

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

**Annual General Meeting – DRAFT Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 12th, 2024  
Virtual Event**

**Present:** 43 members ([see attached attendance list](#))

**1. Welcome**

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

**2. Attendance and Verification of Quorum**

At least 30 members representing two-thirds of the member's associations are present.  
*Quorum confirmed.*

**3. Adoption of the 2024 AGM Agenda**

CAM/ACSF President introduced the members of the Executive, the NCIM co-chair and reviewed the agenda.

**Presentation of the Executive Board Members:**

1. President: CJ Blennerhassett
2. Vice-President: Claire Dion Fletcher
3. NCIM Co-Chair: Alisha Julien Reid
4. Treasurer: Judy DeFreitas
5. Secretary: Maha Maryam

**2024-01-AGM:** MOTION to adopt the 2024 AGM agenda moved by **Nicole Bennett** seconded by **Raymond Gagnon**. In favour (100%). *MOTION carried.*

**4. Adoption of 2023 AGM Minutes**

Members have reviewed the 2023 AGM draft minutes.

**2024-02-AGM:** MOTION to adopt the 2023 AGM minutes moved by **Alison Walker** and seconded by **Adrienne Carruthers**. In favour (100%). *MOTION Carried.*

**5. Presentation of the 2023 Annual Report**

**5.1 CAM/ACSF Report (CAM/ACSF President & Executive Director)**

The CAM/ACSF report was presented by CAM President CJ Blennerhassett and CAM Executive Director Tonia Occhionero. Refer to Annual Report 2023-24:

- English: [https://canadianmidwives.org/sites/canadianmidwives.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/ENG\\_ACSF\\_RA\\_2023-2024\\_FINAL-1.pdf](https://canadianmidwives.org/sites/canadianmidwives.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/ENG_ACSF_RA_2023-2024_FINAL-1.pdf)

- Français: [https://canadianmidwives.org/sites/canadianmidwives.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/FR\\_ACSF\\_RA\\_2023-2024\\_FINAL-1.pdf](https://canadianmidwives.org/sites/canadianmidwives.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/FR_ACSF_RA_2023-2024_FINAL-1.pdf)

The presentation started with an overview of CAM's Theory of Change for 2021-2025 and the accompanying Organizational Logic Model designed to assess its progress. This comprehensive model which includes inputs, outputs, outcomes, and long-term impacts, offers a visual roadmap toward the ultimate goal of equitable access to midwifery services for everyone.

Key highlights of the presentation showcased significant achievements and efforts across each of the three pillars of the Theory of Change including:

- (1) Association Strengthening (Revitalization of the Canadian Caucus for Queer and Trans Midwives; the work of the Canadian Alliance of Racialized Midwives; Emergency Skills Workshops),
- (2) Advocacy (Government Relations; 2024 Federal Budget submission; ICM Triennial Congress 2023; Social Media Campaigns)
- (3) Promoting Excellence (e.g., CAM National Conference 2023, New E-learning Initiative – CAM Learns; CJMRP)

## **5.2 Report from the National Council of Indigenous Midwives (NCIM Executive Director, Ellen Blais)**

The NCIM report was presented by NCIM Executive Director Ellen Blais.

Highlights included several key initiatives and events:

- The Uproot Symposium, hosted by NCIM in February 2023.
- The National Inuit Midwifery Forum in March 2023, co-hosted by NCIM, focusing on reproductive health rights for Inuit life-givers.
- A learning event at Nipissing First Nation in September 2023, which gathered 15 learners from across Canada to acquire hands-on skills in Indigenous midwifery.
- The NCIM national Gathering in October 2023, centered around land-based learning and featuring Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Indigenous midwives who led traditional knowledge-sharing workshops.

Attention was drawn to the language revitalization project launched by NCIM in late 2022, selecting six (6) First Nations communities to develop resources on birth, sexual and reproductive health, and Indigenous midwifery in their languages. Additionally, NCIM developed two (2) advocacy videos to build knowledge on Indigenous midwifery and the harmful impacts of forced birth evacuations.

Cultural safety initiatives launched by NCIM included collaboration with Indigenous Services Canada and Health Canada to combat anti-Indigenous racism. An evaluation framework was developed and piloted in two university-based midwifery programs in Fall 2023. NCIM also hosted a focus group on updated accreditation standards and developed an online training course on anti-Indigenous racism and cultural safety for midwives.

(Refer to NCIM report in [Annual Report 2023](#))

## **6. Governance Reform Update (Chair of Governance Committee, Claire Dion Fletcher)**

CAM Vice President & Chair of the Governance Committee, Claire Dion Fletcher presented the CAM's governance reform and proposed new structure:

- The new structure aims to reflect the diversity of membership on the Board of Directors, including varied identities and lived experiences. It also seeks to include individuals who can lead the successful implementation of CAM's Theory of Change and engage broader members in CAM's work. It was noted that recent midwifery organizations, such as the Canadian Alliance of Racialized Midwives (CARM) and the Canadian Caucus of Queer & Trans Midwives (QTM), are not yet represented on the CAM Board or recognized as member associations.
- The new structure includes three (3) advisory councils responsible for making recommendations in key areas: association strengthening & advocacy, promoting excellence and CAM's Global work. Foundational principles of anti-oppression, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion and cross cutting priorities throughout the structure.
- The CAM Board of Directors has successfully finalized the drafting of new bylaws and terms of reference for advisory councils. Legal counsel will be consulted over the coming summer to ensure compliance with the Corporations Canada Act. A special meeting of members will be scheduled in the Fall of 2024 to approve the new constitutional documents. CAM hopes to implement the new structure in 2025.

## **7. Treasurer Report (CAM/ACSF Treasurer, Judy De Freitas)**

CAM Treasurer, Judy De Freitas, presented the 2023 financial statements and auditor report. To note:

- Patricia McGovern completed 2023 audit with no significant findings.
- The Board of Directors approved a deficit budget of up to \$23,037 in early 2023.
- CAM / ACSF experienced a loss on currency exchange of \$22,497 bringing a final deficit of \$12,961, under the approved deficit for 2023.
- CAM / ACSF currently maintains a healthy cash reserve of \$329,883, equivalent to 3-months operating costs.

The Treasurer acknowledges the exceptional work of Wenhao (Sunny) Sun, the Director of Finance and the Finance Department for all their work.

(Refer to CAM/ACSF 2023 [Financial Statements](#)).

## 8. Appointment of Auditor (CAM/ACSF Treasurer, Judy De Freitas)

**2024-3-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 BoD. MOTION moved by **Elizabeth Brandeis**, seconded by **Manavi Handa**. In favour (100%) MOTION carried.

## 9. Member Resolutions (CAM/ACSF Secretary)

*No member resolutions were submitted for CAM's AGM.*

## 10. Presentation of Executive Members 2024

Gratitude for Outgoing Executive Member:

- Judy De Freitas, who has served as Treasurer, has been an important member of CAM/ACSF and the Board's Executive Committee.

Welcoming Incoming Treasurer:

- Sarah Davis, previously the Board representative for the Midwives Association of Manitoba, will be transitioning into the role of Treasurer effective immediately following today's AGM.

## 11. Announcements

Virtual CAM Conference

- Online Conference Offering, Fall 2024.

## 12. Adjournment

**Adjournment 2024-4-AGM:** MOTION to adjourn the 2023 CAM/ACSF Annual General Meeting by **CJ Blennerhassett**, seconded by **Nicole Bennett**. MOTION carried.  
In favour (100%) MOTION carried.