



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

Annual General Meeting Montreal Holocaust Museum

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
5:30 p.m. on Zoom

Board of Directors: Adam Atlas, Judy Gardos-Bergman, Sam Gewurz, Rae Gropper, Allison Jaskolka, Brandon Knecht, Eva Kuper, Denis Marion, Sherry Luger-Mikelberg, Gwendolyn Owens, Daniel Rabinowicz, Hon. Jacques Saada, Richard Schnurbach, Dorothy Zalcman Howard

Esteemed Guests: Abba Brodt (Fed CJA), Yair Szlak (Fed CJA), Joel Segal (Fed CJA)

Participants: Nicole Allio, Barry Stahlmann, Bruno Morin, Celina Brettschneider, Colette Cummings, Dorothy Rotholz, Evelyne Landau, Gilda Elmaleh, Helen Malkin, Angela Orosz, Jennifer, Judith Nemes Black, Kellie Lacasse, Leo Dortort, Larry Nachshen, Marcia Shuster, Marilyn Sinclair, Max Wolpert, Fishel Goldig, Julia Reitman, Richard Prytula, Steven Kovac, Virginie Wenglenski.

Professional team: Daniel Amar, Eszter Andor, Sarah Berger, Agnès Castiel, Sébastien Côté, Sarah Fogg, Marie-Blanche Fourcade, Rose Gottheil, Alice Herscovitch, Abderrazzak Jirari, Carel Khoury, Karina Lepage, Audrey Licop, Anne Marguet, Jacques Misrachi

1. Words of welcome

Richard Schnurbach, President of the Museum

The President of the Museum, Richard Schnurbach welcomed all participants and thanked them for their presence. He invited everyone to watch a commemorative video filmed in honour of Holocaust survivors who passed away in the last year.

2. Commemoration video in honour of Holocaust survivors

Richard Schnurbach, President of the Museum

On behalf of the Board of Directors, volunteers, and professional team, the Museum's President offered his condolences to all families who lost survivor matriarchs and patriarchs this year. He also thanked Rabbi Alan W. Bright of the Shaare Zedek

Congregation, cantor Fishel Goldig, and cantor Boaz Davidoff for their involvement in this year's recorded ceremony.

3. Updates from Federation CJA

Joel Segal, President of Federation CJA

Joel Segal, President of Federation CJA welcomed all participants. He underlined that FCJA is a proud partner of the Montreal Holocaust Museum, notably regarding education about the dangers of hate, racism, antisemitism, and discrimination. He assured listeners that Federation CJA will continue to support the Museum in all of its projects and ambitions.

Moving forward after the pandemic was an enormous challenge. Mr. Segal expressed his pride that, together, we rose to the challenges of the situation, rallying the community and partners to make a difference in the lives of many at home and across Canada.

Last year marked the sixth year in a row where vandalism, violence, and hate online targeting Jews increased significantly in Canada. For Federation CJA, the Museum is a crucial partner in the battle against these worrying trends, as well as efforts to ensure the well-being of our community.

Mr. Segal paid tribute to Richard Schnurbach's leadership and the remarkable work of the Board of Directors. He congratulated the Honourable Jacques Saada who will succeed Richard Schnurbach's term as President, and wished him well in his new role.

Mr. Segal concluded by congratulating the Museum team for their accomplishments and wished all a *Shana Tova Oumetouka*.

4. Quorum

Richard Schnurbach, President of the Museum

Before moving on to the next point, Richard Schnurbach detailed the process of voting during the virtual Annual General Meeting. He confirmed that there is a quorum.

5. Adoption of the agenda

Richard Schnurbach, President of the Museum

Moved by: Rachel Gropper

Seconded by: Dorothy Zalcman Howard

Adopted

6. Adoption of the minutes

Richard Schnurbach, President of the Museum

Moved by: Eva Kuper

Seconded by: Larry Nachshen

Adopted

7. President's Report

Richard Schnurbach, President of the Museum

Richard Schnurbach thanked Federation CJA, all those present, donors, and volunteers who have played a key role in helping fulfill our mission.

He expressed his pride at having presided over an organisation that thrived despite a global pandemic, and whose new Museum ambitions advance daily. These important developments would not be possible without the outstanding dedication and efforts of volunteers, professionals, and friends of the Museum. "It has been incredibly touching to witness the support of our cause by all three levels of government, generous donors like the Azrieli Foundation, the community, and Museum visitors of all backgrounds."

