

# ExpresSVI

Your latest news from 620 Spadina

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## President's Update

2020 has been an extraordinary year for St Vladimir Institute – and we have four months left on the calendar.

For the first time in our history we had to close our doors to members, tenants and visitors on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are slowly re-opening – with social distancing measures in place – it will be some time before operations begin to resemble “normal.” The circumstances forced us to temporarily lay off three employees and reduce the hours of a fourth. Again, a regrettable first for the Institute.

And, in a move without precedent to our knowledge, we were forced to cancel our semi-annual meeting, typically held each June. This meeting affords the board of directors an opportunity to provide our membership with an update on SVI activities and our mid-year financial status. Board members were reluctant to forego this year’s semi-annual meeting; we will not postpone our December 2020 annual general meeting. The AGM will go ahead via video streaming and on site, with physical distancing protocols in place.

Notwithstanding these unprecedented times, I am pleased to report the Institute has taken some important steps forward this term. Our bylaws committee has thoroughly overhauled the rules that



Our well has run dry and we need your help to refill it.

Криниця висохла і нам потрібна Ваша допомога, щоб наповнити її.

## Новини від Президента

2020 рік став для нас не подібним на минулі роки.

Уперше в історії Інституту через пандемію ми змушені були закрити двері будинку для відвідувачів і членів нашої організації. Хоча ми поволі і з дотриманням санітарних норм починаємо відкривати двері знову, стає очевидним, що повернення до нормальної життєдіяльності Інституту може забрати ще багато часу.

На жаль, в результаті пандемії ми змушені були тимчасово звільнити

govern our organization – the first house cleaning of bylaws in more than 20 years. Our revised bylaws will be tabled at the AGM for discussion and ratification.

The board of directors met by video for several special Saturday morning meetings to draft SVI’s goals and objectives – an important statement that defines what we seek to achieve as an organization in the Ukrainian-Canadian community. Other special meetings – outside of our regular monthly board and executive meetings – were held to develop our strategic plan and our future business model. Members should know that the board I’m privileged to serve has been hard working and focused on the important issues SVI faces in these historic times.

I am particularly pleased that important steps have been taken on the development of a strategic plan that will guide the growth of our operations. The strategic plan will rest on five pillars: modernizing our facilities; enhancing our cultural programming; strengthening our financial standing; engaging with our community and refining our residential model.

The COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily slowed our building redevelopment progress but it hasn’t stopped our planning. For the past eight months we have retained, on a part-time basis, a redevelopment project coordinator. The board’s redevelopment project committee is putting the final touches on a Request for Proposals that will be issued to a handful of qualified architectural firms, inviting them to bid on our project. We will meet soon with our tenant organizations and other stakeholders to get their feedback on our plans and to learn from them how they imagine their place in a future Institute.

I wish to stress the following: the redevelopment steps we’ve taken to date have all been low-cost and manageable within our budget. Our members will always hold the final decision on if, how

трьох працівників та скоротити години ще одному працівникові.

Через COVID-19 наші піврічні збори також були скасовані, але наші річні збори відбудуться у грудні через відеозв’язок і особисту присутність членів з дотриманням вимог соціальної дистанції.

Попри усі труднощі пов’язані з пандемією, Інститут також робить важливі зміни. Наш комітет по Статуту Інституту ретельно переглянув правила, які залишались без змін більше 20 років. Наш оновлений Статут буде доступний для розгляду і голосування на річних зборах.

Дирекція і члени різних комітетів постійно зустрічаються на регулярних і позачергових відео зустрічах, щоб обговорити цілі і мету нашої організації в українсько-канадській спільноті, а також розробити стратегічний план розвитку Інституту і його майбутню бізнес модель.

Особливо мені приємно сповістити, що наш стратегічний план розвитку рухається вперед і він зосереджений на п’ятьох головних напрямках: модернізація, розширення культурних програм, зміцнення нашого фінансового стану, діяльність у громаді і майбутня модель гуртожитку.

COVID-19 тимчасово сповільнив розвиток проєкту по перебудові нашого будинку, але не зупинив його подальше планування. Останні 8 місяців при частковій зайнятості Інститут найняв Координатора по перебудові.

У свою чергу комітет по перебудові завершує підготовку документу Request for Proposals, який буде відправлено кваліфікованим архітекторським фірмам для подачі їх пропозицій. Незабаром ми почнемо зустрічатися з зацікавленими сторонами і організаціями, які винаймають приміщення у нашому

and when we proceed with the redevelopment of 620 Spadina Avenue.

In the pandemic world we occupy the news isn't all rosy. Our core business model is based on student resident occupancy. Our applications for the 2020-21 academic year have declined by more than 60% over last year. This is unprecedented and has caused severe financial impacts on us.

Our need for revenue is greater than ever. As mentioned, the board and staff have put into place cost-cutting measures and have facilitated a few creative partnerships to rent our facilities. More of this will be needed. In short, we are thinking "out of the box" for ways of raising operating funds.

