

THE PACE CHILD AND FAMILY SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 10, 2020
PRESIDENT’S REPORT

For three quarters of the 2019/20 fiscal year, PACE was on track (as has been the case for many years) to meet/exceed all of the objectives established for that time period. In brief: all service contracts have been renewed and ongoing obligations met; staff recruitment and training, while difficult and lengthy, are up to date; relationships with funders and service delivery partners are growing and solidifying and; efforts to shift one time funding to annual allocation are looking more fruitful. In addition, PACE has engaged a new auditor and that relationship is proving to be amiable and constructive. Then the world changed.

In February/March 2020, the reality of COVID 19 created uncertainty, fear and confusion within the social service delivery sector. Within a month, the government response demanded basic changes in service delivery practices. In short, PACE had to find a way to maintain integrity with its’ core methodology yet comply with the distancing requirements needed to limit the spread of COVID 19. This is a very difficult problem, as normal PACE practice relies so much on close proximity, and an intuitive connection with clients. Through experimentation with a number of ‘social technologies’ and creative deployment of physical space, PACE staff have been able to maintain meaningful connection with existing clients and establish rapport with new families. This accomplishment is highly commendable and speaks volumes about the persistence and dedication of staff and the resiliency and adaptability of clients, during such a fearful and uncertain time.

Coping with COVID 19 and the economic recovery from same, will be central to government efforts for the next several years. While the impact of such efforts on social service delivery in general, and PACE operations in particular, are unknown at this time, I am optimistic that our reputation for discretion, sensitivity and competence in difficult circumstances, will result in a substantive role in the ‘new normal’.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the staff and members of the Board of the PACE Child and Family Society for your ongoing enthusiasm and commitment to the PACE mission.

Paul Dubé,
President
PACE Child and Family Society