

Hello everyone and good evening.

What an incredible night this will be, and truly one of a kind. Thank you for being here from the comfort and safety of your homes to show so much generosity and support for St. Boniface Hospital.

It has truly been inspiring to witness the creativity shown by so many on how we can overcome the limitations of our new normal, and how we can bridge the barriers to togetherness. Bravo to everyone tonight for your artistry and enthusiasm. There will be many stars out today, and you will also be the stars of tonight's show. For being here, for us, and also for providing our amazing guest artists with an appreciative audience, something so many entertainers have no way of reaching right now.



It has been a very interesting and unusual period in our lives these past few months. For me personally, leading the hospital through the planning, readiness and response stages of this pandemic has shown me just how important our communities are to one's health and personal wellbeing. It really does begin right here in our own backyard, and even though we are, of course, part of a global community, I think this experience has helped many people feel more grateful, more motivated and more open to possibilities that are right here in front of us: the important connections we have with our neighbours, our coworkers, our local business-owners, our schools, our hospitals and our local charities.

I also believe tonight's celebration is an acknowledgement of the gift our community gave to us as a hospital and as health care providers during COVID-19. Our community raised us up through the simple act of staying away. You stayed home so that we could be safer at work. You pushed the STOP button on your lives, so that we could push the GO button for those who needed us the most.

I encourage you all to take a poignant pause tonight to reflect on the things that matter to you most, and the people whom you care about the most. Let our generosity and kindness be the driving force going forward and remember that we are always stronger together, and can persevere through anything. Through your actions, our community empowered us to face the greatest challenge of a generation.

For that, our gratitude is profound, and on behalf of the Hospital's Board and Executive, I thank you for your unwavering, compassionate and generous support during the worst of times, the best of times, and all the times in between. Thank you to tonight's performers, and thank you to our guest physicians who will speak tonight to share the hospital's long-term vision for innovative and compassionate patient care. We are excited about tomorrow and I'm so proud of our team at St. B.

And lastly, thank you to the board members and event organizers from St. Boniface Hospital Foundation for this wonderful and innovative event, Manitoba's very first Rosé SoirIN. I know it will be memorable for many years to come and for all the best reasons - just another shining example of what makes this community so great - its people.

Merci et bonne nuit.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Martine Bouchard', written in a cursive style.

Martine Bouchard
President and CEO, ST. Boniface Hospital