On behalf of the board of directors I urge you to make a donation to St Vladimir Institute today as we navigate these precarious financial times. We've laid off staff and have been forced to cancel our cultural, academic and community programming because of the pandemic. Our theatre and other rental spaces largely sit empty.

Our members and supporters have always stepped up when the need is greatest. They responded when we purchased our Spadina Avenue property in the 1960s; when we constructed our facility more than 50 years ago; when we expanded our physical footprint in the 1970s, and when we previously appealed to your generosity in tough times.

Today, we find ourselves in the toughest time of all. We appeal to you on behalf of our mission and to sustain the vital place St Vladimir Institute occupies in the Ukrainian-Canadian *hromada*. More than ever we appeal for your support.

With sincere gratitude,  
**Gregory Hamara**  
President

будинку, щоб почути їхні думки і погляди відносно проєкту і яким вони бачать своє місце в майбутньому Інституті.

Хочу підкреслити, що усі кроки, які були зроблені до сьогодні в планах перебудови Інституту були малозатратними і в межах бюджету і члени Інституту завжди матимуть вирішальний голос у цьому питанні.

Як відомо, наш головний прибуток залежить від заповненості студентського гуртожитку. У світлі поширення пандемії у світі, заповненість нашого гуртожитку впала більше ніж на 60% у порівнянні з минулим роком. Крім цього, винайм театру і аудиторій залишається дуже низьким.

Незважаючи на вимушені обмеження, які я згадав вище, Інститут переживає сьогодні складні фінансові труднощі.

Від імени Дирекції, я звертаюся до Вас з проханням фінансової підтримки нашого закладу. Члени і друзі Інституту завжди надавали підтримку, коли це було необхідно: у 1960-их роках, коли ми купували будівлю на Спадайна; коли реконструювали Інститут більше ніж 50 років тому; у 1970-их роках, коли ми розширювались і в інші непрості часи.

Сьогодні - чи не найважчі часи, які переживає Інститут і потребує підтримки, щоб залишатись важливим осередком для українсько-канадської громади.

З повагою і вдячністю,  
**Григорій Гамара**  
Президент



**will be sent to members, along with other information and material, as soon as the date is set.**

## **Treasurer's Report**

Early in the year, it was anticipated that our Institute would have a good financial year with the residence at 100% capacity. Our Malanka was successful and generated a surplus. Projected parking and rental income was comparable to prior years. Educational and cultural activities with the support of several grants would also contribute favourably to our financial results.

Unfortunately, with the onset of COVID-19 in mid March, the Institute was required to close its doors to the public, cancelling cultural activities and facility rentals for the remainder of the fiscal year. The residence remained open for the spring term until the end of April and only a few students remained throughout the summer until it was safe for them to return home. Part of our staff was laid off and expenses were reduced to only those necessary to maintain our operations. Even with the reduction in our costs, the accumulated operating net surplus of \$157,596 at April 30, 2020 was reduced by the monthly deficits of approximately \$95,000 experienced over the period from May to the end of August (excluding any realized and unrealized Endowment Fund gains or losses). Government assistance available to charities under a COVID-19 emergency program for employers was utilized under the Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers. A full report on the financial results will be available prior to our Annual General Meeting in December.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a negative impact on the upcoming 2020-21 academic year with only 16 occupants currently living in the residence. Based on this level of occupancy and some limited additional rental income, our budget projects an operating deficit in excess of \$100,000, excluding any Endowment Fund gains or losses. The Institute has received COVID-19 emergency funding of \$40,000 under the Canadian Emergency Business Account to assist with the funding of its deficit. \$30,000 of this emergency funding must be repaid to the government by December 2022. We will also examine whether the Institute qualifies for additional COVID-19 emergency funds available under the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) to partially offset the budgeted deficit. The Board will re-examine its operations with a view to improving the revenues where possible and will consider whether further cost reductions are feasible.

**Michael Kalimin**  
**Treasurer**

## **How to donate to SVI**

1) An **e-transfer** (electronic transfer) of funds directly from your financial institution to ours is the quickest and easiest way to donate, and no administrative fee is lost from your donation. Please enter our general email address **svi@stvladimir.ca** when requested, and be sure to leave your full mailing address and email address in the "comment/note" box so we can send you a tax receipt and our sincere thanks.

2) A **cheque** is always welcome, payable to "St. Vladimir Institute." Please indicate it's for

our fund-raising campaign and be sure your complete mailing address is included, along with your email address.

3) Make a secure donation by **credit card**. Simply call us at 416-923-3318 x.101 to give your details over the telephone. Your donation will be processed and the credit card details you provided will be destroyed immediately.

4) Donate on our website via **CanadaHelps** by clicking **here**.

**Thank you.**

**Visit our website @ [www.stvladimir.ca](http://www.stvladimir.ca)**

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