The Annual Meeting of Members was called to order at 12:05 p.m. (Eastern) with John Cartwright in the Chair, who thanked Council of Canadians members from coast-to-coast-to-coast for coming together on-line for this organization’s Annual Meeting of Members.

Chairperson Cartwright then invited Nita Grass, as an Indigenous board member, to offer welcoming remarks and to share her reflections. Ms. Grass noted that this year has been incredibly important as we started to understand more what has happened in our country for Indigenous people. Nita shared her personal experience with participants of the meeting as well as heartfelt reflection on climate, COVID-19, racism, inequities, and Indigenous residential schools.

Nita Grass thanked The Council of Canadians’ members who put their differences aside and decided to support each other, standing in solidarity and work hard to build a better Canada and a good world for all.

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

1. Agenda

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda for the 2021 Annual Meeting of Members /CARRIED.

2. Adopt the Rules of Conduct for the AMM

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the Rules of Conduct for the 2021 Annual Meeting of Members /CARRIED.

3. Motion to Adopt Minutes of 2020 AMM

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the minutes of the June 28, 2020 AMM as amended to note that Jim Elliott was present /CARRIED.

4. Report of the Board Chair
John Cartwright, chairperson, reported on the major social movements over the past year. He noted the COVID-19 impact in private long-term care homes, the reality of the frontline workers, especially among workers from racialized groups, Indigenous and poor people. He also invited all participants to recognize a minute of silence in memory of George Floyd’s death by a police officer in US, the horrific murder of a Muslim family in London, Ont., anti-black racism; and the remains of 215 children found at an Indigenous school in Kamloops, BC.

All of those recognitions bring us to the reflection and examination of what to celebrate on the July 1, 2021 Canada Day!

John thanked the staff who voluntarily reduced their work week to 4 days for much of the year 2020 under the Federal Government work-share program, and still got the work of the Council done. That sacrifice resulted a significant decrease in salary expenses for the organization. He also thanked the staff who had left the Council since the last AMM for their valuable work and contributions, and welcomed new staff.

Important work led by local chapters activists is crucial to the organization. The Chapter Task Force completed its work. Their recommendations are being implemented, including in this annual meeting.

Appreciation was extended to outgoing board members; Lynn Armstrong, Morna Ballantyne, Ron East, Justine De Jaegher, and Laila Malik, and Marilyn Hay was welcomed as the newly elected Ontario-Quebec-Nunavut regional chapter representative to the Board of Directors.

John Cartwright also announced that Christina Warner and Ravi Joshi have been confirmed as Co-Executive Directors of the Council of Canadians. Their leadership for the past year has been remarkable. Executive Director, Molly Kane is still on long-term leave.

In conclusion, the chair noted that the Council of Canadians is now in its 36th year, and with 150,000 supporters based in communities, is one of the most influential national organizations working for our common good.

5. Report of the Co-Executive Directors

Ravi Joshi reported on the modernization of the organization by strengthening our practices of online work, meetings, and webinars, combined with systems upgrades.

Subsequent to approving a new membership structure in 2020, there has been significant growth with 3,975 members now across the country.

Staff also supported the Chapter Task force through their work. Their adopted recommendations – all 9 proposed - are being implemented throughout the whole organization. For example, the
Council has begun creating a new online community to facilitate chapter communication and collaboration.

The Council is also working on dismantling systemic racism to follow up on the motion voted by the Board in August 2020. Prairies-NWT regional chapters have already had 5 sessions on anti-racism work.

We are also continuing to build upon a strong and vibrant staff team. New staff have joined, while others have left. Ravi echoed John Cartwright in thanking the staff who have left the Council of Canadians.

**Christina Warner** reported on the political work of the Council and campaigns: chapter organizing, Climate Justice, Trade and Privatizations, Public Healthcare for all, Water Human Right, Alberta Beyond Coal and Green New Deal Communities.

With the support of campaigners and organizers chapters have been doing great work in their communities; meeting and addressing their local governments; mobilizing around politicians, organizing events and actions, and raising awareness and organizing for climate justice. Chapters have challenged all levels of governments in stopping the corporate capture of the pandemic on long-term care homes and Canada’s infrastructure.

Campaigners, organizers and chapters are continuing to push for universal healthcare, long-term care, Pharmacare and stopping corporations from bottling Canadian fresh water. They also working to expand Blue Communities across Canada.

Alberta chapters in coalition with the Alberta Environment Network, Indigenous and other partners were able to block the development of a coal mine on Grassy Mountain.

