



Chair's Report • AGM

October 16th 2023

Jacq Brasseur (they/them)

The past year has been an exciting year for Briarpatch, with a lot of changes coming our way.

In January of this year, Saima Desai, our Editor, made the choice to take a one-year Leave of Absence to pursue an incredible opportunity outside of journalism. With Saima's leave, Briarpatch has been in good hands with our Interim Editor, Sophie Jin. Sophie returned to Briarpatch after having served as our Editorial Assistant. I want to take this moment to thank Sophie for all of her hard work.

During our September/October issue, we saw the introduction of a new look for our magazine. As we'll hear in our staff's report, this is long-overdue, and we are grateful to Heritage Canada for the financial support to be able to do this.

The Canadian news ban on various social media platforms have significantly impacted Briarpatch, as it has impacted many other small journalism organizations. Despite these impacts, staff continue to do incredible work in promoting our work via our website and our e-newsletters, which we'll hear more about in the staff report.

Outside of celebrating our staff, our Board has begun work for a strategic plan. This will be the first strategic plan that Briarpatch has in a while, and we are excited to see it take shape. This strategic plan will help inform what is possible for Briarpatch, particularly as we're seeing such important recommendations from staff to help improve the magazine and the organization.

A big thank you to all of our outgoing board members, and an exciting welcome to the folks who will join our board during this AGM.

Thank you all,

-Jacq Brasseur
Outgoing Chair
October 16, 2023