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OUR AFFILIATES

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals." – Jean Vanier

The spokes have changed, but the OZCF's wheels keep rolling. At the AGM held last month, a new Board was elected and will continue steering OZCF forward. It is a group of committed Directors, a good blend of experienced members and enthusiastic youth. We welcome Dr. siblings Adil and Armita Bhesania and Hormuzd Engineer as first time Directors on the Board. Continuing on as Directors will be Cyrus Gazdar, Jeroo Madan, Neville Patrawala, Rusi Unvala, and Tauzer Dalal. With an eye on the future, we have a young Exec team – Khushi Doctor will be the Secretary, Ruzbeh Rohinton becomes the Treasurer, Adil Bhesania comes in as the Vice President and Xerxes Madan takes on the role of President.

The previous Board led ably by Neville Patrawala deserves kudos from the community for a stellar term. That most of the Board members have agreed to continue for a new term will ensure the continuity of the efforts and programs undertaken over the past couple of years remains.

Before I go on, I would like to say that the "hybrid AGM" we held last month, the first of its kind for OZCF, could not have gone off smoothly without the great efforts of our IT and Communications team. A big thank you to Rumi Jasavala, Xarius Jasavala and Anaisha Madan.

We are facing tough and challenging times with the Covid-19 pandemic halting our community events for the last few months. This has led to a decrease in revenues for the OZCF, while expenses remained unchanged. As the Provincial government opened up the businesses, services and public spaces on a regional basis, our subcommittees stepped up to get some events rolling, with safety measures in place.

The Chari-tea Curbside pick-up event was organized by the Fundraising Committee. The boxes included sandwiches, pastries and tarts with an array of teas to enjoy on a warm summer's afternoon! Through the hard work by our volunteers, the event was a great success and we were able to raise \$6.700.

The Religious Committee, in conjunction with the Board, took the decision to perform all the prayer ceremonies during the Shenshahi Muktad. Our Mobeds, young and experienced, performed the Afringan and Farokshi prayers in the mornings and the three Satums over the day, for all five days. It was a low-key event without the boisterous lunch and dinner gatherings that we look forward to. This did not deter the community from donating generously and I am glad to say that we exceeded the revenues of the previous year, for the event. We also performed the Navroze and Khordad Sal Jashans, live streaming the prayers for more members to be part of the ceremonies.

While the infusion of funds from these events helped, OZCF is still short on revenues to break even in 2020. The Board introduced the 40 in 4 initiative which aims to raise \$40,000 in these last 4 months of the 2020 fiscal year. It was heartwarming to watch our community step up immediately and we managed to raise pledges of \$10,500 at the AGM itself. But we have some ways to go and I appeal to the generosity of our community to help us overcome these tough times. As Coretta Scott King said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

Finally, on behalf of your new Board, we wish Tandoorasti to our community. Stay Safe and Stay Well!

Xerxes Madan President president@ozcf.com (416) 254-0685



INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS



Xerxes Madan (President)



Dr. Adil Bhesania (Vice-President)



Ruzbeh Rohinton (Treasurer)



Khushi Doctor (Secretary)



Neville Patrawala (Director)



Cyrus Gazdar (Director)



Rusi Unvala (Director)



Tauzer Dalal (Director)



Jeroo Madan (Director)



Dr. Armita Bhesania (Director)



Hormuzd Engineer (Director)





August 23, 2020

Dear OZCF Members,

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant financial impact to date, and we anticipate this will continue for an extended period.

OZCF relies on Fundraising efforts from various sub committees (Religious and Lectures, Membership, Bingo and Fundraising and Entertainment) to raise funds, conduct programs and pay its bills. Your participation and support help us raise revenue, which in turn help us pay for our day to day operations expenses.

Since our forced shut down as of March, OZCF has had no revenue coming in due to the cancellation of events. Yet many expenses remain fixed and ongoing. We anticipate based on current trends, a drop-in revenue of \$89,000 in 2020, down 62%. Our expenses remain unchanged at \$97,000 annually. The shortfall in revenue will result in us having to dip into our reserves to pay our expenses. We anticipate this to be at \$40,000 in 2020.

