



The Oakville, Milton and District Real Estate Board

Celebrating 65 years of REALTOR® service

Message from Richard Weima, 2020 OMDREB President

March 27, 2020

Hello OMDREB Members,

To say that we are in unprecedented times is an understatement. Nevertheless, that is the position we all find ourselves navigating. As Directors, as committee members, as volunteers and as staff, we share the same anxieties about our financial well-being, about our ability to continue to keep this industry viable, about our own health, the health of family, friends and colleagues, and about the safety of our communities, given all of the limitations that have been thrust upon us in this period of uncertainty.

We are fortunate that our Provincial Government has deemed Real Estate Services as essential. At the same time, we realize this does not mean business as usual for our Members. Like you, we have many questions. And like you, we are searching for the right answers.

Currently, we are observing new listings being loaded daily onto our Matrix MLS® System and a shift toward embracing tools that allow REALTORS® to provide virtual viewings, with offers being negotiated and completed online. The Board also continues to function remotely, and adapt and maintain its services to the changing landscape.

This week, both the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors held emergency virtual meetings to discuss what is known to date about the impacts of COVID-19 and to consider possible further developments. Despite the fact that this is a painful situation in so many ways, we know that it is temporary. We are doing our best to guide the Board through this period of uncertainty and to make decisions that will ensure the Board foundation remains solid once this crisis and pandemic is over.

As the various options were considered, our Board of Directors determined that it is still too early to make decisions on dues relief. Our focus must remain, for the time being, on the provision of service to our Members so that they, in turn, can continue to provide what is necessary for buyers and sellers - for whom real estate is still an essential service. Therefore, Board dues will remain status quo and the situation will be revisited by the Finance Committee and Directors prior to the next billing cycle.

We will continue to monitor our expenses and to talk with our suppliers about any potential relief on their services. Should there be any relief offered by these providers, they will be passed on to the Membership.

Please be assured that your leaders are listening, we are sensitive to the challenges you have been facing, and we are always available to you. We appreciate your understanding and patience, and we will continue to support you, our Members, while we navigate this situation together.

Sincerely,

Richard Weima
2020 OMDREB President

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