



# Croatian National Centre Niagara

Hrvatski Nacionalni Centar Niagara

1416 Line 3 Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0

[niagaracroatia@gmail.com](mailto:niagaracroatia@gmail.com)

[www.niagaracroatia.com](http://www.niagaracroatia.com)

February 19 2023

Dear Members of the Croatian National Centre- Niagara Peninsula,

On behalf of the Croatian National Centre-Niagara Peninsula, I would like to thank you for participating in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association on January 29<sup>th</sup> 2023.

It is my pleasure to announce your new **Board of Directors (2023-2024)**.



## **Board of Directors (2023-2024)**

President and Chair

Vice-Chair/Director

Treasurer /Director

Ex Officio/Director

Past President/Director

Josipa Gordana Petrunić

Anja Pavela

Nancy Rudan

Sonya Labrovic

Srecko Polic

This Board has been elected to initiate and execute upon a 12-Point Strategic Plan to modernize the Association and all of its financial activities as follows:

### **12-Point Strategic Plan: Modernization of Association Activities**

1. Reincorporation and renewal of articles of incorporation (2023) and filing for a GST/HST number.
2. Establishment of new Officer roles in line with the Government of Canada Not for Profits Corporation Act.
3. Establishment of newly updated Bylaws of the corporation.



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4. Filing of Annual Return(s) (2017-2022).
5. Hiring of an independent bookkeeper and accountant.
6. Development and execution of a membership re-engagement strategic plan.
7. Development and Board ratification of a Corporate Business Plan (2023-2024).
8. Forensic historical audit (2017-2022) and risk assessment of back taxes owing (if any).
9. Establishment of a Code of Conduct for Association members and the Board of Directors.
10. New protocol establishment for cash-based revenue collection, reporting, depositing and auditing.
11. Purchase of Directors and Officers (D&O) liability coverage and general liability; insurance review for hall activities.
12. Hiring of a part-time (or retired) administrative assistant to support Board activities (1) to (11).

Through these efforts our Board of Directors aims to reinvigorate the membership base of the Association and return to the original principles of the founding members of this Association, as established in the organization's 1981 Bylaws. These principles include promoting the Croatian language, enabling Croatian-Canadian interactions, supporting recent Croatian immigrants in understanding the laws of Canada, and promoting Croatian cultural activities including dancing, literature, and cultural discourse in a secular and non-religious environment.

Since the AGM held in January of this year, our new Board of Directors has met four times in a digital format and will continue to meet weekly and bi-weekly over the next 90 days as it initiates, finalizes, and confirms banking modernizations, accounting modernizations, legal modernizations and insurance assessments. Thereafter, we look forward to initiating a robust program of cultural, educational and social activities for members of this community across all age groups, genders, religious affiliations and Croatian language capabilities.

Members are advised that it will take up to 90 days for the website, email system, and hall rental system to be updated, modernized and relaunched. Please be patient with us as we undertake this important and foundational work.

To update all members in person, our Board will be inviting Members to an in-person meeting at the Centre being tentatively scheduled for late-March. Please stay tuned for more information as



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it becomes available. We look forward to seeing you there, catching up with one another, and helping this community move forward with effective and meaningful community-oriented inter-cultural and inter-generational activities.

In the meantime, please find attached to this email the full Minutes and Appendices (in English and *i na hrvatskom*) associated with the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM), January 29<sup>th</sup> 2023. These Minutes, along with updated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, will be posted to the new website once it is launched this Spring.

Thank you for your continued engagement in our great community.

*Josipa Petrunić*

*Josipa Petrunić, President and Chair*

*Croatian National Centre – Niagara Peninsula (2023-2024)*