The Board therefore requests your support and is requesting the community to support the 40 in 4 pledge program. The objective is to raise \$40,000 over 4 months (September to December 2020). This will help us pay for upcoming expenses such as Insurance \$10,000; Snow Removal \$12,000; Winter Heating cost \$10,000 and miscellaneous \$8,000. Your support and generosity will help us alleviate this shortfall.

Our data indicates that in the course of a year, members attend multiple events at OZCF and spend \$\$\$ helping us raise funds by attending events such as Navroze Dinner, Natak, Fashion Blast etc. As In Person events are not possible it limits our ability to raise funds. We therefore request you to support the pledge program.

We have 527 members. If 300 members donate \$25 per month, we will raise \$30,000 by December and if 200 members donate \$50 per month, we will raise \$40,000 by December. TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THESE DONATIONS.

Payment can be made via:

- 1. **etransfer**: easypay@ozcf.com or
- 2. Online: www.ozcf.com via PayPal or
- 3. Cheque: (made payable to OZCF). Indicate 40 in 4 pledge in the subject line.

If you would like to signup or have questions about this program, email: president@ozcf.com or email any other Board Member.

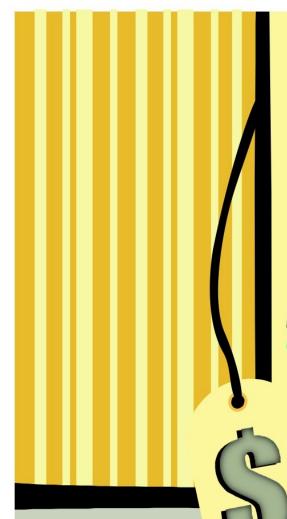
So that we are able to continue to manage our facility and deliver programs, catering to the needs or all our members, won't you show your generosity and help?

With Gratitude,

Xerxes Madan, President

On behalf of Board of Directors, OZCF





40 IN 4 Pledge

Pledge \$20, \$30 or \$50 p.m. for 4 months (September to December 2020)

To pay or pledge:

Etransfer: easypay@ozcf.com

Mail: Cheque to OZCF

Online: www.ozcf.com (via paypal)

Your support will

- Allow us to cover the shortfall
- Pay for upcoming large expense items in the last quarter of 2020

Insurance Renewal \$10,000 Snow Ploughing \$12,000 Winter Heating Cost \$10,000 Miscellaneous \$8,000

OZCF 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd E Oakville, Ontario Email:

president@ozcf.com





Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation PLEDGE FORM 40 IN 4

Donor Information (please print)							
Name							
Address							
City							
Phone 1 Phone 2							
Fax Email							
Pledge Information							
I (we) pledge a total of \$20 or \$ 25 or \$50 per month to be paid: □now □monthly over 4 / 6 months.							
I (we) plan to make this contr	ibution in the form of:						
Cash Chec	que Credit Card (complete information below) Etransfer						
Signature(s): Date:							
Please make cheques, payable to: 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road East, Oakville Ontario – L6H 7B3							
Cı	redit Card Payment Information Sheet						
Name							
Address							
City							
Phone 1 Phone 2							
Fax Email							
Credit card type Exp. Date							
Credit card number							
Credit card 3-digit security code							
I (we) pledge a total of	\$						
To be paid	□now □monthly						
Authorized Signature & date							

Vision Newsletter



The OZCF prayer room and facility is not open regularly. For personal requests, you may contact the following:

Prayer Room Access

Nozer Kotwal 905-820 0461 nskotwal1@gmail.com

Hall Rentals

Cyrus Gazdar 647-294 6462 cygazdar@yahoo.ca

ZRCC Coordinator

Armaity Anandasagar 905-271 0366 armaity.a@gmail.com

OZCF President

Xerxes Madan 416-254-0685 president@ozcf.com

Webmaster & Facilities

Rumi Jasavala 647-885-1759 rumijas@hotmail.com

Need a Mobed

Our Mobeds are available to help in times of need to offer their guidance & services to the community. Please contact:

Bamji, Ervad Xerxes (905) 702-1034

Bulsara, Ervad Firdosh (905) 824-7692

Dastur, Ervad Mehbad (416) 917-9195

Dhabhar, Ervad Jamshed (905) 819-0089

Katrak, Ervad Kerman (647) 444-7359

Kotwal, Ervad Nozer (905) 820-0461

Madan, Ervad Xerxes (416) 254-0685

Panthaky, Ervad Jal (905) 568-4946

Zarolia, Ervad Kobad (647) 887-9213

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support. Our first event during COVID, the Chari-tea fundraiser, was a great success and we hope together, we continue to raise funds for the OZCF.

