



Edmonton Folk Music Festival Society  
**Board Report**  
Annual General Meeting: April 26, 2020

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As I write this, the fate of our 2020 festival is unclear. COVID-19 brought with it a strange new reality, one that we're all trying to adapt to everyday. Telecommuting and social or physical distancing are suddenly household terms and daily activities for many of us. As we work our way through this, the impact on this year's festival is unknown. Government health safety measures may prevent us from having a gathering of any size in the park. Travel restrictions may prevent us from booking many of the artists we want. Public uncertainty may cause people to simply stay home and avoid festivals altogether. Only time will tell.

One thing is known, and that is the health of our society. Thanks to decades of hard work and responsible actions of our staff and management, good governance, and a dedicated membership, we will weather this storm. As the situation developed that board was on hand to offer support, the staff quickly adapted to remote work and found new ways to communicate and get the work done, and our Producer maintained contact with stakeholders and reworked the budget to prepare for a worst-case scenario. The society is a successful organization with good history, a solid asset base, and the sound financial health to see us through this pandemic.

Part of the strength that our society enjoys comes from the make-up of the board and society members. Drawing from the active volunteer base means that board and society members are fully invested in the festival and can understand it on a deeper level than if it were made up otherwise. That connection and understanding makes us stronger. To acknowledge that strength, I would like to thank the members of the EFMFS for participating in events like this AGM and the board elections. I would also like to thank the current board members for the time and effort that they put into their work on the board in addition to their regular volunteer duties, and those who are stepping forward today to run for this year's positions.

The current board of directors is:

- Gerrit Bjalek, Chair (*end of term*)
- Andrew Currie, Vice Chair
- Peter Guest, Secretary
- Brad Odsen, Director
- Carol Jones, Treasurer (*end of term*)
- Chelsea Donelon, Director (*stepping down – 1 year term available*)
- Craig Moses, Director (*end of term*)
- Shelley Morrison, Director,
- Stuart Muir, Director

Gerrit Bjalek, Chair

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