



Manitoba Horse Council welcomes Diane David to role of Executive Director

Winnipeg, Manitoba (October 4, 2021) — Join us in welcoming our new Executive Director (ED), Diane David. After four and a half years of service with Manitoba Horse Council (MHC), John Savard is retiring from the position of ED to enjoy more time with his family and friends. He is leaving some big boots to fill, and in fact, thirty people applied to do so. MHC was pleased to receive a lot of interest in the ED position, but after several rounds of interviews, Diane emerged as the strongest candidate.

The selection committee and MHC board of directors chose Diane for her extensive experience working in the horse industry and for non-profit organizations. She joins us from the Whitemud Equine Learning Centre Association in Edmonton, where as Executive Director she expanded the scope of the centre from a small members-only organization into a community-based organization providing inclusive, accessible recreational programs and services for all ages and abilities. The board appreciated Diane's proven ability to engage stakeholders at all levels, manage budgets and open up new revenue streams. In this role, Diane worked closely with the Alberta Equestrian Federation to promote the benefits of membership and in support of their initiatives including show sanctioning, training, biosecurity, insurance and other horse welfare programs. Diane has relocated from Alberta to Manitoba to take on the ED role and steward Manitoba Horse Council (MHC) into the future.

We believe the fact that Diane is from out-of-province is a strength, as she will bring new ideas to our local community. Diane is energized and ready to represent the interests of Manitoba's horse community in a way that promotes our local beliefs, values and priorities while making space for collaboration and problem solving.

When she's not working, Diane likes to spend time with her two dogs, two horses and one cat. She likes to get involved in community events and enjoys listening to podcasts, reading, walking and practicing yoga.

MHC also wants to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to John Savard. Leading any organization through the COVID-19 pandemic is a challenge, let alone being at the helm of a sport organization that faced some of the toughest restrictions. John has handled the past 18 months with patience and professionalism. During his tenure as ED, he also helped broker the stabling arrangement with Cavalia (the revenue from which allowed us to make improvements to our facility at Birds Hill Park) and has been heavily involved in navigating the relationship between Equestrian Canada and the provincial sport organizations.

John's last day will be October 15, 2021. Thank you, John for all you have done for our equestrian community. We wish you all the best in your retirement!