



To our Donors, Members, Volunteers and Visitors,

The snow has finally melted – well, almost – and I can actually see my lawn! As an avid gardener, I eagerly search for the first signs of hearty spring flowers bravely popping up and for the red-breasted robins looking for a place to build their nests.

I would like to tell you about something The Rooms is doing to help our birds and bee populations.

Dandelions and other wildflowers are crucial first foods that insects and birds rely on in early spring. Bees and other insects pollinate food crops and help to ensure a sustainable food supply. The Rooms is helping the bees by letting our grass and wildflowers grow this season. Keep an eye out for a beautiful carpet of yellow on our grounds in the coming weeks. You can help too!

The Rooms staff members continue to find new ways to adapt to our circumstances. Our archives team has made great progress processing collections for our database – making thousands of images and documents available to the public. We are also working hard on our next three-year Strategic Plan, realizing, of course, that our world has changed dramatically over the past seven weeks and that we have to think of new ways of meaningfully engaging with our community.

As a way to highlight a selection of our collections and to encourage visitor interaction, we have borrowed the Getty Museum's interactive social media initiative and launched The Rooms own version of the #artathome project. We shared works of art and archival images from our collections and encouraged our followers to re-create their own versions and post them. The submissions have been remarkable. You may have seen contributions on social media channels this past week. I would love to see your take on this project!
https://www.facebook.com/pg/TheRoomsNL/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2994342890587085

Our public programming team has developed some family-fun activities you can do from the comfort of your home. Keep an eye out for a special Mother's Day project coming this week. In addition, we will have some new "how to" video projects for you to try. Stay tuned!

I would like to take you behind the scenes now to tell you about some of the work we are doing to preserve and protect our collections. Our security and maintenance teams continue to keep The Rooms secure and in ship-shape. We are also working diligently to ensure we remain pest free while the building is closed. Our conservator is regularly inspecting our exhibitions and collection storage vaults to ensure we have not attracted any unwelcome rodents or insects. At the same time, we have a collection of live beetles in our natural history lab that assist with processing our animal specimens – and these bugs are ones we would like to keep around! So once a week a staff member drops by to check them to make sure they are well fed and watered.

We are seeing lots of activity on The Rooms social media channels. I am so pleased that you are following us and, as always, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your continued support. We are eagerly preparing a "welcome back" marketing campaign for the time when we can reopen our beautiful space to the community.

We are awaiting further instruction from the government on when we will be able to reopen. Information on the recently released "NLife with COVID-19" plan can be found at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/>.

Stay safe, stay healthy and please do stay connected to us at The Rooms.



Sincerely,
Anne Chafe,
CEO (Interim), The Rooms Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador

AT THE
ROOMS

