

**Gaden Relief Projects Board Meeting**  
**Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**  
**Minutes**

Present: Ven. Zasep Tulku Rinpoche, Matthew Richards, Stephen Tang, Irene Cortes.

Regrets: Evan Zaleschuk, Maureen Byrne.

This meeting was scheduled as a short one for Matthew to catch up with the GRP business he missed this past summer while on closed retreat.

The minutes of the previous two meetings were not formally adopted as some changes had to be made to the April summary. It was decided that they all be adopted at the next meeting.

Matthew stated that he arranged to pick up all the GRP paperwork when he visits Vancouver at the end of the month. Matthew spoke to Maureen who had talked to the staff at the TD branch about how to formally get on the GRP account. They told her that they would need both Evan and myself there at the branch to do all the paperwork. As Evan is in Vancouver, realizing this action is both difficult and perhaps unnecessary. Matthew and Maureen felt that, between Matthew and Evan, Gaden Relief would have authorized Board members living in both Toronto and Vancouver, who could do relevant banking for the organization and withdraw funds as needed, whenever a GRP Project in one those said cities needed them.

Matthew told the Board that we would contact Conrad Richter as soon as possible, to discuss all the Federal legal requirements the Board must meet on an annual basis, to get help with the management of the GRP website and any personal advice on managing the organization that Conrad could offer. Matthew will also talk to Conrad about getting our accounting done by year's end for our taxes.

Rinpoche wants the Board to reach out to our Buddhist community to see if anyone is interested in volunteering their help for GRP. He said we could do that through email or through our Facebook account. He feels we need more people on the Board and new people with new ideas and new visions. Until we put the word out and ask and invite people, they may not know that we need help or are interested in opening up our organization to others.

Two projects on which Gaden Relief is currently working were discussed.

Gaden Relief is still looking at sending aid money to Nepal to help those who have suffered through the devastating earthquake that recently hit the country. Many of our donors gave funds they earmarked just for this. Rinpoche knows one monk, associated with our Buddhist Tradition, whose family suffered greatly through this

ordeal. His family's home was damaged and their local community hit hard. This monk is a member of a local monastery called Pelje Ling. Rinpoche suggested that Gaden Relief use the abbot or another Monastery Official as our lead agent or contact for our suggested contracted Project. We could send the Monastery our contract documentation: getting them to do up an appeal letter, whereas we, in contact with them, could set up the Project details such as required work needed, timelines etc. We could use the Monastery bank account through which to send our funds. Gaden Relief could also look at expanding the Project to include helping and supporting other families and communities connected to the Monastery as well. Rinpoche suggested that we look to donating about \$3000. with at least \$1000. of it going to the monk and his family. Rinpoche said he would contact his friends Pema and Tenzin in Nepal to get a hold of the monk and to start the whole process of getting this Project underway.

Rinpoche also stated that he wanted to get started on a GRP Project to support a local orphanage in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. Funds could be raised for and drawn from the General GRP Mongolia Account. Rinpoche felt it was really important to support this orphanage and plans to bring funds for it on his next visit to Mongolia. Many orphans are horrifically sold into prostitution, human trafficking and for illegal, black market organ donation. The Board agreed to plan for this and look into the continual support of Gerlee's Geralt Mur charity that raises funds to buy yurts for single mothers in Ulan Bator, a charity now run by her sister.

Irene Cortes has friends who work for Staedtler Stationery and Shoppers Drug Mart. Both companies have charity programs. The former donates pens, paper and school supplies to charity. Whereas the latter donates first aid supplies. All that is required is an authorized, formal request on the part of the charity and a party to pick up the supplies at the respective warehouses here in Toronto. Irene will look into whether Gaden Relief can benefit from these programs.

The Board also felt that a clothing drive for our Mongolia Project – such as winter clothing for the orphanage – would be a good idea.

Matthew and Maureen will look into updating and upgrading the Gaden Relief website and Facebook account. Maureen knows the web designer who created the website and media platforms for the Toronto Buddhist Community Friends of the Heart. Her work is very good and she is happy to work for charities. They agreed to contact this woman and talk to her about our organization and its needs.

Irene said that she would look into streamlining and updating all of our forms and documentation to facilitate their future use.

Matthew was asked by the Board to check the TD Bank balance for the GRP account. (A quick check afterward put it currently at: \$22,186.00)

Rinpoche asked that the Board meet again in the 1<sup>st</sup> part of Dec. Rinpoche will be in Vancouver at that time. We could have the meeting by Skype.

End of Meeting