SHAHENSHAI MUKTAD

The Shahenshahi Muktads were held at the ZRCC from August 11 - 15, 2020 with the New Year Jashan being held on August 16, 2020.

With the final Gatha, Vahishtoiti, this year's Muktad ceremonies ended with the late-night prayers. The last Gatha is also known as Pateti - the day of repentance. The word 'Pateti' is a contracted form of the Avesta word 'patitita', which means 'going back, atoning, repenting' and 'Pazand patet', which means 'repentance'. On this day, one repents with a true heart, for any wrong actions performed, knowingly or unknowingly, which may have hurt others or displeased Ahura Mazda.

Muktads are the days of communication between the material and spiritual worlds, and our need of health, happiness, peace and prosperity is fulfilled through the blessings of the souls and the Fravashis. Their need for our remembrance is fulfilled by our prayers and invocations. As has been tradition at OZCF, the 5 Gatha days are celebrated with the 3 Satums and Afringan and Farokshi prayers being performed every morning.

During the Gathas also falls the day of the 6th and last Gahambar of the year - the Hamaspathmaedhem Ghambar. According to Zarathushti religion, each of the 6 creations was created during one of the Gahambars. Mankind is associated with the last Gahambar. This time, the Gahambar ceremony was held on the final day, the Vahishtoiti Gatha.

The successful completion of another Muktad would not have been possible without the participation of our community. The tough times we are going through due to the global pandemic meant that the community could not get together to share meals. But it was heartening to see members come in to pay homage and donate generously.



ANNOUNCEMENTS MUKTAD THANK YOU

A big thank you to one and all who participated and helped, thus making the efforts of the religious committee worthwhile. The OZCF Board and the Religious Committee, would like to thank:

- All the volunteers, too many to be mentioned individually, who helped with cleaning the house and utensils before and during the 5 days
- All the families who so generously donated malido papri, ravo, sev, batasa, bhakras, as well as the Satum meals for the 5 days, for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and the midnight meal
- Armaity Anandasagar and Jeroo Madan for co-ordinating all the meals for the 5 days
- Rumi Jasavala for IT support, broadcasting the Satum and the Jashan prayers
- Fred Golwalla who was there every morning by 6 am, managing the kitchen and preparing the Satum tray and ensuring all supplies were available. He is our backbone and deserves special thanks.
- All the Mobeds who helped with the daily prayers. A good mix of young and stalwarts.
- Our young Ervad Nekzad Illava and Ervad Kamran Panthaki, who came early every morning for prayers. A
 healthy sign for our community
- Our "Grand" Ervad Khushroo Bharda, who arrived every morning at 5 am, single-handedly completing the morning chores, and then performing the morning Satum on all 5 days
- And finally, not to forget, our one and only Ervad Nozer Kotwal without whom the Muktad ceremonies would not happen the way we enjoy them every year. Despite personal issues, he was always there, guiding and supporting us all the way. Thank you Nozer Uncle, as always......

These are the people who make the ceremony a reality - volunteering their time and always there when needed. Our community is indeed blessed to have people who volunteer their time and resources and donate generously to help us with keeping the traditions alive.

We at the Religious Committee would like to wish all the members and their families a Very Happy, Enjoyable and Wonderful Navu Varas! As Nozer uncle's dear mother would say "Ganoo ganoo jivjo, Sukhi Sukhiyara ney Tandarosti Bharela, Tamhara Baal Bachchao saathey hamesha Khushi rahejo."

Tandarosti and Yazdaan Panaah Baad!



ACCOMPLISHMENTS







Our daughter Kayishmand Hormuzd Chothia was awarded "The Covid Classic Award" for Visual Arts. This award was a new award and was given for the first time this year from the Halton District School Board and will be given every year moving forward.

Kayishmand is the first and the only person to receive this award from the entire Halton Community. It was a drive through Award Ceremony and she took home 2 awards out of which one award was this one.

The award is meant to celebrate those who continuously go above and beyond with their contributions especially during the Covid Pandemic - a time when going above and beyond is much needed.

