

**Council of Canadians  
Annual Meeting of Members (AMM)  
Saturday, June 11, 2022  
1:10 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. EDT**

**DRAFT**

***“Minutes will be approved at the 2023 AMM”***

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 1:10 p.m. (Eastern) with John Cartwright in the Chair, who welcomed Council of Canadians members from sea-to-sea-to-sea. John noted that he is speaking from the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and that, across the country, we are speaking from treaty territories and unceded land.

## **1. Agenda**

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda for the 2022 Annual Meeting of Members /CARRIED.**

## **2. Report of the Board Chair**

Chair John Cartwright provided an overview of relevant events from the previous year, including the discovery of unmarked graves in residential schools across the country, the murder of a Muslim family in London (Ontario), the 2021 federal election, the climate emergency and COP26, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Freedom Convoy, as well as a slew of regressive policies and laws being implemented in the United States. He noted that in response, the Council, along with community leaders, faith leaders, labour unions and student activists, formed the Community Solidarity Project. The resources and connections made during the project will continue to be available for progressive movements in Canada.

John also spoke of the war in Ukraine, noting that the Council condemned the invasion and the loss of human life. He also spoke of the implications of the war, notably the potential of a nuclear threat, the role of NATO, as well as the rise of oil prices, food prices and shortages. The war has caused a massive setback for the world and it is time to step up despite the uncertainty.

John then turned his attention to the challenges ahead. He remarked that Pierre Poilievre has been gaining momentum within the political right and is likely to become the leader of the Conservative Party. With the rise of conservative rhetoric across the country, there are continued calls for an end to public programs which have helped thousands during the pandemic, provincial governments are dismantling climate change programs as well as undermining public healthcare through privatization and other means. The rise of global capitalism is leading to a tremendous concentration of wealth and power, which makes the Council’s slogan, “People. Planet.

Democracy.”, all the more relevant today. The Council and its chapters and supporters have a unique role in challenging inequities borne out of corporate influence and capture.

John noted that chapters and supporters have done incredible work in areas such as trade, water, climate and reconciliation. For example, dozens of meetings were held with MPs across the country, demanding a Just Transition legislation. Also, the TRIPS waiver has been covered extensively in the media.

COVID has brought on new challenges for chapters and local organizing, and John thanked staff, supporters and chapter members for their crucial work. He noted that it is time to take the anger that people have over injustices and direct it towards concrete solutions instead of division and hate.

John thanked outgoing Board members Marilyn Keddy and Julian Tennant-Riddell for their incredible work and contributions. He also welcomed Charlotte Kiddell as Director of Development and thanked all staff for their immensely important work across the country.

John ended on this note: “As we always say, success and looking for a better world could never happen without all of you.”

### **3. Report of the Co-Executive Directors**

**Ravi Joshi** first recognized that many among staff, supporters, members and chapters are continuing to deal with the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and extends his appreciation for everyone’s involvement and continued engagement with the work of the Council.

Ravi indicated that the key focus of the past year has been on training, campaign planning, strategic planning, growing the fundraising program, and addressing issues of equity, diversity and gender diversity within the organization. He thanked departing staff for their contributions to the Council: Molly Kane, AJ Klein, Robin Tress and Meera Karunanathan. He also welcomed new staff who have joined the team or have moved into new roles: Angela Giles as Director of Organizing, Mark Calzavara as Water Campaigner, Vi Bui as Regional Organizer for Ontario, Charlotte Kiddell as Director of Development, Nik Barry-Shaw as Trade and Privatization Campaigner, as well as Diwa Marcelino, WeiChun Kua and Anne Lagacé-Dowson who were all involved with the Community Solidarity Project.

Over the past year, the Council has continued to improve upon its existing internal processes at the staff level as well as at the chapter level. Some of the work has included improvements to the communications tool, refreshing the website and launching the Tru.net platform. The Council has also made major improvements to its bookkeeping practices and made significant investments in attracting and retaining new donors. As well, since its launch in 2020, the new membership structure has seen continual growth and there are now 4,912 voting members.

Ravi also noted that the Canadian Perspectives magazine was re-launched with new branding. The design agency who helped with the magazine, Field Trip & Co., won an award from the Association of Registered Graphic Designers for the fall edition of Canadian Perspectives.

**Christina Warner** reported on the political work and campaigns of the Council, including the 2021 federal election, a Just Transition, the People's Vaccine, No Water to Waste, the Community Solidarity Project, chapter organizing around nuclear waste facilities, and strategic planning.

During the 2021 federal election, the Council developed resources to help members and chapters speak directly to candidates in their riding – focusing on 6 big issues (long-term care, climate, water, indigenous rights, electoral reform and role of big pharma in our democracy).

Members across the country saw many victories when it came to a just transition this year. Chapters and members across the country successfully pressed 43 MPs to commit to tabling a petition in Parliament asking for a Just Transition Act. This legislation would address the intersecting crises of climate, the economy and social inequality. Twenty-five (25) of those MPs have already done so, and the Council is supporting chapters and members hold the remaining MPs accountable. Chapters and members also organized 50 actions across the country, gathering outside decision-maker offices to ask for a Just Transition Act. This was one of the first times members met in person since the pandemic began and many expressed how energizing it was to see each other in person. Also, the Council has been convening national and regional organizations to align and strengthen our collective work for a just transition.