With the direct support of our campaigners to local organizers and movements, 16 communities are now Green Communities. Not all have Chapters, but supporters who share these goals. They are organizing local communities to identify and win municipal and regional policies that address social, economic, and environmental issues.

### 6. Finance – Treasurer’s Report

Board Treasurer Morna Ballantyne reported and presented the audited financial statements for 2020. It was a difficult year financially, ending in a deficit of just over $96,000. This amount would have been higher had it not been for budget adjustments due to Covid (eg. no travel), and the staff shifting to a 4-day week temporarily among other government pandemic-relief programs. However, assets and liabilities are in good position.

Ms. Ballantyne also reported on steps the board had taken to stabilize finances going forward, using a 3-year planning model.
MOTION:  It was moved and seconded that Council of Canadians members receive the 2020 Treasurer’s report /CARRIED.

MOTION:  It was moved and seconded that Council of Canadians members appoint Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP as the auditor for 2021-2022 /CARRIED.

7. Resolutions

Justine De Jaegher, chair of the Resolutions Committee, conducted the debate and votes on resolutions. To begin, Ms. De Jaegher thanked the committee members and staff who assisted in the preparation. She reviewed the process to date, which included categorizing resolutions as policy, action or campaign, and a democratic ranking of the submissions followed by an on-line town hall information meeting.

Resolution 2021-6  (Policy) Public funding and government support for next-generation nuclear reactors including small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs)

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians oppose all public funding and government support for next-generation nuclear reactors, including SMRs, and instead support investment in clean, sustainable renewable energy, efficiency and storage.

Be it further resolved that the Council of Canadians work with grassroots organizations to pressure governments to cease all public funding and government support for next-generation nuclear reactors and instead invest in renewable energy, efficiency and storage.

MOTION:  It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2021-6 “Public funding and government support for next-generation nuclear reactors including small modular nuclear reactors”/ MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 2021-7  (Policy) Reprocessing of High-Level Nuclear Waste/Irradiated Fuel in Canada

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians opposes any technologies and methods of spent (irradiated) fuel reprocessing, as well as commerce in, and transport or use of, spent fuel and extracted fissile materials, in Canada.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2021-7 “Reprocessing of High-Level Nuclear Waste/Irradiated Fuel in Canada”/ MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 2021-8  (Policy) Canada's Withdrawal from NATO
Therefore, be it resolved that in the interests of the true threat of climate change to our security the Council of Canadians adopt the policy of Canada's withdrawal from NATO.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2021-8 “Canada's Withdrawal from NATO”/ MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 2021-9 (Action) Advocate for a National Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians actively support Fair Vote Canada’s campaign for proportional representation in the next federal election and into the succeeding Parliament, including a call for a National Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform; and

Be it further resolved that this will be achieved by promoting the issue to our members, urging them in turn to raise this with candidates and Members of Parliament, and to take any and all appropriate action to push electoral reform back into the public spotlight.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2021-9 “Advocate for a National Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform”

AMENDMENT: It was moved and seconded to amend this resolution by removing “Fair Vote Canada’s campaign” and insert “the movement” after the word “support” and by inserting “supporting other existing campaigns such as Fair Vote Canada, as appropriate,” before the word “promoting” / AMENDMENT CARRIED

To now read:
Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians actively support the movement for proportional representation in the next federal election and into the succeeding Parliament, including a call for a National Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform; and

Be it further resolved that this will be achieved by supporting other existing campaigns such as Fair Vote Canada, as appropriate, promoting the issue to our members, urging them in turn to raise this with candidates and Members of Parliament, and to take any and all appropriate action to push electoral reform back into the public spotlight.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED.

Resolution 2021-10 (Action) Keep up the fight for Pharmacare

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council continue to mobilize alongside partners to push for a national public pharmacare program.
MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2021-10 “Keep up the fight for Pharmacare.”

AMENDMENT: It was moved and seconded to amend this resolution by adding “dental care.”/ AMENDMENT DEFEATED

AMENDMENT: It was moved and seconded to amend this resolution by adding: “including dental care as part of its federal election strategy.” / AMENDMENT CARRIED

To now read:
Therefore, be it resolved that the Council continue to mobilize alongside partners to push for a national public pharmacare program, including dental care as part of its federal election strategy.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED.

