

**Council of Canadians
Annual Members Meeting (AMM)
Sunday, June 28, 2020
12:00 p.m. to 4.55 p.m. EDT**

MINUTES

Present: Alice-Anne Simard, Amanda Orum, Andrew Weinstein, Angela Giles, Ann Atkinson, Avril Torrence, Barb Lund, Barbara Linds, Barbara Mitchell-Pollock, Barbara Silburt, Beryl Pilkington, Bill Clifford, Bob Stuart, Breezy Brian Gregg, Camile Paradis, Carl Stewart, Carol Ferguson, Carol Wall, Carolynne Epp-Fransen, Celestin Nkulu, Charles & Karen McFadden, Christina Warner, Christine Bruce, Constance (Connie) More, Dana Chapeskie, David Condon, David Greenfield, David Heap, David Lubell, Deedee Slye , Diana MacDonald, Diane Mckenzie, Diwa Marcelino, Don Smith, Donna Evans, Dorothy Guha, Dorothy Smith, Douglas Hayes, Elizabeth Hill, Elsie Dean, Eva Sapp, Frank McGilly, Freda Knott, Gayvin Franson, George Wheeler, Gerry Schreiber, Gordon Doctorow, Grace Alexander, J.C. Blokhuis, Jamian Logue, Jan Malek, Jane Welton, Janice Condon, Janina Lebon, Joanne McAlpine, Joanne Roy, Joey Hartman, John and Yvonne Jacobs, John Cartwright, John Davis, Judy Tuck, Julian Riddell, Justine De Jaegher, Karen, Karen Reay, Kathie Cloutier, Kathryn Anderson, Laila Malik, Laura Rashotte, Leo Broderick, Leo Cheverie, Letitia Charbonneau, Lin Grist, Lynn Armstrong, Lynn Brown, Lynne Rochon, Margo Sheppard, Marilyn Keddy, Marion Moore, Marla Strother, Mary Cox-Dublanski, Mary Love, Mary Matheson, Mary Robinson, Maureen Shier, Meena Peruvemba, Meg Borthwick, Michael Douglas, Milly Ristvedt, Mohamed Amano , Morna Ballantyne, Myles Lipton, Nancy Carswell, Navjeet Sidhu, Nita Grass, Norah Fraser, Nouhad Mourad, Pam Woolridge, Paul Clifford, Paul Costello, Paul Strome, Pegasus McGauley, Peggy Lalor, Penny Oyama, Peter Raymond, Ravi Joshi, Rick Arnold, Robert Kenna, Rod Olstad, Ron East, Ron Peterson, Rose-Marie Valade, Roy Brady, Sandy, Saria Andrew, Shirley Lord, Susan McMurray, Tara Seucharan, Tracy Frohlick, Vangie Broderick, William Fitzgerald, Yvonne Earle.

Staff: Christina Warner, Ravi Joshi

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. (Eastern) with John Cartwright in the Chair who acknowledged that meeting participants are attending from many different regions of the country, all of which are Indigenous land.

Christina Warner provided a short presentation of the Zoom functions and meeting page functions which will be used during the meeting. The Simply Voting election technology and email voting ballot process were also reviewed.

There were two changes made to the agenda, the Nominating Committee will report at the end of the meeting once election results are available and Chapter Task Force will be allocated more time.

1. Agenda

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the meeting agenda be adopted /CARRIED.

2. Adopt Rules of Conduct for the AMM

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the Rules of Conduct for the AMM be adopted /CARRIED.

3. Motion to Adopt Minutes of Previous Meetings

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the minutes of the June 22, 2019 AMM /CARRIED.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the minutes of the March 15, 2020 Special Members Meeting /CARRIED.

4. Report of the Chair

John Cartwright acknowledged this is a stressful time for everyone, especially since people can't get together because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked everyone involved with the Council which was founded 35 years ago.

In response to inner turmoil within the Council, the board brought forward a Council renewal resolution to the AMM last year. Executive Director, Molly Kane, led the healing process, including though tours across the country and meetings with chapters.

She has had to step away for medical leave but sends her best wishes. Ravi Joshi and Christina Warner are serving as co-Executive Directors in her absence.

