



**CURLING CANADA**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**ANNUAL MEETING - CURLING CANADA  
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021**

**Meeting Chair: Amy Nixon**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Member Association Executives (Voting Delegates)**

Harold Walters (NF and Labrador)	Mike Strang (Nova Scotia)
Bernard Savoie (New Brunswick)	Sandy Matheson (Prince Edward Island) <i>by phone</i>
André Bellavance (Quebec)	Jody Fisher Meli (Alberta)
Elaine Brimicombe (Ontario)	Hayley Smith (Northern Ontario)
Ray Baker (Manitoba)	Jim Wilson (Saskatchewan)
Laura Eby (Yukon)	Nick Saturnino (Northwest Territories)
Neil Campbell (British Columbia)	Angela Dale (Nunavut)

**Curling Canada Board**

Amy Nixon, Chair	Donna Krotz, Governor
Cathy Dalziel, Governor	Chana Martineau, Governor
Darren Oryniak, Governor	Paul Addison, Governor
Michael Szajewski, Governor	

**Curling Canada Staff**

Katherine Henderson, CEO	Al Cameron
Gerry Peckham	Omid Kahriz
Justin Perry	Prab Kalra
Marylou Morris	Catharine Dunlop
Nolan Thiessen	Brodie Bazinet
Karen Ryan	Geoff Schoenberg

**Other Attendees:**

Craig Baker (MB)	Jill Richard (AB)
Bobby Ray (NO)	Amy Duncan (PE)
Virginia Jackson (NS)	Stephen Chenier (ON)
Scott Braley (BC)	Marg Maranda (NB)
Kellyn Geiger (SK)	Helen Fornwald (SK)
Gail Samaan (NB)	Dale Gregory (BC)
Kate Caithness (World Curling Federation)	Anne Merklinger (Own the Podium)
Graham Prouse (World Curling Federation)	Beau Welling (World Curling Federation)
Calvin Seaman (Candidate)	Brian Cowan (Candidate)
Roselle Gonsalves (Candidate)	Vivek Radhakrishnan (Candidate)

**Parliamentarian**

Steve Indig, Sport Law

**Simply Voting – Subject Expert**

Robin Witty, Sport Law

**Auditor - BDO**

Robert Rheame

## **1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NOTICE OF MEETING AND PROOF OF MAILING**

Chair Amy Nixon called the Annual Meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. She welcomed all Member Association representatives who had just participated in the National Curling Congress, Governors, Curling Canada staff, candidates standing for election and other observers who took the time to join this Zoom meeting. She acknowledged special guests in attendance and thanked them for their interest and support of Curling Canada:

- Anne Merklinger, CEO, Own the Podium
- Kate Caithness, President, World Curling Federation
- Graham Prouse, Vice President – Americas, World Curling Federation
- Beau Welling, Board Director, World Curling Federation

Katherine Henderson, CEO, reported that on September 3, 2021 notice that the Annual Meeting would be held virtually on Zoom commencing at 2:00 pm ET on September 25, 2021 was emailed to the Curling Canada Board of Governors, Member Association Presidents and Voting Delegates, Member Association Executive Directors, Curling Canada National Staff, Affiliate Organizations, Nicole Mulligan (Sport Canada), Robert Rheaume (BDO Canada), Candidates for Election and Steve Indig (Parliamentarian). Background information was included with the distribution of the notice of meeting.

## **2.0 REPORT ON CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATES AND QUORUM**

CEO Katherine Henderson polled the meeting for voting delegates and a total of 14 votes were recorded (see attendance record for listing of voting delegates). She advised there was a quorum for the meeting and that 8 constituted a simple majority.

## **3.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

The Chair called for any objections to proceeding with the meeting agenda as circulated and received none. The agenda was accepted.

## **4.0 MINUTE OF SILENCE FOR DECEASED MEMBERS**

A moment of silence was observed in respect for members of the curling community who had passed away since the last Annual Meeting.

## **5.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING**

The Chair called for any errors or omissions to the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes as circulated in the meeting package and received none. The 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes were accepted as approved.

## **6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There was no business that required further attention from the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes.

## **7.0 GREETINGS FROM THE WORLD CURLING FEDERATION**

Kate Caithness, President of the World Curling Federation (WCF), brought greetings from the WCF and provided information regarding the organization's activities at the

international level during the past year as well as future plans as the world emerges from the pandemic.

## **8.0 REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Chair Amy Nixon presented the Chair's report (*see addendum for text*) and then had each of the Curling Canada Committee Chairs give a brief update on their Committee's work during the past season.

Following this reporting, Chair Amy thanked the Committee Chairs, Governors, Member Association representatives, Curling Canada staff, athletes and fans for their true commitment to the sport of curling, especially during this most challenging year as the world coped with the Covid 19 pandemic.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Chair Amy Nixon acknowledged and thanked Governor Cathy Dalziel, who was completing a 2-year term on the Board, for her dedication to the sport. Cathy responded and congratulated her fellow Board members, Curling Canada staff and Member Associations for their commitment and success in managing a large national sport during the last 18 months of the pandemic. She expressed her best wishes for Curling Canada and sport of curling to continue to do well in the future.

