Greetings to you all of you, my name is Martine Lagacé, I join you this morning as Associate Vice-President Research at the University of Ottawa and as a professor in the Department of Communication and the School of Psychology.

I am pleased to be with you this morning, to kick off the first meeting of the Music and Health Research Institute’s Steering committee.

I would like to welcome representatives of our academic partners and affiliated research institutes, as well as members of the University of Ottawa. Welcome to Professor Anna Zumbansen, Associate Director of the Institute and of course, to Professor Gilles Comeau, the driving force of the Institute.

Before we begin, allow me to pay respect to the Algonquin people, who are the traditional guardians of the land, where the University of Ottawa is located. We acknowledge their longstanding relationship with this territory, which remains unceded.

Let me thank you for your presence here today, which demonstrates the commitment of the organizations you represent to the tremendous research synergy that will be embodied by this new institute for research on music and health.

I would like to acknowledge the visionary thinking and leadership of Prof. Comeau, who was able to build on the research and partnerships he developed during his years at the helm of the Piano Lab, and at the Musicians Wellness Center, to bring this innovative project to life.

It is remarkable that the National Capital’s major health research institutions, hospitals and universities will join forces, along with community partners to explore the “healing powers of music”. The Institute’s multidisciplinary approach to developing new scientific knowledge on the interactions between music and health is strongly aligned with University of Ottawa’s strategic area of research directed towards enabling Lifelong health and Wellness. It is thus a privilege for...
the University of Ottawa to be the cradle of such a forward-thinking initiative.

While the public is familiar with the impact of music on their mood, understanding how music, its practice and its therapeutic use can affect our body, our brain, our senses, and our mental health, is still unchartered territory.

We are eager to see the Institute embark on its first research projects involving children with disabilities, people affected by mental health problems and older adults.

We look forward to supporting the Institute’s researchers explore and deepen knowledge about the interactions between music and health that can translate into major scientific advances, innovative therapeutic practices, and help improve Canadians’ well-being.

The Vice-President, Research, Dr. Sylvain Charbonneau, and myself wish every success to this pioneering institute, which has the potential to become a major research hub at the intersection of music and health.

I now turn the floor over to the person who will orchestrate the development and expansion of the Music and Health Research Institute.

Thank you and enjoy the working session.