

League of Canadian Poets – 2024 AGM

Member Package

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DRAFT Agenda

League of Canadian Poets 2024 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, June 25, 2023

11am PDT | 12pm MDT | 12pm CST | 1pm CDT | 2pm EDT | 3pm ADT | 3:30pm NLT

To be held online as a Zoom Meeting

Quorum requires 10% of voting members to be present.

1. **Call to order and welcome**
 - a. Speakers: Rayanne Haines, President), Nic Brewer, APD, and Lesley Fletcher, ED
 - b. Zoom and AGM orientation and overview
 - c. Quorum management
2. **MOTION to approve the meeting agenda**
 - a. Speaker: Rayanne Haines, President
3. **MOTION to approve minutes of the League of Canadian Poets' 2023 Annual General Meeting**
 - a. Speaker: Rayanne Haines, President
4. **Business arising from the minutes**
 - a. Speaker: Rayanne Haines, President
5. **Presentation of the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the 2023-2024 fiscal year**
 - a. Speaker: Michael Andrews, Treasurer
 - b. **MOTION** to receive the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the 2023-2024 fiscal year (Year-end March 31, 2024)
6. **Presentation of the 2024-2025 budget**
 - a. Speaker: Michael Andrews, Treasurer, and Lesley Fletcher, ED
 - b. **MOTION** to approve the Budget for fiscal year April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025
7. **MOTION to appoint Norton McMullen LLP as the auditor for the League of Canadian Poets' 2024-2025 fiscal year**
 - a. Speaker: Michael Andrews, Treasurer and Lesley Fletcher, ED
8. **2024-2025 Board of Directors election**
 - a. Speaker: Rayanne Haines, President
 - b. **MOTION** to approve candidates for the 2024-2025 Board of Directors as presented
9. **Member Motion**

MOTION: That the League of Canadian Poets examine options to

- a. bring the membership together in-person in 2026 to mark the 60th anniversary of the organization; and
- b. explore other opportunities or events that can bring members together in the individual provinces and territories and within different regions of the provinces. Both of these would underline the breadth and diversity of Canada's national poetry organization.

10. **Review of the Annual Report** (Year-end March 31, 2024)

- a. Speaker: Nic Brewer, Artistic Program Director

11. **MOTION to adjourn**

DRAFT Minutes - League of Canadian Poets Annual General Meeting 2023

Tuesday, June 22, 2023, 2:00 pm ET

Voting Members Present

Neil Aitken
Lisa Alletson
Bill Arnott
Janet Barkhouse
John Barton
Bertrand Bickersteth
Clara Blackwood
Yvonne Blomer
Rita Bouvier
Frances K. Boyle
Sue Bracken
Gavin Bradley
Allan Briesmaster
Jacquie Buncel
Anne Burke
Louise Carson
Ellen Chang-Richardson
Dina E. Cox
Leesa Dean
Jaclyn Desforges
Daniela Elza
Eric Folsom
Cathy Ford
Keith Garebian
Suparna Ghosh
Heidi Greco
Rayanne Haines

Eva Halus
Sylvia D Hamilton
Tracy Hamon
dee Hobsbawn-Smith
Catherine Hunter
Geoff Inverarity
Sally Ito
Marvyn Jenoff
Penn Kemp
DA Lockhart
Alice Major
Diana Manole
Blaine Marchand
Kate Marshall Flaherty
Micheline Maylor
Jacob McArthur Mooney
Thandiwe McCarthy
Sean McGarragle
Stuart Ian McKay
rob mclennan
Natalie Meisner
Carmelo Militano
Jane Munro
Lorri Neilsen
John Oughton
Charlie Petch
Janelle Pewapsonias

Kelly Rose Pflug-Back
D.C. Reid
Lisa Richter
Stephen Roney
brandy ryan
Gregory Santos
Daniel Scott
Lisa Shen
Felicity Sidnell Reid
Bren Simmers
Hendrik Slegtenhorst
Lindsay Soberano-Wilson
Adam Sol
Mary Soutar-Hynes
Lynn Tait
Hugh Thomas
Harry Thurston
Yvonne Trainer
Deborah-Anne Tunney
Salimah Valiani
Jean Van Loon
Cassy Welburn
RC Weslowski
Sheri D Wilson
Anna Yin
Bänoo Zan

Non-Voting Members Present

Michael Andrews
Vanessa Barnier
Padmaja Battani
Erin Bedford
Tony Braithwaite
Neill Calvert
Carol Casey

