



**CURLING CANADA**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**

**MINUTES**

**ANNUAL MEETING - CURLING CANADA  
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**

**Meeting Chair: Teri Palynchuk**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Member Association Executives (Voting Delegates)**

John Barron (NF and Labrador)	Jane DiCarlo (Prince Edward Island)
Brenda Allison-Crilley (New Brunswick)	Janie Hobart (Northwest Territories)
Pamela Nugent (Quebec)	Gord Copithorne (Alberta)
Tim McChesney (Ontario)	Hayley Smith (Northern Ontario)
Lynn Fallis-Kurz (Manitoba)	Steve Turner (Saskatchewan)
Brenda Sims (British Columbia)	Bob Holmes (Yukon)
Devon Chisholm (Nova Scotia)	

**Curling Canada Board**

Teri Palynchuk, Chair	Ray Baker, Governor
Jennifer Howard, Governor	Roselle Gonsalves, Governor
Rémy St-Pierre, Governor	Scott Hindle, Governor
Kerry Tarasoff, Governor	Jody Meli, Governor
Jeremy Woo, Governor and Candidate for Election	<i>(Regrets: Governor Calvin Ruus)</i>

**Curling Canada Staff**

Nolan Thiessen, CEO	Al Cameron
Karen Ryan	Oksana Ermolenko
Terry Smith	Hélène Paquet-Young
Catharine Dunlop	Andy Henry

**Other Attendees:**

Beau Welling (President, World Curling)	Scott Braley (CurlBC)
Craig Baker (CurlMB)	Sherril Minns (Canadian Stick Curling)
Anne Dionne (Sport Canada Rep)	Rob Bellivea (Candidate for Election)
Sean Holman (Toronto Curling)	

**Parliamentarian**

Jason Robinson, Sport Law

**Auditor - BDO**

Nadine Atkinson

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

Chair Teri Palynchuk called the Annual Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked special guest Beau Welling, President of World Curling, for taking the time to join the meeting to provide greetings and an update from their organization.

Nolan Thiessen, CEO, reported that on August 21, 2025 notice that the Annual Meeting would be held virtually on Zoom at 1:00 pm ET on September 20, 2025 was emailed to the Curling Canada Board of Governors, Member Association Presidents and Voting Delegates, Member Association Executive Directors, Curling Canada Senior Management Team, Affiliate Organizations, Anne Dionne (Sport Canada), Nadine Atkinson (Auditor, BDO Canada),

Candidates standing for election and Jason Robinson, Sport Law. Background information was included with the distribution of the notice of meeting.

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

CEO Nolan Thiessen polled the meeting for voting delegates and a total of 13 votes were recorded (see attendance record for listing of voting delegates). He advised there was a quorum for the meeting, therefore, 7 constituted a simple majority. *It was noted that Nunavut's voting delegate was not in attendance.*

## **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 approved as circulated.

It was reported by the Chair that no Notices for Consideration were received for the 2025 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 2024 ANNUAL MEETING**

The Chair called for any errors or omissions to the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes as circulated in the meeting package and received none.

The 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as circulated.

## **6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There was no business from the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes that required further attention.

## **7.0 GREETINGS FROM WORLD CURLING**

Beau Welling, President, World Curling

On behalf of World Curling, President Beau Welling extended warm regards to those in attendance and the extended Curling Canada curling community. He acknowledged that Curling Canada is not only the largest member nation of World Curling but also a very significant business partner and long-term friend of their organization.

Some highlights from Mr. Welling's remarks:

- Curling Canada representatives Teri Palynchuk, Roselle Gonsalves and CEO Nolan Thiessen were thanked for their valuable participation at the WC Annual Congress held earlier in September. Their insights and deep knowledge of the sport which they shared openly with member nations was greatly appreciated.
- This has been a strong and successful year for World Curling which included four major international curling events being hosted in Canada. As well, Montreal, Quebec, served as the host city for World Curling meetings which brought together all member nations to discuss the continued growth and advance of the sport of curling.
- Several key initiatives are currently being pursued by World Curling including the development of a new strategic plan, enhancements to events to benefit stakeholder and spectators, and a focus on strengthening the organization's financial sustainability.

- Managing an increasingly complex curling calendar continues to be a significant challenge.
- Other important issues being addressed include broadcasting and the rising cost of content streaming. To adapt, World Curling is planning to implement substantial changes to its qualification systems. Beginning in the next quadrennial, World Championships will transition to an 18-team format and streamline events that have proven financially burdensome in recent years. To navigate these changes and ensure future success, a robust stakeholder engagement framework has been established to support ongoing improvements.
- Preparation is well underway for the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympic Winter Games which promises to be an exciting milestone for our sport.

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

Teri Palynchuk presented the Chair's report (*see addendum for text*) and then had each of the Curling Canada Chairs for the Governance, Finance & Audit, Human Resources and International Committees give a brief update on their committee's work during the past season.

