

**Canadian Association of Midwives
Association Canadienne des sages-femmes**

**Annual General Meeting of Members
Draft Minutes**

**Thursday, June 1st, 2023, 2:00-4:00 pm Eastern Time
Virtual Event**

Present: 30 members (refer to attendance list)

1. Welcome

The 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of members was called to order by Chair Alix Bacon, CAM/ACSF President at 2:00 pm ET.

2. Attendance and Verification of Quorum

At least two-thirds of the member's associations are present. *Quorum confirmed.*

3. Adoption of the 2023 AGM Agenda

The President introduced the members of the Executive.

Presentation of the Executive Board Members:

1. President: Alix Bacon
2. Vice-President: Elizabeth Brandeis
3. NCIM Co-Chair: Alisha Julian Reid
4. Treasurer: Judy DeFreitas
5. President-Elect: CJ Blennerhassett
6. Secretary: Trish Langley Frempong

2023-1-AGM: MOTION to adopt the 2023 AGM agenda moved by **Jennifer Nguyen** seconded by **Kayla Danielle**.

In favour (100%). *MOTION carried.*

4. Adoption of 2022 AGM Minutes

Members are given a moment to review the 2022 AGM draft minutes.

2023-2-AGM: MOTION to adopt the 2022 AGM minutes moved by **Maha Maryam** and seconded by **Sandra Pullin**.

In favour (100%). *MOTION Carried.*

5. Presentation of the 2022 Annual Report

5.1. CAM/ACSF Report (CAM/ACSF President)

The CAM/ACSF report was presented by CAM President Alix Bacon and CAM Executive Director Tonia Occhionero.

CAM/ACSF leadership presented Updated information on global midwifery, including recent statistics from the Women and Global Health report was shared. This provided a

comprehensive overview of the current situation and challenges faced by midwives worldwide.

Highlights included the strategy employed by NCIM centers on association strengthening, promoting excellence, and advocacy, and the priorities to increase funding for indigenous midwifery, along with active engagement in global advocacy efforts and the development of the association strengthening framework; the Vaccine Project propelled by the CAM, which enhances midwives' capabilities as vaccine providers and offers resources and micro-grants; the numerous global projects, including initiatives in Haiti, South Sudan, and Somalia undertaken by the Global Midwifery Initiative; and the association governance work reform.

(Refer to the CAM/ACSF report in Annual Report 2022)

5.2. Report from the National Council of Indigenous Midwives (NCIM)

The NCIM report was presented by co-chair Alisha Julian Reed. The report emphasized NCIM leadership on facilitating indigenous midwives and communities in decision-making and dialogue; the decolonizing birth strategy project in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association; the anti-indigenous racism within healthcare systems and the indigenous midwifery course in partnership with Athabasca University; and the guidance on health-related matters of NCIM's Advisory Committee on Indigenous women's well-being.

(Refer to NCIM report in Annual Report 2022)

6. Governance Reform (CAM Vice President & Chair of Governance Committee)

The governance structure was presented by Vice President, Elizabeth Brandeis.

- The current structure of the CAM is a Confederate board with 19 members, 15 directors appointed by member associations, and four officers appointed by the board.
- The Governance Committee and the board conducted 18 stakeholder groups and engaged with an external consultant to review data and develop recommendations.
- The Board of Directors recommended changing the current structure to create more diversity of engagement.
- The presentation emphasizes the importance of including provincial and territorial associations in the governance structure to reflect the needs of midwives across the country.
- The presentation also emphasizes the need for fostering peer support through the Canadian Alliance of Racialized Midwives (CARM) and the Canadian Caucus of Queer and Trans Midwives (QTM).

- The proposed new structure consists of four new advisory councils, responsible for bringing recommendations to the board in four key areas: Association strengthening, advocacy, promoting advocacy, bringing the work of CAM Global into the work of the Board, and the foundational principle of anti-oppression, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- The board of directors will change its structure, replacing the current executive committee with a rotating structure.
- A special General Meeting will be held in October to present further details about populating new advisory councils.
- Implementation of the new structure is expected to happen in June 2025, with an information session to start the recruitment process for new members.

7. Review of 2022 Financial Statements (CAM/ACSF Treasurer)

CAM Treasurer, Judy De Freitas, presents the results of 2022 audit and 2023 budget approvals.

- Patricia McGovern completed 2022 audit with no significant findings.
- Board approved a deficit budget of up to \$30,000 for 2023.
- The organization has a healthy cash reserve of \$211,000,846.

The board praised the CAM Director of Finance Sunny Sun for exceptional work and external vendor audits.

(Refer to CAM/ACSF 2022 Financial Statements).

8. Appointment of Auditor (CAM/ACSF Treasurer)

2023-3-AGM: Be it resolved that Patricia McGovern, Chartered Accountant, is appointed auditor of the Canadian Association of Midwives to hold office until the next annual general meeting of members at such remuneration as may be fixed by the Board of Directors. MOTION moved by **Jennifer Nguyen**, seconded by **Cecilia Jevitt**. MOTION carried.

In favour (%)

9. Presentation of Executive Members

Gratitude for outgoing Executive Members:

- Elizabeth Brandeis, VP and former AOM president, has contributed significantly to the organization's human relations and equity work.

- Trish Langley Frimpong, a student rep and secretary, has been instrumental in the decision-making process.

Welcoming incoming President CJ Blennerhassett:

- CJ Blennerhassett, a midwife, firefighter, first responder, teen parent, feminist magazine editor, and co-chair of the Canadian caucus of queer and trans midwives, is excited to take on the presidency. She is currently working towards a Master of Health Administration at Dalhousie University and is excited to work closely with leadership, staff, and representatives of the National Council of indigenous midwives.

10. Leadership Tribute

CJ Blennerhassett acknowledges the contributions of previous leaders who have shared their knowledge and expertise.

Alix Bacon, the current president, has been a mentor and has nurtured relationships with midwives and other organizations. She has been on the CAM's Board of Directors since 2014 and has made significant contributions to midwives and the midwifery profession.

11. Announcement of 2024 AGM

In-Person CAM Conference

- The in-person conference is happening in Ottawa from October 4 to 6, with an early bird deal offering 20% off tickets.

12. Adjournment

Adjournment 2023-4-AGM: MOTION to adjourn the 2023 CAM/ACSF Annual General Meeting by **Cherish T**, seconded by **Emmanuel Hébert**. MOTION carried.

In favour (100%)