

Minutes will be approved at the 2024 AMM

Opening welcome, territorial acknowledgement

The meeting began with an overview of the Zoom functions that will be used during the meeting as well as the electronic voting process.

The Annual Meeting of Members was called to order at 1:00p ET with John Cartwright in the Chair, who welcomed Council of Canadians members and offered a territorial acknowledgement, recognizing that all were joining from land stewarded for generations by Indigenous peoples, long impacted by policies of expulsion that often are still in existence, and which impact our relationships and ability to meet our goals, together. In this context, J. Cartwright reflected on the importance of ongoing reconciliation work throughout the Council's collective efforts.

Agenda review & logistics

MOTION, moved and seconded: Be it resolved to amend to move the nominations committee report after the treasurer report. /CARRIED

MOTION, moved and seconded: To adopt the agenda as amended. /CARRIED

MOTION, moved and seconded: Be it resolved that the Council of Canadians members adopt the Rules of Order and Conduct for the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members. /CARRIED

MOTION, moved and seconded: Be it resolved that Council of Canadians members adopt the June 11, 2022, Annual Meeting of Members minutes. /CARRIED

Report of the Board Chair

Chair John Cartwright thanked the members and staff who work for the Council and committee members contributing to the success of the AMM.

J. Cartwright noted that the recent years had been difficult for many Canadians because of the increase in cost of living although corporate profits were at an all-time high, ongoing war in Ukraine, extreme weather events, and the impacts of conservative governments. All while we are still fighting for substantive responses to the climate crisis.

J. Cartwright also described important progressive victories made within the context of the Liberal/NDP Supply and Confidence Agreement, including promises for pharmacare. He also described the success of the Council's pharmacare town halls across the country.

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J. Cartwright celebrated the 38 years the Council has taken on this work – defending the commons, fight privatization, Canadian sovereignty. He closed in thanks for the work of staff, activists across the country. Thanking outgoing board members Nav, Marilyn Hay, Deedee. Thanked Meena P as she stepped down from position.

Report of the Co-Executive Directors

Co-Executive Directors (Co-EDs) Ravi Joshi and Robin Tress provided an overview of organizational work and changes in the period since the 2022 AMM. Throughout, the Council's community was still impacted by COVID, fatigue and family needs, and systemic oppression with particular notice of anti-trans activity. Climate crises also impact many in new and substantive ways. In the midst of all of this, the commitments of the Council community members were ongoing and strong.

The Co-EDs welcomed incoming staff, including Corey Grist, Wendy Lerat, and Wayne Adams. He thanked those who had recently or would soon depart, including those shifting into new roles: Meena Peruvemba, Meena Agarwal, Daniella Carpio, Genvieve Charet, Angela Giles, Alex Birrell, Robin Tress.

The Co-EDs introduced the Council's strategic plan, a participatory framework allowing for adjustments when contexts change and demand new decisions. The plan roots the Council in a unique role in Canadian society, and influences plans so that this unique role is strengthened. They noted that campaign planning more deeply engaged staff, board, and chapters earlier and more thoroughly than was the practice in the past.

The Co-EDs offered highlights from 3 core national campaigns:

- **Pharmacare Now:** The Council hosted 16 town halls across the country and achieved substantial media coverage. Hundreds have committed to action post-town halls. A private members bill from the NDP was introduced days before the AMM.
- **Just Transition:** Built on the 2-year work of the Flood Parliament campaign, the Council engaged over 150 leaders across the country who consistently pressured their MPs, resulting in 48 MPs committing to tabling the Council's just transition petition, 28 of whom had already done so. The campaign initially targeted liberal back-benchers, and was shifting to target parliamentary committee members because of the advancing legislative context. Thursday before the AMM, the Liberal government tabled expected just transition legislation: The Sustainable Jobs Act, which included strong labour participation but also supports false green solutions.
- **Water:** Through our World Water Day campaign, we continue to fight to end boil water advisories on First Nations reserves. The Council reached out to thousands of school children to raise awareness and invite their advocacy. Students drew their own water drops, on which they included messages to Prime Minister Trudeau to hold him accountable to his

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promise to end the advisories. The No Water to Waste Campaign has also reached 35,000 people, providing new base of support to engage them in advocacy. Multiple new Blue Communities were founded in the year.