On behalf of Curling Canada, Teri expressed heartfelt appreciation to Governor Calvin Ruus for his four years of dedicated service on the Curling Canada Board of Governors and commented that his wisdom and good spirit will be missed by his fellow board members. Jeremy Woo is the second Governor completing his initial term on the Board; however, Jeremy decided he would like to run for another term and was successful in going through the candidate search process to have his name put forward as one of the candidates in the election to be held later during this meeting.

Teri went on to acknowledge and thank members of this year's Candidate Search Committee:

Roselle Gonsalves (CC Governor and Candidate Search Committee Chair)

Amy Fitzpatrick (Newfoundland and Labrador Curling Association)

Stephen Thompson (New Brunswick Curling Association)

Lyle Sieg (Curl BC)

Andree Dufresne (Curling Quebec)

William Butler (Athlete Council)

Rick Thurston (Independent Member)

Rémy St-Pierre (CC Governor and Non-Voting Ex-officio Member).

Teri then went on to acknowledge the Chair of the Governance Advisory Council Rob Belliveau (Past President of NS Curling) and Tim McChesney (Curling Ontario) who has stepped into that role for this very important year ahead. The Member Association Presidents and Executive Directors who volunteered their time to serve on working groups this year were also recognized and thanked for their valuable contributions.

CEO Nolan Thiessen was called upon to present his report (*text in addendum*).

Following the presentation of all reports, Teri expressed her appreciation to the CEO, Chairs, and Committee Members for their diligent efforts and the positive outcomes their work has generated over the past year.

It was noted for the minutes that the reports had been received by the members. Before proceeding with the next item on the agenda, Teri advised that a call for Notices of Motion

had been sent to the members on July 21, 2025 and no notices were received by the deadline date.

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

F&A Committee Chair Ray Baker called upon BDO Auditor Nadine Atkinson to provide an overview of the audited financial statements with the group. These audited statements had been shared with the Member Associations in August with an invitation to bring any questions forward at that time. Following the CEO's presentation, and with no further questions raised, the Chair advised that the meeting minutes would reflect that the Audited Financial Statements to April 30, 2025 had been received by the members.

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

**MOTION: AGM 2025.01**

**Moved by Lynn Fallis-Kurz (MB), seconded by Tim McChesney, (ON), that BDO Canada be appointed as Curling Canada's auditors for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.**

**Carried**

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

The election process was conducted under the supervision of Curling Canada's Governance Committee Chair Scott Hindle. He reviewed the process for the elections and advised:

- Parliamentarian Justin Robinson would act as scrutineer for the elections.
- The confidential Simply Voting software would be used by the voting delegates to cast their ballots.
- After the 2025 Candidate Search Committee had completed its work, their report and recommendations for the 2-member slate of candidates was presented to the Curling Canada Board of Governors and then to the Governance Advisory Committee on Aug. 19.
- There will be two separate elections for the 2 open positions on the Board (each for a 4-year term).
- The first election will involve two candidates. Because the second election will only involve one candidate, it will be conducted by ordinary resolution.
- For both elections, there is no requirement to fulfill Board gender standards as outlined in the Curling Canada Bylaws.
- A virtual Zoom breakout room was available for voting delegates to convene in privately at any time during the election process, simply by request.

The slate of candidates selected by the 2025 Candidate Selection Committee for presentation for the 2025 election are:

Rob Belliveau  
Jeremy Woo

Governance Chair Scott Hindle announced that no further nominations had been received from the floor.

The elections were held resulting in the following:

**Election 1:** Bob Belliveau was elected for a 4-year term  
**Election 2:** Jeremy Woo was elected for a 4-year term

**MOTION: AGM 2025.02**

**Moved by Tim McChesney (ON), seconded by Janie DiCarlo, (PE), that Jeremy Wu be elected to the Curling Canada Board of Governors for a 4-year term**

**Carried**

With the elections completed, Parliamentarian Jason Robinson 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 to the floor

Janie Hobart (NWT Curling Association) inquired whether consideration was being given to assigning a dedicated Governor Liaison to Member Associations that would like one. Chair Teri responded that Member Association Presidents are welcome to contact any of the ten Governors at any time with questions or issues. She further noted that she will request that this topic be added to the agenda of the next Governance Advisory Committee meeting for broader discussion.

**12.0 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

It was announced that Curling Canada's 2026 Annual Meeting would take place via Zoom on Saturday, September 26, 2026.

**13.0 CLOSING REMARKS AND CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

Teri thanked everyone who took the time to attend this Annual Meeting. In closing she expressed a heartfelt thanks to the Board of Governors, Athlete Representative Laura Walker and the entire staff of Curling Canada for the unwavering support and guidance she received throughout the past year.

Having dealt with all items on the agenda, the Chair announced the conclusion of the 2025 Annual Meeting at 2:06 ET.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

### **Teri Palynchuk**

A year ago, I accepted both the privilege and the responsibility of chairing Curling Canada's Board of Governors.

I did so knowing I had big shoes to fill in following my friend Michael Szajewski in that role but, at the same time, I knew that I had an amazing support system — including Michael, past and present board members, our colleagues at our 14 Member Associations and Curling Canada's remarkable staff — upon which to draw if I had questions or dilemmas to resolve.