Some of our most recent work has included standing in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en First Nations against RCMP actions and success at increasing the number of Blue Communities, including 17 communities in Quebec.

When COVID-19 hit, we saw the impact it had in long-term private care homes and the reality of those on the frontlines; especially among workers from racialized groups and women.

COVID-19 also affected the Council and staff agreed to participate in a federal work share program which resulted in a significant decrease in salary expenses.

On May 26th the world witnessed George Floyd's death by a police officer, captured on a video showing 8:46 minutes as he died, unable to breathe by a knee on his neck. It created worldwide outrage calling for change regarding racism and an end to militarized police systems. The Council has begun work on a resolution against racism.

We also recognize and celebrate the work of Maude Barlow who recently stepped down as the Council's honorary chair.

5. Report of the Executive Directors

Christina Warner and Ravi Joshi reported. The Council celebrated its 35th anniversary on March 11th. COVID-19 hit shortly after and we had to re-evaluate our focus and priorities to emphasize how it impacted individuals, long-term care, loss of drug coverage and how Indigenous communities were impacted.

Maude Barlow has transitioned from her previous role and remains a member and supporter of the Council. With her departure as honorary chair we received many messages of praise and expressions of gratitude for her work.

It had also been mandated in 2019 to begin a season of renewal so work has been focused around that as well.

We launched the Good Governance Task Force and continued work around strategic planning as well as work around corporate capture. A special members meeting was held on March 15, 2020 to vote on the 33 task force recommendations and changes to the by-laws.

One by-law change was to adopt a new membership format, which has increased member numbers to over 2,000 voting members. We also hope that new members will connect with their local chapters.

Several new chapters were founded: New Cape Breton West, Kingston & Area, Kawartha Lakes & Highlands. Several chapters have been revitalized as well, those include: Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax Regional Municipality.

Council's work on water continues. Maude Barlow completed a ten city book tour, Vancouver became a Blue Community and the Union of BC Municipalities called on the BC government to reject bottled water export licences.

Fair Trade work includes speaking on CUSMA (the updated NAFTA) and releasing new report on CETA.

Climate justice work includes standing in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en First Nations and challenging fossil fuel exploitation across the country.

We are also opposing COVID related oil and gas bailouts as well as exposing the health impacts of work camps. The Council continues to promote a just recovery and strengthened public service post-COVID.

Work is continuing on public healthcare for all and we've strengthened our call for Pharmacare. We've also launched a campaign to improve and publicly fund long-term care, and are challenging the Ford government's plan to privatize Ontario homecare.

Some of the Council's upcoming work includes:

- Review the impact on local organizing in adopting climate and economic alternatives in line with the Green New Deal.
- National Human Right to Water framework
- Stop ISDS and build a just recovery and address immediate needs post-COVID
- Decide on the right starting point on equity & anti-racism
- Launch the Chapter Task Force
- Create a new organizer training series called IMPACT
- Put more focus on communications and seek input on communicating with members
- Continue a branding project with MediaStyle with an aim to launch a new identity after Labour Day

6. Proposed By-Law Amendments

P1. BY-LAW PROPOSAL RE: MEMBERSHIP

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Canadians By-law 3.01 (1) (a) be amended to delete the words “resident in Canada” as follows:

3.01 Members

- (1) There shall be one (1) class of members of the Council. Such membership shall:
- (a) be available only to individuals ~~resident in Canada~~ who support the vision, purpose, mission and principles of the Council;
 - (b) be granted by a process of application and approval to be set by the board of directors; and
 - (c) require an annual financial and/or in-kind contribution by each member, as set by the board of directors.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve By-Law Proposal P1 re: Membership.

