

# Membership Changes at the Canadian Celiac Association

## What is changing?

Membership at the Canadian Celiac Association (CCA) has changed. Until the recent changes the CCA was composed of Individual Members and Member Chapters such as the Edmonton Chapter. To become a member of CCA an individual would pay dues to the CCA and based on their address they were assigned to a Chapter.

After an organizational review the CCA has made the decision to go to a donor based model and will no longer have Individual Members. Member Chapters will remain. This new model will provide benefit to all people adversely affected by gluten rather than just those who have paid membership dues. CCA Chapters will remain members of the CCA and the issue of Individual Membership becomes the responsibility of each Chapter. This decision has provided your Edmonton Chapter of the CCA an opportunity to also do a review.

The Edmonton Chapter must have members to maintain status with Alberta Societies which is an important element for both Alberta Gaming Liquor Cannabis (AGLC) for our fundraising and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for charity status. This status is of primary importance to the functioning of the Chapter. Maintaining status with Alberta Societies was the guiding principle for the committee in considering decisions to be made.

**Therefore, the board of the Edmonton Chapter has decided to offer memberships.**

The good news is that there will be no annual charge for the membership. You will have to register to become a member with a one-time administration fee of twenty dollars (\$20) for registration. Then that is it, you are a member for life. You will not have to renew annually.

The Edmonton Chapter is and will continue to be an inclusive organization. Every interested person is welcome at any of our events and any person with a concern is provided all appropriate information. We service the gluten free community as a whole and ask for your support by being a member.

### **Your membership is important and there is strength in numbers:**

- Help the Chapter maintain status with Alberta Societies.
- Add leverage for fundraising.
- Support local research at the University of Alberta.
- Support local awareness and education activities such as those that target doctors and restaurants.
- Help programs such as Gluten Free Living 101 (an education and support program for individuals on a gluten free diet.)
- Help local and national advocacy for those affected by gluten.

## How do the changes affect me?

- Continue to have access to the electronic Edmonton Celiac Circular keeping you up-to-date on local events, advances in research, latest news in the celiac world, recalls, recipes and more.
- Receive timely email notification of important information.
- Have access to local product and restaurant reviews.
- Have the voting rights of a member. (Must be of legal age to vote.)
- Being a Chapter Member is your best way to stay informed on current issues.
- Your membership card will state your status as a *Member in Good Standing* for discounts at participating retailers and some of our Chapter events

## When do the changes take place?

The CCA will stop offering individual memberships 1 January 2020. All CCA memberships will expire by 1 January 2021.

To facilitate the above changes some of our Bylaws defining membership will need to be changed. The proposed changes will be voted on at a Special General Meeting held in conjunction with the AGM (Thursday, November 7, 2019.) Further information on the new Edmonton Chapter membership program will be distributed following the AGM.