Nancy Daoust
Meharoon Ghani
Eric Hansen
Samantha Jones
Kris Kaila
Lawrence Kosowan
Yannis Lobaina
Kim Mannix

Lisa Nackan
Sally Ogis
Forrest Orser
Anna Quon
Lisa Reynolds
Adrienne Stevenson
David Yerex Williamson

Staff Present

Nic Brewer, Ashley-Elizabeth Best, Leila-Indira Mohabeer-Ortiz, Laura O'Brien

AGM 2023 Proceedings

1. **Call to order and welcome:** Presented by Tracy Hamon

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 pm ET. Proceedings were slightly delayed, allowing more voting members to join to achieve a quorum

2. **Orientation:** Presented by League Staff

League staff provided an orientation to Zoom and how the AGM would operate. Provided an overview of quorum requirements for the AGM

3. **Quorum management:** Presented by League Staff

League staff reviewed those in attendance to ensure a quorum was achieved.

- Attendance: 102
- Voting members: 80
- Non-Voting Members: 22
- Total number of active, voting members as of Friday, June 16, 2023: 760
- Note: 11 other League members attended and stayed for the duration of the meeting, but did not update their names and are therefore not included in the numbers above

4. **MOTION** to approve the meeting agenda: Presented by Tracy Hamon

MOTION: to approve the meeting agenda as presented

Moved: Penn Kemp

Seconded: Neil Aitken

Amendments: None

Vote: 51 in Favour, 2 Abstain

Verdict: The Motion was approved.

Discussion: None

5. **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Presented by Tracy Hamon

MOTION to approve the Minutes of the League of Canadian Poets' Annual General Meeting 2022

Moved: Kate Marshall Flaherty

Seconded: Natalie Meisner

Amendments: None

Vote: 47 In Favour, 2 Abstain

Verdict: The Motion was approved

Discussion: None

6. **Discussion** - Business Arising from Minutes: Presented by Tracy Hamon

None raised.

7. MOTION to approve Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements: Presented by Michael Andrews

Michael Andrews provided an overview of our financial position, and the financial statements for the year 2022-2023. He noted a stable financial position and pointed out some changes in the presentation of our financial statements that resulted from the advice of our new auditors. Michael recommended going through notes on the Financial Statements for a detailed understanding of each item.

One member asked what restricted funds are. Michael explained that at the discretion of the Board, certain amounts of money can be put aside for specific purposes (projects, emergencies, etc.). It is a good way to keep track of funds that have been put aside for specific purposes, but the cash is not segregated within our bank accounts.

One member asked if the funding for poets is "first-come, first-served". Staff noted that funding is prioritized first by ensuring that as many members as possible receive at least some level of funding. Once that is achieved, if there is an additional budget for readings, it is prioritized based on geographical reason and accessibility areas. However, our funding is currently oversubscribed, so we typically have no further budget beyond providing at least one funded reading to each applicant.

One member asked for the current value of our invested funds at the time of this meeting. Staff noted that our externally managed funds are only reported once per year. The most recent values are recorded in the notes of our current Financial Statements.

One member asked what the annual sales of chapbooks are. Staff noted that it is recorded in the notes section of our financial statements.

One member asked why award amounts were decreasing while juror payments were increasing. Tracy noted that juror fees are being increased over time to ensure correct compensation that is long overdue. Staff noted that prize amounts and the number of prizes being dispersed has not been decreased, but likely results from a change in accounting with our new auditor.

MOTION to approve Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the 2022-2023 year (Year End March 31, 2023)

Moved: rob mclennan

Seconded: Frances Boyle

Amendments: None

Vote: 50 In Favour, 2 Abstain

Verdict: The motion was approved.

8. Motion to approve the Budget: Presented by Michael Andrews

Michael Andrews provided an overview of the budget for the coming year. Noted that the budget had been created with similar priorities of previous years. Noted that revenue appears flat, but that the financial support the League had received for COVID-19 recovery will no longer be available in the next year, and earnings need to make up for that difference.

The organization has budgeted for a slight deficit in the coming year but has worked hard to minimize administrative expenses to ensure poet payments can be maximized. Professional fees will be increased to support continued work on governance and policy development. A significant reduction in our expenses will result from the closure of our Toronto office. Staff now work remotely from the Centre for Social Innovation, which is a low-cost option that provides us with much-needed space.

One member noted an error on presentation slides that was corrected verbally.

MOTION to approve Budget, Fiscal Year April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Moved: Micheline Maylor

Seconded: Lisa Shen

Vote: 51 In Favour, 2 Abstain

Verdict: The motion was approved.