In addition, members in Nova-Scotia celebrated the effects of the end of off-shore drilling in NS, continued to fight liquified natural gas (LNG) as a false solution to climate change, and supported Indigenous communities in their fight to stop the Alton Gas Project in N.S. As a result, they helped ensure Pieridae Energy did not receive \$1 billion from the federal government to build an LNG plant on the East Coast.

The Council continues to work with Gordon Laxer to expose ways that big foreign oil companies work through CAPP to shape Canada's climate and energy policies, stalling meaningful action.

The Council and allies have been pushing to waive intellectual property rights related to the COVID-19 vaccines which allow a few companies to control the vaccine and related technologies. With 2.7 billion people across the world who still don't have access to the vaccine, the adoption of the TRIPS Waiver would ensure that countries are able to manufacture and distribute the vaccine equitably. The Council has also continued to work with chapters to secure universal pharmacare in Canada.

In support of the No Water to Waste campaign, the Council delivered over 1,600 water drop petitions from school children across the country asking the government to honour its commitment to address the water crises too many First Nations continue to live under. The Council also celebrated three new Blue Communities: London (ON), North Grenville (ON), and

Huron College (ON). The Council also continued to push for an effective water agency at the federal level.

Chapters continue to lead the Council's response to the government nuclear waste policy, which is captured by the nuclear waste industry through formal and informal participation and bodies intended to keep that same industry to accountable. Chapters organized and built solidarity with Indigenous communities near potential waste sites to push back on corporate influence that could jeopardize health for generations.

Inspired by front-line activism during the so-called Freedom Convoy, the Council developed a website and other resources fighting against the narratives of division and hate, which will continue to be available for grassroots organizers aiming to challenge hateful rhetoric within their communities.

Throughout the pandemic, chapters and grassroots organizers have continued to grow their political reach by adopting virtual organizing, expanding their skillset, finding ways to reach out to one another and to new people, and continuing to work on local, regional and national political goals at a time when society said "not now".

Finally, Christina spoke of the strategic planning process, to be finalized this fall. The Council is working on a strategic framework that will guide organizational decisions over the coming years. This will involve revisiting the mission and vision of the Council and clarifying what the Council brings to the larger progressive movement in Canada. This in turn will allow the Council to identify the priorities that will strengthen its role within the progressive movement and as a home for political action in the country. The Council will also be placing a greater emphasis on bringing in new people to the organization.

#### **4. Adopt the Rules of Conduct for the AMM**

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the Rules of Conduct for the 2022 Annual Meeting of Members /CARRIED.**

#### **5. Motion to Adopt Minutes of 2021 AMM**

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the minutes of the June 20, 2021, AMM /CARRIED.**

#### **6. Finance – Treasurer's Report**

Board Treasurer Navjeet Sidhu reported and presented the audited financial statements for 2021. As in previous years, the auditor has added a qualified note to the audited financial statement,

explaining that the membership and contribution revenues cannot be verified satisfactorily, something that is common among non-profit organizations.

Following a recommendation made by the auditor in 2020, the Board prioritized establishing an emergency reserve fund. The reserve fund now totals \$1.13 million and total assets for the organization went from close to \$600,000 in 2020 to over \$2 million in 2021. This was made possible due in part to a generous bequest.

The Council operating revenues increased this year, due in part to the generous bequest mentioned above. There was a slight decrease in memberships and contributions. The operating expenses were reduced due to some positions being vacant for part of the year and conferences and meetings occurring online instead of in person. In 2021, the Council has achieved a \$1.47 million surplus.

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded that Council of Canadians members receive the 2022 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 2022-2023 /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 2022-6 (Policy) A Policy Resolution on National Health Care**

**Therefore, be it resolved that** the Council of Canadians continue to engage members, chapters, and supporters to demand improvements to our National Health Care, *inclusive of universal mental health services*, to resist privatization of services and private control of long-term care *and homecare*, to campaign for an early introduction of single-payer pharmacare, to support staff across the health care system, and to strategically build political power to mobilize for these important changes.

**AMENDMENT: It was moved and seconded to add "and homecare" after "long-term care" / CARRIED**

**AMENDMENT: It was moved and seconded to add "inclusive of mental health services," after "our National Health Care" / CARRIED**

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 2022-6, as amended / CARRIED**

**Resolution 2022-9 (Action) A Just Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Be it resolved that** the Council of Canadians raise concerns about the effects of extreme increases in corporate profits on affordability for both households and governments by urging the federal government to:

- Implement an excess profits tax by adding 15% tax on companies with more than \$10 million higher profit margins than normal.
- Close egregious corporate tax loopholes: first by the deduction of interest expenses that should be limited to 20% of gross profits: second, set a \$1 million cap on executive salary deductions: third, eliminate the preferential tax treatment of capital gains.
- Raise the corporate income tax rate, by increasing the corporate tax rate to 20%.
- Improve corporate financial transparency by, speeding up the implementation of the publicly-accessible Beneficial Ownership Registry.

