



**A Message from McDougall House Association Chair:
Announcing our new Executive Director, Liz Ferguson
McDougall House Association (MHA) - Edmonton, Alberta**

After serving in the role on an interim basis since late September 2020, the McDougall House Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Liz Ferguson has accepted the full-time position of Executive Director beginning April 1, 2021.

After a rigorous formal recruitment process led by the Board's HR Committee, the Board made this selection based on Liz's extensive non-profit experience and professional achievements. She holds degrees from Queen's University Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing), University of Calgary Bachelor of Science (Geology) and a Master of Arts in Sport Administration from the University of Ottawa. Liz has spent her career, both professionally and as a volunteer, working to transform the non-profit sport sector advancing women's participation, particularly in rugby. More recently, prior to joining us at MHA, Liz spent the last 16 years serving Hostelling International in leadership roles including Executive Director and Director of Partnerships.

We are confident that Liz's many talents and extensive leadership experience will help us continue, maintain, and expand MHA's service offering to women in recovery from addictions in Alberta.

As noted in the job description for this position, Liz will work closely with the Board to refresh MHA's strategy in 2021 and will support us in successful operation of the house, continue to build awareness of MHA through social media channels, continue with our fundraising efforts and expand our organizational capacity to fulfill MHA's renewed strategic priorities, vision, and mission.

We want to thank Laurie de Grace, former Executive Director, for her excellent work serving MHA through a physical relocation and refurbishment of the house, achieving successful registration under the Mental Health Services Protection Act in 2019 and Accredited Status with Accreditation Canada. Following those rigorous processes, she supported the house to adapt to the changes required to keep clients and employees safe during the pandemic. We cannot thank her enough for her dedication, passion, and leadership through a time of many challenges during 2019 and 2020.

Finally, I am appreciative to the HR Committee and Board members and staff who participated in our recruitment and decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Sheila Smigarowski

Chair, Board of Directors, McDougall House Association