Georgetown District High School stated the following: "The Visual Arts Recipient for this year's Covid Classic Award is Kayishmand Chothia. She has gone above and beyond to use her art skills to better both our school and the greater Georgetown community. She has participated in events that support senior citizens, connecting them with arts students and she has helped kids with art initiatives.

Furthermore, she has also gone above and beyond to stay connected with the art department during these stressful quarantine months, creating beautiful art that she shared for the visual art department to use on our social media. Her community rocks were a real highlight!"

- Khushamin Hormuzd Chothia



ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Every year we take the opportunity to recognize our volunteers at our larger gatherings during the Muktads. This year due to COVID, we were not able to do so during the March Muktads. Therefore, we took the opportunity to do so at our AGM. On August 23, we presented the OZCF Volunteer Award for Outstanding Community Service in 2019 to our well-loved and respected Treasurer, Tauzer Dalal.

It is often said that for some folks volunteering is about giving. But in the case of Tauzer, it has become a way of living. He was asked if he could help out the OZCF Board in 2015, when one of the Board's Executive Members had stepped down. He could have easily said no at that time during a challenging period, but he chose to raise his hand and decided to serve the community. And what a ride it has been for him since then!

Generally, folks tire after a 2-year term on the OZCF Board of Directors. But Tauzer is unique. He envisioned creating processes and procedures to facilitate the accounting and bookkeeping role of the Treasurer. He quickly realized the work would require him to serve multiple terms on multiple Boards, and has carried out his duties admirably with great diligence and perseverance.

Over the span of the past 5 years, Tauzer has worked tirelessly to help improve and streamline processes and systems, and has managed our books in an exemplary manner. He has not only been an asset to the Boards that he has worked with but has also been of invaluable help to the PWAC team with his knowledge of PWAC finances.

Congratulations Tauzer, on this most well-deserved award!



BASIC FAQS ON ZOROASTRIANISM

- compiled by Ontario Mobeds Advisory Committee (OMAC)

8). What is Vendidād?

Vendidad is 'Anti-demonic law' and has 22 chapters and covers topics like geography of the ancient Aryans, history of King Jamshed of the Peshdādian dynasty, five kinds of different places producing joy and sorrow, instructions to keep away from nasā or decomposing matter, Bareshnum ceremony, different species of dogs and their care, qualifications of the priests etc.

9). What is Yasht?

A Yasht is a prayer in praise of a divinity. Some of the Yasht(s) contain valuable information about the history of ancient Iran. All together there are 24 Yashts.

10). What is Khordeh Avestā?

Khordeh Avesta means Smaller Avestā. It contains short prayers to be recited daily such as five Gāh(s), Five Niāyesh, some smaller Yasht(s), Satum prayer and Monājāts.

11). What is Bāj?

Bāj is a religious prayer recited in honour of the divine spirits (Ameshā Spentās and Yazatās) or the guardian spirits (Fravashis).





BASIC FAQS ON ZOROASTRIANISM

- compiled by Ontario Mobeds Advisory Committee (OMAC)

12). What is Āalāt?

Āalāt is an Arabic word which means implement, or requisites that are required for performing some high or inner liturgical ceremonies like Yazashne, Visperad and Vandidād. All Āalāt(s) used for any ceremony, are first consecrated before being used in the ceremonies.

13). What is the concept of dualism?

Avestan dualism is cosmic. It speaks of the Ahura Mazda who created a good, orderly universe through the benevolent thought process - Spenta Mainyu. While the adverse thought process Anghra Mainyu, disturbs the stability, hurts the progress and destroys the good creation. All destructions that cause harm are Evil in action. The two thought processes or mentalities are engaged in a continuous conflict until Spenta Mainyu way of thinking emerges victorious and the evil and its helpers are destroyed.

14). What are the Zoroastrian "Primal Principles of Life?"

Mazda has highlighted a number of "Primal Principles of Life" to create, maintain and promote the universe. They are Asha, the law of precision; Vohu Manah, good thinking; Vohu Khshathra, good dominion, good order; Spentā Āramaiti, right-mindedness, or progressive serenity; Seraosha, divine communion; and a few more. All these lead to Haurvatāt, wholeness, completeness, or supreme excellence, and Ameretāt, immortality or non-deathness.