9. BREAK

The group took a quick break from the meeting, during which some members asked questions about operations. Staff provided some information on plans for the League library, communications and archives before the meeting resumed.

10. Motion to appoint the Auditor: Presented by Michael Andrews

MOTION to appoint Norton McMullen LLP as the auditor for the League of Canadian Poets 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Moved: Daniel Scott

Seconded: Neil Aitken

Vote: 47 In Favour, 2 Abstain

Verdict: Passed

11. Motion to approve candidates for the Board of Directors: Presented by Tracy Hamon

The slate of nominees was presented and reviewed by Tracy Hamon. Noted that bios for those up for election have been circulated to members before this meeting. Tracy noted her thanks to the wonderful board of directors for all of their hard work, noting they are excellent to work with.

MOTION to approve candidates for the Board of Directors as presented.

Moved: Penn Kemp

Seconded: Ellen Chang Richardson

Vote: 46 In Favour, 2 Abstain

Verdict: Passed

Welcome to the new board. Thank you to outgoing members of the board Geoff Nilson, Emilia Nielsen, Carolyne Van Der Meer and Sarah de Leeuw for their work.

Nic expressed thanks to Tracy Hamon for her work as President, for guiding the board during times of change and for supporting members, staff and other board members.

12. Review of the Annual Report (Year-end March 31, 2023): Presented by Nic Brewer

Nic highlighted some key pieces from the annual report. A record 262 new members joined, putting the League over 1000 members as of this AGM. We supported: 2 webinars, 4 mentorship pairs, 15 consultations, 12 workshops, and over \$105,000 dispersed to poets for events. Very proud of chapbooks, Fresh Voices and Poetry Pause publications, which have growing readership and viewership. Thank you to all the editors, poets and everyone involved in the publications. National Poetry Month was a huge success, with \$17,000 in funding dispersed to poets for events, and more than 300 posters and 16,000 bookmarks sent out across Canada.

Nic highlighted award winners for the year.

- Honorary Membership: Health Arts Research Centre and Theytus Books
- Life Membership: Joanne Arnott and Clarise Foster
- Colleen Thibaudeau Award: Flavia Cosma and Cornelia Hoogland
- Gerald Lampert Award: *Whitemud Walking* by Matthew James Weigel
- Pat Lowther Award: *Quiet Night Think* by Gillian Sze
- Raymond Souster Award: *Vox Humana* by Adebe DeRango-Adem

Thanks to members for participation in and support of all League-organized events, including open mics, book launches, Freedom to Read and Cross-Pollination events.

Noted that members are more engaged than ever, with new Community Committees in place and active; 28% growth on the League Facebook page, 3% growth on Twitter, 23% growth in Instagram and a 12% increase in Between the Line subscribers.

Noted that we were saddened to hear about the passing of Arlene Lampert in the past year.

Nic expressed sincere thanks to all our partners, sponsors, donors and supporters.

13. Motion to Adjourn: Presented by Tracy Hamon

MOTION to adjourn the meeting

Moved: Alice Major

Seconded: dee Hobsbawn-Smith

Time adjourned: 3:36 pm ET

Treasurer's Report – 2023-2024

2023-2024 was a challenging fiscal year, as the League incurred an operating deficit of \$20K. Through the management and diligence of the staff and board of directors, the organization has maintained positive reserves, ensuring a healthy financial position.

Spending and Programming: In 2023-2024, the League maintained all its funding programs, dispersing payments to poets for events, professional development, mentorship, and awards. During COVID-19, the League benefited from the receipt of additional government funds in support of poets. While these funds are no longer available, the League has continued to provide a high level of funding to poets and has maintained financial support as a high priority.

Strategic Planning and Governance Expenses: The League recently completed a strategic planning exercise and developed an updated plan that will guide our work until 2027. We also completed a process that updated the organization's governance structure, ensuring compliance with legal requirements. These initiatives incurred one-time expenses that we will not be incurred in 2024-2025.

Funding: In 2023-2024, the League was informed that funding from the Ontario Arts Council would be reduced. While this reduction was not material (approximately \$6,000), it does come at a time when the League is being financially challenged to maintain its current level of programming. While we are not anticipating further cuts in 2024-2025, this reduction highlights the need for the League to engage in fundraising and revenue generation beyond government sources.

Increasing expenses: Like many in this challenging economic environment, the League is experiencing increasing costs. This impacted our 2023-2024 fiscal year. The League created a budget for 2024-2025 that includes expected expenses while ensuring the League remains financially strong, with only minor deficit anticipated.