AMENDMENT: It was moved and seconded to amend this motion by replacing ‘resident in Canada in (a) with “Canadians and/or individuals who reside in Canada”/CARRIED

MAIN MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED

P2. BY-LAW PROPOSAL RE: QUORUM

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Canadians By-law 4.08 be amended to provide for a quorum that automatically increases in incremental steps in accordance with the growth in membership size, as follows:

4.08 Quorum

Subject to the Act, a quorum at any Council meeting shall be **determined by the number of members in good standing on the date notice of meeting was issued, as follows:**

- **Up to 300 members – quorum = 30**
- **301 – 500 members – quorum = 40**
- **501 – 1000 members – quorum = 60**
- **1001 + members – quorum = 80**

~~thirty (30) members present at the meeting and who are in good standing for thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.~~ To be a member in good standing, the member must have paid any membership dues owing to the Corporation and met any additional requirements set out in the governance policies. If the Corporation has fewer than thirty (30) members, then the member(s) present in person who are in good standing constitutes a meeting. If a quorum is present at the opening of a Council meeting, the members present may proceed with the business of the meeting even if a quorum is not present throughout the meeting. For the purpose of determining quorum, a member may be present in person or by telephonic and/or by other electronic means.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve By-law Proposal P2 re: Quorum /CARRIED.

7. Finances

Board Treasurer Morna Ballantyne explained that the Council is a non-profit organization that depends on donations for funding. She reviewed the audited financial statements.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to receive the Council's 2019 audited financial statements /CARRIED.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to appoint Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep as the Council's auditors for 2020 /CARRIED.

Morna Ballantyne advised that the issue inadequate financial reserves has received a lot of attention from the board. The budget was discussed at the January board meeting where it was agreed that the Council cannot continue at its projected deficit level and directed the executive committee to work towards a balanced budget. The revised budget was adopted June 27th.

COVID also affected the Council's finances and the staff, through Unifor Local 567, agreed to participate in the government's work share program whereby the work week was reduced by 20% and staff are entitled to apply for EI to mitigate the lost wages. We also created a hardship fund to assist any staff who may encounter serious financial problems due to this reduction.

8. Proposed Resolutions

R1 – COUNCIL OF CANADIANS TO PROMOTE CUBAN HEALTH TEAMS’ GLOBAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 FOR THE 2021 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council Of Canadians, through the Board and Staff, agree to actively promote the candidacy of the Cuban Health Teams’ global response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, including the publicizing of this Council of Canadians decision nationally, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Canadians Board and Staff, following the formal passing of this resolution at the June 2020 AMM, immediately seek out a Qualified Nominator among its wealth of contacts with professors, directors of peace research institutes, and foreign policy institutes (February 2021 the final deadline for submissions), so that such a nomination can go forward with full Council of Canadians support.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve R1 re: Nobel Peace Prize /CARRIED.

R2 - SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT MEDIATION AND COOPERATION

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council support the international conflict resolution authority of the United Nations, and to minimize future pandemics, the setting of health standards by the World Health Organization.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve R2 re: United Nations and WHO /CARRIED.

R3 – GUARANTEED BASIC INCOME FOR ALL CANADIANS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council investigate the benefits of a Guaranteed Basic Income for all Canadians.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve R3 re: Guaranteed Basic Income.

AMENDMENT: It was moved and seconded to amend this resolution by removing “investigate” and replacing with “draft briefing notes regarding” and insert “and the pitfalls” after the word “benefits” to now read “that the Council draft briefing notes regarding the benefits and pitfalls of a Guaranteed Basic Income for all Canadians.” /CARRIED

MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED

R4 – PROVIDING ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Canadians will promote and encourage our government to work with Canada Post to adopt this program, and to this end endeavor to meet with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Northern Affairs, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, and the Minister for Rural Economic Development.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve R4 re: Economic Justice and Preserving the Environment

AMENDMENT: It was moved and seconded to amend this resolution by replacing “promote and encourage” with “demand that”; remove “to” after “government” and replace “this program, and to this” with “Delivering Community Power” to now read “that the Council of Canadians will demand that our government work with Canada Post to adopt Delivering Community Power, and to this end endeavor to meet with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Northern Affairs, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, and the Minister for Rural Economic Development”/CARRIED.

MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED

R5 – RE-ALLOCATING PUBLIC SPACE TO SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Canadians actively support municipal proposals to re-allocate public space from private automobile use to walking, rolling, public transit and cycling.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve R5 re: Sustainable Transportation /CARRIED.