The Co-EDs celebrated the individuals who started working with the Council through these campaigns, and the chapters across the country who consistently move forward our collective priorities as leaders in their communities. They described the emphasis the Council has placed on a rigorous activist cycle, recruiting new members through actions focused on local, community, neighbour-to-neighbour activities.

The Co-EDs introduced the goals and priorities for the coming year:

- Ensure the Sustainable Jobs Act is passed,
- Turn attention to the role the financial sector plays in the climate crisis.
- Fight the private sector's increasing hold on health care across the country.
- End water advisories and build a strong Canada Water Agency.
- Challenge political discouragement by engaging people in their communities

The Co-EDs closed by thanking staff, chapters, board members who make this work and organization thrive.

Report of the Governance Committee

Tara Seucharan introduced the interim report from the committee. Committee composition includes representatives from the following groups:

- 3 at-large members: Marilyn Keddy, Richard Goodbrand (co-facilitator), and one vacant seat
- 1 Bargaining Unit Representative: Nikolas Barry-Shaw
- 1 member of the management team: temporarily Angela Giles while Charlotte Kiddell is on leave
- 2 Board members: Tara Seucharan (co-facilitator) and Bianca Mugenyi

The Committee's mandate includes addressing the following priorities: conflict resolution, board/staff relations, and checking in with all parts of the organization as this work continues. T. Seucharan invited members to consider coming forward as at-large members of the committee.

Report of the Chapter Handbook Committee

Avril Torrence reported on the work of the committee, which included Marion Moore (South Shore Chapter), Norah Fraser (London Chapter), Angela Giles (Staff), and Genevieve Charet (staff).

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A. Torrence noted that the committee was established after the 2021 Chapter Task Force report recommended handbook revision. After two years of work, we are excited to launch a new handbook in electronic format which can be used as a living document that can be updated as needed.

A. Torrence described the new handbook's priorities:

- focus on the practical how-tos of chapter operations, while not losing sight of the political and social goals chapters operate within,
- focus on chapter individuality, balanced with standardized needs for chapters across the country; and,
- consistency of tone and style throughout the document to allow for ease of use.

MOTION, moved and seconded: Be it resolved that the Council of Canadians members receive the report of the Chapter Handbook Committee. /CARRIED

Treasurer Report (Navjeet Sidhu, Board Treasurer)

Board Treasurer Navjeet Sidhu reported and presented the audited financial statements for 2022. As in previous years, the auditor has added a qualifying note to the statements, explain that the membership and contribution revenues cannot be verified satisfactorily, a typical note for non-profit organizations whose revenue largely comes from individual donations.

Total assets for the organization went from \$2.3 million in 2021 to \$1.79 million in 2022. N. Sidhu noted major changes were due to changes in the organization's reserves policies and drew attention to Note 4 in the statements, which clarifies a significant part of the decrease is directly related to resolving a lawsuit in 2021. N. Sidhu emphasized that full board was fully briefed on and participated in lawsuit-related decisions.

Operational revenues for 2022 reached \$3.58 million, a 30% decrease from the prior year because 2021 included generous bequest of \$1.2 million. Other changes included a reduction in income from foundation grants tied to the Blue Planet Project, which the organization supports administratively.

Expenses also increased over 2021 amounts, in part because of costs related to an in-person staff and board meeting in Ottawa and hiring into previously vacant positions to ensure a full-staff complement. The organization has increased investments into donor acquisition to boost our monthly donor base, which has declined over the years and needed adjustment for long-term sustainability.

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Overall the organization carried a \$587,000 deficit, mostly because of lawsuit settlement. N. Sidhu noted that management and the board are taking steps to address shortfalls, while recognizing the difficult fundraising environment all non-profits are experiencing.

MOTION, moved and seconded: Be it resolved that Council of Canadians members receive the 2023 financial report. /CARRIED

MOTION, moved and seconded: Be it resolved that Council of Canadians members appoint Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP as the auditor for 2023/2024. /CARRIED

Report of the Nominating Committee – Election Results

Diwa Marcelino, Nominating Committee chair presented the report from Treaty 1 territory. Marilyn Keddy and Joey Hartman were also members of the committee. D. Marcelino explained that there were five candidates nominated for the five vacant director-at-large positions, all of whom were eligible to stand. As such, the five candidates are acclaimed for a two-year term. The nominating committee hosted an At-Large Candidates forum on May 25, 2023.