Stursberg Investments: The League has held and managed a restricted investment fund. The revenue from this fund is used to support the Jessamy Stursberg Poetry Prize. In the 2023-2024 year, the Board of Directors approved the transfer of the funds to the Ontario Arts Foundation (OAF) to be professionally managed and invested. Changing the fiscal management of the Stursberg investment does not change the financial position of the League, however, the League's financial statements reflect the new arrangement.

The Stursberg funds will be held by the OAF for three years, after which the League will receive an annual payment that will be used to support the Jessamy Stursberg Poetry Prize. Having these funds held externally and professionally managed will optimize the award going forward.

Overall Financial Position: The League of Canadian Poets is in a sustainable financial position despite incurring deficits in the past two fiscal years. We have restricted funds to cover a portion of our annual programming as well as unrestricted cash available, and an emergency fund is in place if required. It is important that the League continue to develop new sources of revenue to expand the support for its members and to mitigate the reliance on government funding.

LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2024

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	7.	Statement of Cash Flows
	8-13.	Notes to Financial Statements

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members
League of Canadian Poets
TORONTO
Ontario

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of League of Canadian Poets which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2024 and the statements of operations, statement of changes in fund balances and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the entity as at March 31, 2024 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

NORTON McMULLEN LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

MARKHAM, Canada
TBD

LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at March 31,	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	\$ 41,535	\$ 56,312
Cash - internally restricted	90,208	85,298
Cash - externally restricted (Note 3)	-	8,715
HST recoverable	7,221	8,995
Prepaid expenses	<u>7,580</u>	<u>10,841</u>
	\$ 146,544	\$ 170,161
Term Deposit (Note 2)	17,845	17,815
Investments Held for Jessamy Stursberg Endowment Fund (Note 3)	<u>-</u>	<u>62,450</u>
	<u>\$ 164,389</u>	<u>\$ 250,426</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 22,305	\$ 17,423
Deferred revenues (Note 4)	<u>22,135</u>	<u>18,120</u>
	<u>\$ 44,440</u>	<u>\$ 35,543</u>
FUND BALANCE		
Unrestricted	\$ 29,741	\$ 58,420
Internally restricted (Note 5)	90,208	85,298
Jessamy Stursberg Endowment Fund (Note 3)	<u>-</u>	<u>71,165</u>
	<u>\$ 119,949</u>	<u>\$ 214,883</u>
	<u>\$ 164,389</u>	<u>\$ 250,426</u>
Externally Held Endowment Funds (Note 6)		

Approved by the Board:

_____ Director

_____ Director

LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

For the year ended March 31, 2024

	BALANCE Beginning	Revenues	Expenses	Transfers (Notes 3, 5)	BALANCE Ending
General Fund (Page 5)	\$ 58,420	\$ 459,683	\$ 479,804	\$ (8,558)	\$ 29,741
Internally Restricted Funds	85,298	-	-	4,910	90,208
Jessamy Stursberg Endowment Fund (Page 6)	<u>71,165</u>	<u>10,991</u>	<u>85,804</u>	<u>3,648</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>\$ 214,883</u>	<u>\$ 470,674</u>	<u>\$ 565,608</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 119,949</u>
PRIOR YEAR TOTAL FUNDS	<u>\$ 271,842</u>	<u>\$ 455,162</u>	<u>\$ 512,121</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 214,883</u>

See accompanying notes

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LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND

For the year ended March 31,

2024

2023

REVENUES

Public sector revenues (Note 7)	\$ 266,085	\$ 299,868
Earned revenues (Note 8)	139,802	133,108
Contributions	42,749	27,050
Externally Held Endowment Funds (Note 6)	11,047	8,060
	<u>\$ 459,683</u>	<u>\$ 468,086</u>

EXPENSES

Artistic		
Poets fees	\$ 129,303	\$ 147,911
Artistic salaries	48,691	50,000
Poets travel and accomodation	18,000	15,616
Programming		
Awards and prizes	12,600	9,900
Content, design and other fees	12,590	15,716
Juror and panelist fees	7,625	7,300
Marketing and communications	26,483	12,845
Development	1,464	300
Administration		
Salaries and benefits	132,763	149,457
Professional fees	45,083	32,759
Office and general	18,547	23,599
Telecommunications and technology	9,945	8,086
Financial transaction fees	7,593	7,295
Rent	4,635	24,288
Insurance	4,482	4,499
	<u>\$ 479,804</u>	<u>\$ 509,571</u>

DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES

\$ (20,121) \$ (41,485)

LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS - JESSAMY STURSBURG ENDOWMENT FUND