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 2022-9 / CARRIED**

**Resolution 2022-10 (Campaigns) A Campaign Resolution on the Climate Emergency**

**Therefore, be it resolved that** the Council of Canadians continue to prioritize the climate emergency among its campaigns; and

*Be it further resolved that the Council of Canadians stand in solidarity with, and endorse, the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; and*

**Be it further resolved that** the Council's climate emergency work focus on:

- An effective just transition strategy encompassing every sector of the economy, with worker representatives at the table as plans to wind down ~~the oil and gas sectors~~ *the extraction and burning of fossil fuels and transition the energy fossil fuel industry* and decarbonize the entire economy are designed and implemented;
- *Establishment of new public institutions to support affected workers and communities through the transition, expand public ownership of services and utilities across the economy, and oversee and implement the transition;*
- Public funding for sustainable green energy alternatives that provide stable and well paid jobs with a corresponding elimination of fossil fuels and nuclear power;
- Reallocation of pension fund investments for public sector plans and CPP to clean energy and other investments for the common good;
- Respect for Indigenous rights and sovereignty throughout this transition by including Indigenous peoples at every step of design and implementation; and
- Inclusion of all communities impacted by the transition.

**AMENDMENT: It was moved and seconded to add the following as a second clause: “Be it further resolved that the Council of Canadians stand in solidarity with, and endorse, the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; and” / CARRIED**

**AMENDMENT:** It was moved and seconded to add the following as a second bullet: *“Establishment of new public institutions to support affected workers and communities through the transition, expand public ownership of services and utilities across the economy, and oversee and implement the transition;”* / **CARRIED**

**AMENDMENT:** It was moved and seconded to strike “and nuclear power” from the third bullet / **DEFEATED**

**AMENDMENT:** It was moved and seconded to strike “the oil and gas sectors” and replace with “the burning of fossil fuels and transition the energy industry” in the first bullet / **CARRIED**

**AMENDMENT:** It was moved and seconded to add “extraction and” before “burning fossil fuels” in the first bullet / **CARRIED**

**AMENDMENT:** It was moved and seconded to strike “energy” and replace it with “fossil fuels” in the first bullet / **CARRIED**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 2022-10, as amended / **CARRIED**

## **8. Report of the Nominating Committee and Board Elections**

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** Marilyn Keddy assumed the chair and explained that for the 7 vacant positions, 11 nominations were received. Nine of those met the eligibility criteria to stand for election. The nomination period opened on April 20 and closed on May 8. Two candidates have since rescinded their nomination, resulting in 7 candidates for 7 positions.

Consistent with the Council’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, the nominating committee endeavoured to ensure that the final list of candidates are diverse and reflect the vision, mission and values of the Council.

The following have been acclaimed for a 2-year term:

- John Cartwright
- Lily Chang
- Joey Hartman
- Lorraine Hewlett
- Diwa Marcelino
- Bianca Mugenyi
- Tara Seucharan

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded to accept the 2022 report of the Nominating Committee /**CARRIED.**

Marilyn Keddy thanked all individuals who put their name forward to sit on the Board of Directors as well as the nominating committee for their work.

### **7. Resolutions (continued)**

#### **Resolution 2022-11 (Campaigns) The People's Medicine Campaign**

**Therefore, be it resolved that** the Council work with its allies to comprehensively map and expose the corrupting influence of Big Pharma in our society; and

**Be it further resolved that** the Council through its staff expand its campaign on pharmacare to challenge the agenda of Big Pharma more comprehensively, via a "People's Lobby" to fight for affordable medicines at home, alongside those fighting for the same goals abroad (e.g. the People's Vaccine).

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 2022-11 / CARRIED**

#### **Resolution 2022-18 (Bylaw) A resolution on conscientious banking**

**Therefore, be it resolved that** the Council of Canadians move its accounts from private banks to credit unions.

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 2022-18 / CARRIED**

#### **Resolution 2022-12 (Campaigns) To establish a municipal water body management bylaw**

**Therefore, be it resolved that** the Council urge municipalities to enact WATER BODY MANAGEMENT BYLAWS, consistent with relevant provincial and federal legislation, to be used, starting at the earliest stages of land use planning and development, to manage activities on, in, or near all water bodies within the municipalities jurisdictions.

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 2022-12 / CARRIED**

### **Outstanding Resolutions**

#### **The following resolutions are referred to the Board of Directors:**

- 2022-7: A Remedy for Developed-Funded Politics
- 2022-8: A Policy Resolution on Canadian Military Spending
- 2022-13: A resolution on Carbon Capture and Storage technology
- 2022-14: NATO Resolution
- 2022-15: Parliamentary Committees Monitoring Project
- 2022-16: Public Funding to the Nuclear Industry and its Regulatory Structure
- 2022-17: A Campaign Resolution on Community Solidarity



**Conclusion**

John Cartwright closed the meeting by thanking the staff, chapters, members and supporters for their hard work throughout the past year and for taking part in this important process helping guide the work of the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. ET.