

HISTORIC DECISIONS AT SENATE

On Tuesday, May 17, 2010 the Senate of RTO/ERO at its spring session made two significant decisions. The first was to approve setting up the RTO/ERO Charitable Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is twofold: to bring under one umbrella all the charitable and socially responsible programs currently funded by RTO/ERO, such as Project STO, the 25 Scholarships awarded annually to those pursuing careers in education, the \$10,000 Charitable Donation as well as donations made in the wake of natural disasters, Goodwill, and the Emergency Assistance Program. The other purpose of the Foundation is to establish, maintain and support *The RTO/ERO Endowed Chair in Geriatrics at the University of Toronto*.

The accompanying Object relating to the Chair of Geriatrics indicates “an emphasis on the promotion of interdisciplinary training among health care professionals, with the expectation that there will be collaboration with other medical schools in Ontario.” This major project will be funded only with voluntary donations and the voluntary participation of members and of Districts. There will be no funds taken from fees currently paid by members nor will any deductions be taken from the annual grants made to Districts. The primary financial goal will be to raise \$3 million over three years, and a possible stretch goal of \$5 million to allow for the support of other institutions.

The Senate’s decision underscores the rationale and criteria provided by the Provincial Executive in recommending the establishment of the Chair: (a) A project so intrinsically worthy and easily understood that it would appeal intellectually and emotionally to a significant majority of our members. (b) To build our brand and raise our profile with governments, organizations, active teachers, and the wider community. (c) To be a magnet that attracts funding, participation and engagement from multiple sources, but with RTO/ERO as the lead organization. The research and clinical work that this Chair will undertake will be geared to improving the health and quality of life of seniors, and thus align with the interests of our members.

Over the next few months RTO/ERO through its legal counsel will be seeking legal standing for the Foundation. Once established, the Charitable Foundation will allow RTO/ERO to issue tax receipts for donations made. Over the next few months and leading up to the Fall Senate, RTO/ERO will endeavour to make as many members as possible aware of these initiatives, and we will propose a variety of strategies for fundraising, taking into account factors such as numbers of members, geography, infrastructure and other features that characterize our many Districts. The RTO/ERO Provincial Office in collaboration with the U of T will in due course provide information via *Renaissance* and other sources, and respond to queries from members/Districts in order to facilitate a greater understanding of and engagement with this major project. The commitment is to fund the Chair in Geriatrics through the voluntary participation and donations of members and of Districts initially, and later to invite partners and community members/associations to come on board.

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