For the year ended March 31,

2024

2023

REVENUES

Investment income	\$	10,641	\$	3,128
Contributions		350		-
Unrealized losses on investments		-		(16,052)
	\$	<u>10,991</u>	\$	<u>(12,924)</u>

EXPENSES

Grants, awards and related costs (Note 3)		<u>2,591</u>		<u>2,550</u>
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EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE THE FOLLOWING:

	\$	8,400	\$	(15,474)
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Disbursement to Ontario Arts Foundation (Notes 3 and 6)

		<u>83,213</u>		<u>-</u>
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DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES

	\$	<u>(74,813)</u>	\$	<u>(15,474)</u>
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See accompanying notes

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LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended March 31,

2024

2023

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS WERE PROVIDED BY (USED IN):

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Deficiency of revenues over expenses

General Fund

\$ (20,121) \$ (41,485)

Jessamy Stursberg Endowment Fund

(74,813) (15,474)

\$ (94,934) \$ (56,959)

Items not affecting cash:

Unrealized losses on investments

- 16,052

\$ (94,934) \$ (40,907)

Net change in non-cash working capital balances:

HST recoverable

1,774 (1,443)

Prepaid expenses

3,261 (2,866)

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

4,882 (21,346)

Deferred revenues

4,015 (27,385)

\$ (81,002) \$ (93,947)

FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Repayment of Canada Emergency Business Account loan

- (40,000)

INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Redemption of investments

62,420 987

DECREASE IN CASH

\$ (18,582) \$ (132,960)

CASH - Beginning

150,325 283,285

CASH - Ending

\$ 131,743 \$ 150,325

Cash consists of the following:

Unrestricted cash

\$ 41,535 \$ 56,312

Internally restricted cash

90,208 85,298

Externally restricted cash

- 8,715

\$ 131,743 \$ 150,325

LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2024

NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The League of Canadian Poets (“the League”) was incorporated without share capital as a not-for-profit organization under the laws of the Province of Ontario on June 18, 1976. It is a membership-based organization that exists to serve the professional needs of Canadian poets as well as to promote the interests of Canadian poets and poetry.

As a registered National Arts Service Organization, the League is exempt from the payment of income taxes under Part 1 of the Income Tax Act (Canada).

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

a) Fund Accounting

Resources are classified into funds according to the activities or objectives specified as follows:

The **General Fund** accounts for general operations and programs. Unrestricted contributions including grants to be used for general operations and contributions received for specific projects are reported in this fund.

Internally Restricted Funds have been established to account for the League's activities pertaining to:

- Emergency Reserve
- Strategic Planning
- Special Projects
- The League of Canadian Poets Bursary Fund
- Lesley Strutt Poetry Contest Fund
- Membership Support Fund
- Jessamy Stursberg Fund

The **Jessamy Stursberg Endowment Fund** accounts for the League's activities pertaining an endowment received to support youth initiatives. During the year, the League disbursed the balance of this fund to the Ontario Arts Foundation to hold this endowment on the League's behalf.

b) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions based on currently available information. Such estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities as at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from the estimates used.

LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2024

1. **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** - Continued

c) **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents consist of bank balances and cash held in the investment account.

d) **Investments**

Investments in term deposits are measured at amortized cost which due to their nature approximates original cost plus accrued interest.

e) **Revenue Recognition**

The League follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions which includes grants, donations, and bequests. Externally restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the fund corresponding to the purpose for which they were contributed. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the General Fund. Restricted contributions for which there is no fund are accounted for using the deferral method.

Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in fund balances. Investment income earned on endowment investments are externally restricted, and as such, are recognized as revenue in Endowment Fund balances when earned.

Membership fees and other earned revenues are recognized as revenue in the General Fund proportionately over the fiscal year to which they relate. Investment income is recognized as revenue in the appropriate fund when earned.

f) **Contributed Services**

Volunteers contribute significant hours per year to assist the League in carrying out its activities. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

g) **Financial Instruments**

Measurement of Financial Instruments

The League initially measures its financial assets and liabilities originated or exchanged in arm's length transactions at fair value. The League subsequently measures all financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost.

Financial assets subsequently measured at amortized cost include cash and term deposits. Financial liabilities subsequently measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

The League has no financial assets measured at fair value and has not elected to carry any financial assets or liabilities at fair value.

LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2024

1. **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** - Continued

g) **Financial Instruments** - Continued

Impairment

Financial assets measured at amortized cost are tested for impairment when events or circumstances indicate possible impairment. Write-downs, if any, are recognized in the excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses and may be subsequently reversed to the extent that the net effect after the reversal is the same as if there had been no write-down. There are no impairment indicators in the current year.

