



**CURLING CANADA**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**ANNUAL MEETING - CURLING CANADA  
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023**

**Meeting Chair: Michael Szajewski**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Member Association Executives (Voting Delegates)**

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| John Barron (NF and Labrador)       | Peter Van Strien (Nunavut)             |
| Gail Samaan (New Brunswick)         | Nick Saturnino (Northwest Territories) |
| Rémy St-Pierre (Quebec)             | Jody Fisher Meli (Alberta)             |
| Rick Thurston (Ontario)             | Hayley Smith (Northern Ontario)        |
| Keith Johnston (Manitoba)           | Helen Fornwald (Saskatchewan)          |
| Brenda McClellan (British Columbia) | Bob Holmes (Yukon)                     |
| Rob Belliveau (Nova Scotia)         | Jane DiCarlo (Prince Edward Island)    |

**Curling Canada Board**

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Michael Szajewski, Chair  | Ray Baker, Governor         |
| Teri Palynchuk, Governor  | Roselle Gonsalves, Governor |
| Darren Oryniak, Governor  | Scott Hindle, Governor      |
| Jennifer Howard, Governor | Calvin Seaman, Governor     |
| Kathy O'Rourke, Governor  |                             |

**Curling Canada Staff**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Danny Lamoureux (Interim CEO) | Al Cameron                                 |
| Nolan Thiessen                | Brodie Bazinet                             |
| Karen Ryan                    | Oksana Ermolenko (Governance Professional) |
| Aubert Nungisa                |  |

**Other Attendees:**

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Beau Welling (World Curling Federation)  | Katherine Henderson (Past CEO)   |
| Graham Prouse (World Curling Federation) | Elaine Brimicombe (CurlON)       |
| Craig Baker (CurlMB)                     | Steve Turner (CurlSK)            |
| Stephen Meunier, Candidate               | Matt Allen (CurlON)              |
| Jeremy Woo, Candidate                    | Scott Braley (CurlBC)            |
| Virginia Jackson (NSCA)                  | Al Kersey (Optimist Jr. Curling) |
| Amy Duncan (PEICA)                       |                                  |

**Parliamentarian**

Steven Indig, Sport Law

**Simply Voting – Subject Expert**

Robin Witty, Sport Law

**Auditors – BDO**

Kylie Zuo  
Annik Blanchard

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

Chair Michael Szajewski called the Annual Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted special guests in attendance:

- Beau Welling, President, World Curling Federation
- Graham Prouse, Vice President – Americas, World Curling Federation
- Katherine Henderson, Past CEO of Curling Canada

Danny Lamoureux, Interim CEO, reported that on September 1, 2023 notice that the Annual Meeting would be held virtually on Zoom commencing at 1:00 pm ET on September 23, 2023 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, Francois Allaire (Sport Canada), Auditors (BDO Canada), Candidates for Election and Steven Indig (Parliamentarian). Background information was included with the distribution of the notice of meeting.

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

Interim CEO Danny Lamoureux polled the meeting for voting delegates and a total of 14 votes were recorded (see attendance record for listing of voting delegates). He advised there was a quorum for the meeting, therefore, 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.

It was reported by the Chair that no Notices for Consideration were received for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

## **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 2022 ANNUAL MEETING**

The Chair called for any errors or omissions to the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes as circulated in the meeting package and received none.

### **MOTION: AGM 2023.01**

**Moved by Rémy St. Pierre (QC), seconded by Jody Fisher Meli (AB), that the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting be approved.**

**Carried**

The 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as circulated.

## **6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There was no business from the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes that required further attention.

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

Beau Welling, President, WCF

Beau Welling, President of the World Curling Federation (WCF), brought greetings and acknowledged Curling Canada as the largest member and important business partner of the World Curling Federation.

Earlier this year the WCF held a summit in Toronto with their stakeholders and developed 6 major initiatives they plan to work on going forward: rebranding of the WCF, developing

new commercial opportunities, reorganization of their events calendar, expanded engagement with the Athlete Commission, securing more data related to facilities and transforming the way they interact with their members.

He thanked Curling Canada for their representatives' participation and contribution at WCF meetings, including those recently concluded in Seoul, and for annually hosting events in Canada such as the Pan Continental Cup in Kelowna and the World Women's Championship in Sydney that will take place later this season. The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual WCF General Assembly will also be hosted in Montreal in September, 2024, and WCF Board, staff and member nations are looking forward to visiting Canada at that time.

#### Graham Prouse, Vice Chair (Americas)

On behalf of Curling Canada, Chair Michael Szajewski, recognized and thanked Graham Prouse for his significant efforts and dedication to the sport of curling by serving in various positions at the World Curling Federation since 2010. Graham will have completed his term limit in 2024 and will retire from his position as Vice Chair - Americas at the Congress in Montreal.

Graham addressed the group, thanking Curling Canada for its original nomination of him for a role with the WCF and for the ongoing assistance and contribution by Curling Canada's CEO and international representatives in dealing with issues related to our sport at the international level. He has been honored to serve and is thankful for the support he has felt from the Canadian curling community throughout his tenure.