He expressed his joy and pride that these accomplishments took place during his mandate as President. He recognized the remarkable work of the professional team who juggle multiple projects with great ease and thanked them sincerely.

He highlighted the education work accomplished by the Museum to promote awareness about the rise of antisemitism. It was a privilege for him to be the first grandchild of survivors to be President of the Museum.

As his mandate comes to an end, he thanked all Museum members, especially Dorothy Zalcman Howard and Daniel Amar for their vision and unwavering support.

He passed the torch to the Honourable Jacques Saada and wished him the best of luck in his new role, assuring him of his own unwavering support.

8. Report from the Executive Director

Daniel Amar, Executive Director

Daniel Amar reminded listeners that 2021–2022 was marked by challenges, accomplishments, and transformations. We were confronted with the pandemic, a limited labour force, remote work, the doubling of our workload by creating virtual

programs, and the new Museum project, whose success continues to demand much of MHM employees.

He stated that, despite these challenges, the Museum's performance in the last year was very encouraging:

- Over 8,600 visitors to our permanent exhibition
- Over 7,500 people discovered our 3 travelling exhibitions presented in 8 different cities
- Over 46,000 people viewed our 5 virtual exhibitions, a new record

Regarding education, Mr. Amar added that nearly 14,000 students participated in a Museum activity in the past year, a record in the history of our institution. Over 2,500 students participated in classroom activities about Hana's Suitcase and the Heart from Auschwitz. Our pedagogical tools were downloaded over 9,000 times in Canada and 40 other countries.

Regarding programming and communications, the Museum's 26 events reached 11,000 participants.

- 285,000 people visited our website, an increase of 70% from the previous year
- There are 365,000 views on our YouTube channel, marking a 26% increase from last year
- There has been a 21% increase in followers on Facebook and 16% in followers on Instagram

Regarding the new Museum project, Daniel Amar expressed his profound gratitude for the work accomplished by Julia Reitman, Alice Herscovitch, Sébastien Coté, and Sarah Berger who raised \$85 million. He also acknowledged the important role of Hon. Jacques Saada whose political connections allowed us to reach decision-makers at the federal level. Thanks to his involvement, we were able to secure \$20 million from the Federal Government.

Mr. Amar thanked all donors, the Azrieli Foundation and Dorothy Zalcman Howard for their exceptional contributions to the Museum's success.

He concluded by paying tribute to Richard Schnurbach for his remarkable leadership, vision, unwavering support, and trust over the last two years.

9. Amendments to the by-laws

Adam Atlas, Legal counsel

The Board of Directors proposed to amend the by-laws (Section 1, Article IX) to create a position of Second Vice-President.

Adam Atlas also proposed to add the following to Section 2 of Article IX:

Legal Counsel and Second Vice President Shall be appointed by Directors. The Directors may determine, at their discretion, whether or not to appoint a Second Vice-President.

The following modifications were proposed for section 5:

c) The Second Vice-President shall :

i) fulfill the duties of the Vice President where the Vice-President is unable to do so;

ii) exercise any additional powers provided for in these By-Laws, or which may be delegated from time to time by the President, or the Board of Directors

Moved by: Eva Kuper

Seconded by: Max Wolpert

Adopted

10. Treasurer's report

Richard Schnurbach, President of the Museum

In the absence of the Treasurer, who could not attend due to other obligations, Richard Schnurbach, CPA, presented the Museum's financial statements and confirmed that, once again this year:

- The financial situation was healthy with a balanced budget.
- Our investments were secured. The funds were managed by the Jewish Community Foundation and invested in guaranteed investment certificates.
- Our financial assets increased by \$1 million due to donations for the new Museum.
- We ended the year with a surplus of \$111,000 due to investment income and special contributions.
- He added that "We owe this success to the careful day-to-day management of our professional team. We also owe it to our invaluable donors, and to the governments who have awarded us grants and other forms of assistance".

11. Ratification of the financial statements

Richard Schnurbach, President of the Museum

Moved by: Judy Gardos-Bergman

Seconded by: Larry Nachshen

Adopted

12. Appointment of the auditors for 2022–2023

Richard Schnurbach, President of the Museum

Richard Schnurbach asked for a motion to renew our contract with Fuller Landau as auditors of the Montreal Holocaust Museum for the fiscal year of 2022–2023.