2. **TERM DEPOSIT**

The term deposit matures in September 2027 and earns interest at 0.55% per annum.

3. **JESSAMY STURSBURG ENDOWMENT FUND**

In 2011, the League received a \$50,000 endowment in memory of Jessamy Stursberg to support youth initiatives. In 2024, the fund balance of \$83,213 was transferred to the Ontario Arts Foundation to be held on behalf of the League.

During the year, \$2,591 in awards and related costs were disbursed for youth initiatives (2023 - \$2,550) according to the intent and purpose of the endowment.

During the year, a transfer was made from the General Fund to the Jessamy Stursberg Endowment Fund of \$3,648 (2022 - \$Nil) to cover the shortfall of the fund balance compared to the amount disbursed to the Ontario Arts Foundation.

4. **DEFERRED REVENUE**

Deferred revenue consist of the following:

	2024	2023
Membership fees	\$ 19,885	\$ 9,870
C. Thibaudeau Award	2,250	3,250
Donations	-	5,000
	<u>\$ 22,135</u>	<u>\$ 18,120</u>

LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2024

5. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS

The continuity of internally restricted funds during the year is as follows:

		<u>Balance Beginning</u>	<u>Transfers from/(to) unrestricted</u>	<u>Balance Ending</u>
Emergency Reserve	(a)	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Strategic Planning	(b)	8,385	(8,385)	-
Special Projects	(c)	27,772	(2,780)	24,992
The League of Canadian Poets Bursary Fund	(d)	15,250	(2,600)	12,650
Lesley Strutt Poetry Contest Fund	(e)	8,891	486	9,377
Membership Support Fund	(f)	-	7,389	7,389
Jessamy Stursberg Fund	(g)	-	10,800	10,800
		<u>\$ 85,298</u>	<u>\$ 4,910</u>	<u>\$ 90,208</u>

The Board of Directors of the League has established internally restricted funds, as follows:

- a) In 2018, an Emergency Reserve was set up for the purpose of building financial security for the League in case of significant disruptions in operations or funding.
- b) In 2020, a Strategic Planning Reserve was set up to support upcoming work relating to strategic planning for the League. It was transferred to the General Fund and spent during the year.
- c) In 2020, a Special Projects Reserve was set up to support upcoming projects for the League to be completed in future years. During the year, \$2,780 (2023 - \$Nil) was transferred to the General Fund for the Spoken Word project.
- d) In 2021, a Bursary Fund Reserve was set up to fund bursaries to support poetry scholars in Canada. During the year, \$2,600 (2023 - \$2,500) was transferred to the General Fund for bursary disbursements.
- e) In 2022, the Lesley Strutt Poetry Contest Fund was set up to fund an annual award for the best original poem, in memory of Lesley Strutt. An additional \$486 (2023 - \$635) was transferred to this fund in the year.
- f) In 2024, the Membership Support Fund was set up with a transfer from the General Fund of \$7,389 to set aside funds to support members in the future.
- g) In 2024, the Jessamy Stursberg Fund was set up with a transfer from the General Fund of \$10,800 to set aside funds for use before receipts from the Jessamy Stursberg externally held endowment fund begin in fiscal year 2027-2028 (Note 6).

The internally restricted fund balance amounts are supported by cash balances.

LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2024

6. EXTERNALLY HELD ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Ontario Arts Endowment Fund:

The Ontario Arts Foundation (“OAF”) operates an Ontario Arts Endowment Fund Program in which it holds and has supplemented contributions made to arts organizations for endowment purposes. The League of Canadian Poets has established two separate funds with the OAF, both of which are controlled and managed by the OAF in accordance with its investment and income distribution policies. Accordingly, the assets of the fund are not reflected in these financial statements. The funds are as follows:

- a) *Art Endowment Fund:* As at the year end, the fair value of the League of Canadian Poets Art Endowment Fund was \$176,819 (2023 - \$158,539). Income of \$8,337 (2023 - \$8,060) was recognized as revenue by the League for the year.
- b) *Stursberg Endowment Fund:* In 2024, the League transferred the residual balance of \$83,213 from the Jessamy Stursberg Endowment Fund to OAF to create the League of Canadian Poets Stursberg Fund externally held endowment fund (Note 3). These funds will be managed and allowed to grow for three years, after which time the League will receive an annual disbursement of income to support the Jessamy Stursberg Youth Poetry Contest and related activities. As at the year end, the fair value of the League of Canadian Poets Stursberg Endowment Fund was \$85,089 (2023 - \$Nil).