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BOOK LAUNCH

My dear friend Nawaz Merchant (NJ, USA), who writes under the name Nev March has written an award-winning mystery novel and the locale is my favourite city - Bombay. Over the years Nawaz has been on several subcommittees at FEZANA. Her novel "Murder in Old Bombay" won 2019 Mystery Writers of America's award for Best First Crime Novel. It was the first time this award was won by a writer of Indian origin, a woman of Indian origin, or a Zoroastrian.

A book tour was planned to launch the book with gatherings and book readings. Unfortunately, that is not possible in the current covid climate. She is looking for creative ways to publicize her historical mystery, coming this Nov from Macmillan. Preorders are open on Amazon and other bookstores. Contact her at NevMarchauthor@gmail.com.

She writes "My book addresses issues prevalent at the turn of the 20th century which are present today: discrimination against those who do not belong to our 'in' group, demeaning attitudes toward women, for example. It's also a heart-felt appeal to our own (tiny) Zoroastrian community to update our social norms--or face extinction.

Loosely based on the tragedy of the Godrej girls in 1891, my novel is an action adventure with deeper themes of feminism and countering discrimination. It's an evocative journey through colonial India during the British Raj, describing the vibrant mix of sub-cultures and the danger of buried secrets. Ultimately it's a story of triumph over adversity, and the different forms that courage can take."

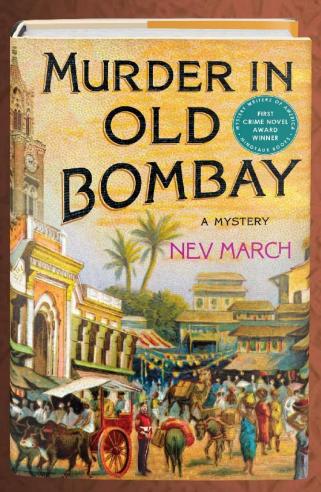
submitted by Armaity Anandasagar





THE MINOTAUR BOOKS/MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA FIRST CRIME NOVEL AWARD-WINNING DEBUT

A GOLDEN AGE. A LAND OF DIVIDED LOYALTIES. A MURDER IN OLD BOMBAY.





In 1892, Bombay is the center of British India.

Nearby, Captain Jim Agnihotri lies in Poona military hospital recovering from a skirmish on the wild northern frontier, with little to do but re-read the tales of his idol, Sherlock Holmes, and browse the daily papers. The case that catches Captain Jim's attention is being called the crime of the century:

Two women fell from the busy university's clock tower in broad daylight. Moved by Adi, the widower of one of the victims—his certainty that his wife and sister did not commit suicide—Captain Jim approaches the Parsee family and is hired to investigate what happened that terrible afternoon.

But in a land of divided loyalties, asking questions is dangerous. Captain Jim's investigation disturbs the shadows that seem to follow the Framji family and triggers an ominous chain of events. And when lively Lady Diana Framji joins the hunt for her sisters' attackers, Captain Jim's heart isn't safe, either.

Based on a true story, and set against the vibrant backdrop of colonial India, Nev March's Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Award-winning lyrical debut brings this tumultuous historical age to life.

AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD NOVEMBER 10, 2020



RELIGIOUS EVENTS SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

FARVARDEGAN (S) THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD

Farvardegan prayers will be held on Thursday September 3rd at 7:00 pm. If you plan to attend please give your name to Ervad Nozer Kotwal (905) 820-0461 stating how many adults and/or children will be attending, a.s.a.p. but not later than September 1st. Please also volunteer to clean up after the event.

DASTURJI KOOKADAROO BAJ FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH

Prayers for Dasturji Kookadaroo Baj will be held on Friday September 4th at 7:00pm at ZRCC 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville. If you plan to attend please give your name to Ervad Nozer Kotwal (905) 820-0461 stating how many adults and/or children will be attending, a.s.a.p. but not later than September 1st. Please also volunteer to clean up after the event.

PAITISHAHEM GAHAMBAR (F) SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH

We will be celebrating Paitishahem Gahambar (F) on Saturday September 12th at 11:00am at ZRCC 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville. If you plan to attend please give your name to Ervad Nozer Kotwal (905) 820-0461 stating how many adults and/or children will be attending, a.s.a.p. but not later than September 9th. Please also volunteer to clean up after the event.