Moved by: Rachel Gropper

Seconded by: Judy Gardos-Bergman

Adopted

13. Enabling resolution

Richard Schnurbach, President of the Museum

Be it resolved that all actions undertaken or initiated by the officers, Board of Directors or duly constituted committees of the Montreal Holocaust Museum during the fiscal year 2021–2022 be ratified and approved.

Moved by: Judy Gardos Bergman

Seconded by: Larry Nachshen

Adopted

14. Recognition of the exemplary contributions of members

Richard Schnurbach and Daniel Amar

Six volunteers and professionals were awarded the following prizes in recognition of their exceptional contributions:

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|--------------------------|--|
| • Julia Reitman | Outstanding Leadership Award |
| • Eva Kuper | Lifetime Achievement Award |
| • Kelly Lacasse | Exceptional Guide Award |
| • Angela Orosz Richt | Witness to History Award |
| • Sophie Camiré | Outstanding Contribution to the Museum Award |
| • Marie Blanche Fourcade | Professional Excellence Award |

15. Report of the Nominations Committee

Dorothy Zalcman Howard, Immediate Past President

Dorothy Zalcman Howard paid tribute to Richard Schnurbach for his leadership, commitment, and generosity. “He is a creative thinker and a decisive man. He has led the Museum to a new stage in its history,” she said.

Dorothy Zalcmán Howard described the Committee’s process and mandate, noting that there have not been any departures or resignations.

On behalf of the Nominations Committee and the Board of Directors, Dorothy Zalcmán Howard proudly recommended the appointment of the Hon. Jacques Saada to the position of President of the Montreal Holocaust Museum, and introduced him as:

- Former Minister in the Paul Martin government (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Democratic Reform, Economic Development for Québec, Francophonie)
- Former President of the Sephardic Community of Quebec

Dorothy Zalcmán Howard saluted his vital role in securing \$20 million from the Federal Government, and reminded listeners that he will become the first Sephardic, Francophone, and former minister to hold the position of President.

The Board of Directors for 2022–2023 will consist of the following members:

President:	Hon. Jacques Saada
Immediate Past President:	Richard Schnurbach
Vice-President:	Prof. Jennifer Carter
Treasurer:	Jean-Guy Gourdeau, CPA
Secretary:	Judy Gardos-Bergman
Legal Counsel:	Me Adam Atlas

Members: Yasmine Abdelfadel, Brian Bronfman, Johanne Duranceau, Avraham Elarar, Samuel Gewurz, Rachel Gropper, Dr. Steven High, Me Allison Jaskolka, Eva Kuper, Widia Larivière, Dr. Sherry Luger, Denis Marion, Gwendolyn Owens, Daniel Rabinowicz, Dorothy Zalcmán Howard

Moved by: Dorothy Zalcmán Howard
Seconded by: Rachel Gropper
Adopted unanimously

16. Incoming President’s remarks

Hon. Jacques Saada

Jacques Saada expressed his honour in assuming the role of Museum President, succeeding Richard Schnurbach, an exceptional leader who brought the MHM to yet another level. He was touched by the trust placed in him by the Board and acknowledged the weight of this responsibility.

He quoted a Mexican saying, “They thought they were burying us, but they didn’t know we were seeds.” He pledged to act with the utmost respect for the memory of the victims and survivors.

For him, presiding over the Museum means rejecting the word tolerance and prioritizing the word respect. This means rejecting all forms of prejudice and having a humanist vision of others. Additionally, this means relying on knowledge and education to ensure remembrance and respect of humanity.

Mr. Saada spoke about the Museum as a place of memory, co-existence, education, and a place of commitment to combatting hatred, racism, and antisemitism. His ultimate ambition is for the MHM to represent to the museum world what the Jewish General Hospital represents to the medical world - A beacon of what our community and our museum have to offer all our fellow citizens. This Museum will echo Rabbi Kook's magnificent phrase, "I don't speak because I have the strength to speak, I speak because I don't have the strength to remain silent".

17. New Museum presentation

Helen Malkin, Head of the new Museum project

Helen Malkin invited viewers to watch a video about the new Museum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gz75CewZth0&t=18s>

She then answered a few questions about the new Museum's projected opening date, budget, the fundraising campaign, and the next permanent exhibition.

18. Adjournment

Richard Schnurbach, Immediate Past President

Moved by: Daniel Rabinowicz

Seconded by: Max Wolpert

Adopted