P.K. Page Fund:

The P.K. Page Fund is an externally held endowment fund formed in memory of P.K. Page. The assets of the fund are controlled by third parties in a private giving fund. Accordingly, the assets of this fund are not reflected in these financial statements. As at the year end, the fair value of the P.K. Page Fund was \$57,653 (2023 - \$54,357). Income of \$2,710 (2023 - \$Nil) was recognized as revenue by the League for the year.

7. PUBLIC SECTOR REVENUES

Public sector revenues consist of the following:

	2024	2023
Canada Council for the Arts:		
Operating grant	\$ 187,500	\$ 187,500
Project grants	-	33,000
Ontario Arts Council operating grant	55,145	60,268
Toronto Arts Council operating grant	19,100	19,100
Canada Summer Jobs Grant	<u>4,340</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 266,085</u>	<u>\$ 299,868</u>

LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2024

8. EARNED REVENUES

Earned revenues consist of the following:

	2024	2023
Membership fees	\$ 125,137	\$ 117,797
Awards and contest submission fees	11,020	10,773
Royalties, interest and other	3,048	3,733
Book sales	<u>597</u>	<u>805</u>
	<u>\$ 139,802</u>	<u>\$ 133,108</u>

9. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Risks and Concentrations

The League is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a summary of the League's exposure to and concentrations of risk at March 31, 2024:

a) Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The League is not exposed to significant credit risk. There has been no change in the assessment of credit risk from the prior year.

b) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the League will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The League is exposed to this risk mainly with respect to its accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The League manages this risk by managing its working capital and by generating sufficient cash flow from operations. There has been no change in the assessment of liquidity risk from the prior year.

c) Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency risk, interest rate risk, and price risk. The League is mainly exposed to interest rate risk as follows:

i) Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. As described in Note 2, the League is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to its investment in a term deposit. The term deposit earns interest at a fixed rate which significantly mitigates the League's exposure to this risk. The exposure to this risk fluctuates as the balance held in term deposits and related interest rates change from year to year.

About Norton McMullen LLP

The League worked with Norton McMullen to complete our annual audit for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years. Norton McMullen LLP was selected as our ideal auditing firm after a widely circulated Request for Proposals (RFP). Submissions to the RFP were reviewed by the Treasurer and Executive Director, and Norton McMullen was chosen as our auditor. We are incredibly pleased with the level of professionalism demonstrated by our audit team and look forward to a longstanding relationship with the firm.

From the Norton McMullen website

In a profession where personal relationships are what make the difference, Norton McMullen takes the time to understand our clients, to stay involved and to create a lasting connection. We provide the personal attention you deserve.

Since 1967 we have been serving our clients as they grow, expanding our capabilities and providing tailored solutions. Along the way we have earned a reputation and developed the credentials that you can rely on.

Norton McMullen is one of the few independent accounting firms in the GTA with the size and scope to deliver big firm services while focusing on private businesses and their owners, not-for-profit organizations and individuals. We want our clients to grow and benefit from our experience and insight.

Proposed Budget – 2024-2025

In 2024-2025, the League is budgeting for a small deficit. This plan ensures that we can complete all planned activities and the work outlined in our strategic plan. We are comfortable with this deficit budget, as the League is in a stable and healthy financial position. Recent deficit budgets follow several years of surplus results.

Revenues

With rising expenses, more demand for our programs, and threats to government funding, it is essential that the League of Canadian Poets increase our revenues and our revenue diversity in the coming years. The League has a strong fundraising plan in place to support this need over the next three years. We have developed the 2024-2025 budget with fundraising goals in mind, and staff have a lot of work ahead of them to meet the budget targets.

We have budgeted for an increase in our private sector revenue compared to our performance in 2023-2024. Private sector revenue is our best opportunity to increase and diversify revenue in the coming years. Staff have a lot of work and learning ahead of them to meet these ambitious goals, and we hope to form solid relationships that can serve the League for years to come.