D. Marcelino thanked outgoing board members Deedee Slye, Navjeet Sidhu, and Marilyn Hay.

He welcomed new and returning board members Leanne MacMillan, Marie Dolcetti-Koros, Steve Staples, Nita Grass, and Joe Mihevc.

Chairperson J. Cartwright added that two new Regional Representatives to the board will also join for two-year terms after being acclaimed to the positions: Christie McNabb as Regional Representative for the ON-QC region, and Drena McCormack as Regional Representative for the Pacific Region.

MOTION, moved and second: Be it resolved that Council of Canadians members receive the 2023 report of the Nominating Committee. /CARRIED

Resolutions

Joey Hartman, chair of Resolutions Committee, conducted the debate and votes on resolutions. to begin, J. Hartman 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 informational meeting. This year, committee members also added a short comment on submissions providing their analysis as to the level of resourcing that would be necessary to carry out the work if passed and worked closely with submitters to consider any adjustments to the resolutions on category or clarity.

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J. Hartman thanked the resolutions committee, which also included Leo Chevery, David Condon, Deedee Slye, David Szollosy, and Angela Giles.

Resolution 2023-8 (Policy): Renewable Energy Project Evaluation

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council and Chapters, when acting on concerns related to energy, including **oil and gas, nuclear, geothermal**, wind and solar projects and rare earth mineral extraction, consider the following:

- a) Has there been a full federal (and where necessary provincial) government assessment of the environmental impacts of projects on waterways, air, protected habitats, Species at Risk and conservation areas?
- b) Has full cost accounting (“true cost”) been made of long term social and environmental impacts of the project, including costs of development to local communities, municipalities and provinces e.g. road-building and repair, appropriation of land, camps of construction workers, government subsidies to companies?
- c) Does the project uphold the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to Free, Prior and Informed Consent?
- d) Is there meaningful consultation with affected communities including a cost benefit analysis by community members?
- e) Is it part of a comprehensive plan for energy self-sufficiency or corporate profit? Does it support opportunities for local community development and ownership? Is the energy for domestic use or export?
- f) Are there adequate setbacks? Is the scale of the project appropriate?
- g) Are there alternatives to intensive resource extraction?

AMENDMENT, moved and seconded: After the word “including,” to add “oil and gas, nuclear, geothermal,”. /CARRIED

MOTION, moved and seconded: to adopt Resolution 2023-8 as amended. /CARRIED

Resolution 2023-9 (Policy): Code of Conduct for Members

Therefore be it resolved that this 2023 Annual Meeting recommends to the Board that the following be our Code of Conduct for members:

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- Members listen to each other with the intention to understand each other and approach interactions with people in our Chapters, in our local communities and the Council community with curiosity and an interest in building common understanding, open communication, good faith, honesty, transparency and openness;
- Members refrain from harassment, discrimination, intimidation, exploitation or abuse of chapter members, supporters, members, and staff. These behaviours are unacceptable and will not be tolerated;
- Members are to take responsibility for their actions and words. We expect that people will behave respectfully toward each other even when conflict is present;
- Members are to refrain from remarks, actions, and behaviours that replicate systems of sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, ableism, and all other systems of oppression and exclusion;
- Members are to avoid conflicts of interest by abiding by any and all conflict of interest rules;
- Members must protect any information that might be deemed confidential, including contact information of members or other personal information;
- Members must clearly articulate the Council of Canadians chapter they represent as appropriate.

MOTION, moved and seconded: to adopt Resolution 2023-9. /CARRIED

Resolution 2023-10 (Policy): Conflict - Accountability

Therefore be it resolved that this Annual Meeting requests that the Board of Directors direct the Governance Committee to develop a clear governance policy process (which clearly does not impact any negotiated agreement between the Board and our staff or management) by which such accountability is to be determined and decided.

MOTION, moved and seconded: to adopt Resolution 2023-10. /CARRIED

Resolution 2023-11 (Action): Independent, Accountable Nuclear Industry “Crown” Regulator

Therefore be it resolved the Council establish an action plan to win establishment of an independent nuclear industry regulatory agency that is truly arms-length from government and industry.

