



Reflections from the Executive Director—Patti



Best wishes to all during this holiday season....
Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year to all!

I look back over 2018 and a great big smile comes across my face! What a busy good year we had at Innovative LIFE Options.

I recently heard a quote from Les Brown that got me thinking. The quote *"If you set goals and go after them with all the determination you can muster, your gifts will take you places that will amaze you!"* This quote really makes me think of ICOF employers and LIFE staff!



It was terrific to co-sponsor information sessions with our colleagues in the building – from the Transition Planning workshops to the "Know your Rights series". The sessions were well attended providing informative content. We are going to run them again this Winter – so keep eyes open for new information!



We were also part of a thought-provoking, Family Gathering and it was great to see many of you at there!

We hosted financial workshops, created a new ICOF Advisory Committee, held a Board Staff Retreat and danced the day away at the ICOF employers Spring Fling—the list goes on and on.

We welcomed new LIFE staff, a new ICOF employer and celebrated this amazing model at our AGM. Our theme of community came alive thanks to all of you!

As Walt Disney said – *"We just keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."*

I am looking forward to doors opening and new paths being paved for ICOF and LIFE in 2019.



Options for Services

A program for individuals, networks, and families who manage their own services. This includes those who access ICOF funding as well as those who access self-managed day program or respite funding.

For more information, contact Michelle
optionsforservices@icof-life.ca

A Message from the Board of Directors



LIFE is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Our board has 12 diverse members that represent various regions of our province - We are parents, siblings, network members, and dedicated community members. We meet 6 times a year, including being a part of our fun filled Annual General Meeting and can participate in various sub-committees throughout the year. LIFE Board membership is a wonderful experience that helps guide the organization and makes a positive difference in the community! We would like to thank Stephen Walker for his years as chair of the Board – Stephen has moved into the role of past-chair and Rose Flaig has taken on the role of chair!

At our AGM we said thank you and goodbye to individuals who finished their terms with the Board. We were thankful to have **Irene Maendel** with us for three years and appreciate her insight! And **Clare Simpson** who had been on the Board for eight years! Clare was instrumental in starting Options for Services and was a strong and dedicated member. Clare's input and guidance as board chair was invaluable!

In September the Board was part of a planning session with the LIFE staff. We explored how to action our vision of Inspire, Innovate and Include and we talked about our roots as an organization and our exciting future! A big thank you to the LIFE staff for their contributions throughout the year.

Also in September we had an opportunity to meet with the new Minister of Families, Heather Stefanson and her staff- a great audience – we bragged about the ICOF model and the good work we all do! We are determined to see ICOF grow and continue to be respected as a viable valuable model of choice!



Po\$\$ibility Grant

A grant for ICOF Employers!

In 2017, the Po\$\$ibility grant, originally called the 20th Anniversary Fund became an endowment fund with the Winnipeg Foundation.

All ICOF employers are eligible to apply for the Po\$\$ibilities grant in 2019.

The Board has established a selection committee for the Grant program. This committee is made up of individuals who are not board or staff members or are part of any support network – but are individuals who understand and value the ICOF philosophy and respect and admire our work.

Further details and application process coming in the New Year!

ICOF News



Reciprocity at it's finest!

A great example of an
ICOF employer's kindness!

While Diane, a friend and network member,
was in the hospital, Devon fed her cats and
brought them to visit with her.

Good company was not hard to find;
Devon and Mary also went with Diane
to a couple of her doctor appointments.

ICOF Advisory Committee to the LIFE Board



We are off and running.....

This year we heard from a few ICOF employers that they would like to contribute
to the growth and development of ICOF and LIFE!

*"We would like our voice to be heard."
"I would like to be a stronger part of the organization."
"I would like to connect and help out."*

We wanted to respond so this Fall we held our first ICOF advisory committee meeting in
Winnipeg. We had some great ideas about promoting the ICOF model, connecting with
community, and expanding some of the work LIFE does to benefit more people!

We would like to have a meeting in other regions so we can expand our membership.

Would you like to join us?

To learn more or to join, please call or email Patti
(204-784-4814 or patti@icof-life.ca)

We welcome your input!



UPCOMING EVENTS



The Family Gathering 2019



**Friday, March 1st and
Saturday, March 2nd**

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Viscount Gort Hotel
1670 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB

A Conference for Parents and other family
members in a caregiving role.

Registration starts soon!
More information in January!

LIFE AGM

Saturday, June 1st

Charleswood United Church
4820 Roblin Blvd
Winnipeg, MB

More information in the Spring!



Innovative Life Options is a registered charity.
You can **donate**:

On our website—www.innovativelifeoptions.ca

Through the Winnipeg Foundation—
<https://wpgfdn.mycharitytools.com>
Enter Innovative Life Options as the endowment fund

Donations support the Po\$\$ibility Grant

The LIFE Team

Liz Allen
Financial Coordinator
liz@icof-life.ca

Shannon Chapman
Resource Coordinator
shannonchapman@icof-life.ca

Patti Chiappetta
Executive Director
patti@icof-life.ca

Barb Colleman-Elias
Resource Coordinator
barb@icof-life.ca

Dana Johnston
Resource Coordinator
dana@icof-life.ca

Laurie Miller
Senior Resource
Coordinator
laurie@icof-life.ca

Michelle Pinette
Options for Services
Coordinator
optionsforservices@icof-life.ca

Betina Roberts
Resource Coordinator
betina@icof-life.ca

Amy Shawcross
Resource Coordinator
amy@icof-life.ca

Laureen Spitzke
Office Manager
info@icof-life.ca

Shannon Walowetz
Resource Coordinator
shannon@icof-life.ca