

## Treasurer's Report

My Fellow MSBCA Community Members,

On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to provide the members of the Malaysian Singaporean Bruneian Community Association with the financial results for the year ending August 31, 2020. It has been a pleasure being MSBCA's Treasurer over the past 2 years and I look forward to seeing where our organization goes as an on-going general member.



ATCA Loy Krathong Party (November 19, 2019)

### Financial Position 2019/20

The Association remains in a healthy financial position and is situated to ride out these unusual times with a comfortable General Savings balance and enough Casino funds to last until the next Casino night. Although current circumstances required the Association to cancel our Annual Cultural Night, the Chinese New Year dinner (Feb 10<sup>th</sup>) was a great success. The event spending came under the approved AGLC budget of \$9,900 while fundraising initiatives such as raffle sale, bake sale, and member donations generated \$2,605 back into our General Account. On top of this, every Adult ticket also donated \$5.00 to support the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank on behalf of MSBCA. This resulted in a total donation of \$1,160 at a time when the food bank is vitally important to the lives of many living within our city.

Member's Equity declined by \$55,475 (2020: \$319,518 vs. 2019: \$374,993) due to normal operating facility costs and cultural events held before the March lockdown. The drawdown in the Casino Account was anticipated due to the lack of Casino Event Revenue during this Financial year (2020: \$1,000 vs. 2019: \$72,252) due to the 18-month Casino event cycle. Depending on upcoming plans by the next Board, there should be enough funds in the Casino account to last until our next Casino night (Q1/2 2021) otherwise the next Board can either cash a Casino GIC or loan funds from our General Account. Cash in our General Operating fund grew \$7,202 (2020: \$84,454 vs. 2019: \$77,252) reflecting our prioritization on protecting these funds and the generosity of our members.

Our Clubhouse remains MSBCA's greatest capital asset although it continues to show its age. Changes to the utility providers made last winter reduced our Utilities expense by 33% (2020: \$5,523 vs. 2019: \$8,211) although some of these saving a probably attributable to the reduced clubhouse activity. As long-standing members might remember, our Clubhouse was bought with a mixture of member led fundraising and AGLC funds more than 15 year ago. Any future potential renovation or relocation of the property would need to keep the needs of both stakeholders in mind.

Speaking of AGLC, this year marked the final steps of the resolution of the 2014/2015 audit and the forgiveness of the remaining repayable balance. In response to the findings that audit, the Board at the time implemented several programs to demonstrate the cultural contributions MSBCA makes within the community and to justify our legitimacy to spend Casino funds. Subsequent Board members will need to continue to reinforce the lessons learnt from this period to avoid this difficult financial issue reoccurring.

### **Looking forward to 2020/21**

The next MSBCA Treasurer will be inheriting an organization on a strong financial footing with an engaged and supportive membership. With the help of Jennie Soo, we have nearly concluded the investigation of the remaining GICs (between Casino and un-restricted funds) and the next Board can decide if our due diligence is acceptable. The current financial reporting continues to list all 3 GICs under General Funds in-line with the approach of previous years.

As many of the members already know, MSBCA is restricted to how much of our Casino funds can be spent on our clubhouse. This financial year demonstrates how quickly our fixed costs such as Condo fees and Utilities can consume Casino event proceeds which can push the upper limits of what we can spend. Strategic review of either the restrictions on spending Casino fund or reducing our Facility obligations are required to address this risk. In my opinion, this is one of the most pressing issues on MSBCA's finances.

My successor should also look at our general fund and the portion ear-marked for scholarships. To date, our Organization has saved \$13,065 of scholarship funds from the net proceeds of years of successful contributing events. At this year's pay-out rate, this fund is large enough to fund the next 28 years of scholastic awards. While it is comforting to know that this program will be available to the next generation of young MSBCA scholars, there is perhaps more effective use of some of these funds. I would recommend the Board to discuss with members for their opinion if we should broaden the admissibility of scholarship applications, cap the Fund, or continue as is.

Thank you again for your support over the past 2 years. It was my pleasure to be MSBCA's Treasurer.



Blair Phillips CPA (CGA), ACCA