R6 – AGROECOLOGY AS A KEY ADDITION TO THE GREEN NEW DEAL PROJECT WITHIN THE COUNCIL’S ENERGY AND CLIMATE CAMPAIGN

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that agroecology and its eight pillars (as detailed by the National Farmers’ Union) be incorporated into the Council of Canadians Green New Deal project as a discrete topic (replacing and including the subtopic of “food security” (We Decide, 2019, p.15) thereby furthering the scope of the Council’s local, national, and international community building initiatives.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve R6 re: Agroecology /CARRIED.

Due to time restrictions for the remainder of the meeting agenda, the following motion was put to refer the remaining resolutions, with the exception of the Chapter Task Force resolution, to the board of directors:

- R7 – Direct Public Financing of Canadian Governments by the Bank of Canada
- R8 – No Commercial Media Day October 9th
- R9 – Water Protection Campaign
- R10 – Water Protection – Alton Gas
- R12 – Long Term Care (LTC) Facilities
- R13 – Council of Canadians Healthcare/Long Term Care/Pharmacare Campaign

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to refer all outstanding resolutions to the board with the exception of the Chapter Task Force draft resolution/CARRIED.

R11 – CHAPTER TASK FORCE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that there will be at least one Chapter representative from each region on the Chapter Task Force, that the regional Chapter representatives will be approved by the regional members, and that the Chapter representatives will consult with their regional members throughout the activity of the Chapter Task Force.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve R11 re: Chapter Task Force /CARRIED.

9. Chapters Task Force

Chapters are encouraged to nominate people for the Task Force. The deadline is July 13, 2020. The broad mandate was established in March 2020 special meeting. Chapters will be invited to provide input, and recommendations will be developed and voted on in 2021.

This is the beginning of the process and there will be other opportunities to for feedback. COVID-19 has delayed this process, but once the first meeting has been held, the task force will identify what's necessary to carry out their work.

10. Report of the Nominating Committee and Board Elections

Report of the Nominating Committee

Joe Mihevc assumed the chair and explained that the committee began in April to establish a board elections nominations process.

There are currently five vacant board positions to be filled; four 2-year terms and one 1-year term. The committee has worked to strengthen the values, include more diversity and look for individuals with previous board experience as part of the recommended criteria for nominations to the board.

The deadline for submitting nominations was June 5th and six were received, all fulfilling the criteria requirements. An all-candidates online forum held on June 14th provided an opportunity to meet the candidates.

In future, the work needs to begin earlier to allow time to seek out and strengthen participation of equity seeking groups.

Board elections are being conducted on-line using Simply Voting and results will be announced following the report of the nominating committee.

The committee has prepared two motions regarding the nominations process, as follows:

MOTION #1:

Be it resolved that the Board of the Council of Canadians refine the process for selecting members to the Board on a go-forward basis, taking into account the learnings from this year's process, and thus develop the board selection policy to assist future Nominations Committees and Boards.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve Motion #1 /CARRIED.

MOTION #2:

Be it resolved that the candidate with the 6th most votes be invited to serve a board alternate, and that the board alternate fill in any vacancy that might occur between the 2020 and the 2021 AMMs.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve Motion #2 /CARRIED.

Joe Mihevc thanked other committee members, Carol Wall and Carol Ferguson, and staff.

Board Elections

Joe Mihevc announced the board election results as follows:

2-year term:

- John Cartwright
- Joey Hartman
- Diwa Marcelino
- Julian Tennent-Riddell

1-year term:

- Justine De Jaegher

Alternate board member:

- Nimmi Takkar

Sunday, June 28, 2020

12:00 p.m. to 4.55 p.m. EDT

Joe Mihevc congratulated all in-coming board members, and then returned the chair to John Cartwright.

John Cartwright thanked all staff who helped make this AMM work so well and voting members for participating.

John Cartwright wished Molly Kane well in her recovery and expressed honour for Maude Barlow for all of her work with the Council. He also thanked out-going board members Alice-Anne Simard, Dave Greenfield, Rick Sawa and Paul Strome, and those who remain on the board for all their continued work.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. EDT.