## **9.0 BUSINESS FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING**

### **1) Notice of Motion: Request for Affiliate Membership**

**MOTION: AGM 2021.01**

**Moved by Bernard Savoie (NB), seconded by André Bellavance (QC), that the Canadian Stick Curling Association be accepted as an affiliate organization of Curling Canada.**

**Carried**

## **10.0 REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

ERF&A Chair Chana Martineau was pleased to report that while the 2020-2021 budget had forecast a loss of up to \$1.4M, Curling Canada actually finished the fiscal year in a positive surplus position of more than \$1.2M. She outlined the key factors in attaining these positive results:

- Effectively control of costs in the execution of the Hub City,
- More sponsorship dollars generated than anticipated,
- Extraordinary government funding for sport throughout the pandemic including assistance through the Canadian Wage Subsidy
- Recovery in the market resulting in an increase in our preferred share portfolio held in the reserve fund of more than \$400K.

Despite the very positive financial results, this year came with greater than normal financial risks given the significant change in how our events were executed, how we managed our contracts and the addition of the World Women's Curling Championships straddling the fiscal year end as well as a changeover in the CFO role in late March. Management, the ERF&A Committee and the Audit Team are thanked for working very closely together to ensure that the organization was managed in a most effective manner.

Robert Rheaume of BDO then presented a brief overview of the audit and the financial statements. He congratulated Curling Canada for an exceptional year in a very complex environment and, in particular, for the success of the Hub City model. The audit report outlined a clean audit opinion that was approved by Curling Canada Board of Governors on August 24, 2021. Auditor Rheaume stated that Curling Canada is in a strong financial position with current assets of \$6.5 million over current liabilities. He further stated that the next fiscal year looks very positive with a solid reserve to support the Association, carry-over funding from last season, a responsible plan and budget for the 2021-22 fiscal and Management that is responsive to suggested improvements to make Curling Canada stronger.

## **10.2 Confirmation of Auditor's Appointment**

### **MOTION: AGM 2021.02**

**Moved by Ray Baker (MB), seconded by Jody Meli (AB), that BDO Canada be appointed as Curling Canada's auditors for the 2021-22 fiscal year.**

**Carried**

## **11.0 ELECTION OF GOVERNORS TO THE CURLING CANADA BOARD**

Three elections were conducted under the supervision of Curling Canada's Governance Committee Chair Paul Addison. He reviewed the process for the elections and also advised:

- Parliamentarian Steve Indig would act as scrutineer for the elections.
- The confidential Simply Voting software to be used by the 14 voting delegates to cast their ballots was managed by Robin Witty of Sport Law.
- No further nominations were received from the floor.
- A specific gender election was not required this year as the standard defined in the Curling Canada Bylaws had been met.
- A separate election would be held for each of the 3 positions on the Board; and
- a virtual Zoom breakout room was available for voting delegates to convene in privately at any time during the election process, simply by request.

Each of the candidates running for office had confirmed their intention to participate in the elections both for positions that were for a 4-year term and for a 2-year term. Nominations received in advance of the meeting were announced:

- Brian Cowan
- Roselle Gonsalves
- Vivek Radhakrishnan
- Calvin Seaman

There were no further nominations from the floor.

Election 1: Governor's position on the Board for a 4-year term was held:

Candidate elected for this position: Brian Cowan

Election 2: Governor's position on the Board for a 4-year term was held:

Candidate elected for this position: Calvin Seaman

Election 3: Governor's position on the Board for a 2-year term was held:

Candidate elected for this position: Roselle Gonsalves

With the elections completed, Parliamentarian Steve Indig was asked to maintain in confidence the votes and to erase all electronic ballots and results from the Simply Voting platform.

#### **12.0 NEW BUSINESS**

A call was put forward for the members to bring any general announcements or questions forward at this time and there were none .

#### **13.0 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Chair Amy Nixon announced that Curling Canada's 2022 Annual Meeting would take place on Saturday, September 24 , 2022. Members will be notified once the format and location for the 2022 Annual Meeting is determined.

#### **14.0 CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

Having dealt with all items on the agenda, the Chair announced the meeting was concluded.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

What a year it has been for all of us, living through the uncertainty and stress of a pandemic. Our Board is so proud of and grateful to Curling Canada's CEO Katherine Henderson and every member of her team for their resilience and their commitment to curling this past year.

Reflecting on 2020-21, I am most struck by the amount of times every single person in the game of curling has had to pivot, reschedule or simply do things differently. From the curler on the ice at league, and their curling centre or club manager, to each Provincial and Territorial Association who did their utmost to be fair and supportive to their curling centres and athletes.

I stand in awe of all of the volunteers across Canada, including my Board colleagues, who have committed their time and energy to keeping the roaring game alive in this pandemic.

I stand in awe of the athletes who remain committed in adverse circumstances and who sacrificed even more than usual by joining their teammates in the bubble in the Hub City in 2021.

Curling Canada stood out amongst national sport organizations in Canada with our successful bubble model and we were honored indeed to partner with the World Curling Federation to bring both the Women's and Men's World Championships to fans across the world.

The Board's shorter term goals which were established in June were centered around beginning to address succession risks in the Board, and Curling Canada's management team and to engage as a Board in risk-related high performance.

I believe strongly in the power of asking and listening. In July the Board met with a group of high performance athletes who recently represented Canada on an international stage and/or are actively chasing the Maple Leaf to Beijing. The whole Board sought to meaningfully engage with and listen to their experience and perspectives.

Looking ahead to the coming year, there is no question that we have more work to do as a sport to engage and welcome all Canadians into curling. It is both heartening and exciting to see a slate of highly skilled candidates for the Board today that includes members of equity deserving groups. At the conclusion of this meeting, we will have addressed gaps in the Board's skill matrix and we will have a curling Canada Board that is more representative of our curling communities.

I look forward to seeing many of you in person in the months ahead. I think you will agree that meetings on screen have been a poor substitute for casual conversations and relationship building.