



**Board of Directors' Report**

Submitted by Peter Guest

As I expect our entire membership is aware, our festival is very well run. Even with changing times and no longer selling out within minutes, we are still maintaining a very strong position. This gives the board the opportunity to continue to focus in different areas. Our board retreat this winter had a strong focus on indigenous relations, inclusion and safer spaces. We are working hard to update our policies, communications and actions to create the kind of environment and experience we believe the membership expects.

More broadly we are making progress on communicating better as a board and more transparently with the Society. We have been leveraging Google Drive internally to share and organize documentation throughout the year and have gathered several years of minutes - these are in the process of being made accessible to the membership through the Folk Festival website. We have always operated on an open and transparent model where anyone could attend a board meeting or come to the office and see previous minutes and making them available online is the logical next step.

Our festival is quite unique in how the board operates and who we want to have on the board. Our board members are also current volunteers during the festival which help us to genuinely understand the festival. That said, our board operates at a policy level and leaves operational decisions up to the staff. Some boards seek out specific skill sets to have on their boards, where we tend to strive for as much diversity as we can to represent different perspectives. The current board comes from a wide variety of backgrounds and provides differing opinions. Though this may slow down some of our meetings, it leads to better decisions and guidance for Terry. I would like to thank all of the current board members for taking time out of their busy lives and giving back to our festival (in addition to their regular crew volunteering).

Peter Guest, Chair  
Chelsea Donelon, Vice Chair  
Andrew Currie, Secretary (*end of term*)  
Gerrit Bjalek, Treasurer  
Brad Odsen, Director  
Carol Jones, Director  
Craig Moses, Director  
Kathie Goertz Thompson, Director (*end of term*)  
Tami Romanchuk, Director (*end of term*)

In closing I would like to thank each of you for coming to support our Society and voting in our new board members. On a more personal note I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chair for the last few years – it has been an honour. As I stated at last year's AGM I plan to step away from the role of Chair but to continue to serve on the board for the remaining 2 years of my term.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Guest". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peter Guest, Chair  
Edmonton Folk Music Festival Society