

The imminent arrival of year three of the RSC Strategic Plan affords a timely opportunity to take stock of our progress (see the 2019 Annual Report here) and to prioritize the many exciting challenges before us. In keeping with the spirit of sustaining our successes and renewing the landscape of opportunity, it is also timely to highlight the ways that the Walter House supports the execution of RSC's strategic priorities. In many ways, the Walter House team mirrors the RSC's embrace of history in taking next steps.

The Chief Financial and Administrative Officer of the RSC is Linda Clauson, who began at the RSC in 2011 and accepted the CFAO role in 2016. Linda's envelope of responsibilities includes support for the Finance and Audit Committee of the Board, management of the Walter House team and oversight of the Celebration of Excellence and Engagement. The Strategic Plan instructs us to "evolve the annual gathering into a must-attend activity focused on the exchange of insights and evidence" and, in this spirit, our attendance objective next year in Toronto for the COEE is 1,000!

Our anchor in developing a digital strategy "to increase continuous engagement within and beyond the RSC" is Erika Kujawski, the RSC's Manager of Communications. Erika has been with the RSC since 2009 and she holds the pen on website enhancements, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Flickr, all the while ensuring that our internal communications to the Membership, including this eNews publication, articulate opportunities for engagement.

Russ MacDonald is the RSC's Manager of Programmes, an increasingly wide ambit of domestic and internal engagements that make real the RSC's commitment to connecting across disciplines and across generations. As Jeremy has noted in his greeting, the evolution of RSC Branch activity "to increase engagement and contribution across Canada" has Russ as the coordinating force. Key themes of global urgency will be increasingly addressed at the local level, and Russ - who, like Linda, is now in his ninth year at RSC – is our guiding force in programme delivery.

Every good strategic plan is refreshed along the way, and the Walter House team has benefited terrifically from the more recent arrival of colleagues who challenge assumptions and inspire new initiatives and approaches. As Finance and Operations Assistant, Michelle Séguin not only supports core finance functions of audit, budgeting and accounting, but she facilitated on-site engagement at the COEE through an app that was used by hundreds of attendees last month in Ottawa. Stay tuned for next year's app evolutions!

As Executive Assistant, Jo-Anne Harris is not only the voice that you hear when you call, but also the key force in direct support of the RSC President, the Board of Directors, the Council, and the Executive Director. Having arrived less than two years ago, Jo-Anne has already become the





leader of "developing Walter House into a virtual and physical convening hub with regularly scheduled must-attend events" (including last week's hosting of Santa Claus!)

Amelia Domoradzki will soon mark one year of contributions to the RSC, and whether it is the rscBRAVOsrc initiative on Twitter, or refreshing our visual appeal online or at events, Amelia's creative instincts have lifted the outward-facing appeal of the RSC. Across platforms, Amelia has led our nimble approach to communicating key initiatives, and her talents will increasingly focus on the growth of our Branch activities.

As you all know, Marie-Lyne Renaud has moved to new and exciting shores. While we will miss her, we are also thrilled for her, and excited about welcoming a new colleague to Walter House We have an opening for a Membership and Engagement Coordinator, and if you know someone whose creativity is matched by will and determination, please let us know! (More information <u>here</u>.)

Our team keenly looks forward to 2020 and all the opportunities afforded by a shared commitment to advancing the RSC's strategic objectives. We hope you will be in touch with your ideas and insights so that, together with the Board, the Council and the Membership, we might continue to reach ever higher.

Happy holidays! Darren