MOTION, moved and seconded: to adopt Resolution 2023-11. /CARRIED

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Resolution 2023-12 (Action): Wireless Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) on Human Health and the Environment

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of Canadians (COC) share information about electromagnetic radiation; and

Be it further resolved that the COC engage the federal government, especially the ministries of Industry, Science and Economic Development, Health Canada, and Environment Canada to:

- Enact a moratorium on new 5G installations until an updated risk assessment can be completed by an independent and multidisciplinary panel
- Require Health Canada’s Radiation Protection Bureau to monitor and publish ambient levels of EMR , especially in cities, towns and areas with many cell towers and antennas, close to populations
- Provide easily- accessed public information on safety tips to reduce exposures, especially to children and pregnant people.
- Amend regulations to permit local ordinances that provide residents with pre-installation information, and a greater say in the siting of cell network antennas, as in this Appeal to the government of Canada, signed by more than 20,000 Canadians:
<http://c4st.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Suspend-5G-Canada-Appeal.FINAL.ENG-2.pdf>
- Prioritize safe and fast fibre optics

MOTION, moved and seconded: to adopt Resolution 2023-12. /DEFEATED

Resolution 2023-13 (Campaign): Stop Healthcare Privatization

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of Canadians mobilize members, supporters and Chapters to work with Health Coalitions and allies in every community to defeat any attempt to privatize our public healthcare system, and to demand that the Federal government put strict requirements for funding to ensure public accountability and delivery of healthcare in Canada.

MOTION, moved and seconded: to adopt Resolution 2023-13. /CARRIED

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Resolution 2023-14 (Campaign): Pharmacare Campaign

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of Canadians mobilize around the demand for a public universal pharmacare program, working with the Canadian Health Coalition and allies in every community and across generations to build the political pressure needed to win this vital program.

MOTION, moved and seconded: to adopt Resolution 2023-14. /CARRIED

Resolution 2023-15 (Bylaw & Governance): Code of Conduct for Members of the Council of Canadians – S. 2.07

Therefore be it resolved that By-Laws of the Council of Canadians, Section 2.07 Governance Policies be amended by addition of “and members” immediately following “code of conduct of board members”

MOTION, moved and seconded: to adopt Resolution 2023-15. /CARRIED

Resolution 2023-16 (Bylaw & Governance): Board Term Limits S. 5.06

Therefore Be It Resolved that Article 5.06 (2) be amended to delete the transitional period and also to allow a partial term of under twelve (12) months to be disregarded as a “Term” for the purposes of a maximum three (3) consecutive terms, as follows:

5.06 Terms and Maximum Commitment of Board

- (1) Directors shall be elected, in rotation, to hold office for a term of two (2) years.
- (2) ~~Effective the 2024 annual meeting, a~~All directors at large and regional directors are subject to the following maximum commitments:
 - a) **a director may be elected for up to three (3) consecutive terms, with the exception of directors elected in a by-election or appointed to the board pursuant to Article 5.07, whose first term shall not be counted towards this maximum if served for twelve (12) months or less; and**
 - b) upon concluding three (3) consecutive terms, a director may not serve on the board for a period of two (2) years, following which the director may be elected up to three (3) consecutive terms.
- (3) The number of non-consecutive terms to which a member may be elected as a director is not limited.

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5.07 Board Vacancies and Appointment

- (1) If a regional representative director position becomes vacant for any reason on the board, the vacancy shall be filled by a by-election within the applicable region.
- (2) A regional representative director position is deemed vacant if that director discontinues their membership in a chapter or if their chapter becomes inactive.
(Also see 5.03 (1)(d))
- (3) If a director at large position becomes vacant for any reason or the maximum number of directors are not elected by the members, the sitting directors may appoint director(s) to fill such vacancy by majority vote.
 - a) Directors appointed in this manner shall serve until the next annual meeting of the members.
 - b) The board may only be composed of up to one-third (1/3) of the directors appointed in this manner at any time.

MOTION, moved and seconded: to adopt Resolution 2023-16. /CARRIED

Closing remarks

Chair John Cartwright thanked participants for joining and all for contributing to the resolutions process. John thanked staff for the quality of the event. J. Cartwright recognized the good work of chapters throughout COVID and the following shifts in organizing. He closed with hope that we can have clear wins, including pharmacare, in partnership with allies. He spoke to the necessity of this ongoing work to address frustration among younger generations as many face increasing economic difficulties. He closed by calling all to continue the work of the Council as a vehicle for creating a better Canada.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm ET.