Resolution 2021-12 (Campaign) Poverty and Wealth Gap Reduction “Allyship Resolution”

Therefore, be it resolved that in line with our Strategic Plan and the Green New Deal Guide (7), the Council of Canadians, at the national, regional, chapter, and working group levels, will establish a campaign to support poverty reduction allyship work, including but not limited to 1) a Universal Basic Income that will not deplete or replace any social safety nets already functioning in the provinces and territories, 2) fair, equitable taxation including taxes specific to the ultra-wealthy, and 3) monetary reform such as returning to the Bank of Canada for interest-free loans to finance long term government investments. This work will be aimed at dismantling structural inequities that create and maintain the wealth gap, educating the public, and ultimately regulating extreme wealth accumulation to steward more equitable distribution of wealth.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2021-12 “Poverty and Wealth Gap Reduction “Allyship Resolution”

AMENDMENT: It was moved and seconded to amend this resolution by replacing “Universal Basic Income” with “Universal Basic Security Program” / AMENDMENT CARRIED

To now read:
Therefore, be it resolved that in line with our Strategic Plan and the Green New Deal Guide (7), the Council of Canadians, at the national, regional, chapter, and working group levels, will establish a campaign to support poverty reduction allyship work, including but not limited to 1) a Universal income security program that will not deplete or replace any social safety nets already functioning in the provinces and territories, 2) fair, equitable taxation including taxes specific to the ultra-wealthy, and 3) monetary reform such as returning to the Bank of Canada for interest-free loans to finance long term government investments. This work will be aimed at dismantling
structure inequities that create and maintain the wealth gap, educating the public, and ultimately regulating extreme wealth accumulation to steward more equitable distribution of wealth.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED.

Resolution 2021-13  (Campaign) Shut Down Coal

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council learn from the successful Alberta Beyond Coal initiative and also address thermal coal operations and exports by campaigning across Canada to shut down all coal-powered electricity generating operations.

MOTION:  It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2021-13 “Shut Down Coal.”

AMENDMENT:  It was moved and seconded to amend this resolution by removing the word “thermal” / AMENDMENT CARRIED

To now read:
Therefore, be it resolved that the Council learn from the successful Alberta Beyond Coal initiative and also address thermal coal operations and exports by campaigning across Canada to shut down all coal-powered electricity generating operations.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED.

Resolution 2021-14  (Campaign) Guaranteed annual income to maintain a fair and equitable standard of living for all Canadians

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians undertake to actively support, promote and engage in a campaign for a guaranteed annual income to maintain a fair and equitable standard of living for all Canadians.

MOTION:  It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2021-14 “Guaranteed annual income to maintain a fair and equitable standard of living for all Canadians”/ MOTION CARRIED.

Outstanding Resolutions

MOTION:  It was moved and seconded to refer all outstanding resolutions to the incoming National Executive Board. / MOTION CARRIED

Summary of resolutions referred:
- 2021-11  LNG project for Goldboro, NS
- 2021-15  Green New Deal Communities
8. Report of the Nominating Committee and Board Elections

Report of the Nominating Committee: Diwa Marcelino assumed the chair and explained that the committee began in April to establish a board nominations and elections process.

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.

For the eight vacant positions, five nominations were received, and all were already Board of Directors. The following were each acclaimed for a 2-year term:

- Nita Grass
- Joe Mihevc
- Navjeet Sidhu
- Deedee Slye
- Steven Staples

Per Council of Canadians by-laws, the three vacant positions were referred to the Board of Directors to fill by appointment.

The recommendation from the Nominating Committee was to convert the Nominating Committee into a Standing Committee. This would allow time to fulfill the outreach process, and to engage chapters, board, and Council of Canadians members in the process.

Also, the Council’s bylaws commit the Nominating Committee to strengthen diversity and inclusion on the Board by improving the representation from equity seeking groups and identifying barriers that may prevent our Board from reflecting the diversity of Canada. This objective requires time and a framework.

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

**MOTION #1:**

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors establish a standing Nominating Committee so that the work of searching for board candidates can begin in a timely way.

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

**MOTION #2:**
Be it resolved that all by-laws, policies and practices related to the recruitment process, vetting and elections of board candidates be reviewed by the standing Nominating Committee to identify any barriers to achieving directives set out in the August 2020 resolution “The Council and Systemic Racism.”

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

Diwa Marcelino thanked other committee member and staff.

Conclusion

John Cartwright resumed the chair and thanked all staff who helped make this AMM work so well, and also thanked all members for participating.

He expressed a special appreciation to outing board members, Morna Ballantyne, Ron East, Lynn Armstrong, Laila Malik and Justine De Jaegher, and those who remain on the board for all their continued work.

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