal for all of us. As we continue to work through these uncertain times together, please do not forget to take care of your own physical and mental health and support those around you.

As the Executive Director speaking on behalf of The LIFE Institute we will try our best to communicate with you on an ongoing basis the decisions and efforts being made to continue to offer you the high quality learning and programming that you would expect from us. Please note the following:

- All LIFE staff are working from home and are available through their normal LIFE email
- Spring Courses will not be offered **in class**, however, we are in the process of reaching out to our instructors to develop these same courses for **on-line** delivery for all of you to enjoy
- We realize that many of you, including myself, may require training in using many of the online platforms such as Zoom etc. An email was sent out last week to the membership asking for help to train others on using new forms of technology for online training. We had an amazing and favourable response. Over 40 members stepped up to the plate with the intent to assist others in learning new technology, enabling you to enjoy the upcoming Spring courses that will be offered online
- Many of the Winter classes have been completed or are nearly completed, with the majority of the remaining classes being provided online and they have been received extremely well
- It is our intention for all committees to continue as planned and they will be done virtually, members will be offered training to assist them if required

Over the next few weeks, we thank you for your continued support and ask you to continue with that support. We don't have all the answers right now and may encounter a few hiccups along the road. With your patience, understanding and assistance, I am confident we will survive and get through this difficult time together.

Stay well, stay connected, look after one another.

Sincerely,



Deborah Bonk Greenwood

### THE LIFE INSTITUTE

Office: 297 Victoria Street, Toronto, Ontario Mailing Address: 350 Victoria Street, Toronto, Ontario M5B 2K3  
Phone: 416.979.5000, ext. 556989 E-mail: [info@thelifeinstitute.ca](mailto:info@thelifeinstitute.ca) Fax: 416.979.5286 [www.thelifeinstitute.ca](http://www.thelifeinstitute.ca)