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**INTERIM
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Handbell Musicians of Canada**

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May 29, 2020

Greetings to all Canadian handbell colleagues,

While the wheels of progress sometime turn more slowly than we would like, and HMC (Handbell Musicians of Canada) — the new national handbell body that you have been hearing about — is still in the birthing process, step by step that progress is being made and eventually we will “arrive.” We are getting so close. Currently, our new website is being created, and we plan to invite members to join by this summer!

Because HMC is structured differently than the former HGC (Handbell Guilds of Canada), in that **individuals**, rather than the provincial guilds will join as members, *it is important for us to reach every Canadian handbell musician we possibly can*, especially those who are not affiliated with a provincial guild. To that end, we are endeavouring to collect names and contact information for those musicians from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and as far north as ringers can be found.

We ask your assistance in building this contact list. Would you be willing to send us:

- Registration lists from any workshop, festival, or handbell event for which you have been an organizer
- Current and/or archival membership lists from your provincial guild
- Personnel lists from any choir with which you are personally associated that is not affiliated with a provincial guild
- Contact information for your handbell friends who are not covered by the above.

We are very keenly aware of the necessity to honour and follow all applicable Canadian privacy and anti-spam laws. The interim board, and all committees and consultants doing this work are committed 100% to following the letter and the spirit of the law, and we give you our assurance that any information you share with us will be used **ONLY** in accordance with CASL (Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation) regulations.

An individual who has interacted (in person, by mail or electronically) with any provincial handbell body or event has given their “implied consent” to be contacted. They will be contacted and given the opportunity to “opt in,” or give their “explicit consent” to remain on a contact list and receive future mailings. Anyone who opts out or does not respond is removed from the records and will receive no further communication and their contact information will not be shared or kept. This is the law, it is best practice, and it is what we commit to doing.

You can send information at any time, but we ask for a hard deadline of June 12, 2020. Please send all information to Annie Hergott, Chair, Policies and Operational Procedures Committee, HMC Interim Board, at **hergott@shaw.ca**. Please also pass this request on to anyone who might be interested in helping us to build a brand new and strong national body. We are committed to a model of open communication and responsible governance — so feel free to share any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Patsy Andrews-Vert

Patsy Andrews-Vert, Chair
Handbell Musicians of Canada Interim Board

Annie Hergott

Annie Hergott, Chair
HMC POPS Committee