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

Michael Szajewski presented the Chair's report (*see addendum for text*) and then had each of the Curling Canada Chairs for the Governance, Enterprise Risk, Finance & Audit, Human Resources and International Committees give a brief update on each of their Committee's work during the past season. Michael thanked the Chairs and committee members for being thoroughly involved in the work of these committees over the past year and acknowledged Janie Hobart (NWTCA), Keith Johnston (CurlMB), Tim McChesney (Curl ON), Laura Walker (Athletes Council) and Donna Krotz (Past CC Board Member) who sat on this year's Candidate Search Committee. Thanks were also extended to the Co-Chairs of last season's Presidents Group – Bernie Savoie (NBCA) and Mike Strang (NSCA).

Following the Committee Chairs reports, Past CEO Katherine Henderson spoke to the members and thanked them for their support and well wishes in her new position with Hockey Canada. She acknowledged and thanked the staff at Curling Canada, Governors and Member Association representatives who assisted her throughout her 7-year tenure as CEO of Curling Canada. She is proud of the advancements in the sport that have been achieved and is fully confident that curling will continue as one of Canada's premier sports in the future.

## **9.0 REPORT OF THE ENTERPRISE RISK, FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

ERF&A Chair Ray Baker called upon Auditor Kylie Zuo to provide an overview of the audit and review of the financial statements with the group. She reported that after auditing the statement of financial position, statement of operations, changes in assets and cash flow for the year ended on April 30, 2023, BDO was able to issue a clean audit opinion to the Canadian Curling Association. The auditor then proceeded to go through the audited

statement providing highlights and explanations where she felt necessary for clarity and understanding by the members.

There were no questions brought forward to the auditor following her presentation and the Chair thanked her for attendance at the meeting on behalf of BDO.

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

**MOTION: AGM 2023.02**

**Moved by Keith Johnston (MB), seconded by Rob Belliveau (NS), that BDO Canada be appointed as Curling Canada's auditors for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.**

**Carried**

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

Three elections were conducted under the supervision of Curling Canada's Governance Committee Chair Calvin Seaman. 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.
- One female must be elected at this year's elections to fulfill Board gender standards as outlined in the Curling Canada Bylaws.
- A separate election would be held for each of the 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.

Nominations received in advance of the meeting were announced:

Roselle Gonsalves  
Scott Hindle  
Stephen Meunier  
Jeremy Woo

There were no further nominations from the floor.

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

Candidate elected for this position: Roselle Gonsalves

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

Candidate elected for this position: Scott Hindle

Election 3 & 4: Governor's position on the Board for a 2-year term was held:

First vote resulted in a split vote of 7 votes per candidate.

Second vote resulted in Jeremy Woo being elected.

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.

#### **11.0 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.

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

Chair Michael Szajewski announced that Curling Canada's 2024 Annual Meeting would take place via Zoom on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

#### **13.0 CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

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

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

### **Michael Szajewski**

We welcomed four new Board members in the fall of 2022 and met for the first time as a team in October. We recognized that providing additional board experience and continuity would support our work. At that time, and in compliance with our Bylaws, Amy Nixon was appointed to the Board for an 11-month term. We thank Amy for extending her service with Curling Canada.

During the year, we continued to work with and develop the newly formed Athletes Council. The evolution of this group will continue as we explore ways to ensure that the athletes' voice informs the Board's work.

We worked closely with Bernie Savoie and Mike Strang to communicate with the Member Associations and explore ways to ensure alignment within our governance system. We look forward to continuing this work with Member Association Presidents Rob Belliveau and Jody Fisher Meli as we explore ways to reshape our engagement model. The development of working groups to advance shared priorities was a highlight of the season. This shared commitment to grow the sport and ensure that curling is a safe space for all bodes well for our shared futures. We are excited to track the progress and benefits of these projects.

We cheered and celebrated the successes of our Canadian Teams on the International stage. We are very proud of their commitment and efforts to represent us.

And, of course, we said goodbye to many of our most experienced staff. We thank Danny Lamoureux, Gerry Peckham, Neil Houston and Rachel Delaney for their dedication and service and wish them well in retirement.

Former CEO Katherine Henderson also decided to accept a new challenge. Katherine, we are very grateful for your time with Curling Canada. Your dedication, passion and tireless commitment have left an indelible mark on our team and the curling system as a whole. While your departure saddens us, we can't help but feel excitement for you as you embark on this new chapter of your professional journey. We wish you all the best in the future but please remember you will always be a cherished member of the curling system. Again, many thanks, Katherine.

While I acknowledged Danny Lamoureux as one of the retirees earlier in my report. I want to now thank him for agreeing to put aside his retirement for the next few months to accept the position of Interim CEO. Danny, your knowledge, experience and commitment to Curling Canada is much appreciated as we continue recruiting our next CEO.

This concludes my report.