

Communications & IT Report for November 2019

IT Information:

The office server has been rebuilt from the Server 2008R2 Operating System installed in 2012 and scheduled for End of Support by Microsoft on January 14, 2020. End of support refers to the date when Microsoft no longer provides automatic fixes, updates, or online technical assistance. Vulnerabilities in the operating system that are discovered after this date will not be fixed by Microsoft which would increase the risk to our data security.

As you are aware, we have switched all NPHF PCs and laptops to Windows 10 Pro and Office 365 and, as a result, no longer need the server to authorize users on the local domain. Also, the primary use of the server since the transition to Yardi and Avanti has been to give local office users access to the Shared Files folder. By replacing the Operating System with Windows 10 Pro on the server we are still able to provide these users access to the shared files with just as much security as before with a fully supported and secure operating system.

We are also in the process of moving all NPHF forms to a SharePoint Folder and moving needed documents to respective folders with controlled access. At that point the existing server will no longer be needed and can be decommissioned or put to another use, decreasing our backup costs by approximately \$1500 per year.

In November we held a few successful Manager's Meetings using Teams in our central Board room. The use of Teams allowed us to have face to face meetings with our Managers without the usual travel costs and time impositions. This is very helpful and convenient, especially when you factor in not having to worry about inclement weather and road safety during our long Winter months for those travelling longer distances. Sound and picture quality have been excellent for all participants and I believe all involved are seeing increased opportunities.

Telus has upgraded Internet connections and speed at Harvest Lodge, Del-Air Lodge and, on November 28th, Heritage Tower Lodge. This is making a huge difference in time spent waiting for web pages and files to open as well as assisting us in efficiently backing up our workstations in these lodges.

Communication Information:

Great News: One of the goals that came out of last years Board Retreat is that we were to look for opportunities to raise our profile and reputation in the community.

We are presently working with Telus to become partners in their "Telus Wise Ambassador" program. See: <https://www.telus.com/en/wise/about/ambassador-program>.

After discussions with Telus, I am being trained by them to allow the Foundation to provide the Telus Wise Seniors program, (<https://www.telus.com/en/wise/resources/featured-content/seniors>) not only to seniors in our facilities, but also to seniors throughout our region and beyond. The Telus Wise Seniors program is designed to help seniors stay safe in the growing online world. Telus has additional Wise programs for youth and parents as well.

After we have successfully worked on the Telus Wise Seniors program, we are looking to expand into these supplementary Telus Wise programs focussing on parents and youth, which would very well work for clients in our family housing programs and beyond into the general community, again increasing the NPHF image as an organization that serves our community.

Telus provides all of the printed and other materials for these programs so there is very little, if any, increased cost to the Foundation to achieve these goals.

Condo Project Update:

Up until late November, response has been slower than expected on getting names of interested parties. Because of this the decision was made to increase spending on our Facebook ad. We have had a number of responses since boosting.

All except one of the responses received so far have indicated an interest in purchasing as well as being a participant of the planning discussions. One was just interested in updates at present.

We are planning now, as a modification to the previously projected timeline which had the first meetings in mid to late November, that we will plan our first meetings for mid January. With Christmas season upon us It is expected that we will get a much better participation rate by waiting until then.