Today, I can tell you that as we enter the 2025-26 season, our sport is well-positioned to continue its growth, and that's in large part because of the ability to which I alluded above — if you have a question, if you have a problem that needs to be solved, the curling community will always step up to help you. I should stop being surprised by this. Honestly, I've volunteered in our sport in various capacities now for more than 20 years — at the club level in my beautiful hometown of Nanaimo, BC; with Curl BC and now with Curling Canada — and it has been a constant theme: curlers helping curlers.

As I look back on the past 12 months, I can't help but be grateful at how often I was reminded of how fortunate we are to be part of this sport because of that willingness to support each other. It's not always easy, and there are often uncomfortable questions being asked and hard decisions being made that have impacts throughout the system. That won't change any time soon. The sport system in Canada is going through some trying times and curling is not immune.

But our biggest strength is a shared resolve to find constructive and forward-thinking solutions that will facilitate positive and growth-centered change for our sport. I'm truly excited about what is in store for curling in our country.

I echo the thought that was put forward in this space a year ago by Michael Szajewski. We can't be dwelling on what's wrong with curling, instead, our focus must be on what is right in curling and how our shared belief that we can thrive by working collaboratively has Canadian curling positioned very well for the future.

This coming season, as we all know, will give us so many opportunities to "wave the flag" as we cheer for our athletes on the world stage at the Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympics. I want to take a moment to thank our high-performance athletes, coaches and their respective support teams for all their hard work and sacrifices in preparing to pursue their medal podium dreams.

To all our stakeholders from coast to coast, never forget - no problem is insurmountable, every question has an answer and you are never alone. We are a community and we are there to support you in your curling journey.

I wish all of you good curling and even better fellowship during this 2025-26 season, curling, together.

## CEO's REPORT

### Nolan Thiessen

I'm proud to reflect on a rewarding and challenging year, a year where the ever-evolving pressures of an under resourced sport system continues to put strain on our organization like many others. We continue to consider every decision we make to ensure that we are investing smartly, and proactively in the future of our sport to ensure a stronger, more sustainable future for Canadian curling.

Last season, as our new leadership group gained our footing, we talked about a focused direction to ensure that proper planning was done to make sure we are leading a curling system in a consistent, coherent, strategic way. This led our team and our board down a path of a revamped Strategic Plan where we identified four pillars: **community engagement, leadership in sport, championship events and high-performance**. Each pillar is focused on ensuring we reach our brand promise to everyone of **supporting your curling journey every step of the way**.

These pillars are more than organizational goals—they are the guiding compass for our vision, decisions, as well as short and long-term investment strategies. The 2024–2025 season tested our resolve but we remained steadfast in our commitment to growth—not just for today's champions and today's grassroots curlers, but for tomorrow's.

We had many successes this past season including increased investments in the Association of Curling Professionals Program, multiple Business of Curling Symposiums, the expansion of the Girls Rock Program as well as youth engagement and development initiatives, qualifying Canada for all three disciplines in the 2026 Winter Olympics and the wheelchair team competition at the 2026 Winter Paralympics. It's been another successful season of events including a record-breaking economic impact delivered in Kelowna of over \$20 million for the host community.

This past season Curling Canada had planned on a deficit budget but financial results came in over budget, results that were not acceptable to management and, as CEO, I take full responsibility. Like many national sport organizations, Curling Canada faced increasing pressure in 2024–25: rising costs, declining event margins and the need to stretch every dollar further than ever before. This led to a \$2.2m deficit this past season, a trend that we will have to overcome shortly to be sustainable as an organization.

These pressures will be amplified next season by funding cuts from our governmental partners, cuts that are being felt by many in the sport system. Curling Canada has done a strong job of building a reserve to help offset these swings in profitability; however, that reserve cannot be used to fund operational deficits. The reserve must be used strategically to invest in our sport and, as such, changes to our business model will be needed over the coming year and implemented for the 2027 fiscal year and beyond. As tough as these decisions will be, we do not plan to retreat. We must restructure, reprioritize, reinvest and build an organization with the financial discipline to ensure that we aren't just reacting to today's pressure but investing wisely for curling's long-term health.

We have an exciting year ahead of us. One with our quadrennial tentpole event, the Montana's Curling Trials in Halifax at the end of November, our return to the GTA for the 2026 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Mississauga and once again returning to Newfoundland for the Montana's Brier, the scene of one of the most iconic editions in Brier history in 2017. Our funds raised through the curling development fee will be spent in strategic ways to grow the game of curling, now and into the future.

As CEO of Curling Canada, I carry the weight of our history and the responsibility of that legacy. Our long-term future will demand courage, vision and discipline. We will need to make tough calls. We will ask more of our staff, our athletes and our partners. But we do it always for the right reasons: **we do it for the people that call our game home and we do it to secure the future of Canadian curling.**

We are not simply maintaining a sport, we will continue to **reimagine it.**