

# Member Information Session & Townhall

Tuesday, June 18, 2024



# Session Overview

2:00pm: Hello and welcome!

2:10pm: Strategic update

2:35pm: Break

2:40pm: Member questions and discussion

3:10pm: Break

3:15pm: Member questions and discussion

3:35pm: The League's big dreams

3:45pm: Session end

The League acknowledges the enduring presence of Indigenous people in the land settlers call Canada. Our office in Toronto is situated on the traditional territories of the Wendat, Ashinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations, and the Métis nation.

However, a land acknowledgment on its own is neither reconciliation nor decolonization, and we also recognize the organizational importance of policy, programs, services, and access that prioritize Indigenous poets and communities. We appreciate the guidance and presence of our Indigenous members and volunteers, and we celebrate Indigenous-led publishers, organizations, and businesses doing the front-line work of supporting and showcasing Indigenous poets, storytellers, and artists.

Additionally, the League recognizes the historical and ongoing colonial significance of our organization name, and we acknowledge that not all members of our community identify with the term "Canadian." We support these members and their right to self-identify while still having access to the programs and services offered by the League.

# LCP OFFICE STAFF



Lesley Fletcher  
Executive Director



Nic Brewer  
Artistic Programming  
Director



Caitlin Lapeña  
Communications and  
Administrative Coordinator

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is elected each spring by the League membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Our Board comprises between five and eight incredible volunteers who donate their time, expertise, and networks in service of the League's mission. We are deeply grateful to all of the poets who have contributed to the growth of the organization with time spent on our Board of Directors (formerly known as the National Council).

President: Rayanne Haines

Vice President: Hendrik Slegtenhorst

Past President: Tracy Hamon

Treasurer: Michael Andrews

Secretary: Frances Boyle

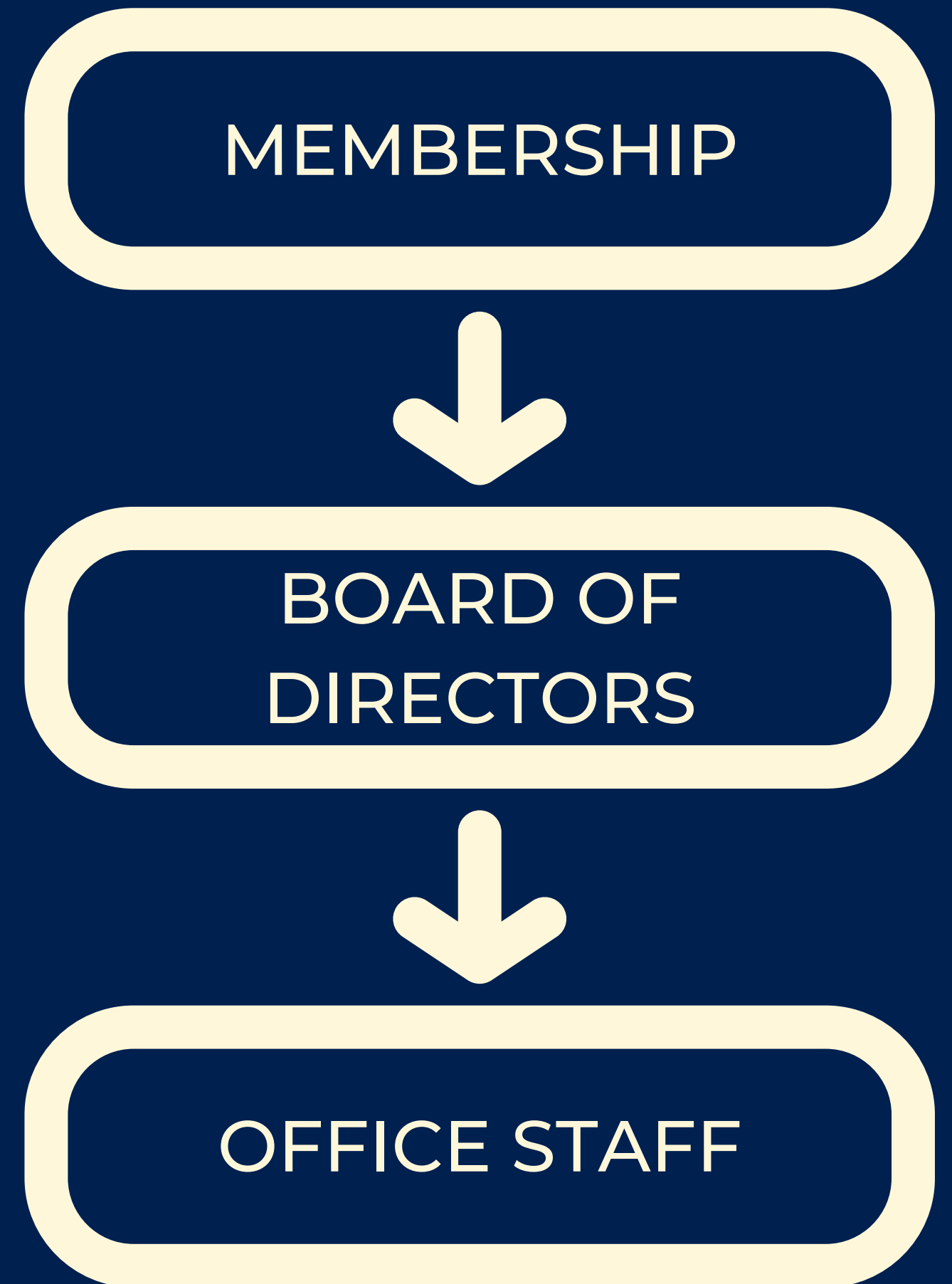
Chair, Membership Committee: Jaclyn Desforges

Chair, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee: Stuart Ian McKay

**2023 -  
2024**

# LCP ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

As a membership organization that's also a charity, the League is governed by the Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act (ONCA). Each year, members elect a volunteer Board of Directors that determine and guide the strategic direction of the League, and support office staff in the delivery of programs and services.



# MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

COMMUNITY  
COMMITTEES

BUSINESS  
COMMITTEES

POETS  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE



**STRATEGIC**

**UPDATE:**

**2024 - 2027**



# Mandate

The League of Canadian Poets' mandate is to elevate the cultural significance of poetry and champion the role of poets. Working to nurture and expand poetry communities and audiences, the organization cultivates the local, national, and international publication, performance, and recognition of poetry. The League supports equitable and inclusive artistic practice through poetry education and development.

**The Board of Directors reviewed the League's mandate as part of the strategic planning process, and updated some language to more accurately convey the organization's role and purpose.**

# Strategic pillars

## **Organizational sustainability and stability**

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Stabilizing finances, programs, and services for the long term

## **Inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility**

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Analyzing existing data and creating meaningful systemic change

## **Sector relevance**

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Supporting members, reaching diverse audiences, and advocating for poetry

# Organizational sustainability & stability

## **Risk management & diversifying revenues**

In its nearly 60 years, the League has weathered a variety of financial crises, staff challenges, and leadership issues. Now in a relatively stable place, the Board of Directors will oversee and participate in the development of risk management strategies, processes, and policies, including a diversification of revenues to support core programs and services.

## **Organizational review & Governance Board**

The League is in the final stages of completing a transition to a Governance Board, which means the Board of Directors are developing policies that will guide current and future programs, services, and advocacy at the League. These policies reflect the best interests of our membership, our community, and our organization.

# Inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA)

## IDEA commitments

1. Complete an equity audit of our membership, staff, Board, and programs
2. Reduce barriers to membership, programs, and services
3. Develop community and advocacy partnerships
4. Develop comprehensive policies around access, equity, and diversity in leadership, membership, and programs

## IDEA work underway (planning stages)

- Easy-to-access membership fee discounts and waivers for Black, Indigenous, racialized, LGBTQI2S+, and fixed income poets
- Consultations on best practices for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit programming
- Membership application support, particularly for spoken word and hybrid-genre poets
- Equitably bilingual (French-English) programming
- Member demographic survey
- Board and leadership self-assessment

# Sector relevance

## Increasing regional presence

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- Building relationships with provincial and regional writers' organizations and literary festivals
- Centering in-person gathering opportunities for poets across all provinces
- Creating League presence at literary and poetry festivals and events across Canada

## Supporting membership

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- Understanding member needs and priorities
- Creating accessible opportunities for feedback and engagement
- Reaching diverse new audiences to expand membership

## Advocating for poets and poetry

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- Collaborating with advocacy organizations to represent the specific interests of poets
- Advocating for the inclusion of poets and poetry in major literary coverage, events, and awards
- Monitoring the culture and climate of poetry in Canada



# 5-MINUTE BREAK

League of Canadian Poets | Member Info Session 2024



# MEMBER QUESTIONS



# **5-MINUTE BREAK**

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**MEMBER  
QUESTIONS**



# **BIG DREAMS**

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# 2026: CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

## **60 events for 60 years**

We hope to participate in organizing 60 collaborative in-person events to create a multitude of opportunities for poets to gather nationwide

## **Member contributions**

Our plans for 2026 will rely heavily on volunteers, and we look forward to working with our members who have shown a great deal of enthusiasm for in-person gatherings

## **NPM 26 theme**

Our theme for National Poetry Month 2026 will be celebrating 60 years of poetry

## **National festival presence**

We aspire to organize League presence at a literary festival in each province in 2026

# FUNDRAISING & SPONSORSHIP

## Financial challenges

1. Grant Eligibility Limitations
2. Limited Staffing Resources
3. Project grant challenges
4. Rising costs of delivery

## Fundraising objectives

1. Private revenue support for existing programming
2. General donation support
3. Full financial support for new programs, including staff time and administrative costs

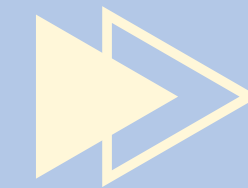
## Engagement opportunities

1. Member recruitment
2. Sponsor and partner connections
3. Fundraising events
4. Donor recruitment

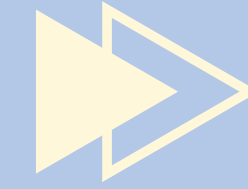
# MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

We are grateful to have grown our membership to over 1,000 poets and poetry lovers, and to have taken our programs and services to new reaches; however, it means that the League has firmly left grassroots territory. The League operates in service of poetry, and not all programs or services will suit each member, but we are dedicated to continuing to create spaces for our membership to engage with each other and with our leadership. Our newsletter remains the most valuable source of information for the latest opportunities open with the League, as well as a venue for members sharing their grassroots work.

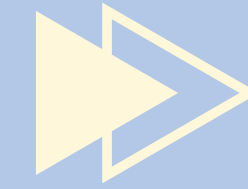
## WAYS TO ENGAGE



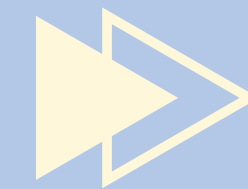
**Community  
committees**



**Volunteering**



**Newsletter**



**Year-round  
engagement  
opportunities**