AYATHREM GAHAMBAR (F) MONDAY OCTOBER 12TH

We will be celebrating Ayathrem Gahambar (F) on Monday October 12th at 11:00am at ZRCC 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville. If you plan to attend please give your name to Ervad Nozer Kotwal (905) 820-0461 stating how many adults and/or children will be attending, a.s.a.p. but not later than October 9th. Please also volunteer to clean up after the event.

Please note – the number of people in the Hall will be restricted to 40 at any given time. Also, there is no access to prayer room in the house as the house is currently locked.

Members wishing to attend must contact Nozer Kotwal at (905) 820-0461 or at nskotwal1@gmail.com As numbers permit, we will let people enter on a first-come basis and limit access to 40 members in the Hall.

Volunteers will notify members to leave the premises immediately after, with no socializing to be done on the property.

Sukhad must be bought from OZCF and cannot be brought from home or outside. We ask that members not light a Divo in the Hall, instead letting the Mobeds do so.

There will be no meals nor Chasni served after the Jashans.

All members who come to the property MUST adhere to the laid down protocols (COVID-19 Screening Sheet and Instruction Guidelines), bearing in mind the volunteer has the right to refuse a member from entry if they feel the member could be endangering the health and safety of others.

As with all messages OZCF has communicated to the community, we remind our members that while these stipulations require us to carry out our engagements differently, we must adhere to them in order to enhance the safety of our members, volunteers and Mobeds. OZCF appreciates your continued patience and understanding.



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COVID-19

INSTRUCTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER VISIT AT ZRCC

- 1. Ensure Face Mask and Gloves are on when entering the ZRCC facility
- 2. Complete and Hand over the COVID-19 screen check sheet to the volunteer (1 for each member present)
- 3. Take a number the volunteer gives you
- 4. Park and remain in your vehicle until your number is called (no socializing in the parking lot)
- 5. When your # is called, exit your car and enter the Prayer Hall
- 6. If you wish to wash your hands/face, bring your own water bottle
- 7. Should you wish to light a Divo, please ask the volunteer present to light it for you
- 8. Sukhad needs to be bought from OZCF only and the volunteer will make the offering to the holy fire
- 9. Please put money in the donation box (we ask for your generosity)
- 10. Stand and Pray in the designated spot duly marked on the floor
- 11. Please bring your own Prayer Books
- 12. We ask that you remain for only 5 minutes (based on the number of people waiting to give others a chance to pray as well)
- 13. When you have finished praying, we ask that you leave the premises immediately to make room for others who are waiting (no socializing in the parking lot)

1187 Burnhamthorpe Road E, Oakville, Ontario L6H 7B3





Visit Date: _____

COVID-19 SCREENING CHECK SHEET

To be completed **Prior** to Entering ZRCC

A separate Form for everyone must be completed

Day: ______ Time: _____am / pm

Sc	reening Questions	:				
1.	Do you have any of the fo	llowing <u>new or worsening</u> s	ymptoms or signs?			
					YES	NO
N	ew or worsening cough					
	hortness of breath					
	ore throat					
	unny nose, sneezing or n		1-11			
	n absence of underlying real	sons for symptoms such as sea	sonal allergies and postn	asai drip)		
	ifficulty swallowing					
	ew smell or taste disorde	er(s)				
	ausea/vomiting, diarrhe					
	nexplained fatigue/mala					
С	hills Nausea/vomiting, o	liarrhea, abdominal pain				
Н	eadaches					
2.	Have you travelled outsign the past 14 days?	de of Canada or had close co Yes:	ntact with anyone that		itside of	Canada
3.	Do you have a fever?	Yes:		No: _		
4.	Have you had close cont 19?	act with anyone with respira	tory illness or a confirn	ned or probable	case of	COVID
	Yes:	– go to question 5	No:	– go to ques	stion 6	
5.	Did you wear the require	ed and/or recommended PPI	E according to the type	of duties you w	ere per	forming
		ask and gown or N95 with a th a suspected or confirmed		cal procedures	(AGMPs	s)) wher
	Yes:	go to question 6	No:			
6.	Are you aware of any CC	VID-19 related reason why	ou should not be here	?		
Yes:		No:	screening co	screening complete		
PR	INT NAME:	s	IGNATURE:			
(a	parent or guardian mus	S St sign on behalf of children	19 years and under)			