Budget Items	2023-2024 Actuals	2024-2025 Budget	Change	Notes
Revenues				
Earned Revenue	\$139,802	\$147,720	\$7,918	Includes award and contest submissions, membership fees, book sales, program registrations, and royalties.
Donations	\$28,199	\$20,000	-\$8,199	The staff is soliciting donations for our General Fund, Member Support Fund, and other funds in earnest.
Foundations	\$5,550	\$7,050	\$1,500	Includes foundation disbursements for P.K. Page Fund. We are soliciting support from many foundations for different projects and programs.
Sponsorships	\$9,000	\$18,000	\$9,000	\$9,000 in sponsorship support confirmed for the Cross-Pollinations program. We are currently seeking support from sponsors for Poetry Pause, Fresh Voices, and National Poetry Month.
Public Sector	\$266,085	\$266,085	\$0	Includes funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, and the Canada Summer Jobs program
Investment	\$11,047	\$11,000	-\$47	Revenue from the Ontario Arts Foundation and a GIC
TOTAL Revenues	\$459,683	\$469,855	\$10,172	League staff are working hard on many different fronts to increase revenues by over \$10,000 in 2024-2025.

Expenses

Many of the League’s annual expenses are increasing in price, and demand for our programs has never been higher. Our staff and board are working hard to ensure that expenses are handled diligently and that support for essential poetry programs is prioritized.

In the years following the COVID-19 Pandemic, the League was lucky to receive recovery funds to support poetry activities nationally, and in the city of Toronto. These funds are no longer available, but staff have worked to keep our Artistic expenses high in 2024-2025 to ensure maximum support for poets. There is a slight decrease in artist fees budgeted for the coming year, but the decrease is minimal relative to the decrease in available funding.

The League is facing increasing expenses in all areas of our work, particularly administrative. However, we will see a slight decrease in our Administrative Expenses in 2024-2025 because we have no expected expenses related to governance work, policy development, or legal support that we have required in the past two years.

Expenses				
Artistic Expenses	\$203,619	\$195,300	-\$8,319	Includes poet fees for events (plus travel), fee payments for workshops and consultations, and staff salaries directly tied to running these programs. Decreased in 2024-2025 because the Toronto Arts Council Resiliency Fund was received/only available in 2023-2024 and a slight decrease in Ontario Arts Council funding.
Programming Expenses	\$25,190	\$25,650	\$460	Costs for awards and prizes, content fees, design fees, chapbook publication, National Poetry Month printing, and mailing and related program expenses.
Marketing & Communications	\$26,483	\$44,520	\$18,037	Costs related to some printing, digital marketing fees, festival expenses, production, and salaries/fees related to marketing. Increase in 2024-2025 due to hiring of Cross-Pollinations Coordinator, temporary website support, and reallocation of salary for Communications and Administrative Coordinator to reflect workload.
Development	\$1,464	\$11,080	\$9,616	Includes donor fees, donor service charges, and fundraising expenses including a fundraising consultant and the expense related to a Canada Summer Jobs Intern (funding dependent)
Board and Governance	\$6,152	\$7,750	\$1,598	Costs related to Board training and Development
Professional Fees	\$45,083	\$30,800	-\$14,283	Fees for bookkeeping and annual audit. In 2023-2024, this also included legal fees and consultant fees related to governance and

				policy development that will not be incurred in 2024-2025
Salaries and Benefits	\$132,763	\$127,280	-\$5,483	Includes salaries and benefits related directly to operations. Salaries related to specific programs are allocated to Artistic Expenses, Development and Marketing & Communications
Other Administrative Expenses	\$39,050	\$38,880	-\$170	Includes rent, memberships, IT and technology expenses, insurance, mailing and administrative printing, phone, etc.
TOTAL Expenses	\$479,804	\$481,260	\$1,456	Total expenses will remain very similar in 2024-2025 while staff work very hard to increase revenues and ensure expenses are minimized wherever possible.

Planned Result

Below are the planned results for the 2024-2025 year. We hope to reach the 2024-2025 fiscal year end with a very small deficit. This will take a lot of hard work, but staff are committed to developing new revenue streams in the coming year.

Planned Result		
Budget Items	2024-2025 Budget	Notes
Total Revenues	\$469,855	Staff are working hard on many different fronts to increase revenues by over \$10,000 in 2024-2025.
Total Expenses	\$481,260	Total expenses will remain very similar in 2024-2025 while staff work very hard to increase revenues and ensure expenses are minimized wherever possible.
Planned Adjustments	\$7,200	Adjustments are expenses that will be covered by internally restricted funds and include expenses such as our annual bursary, Lesley Strutt Poetry Prize and Spoken Word Award
Year-End Result	(\$4,205)	The total impact on our financial position after considering adjustments from our restricted funds.

Slate of Nominees – 2024-2025

The Following board members are up for election for the 2024-2025 year.

- Stuart Ian McKay, Chair of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee and Board Member
- Hollay Ghadery, Chair of the Regional Representatives Committee and Board Member

The following board members are in the middle of a two-year term and are not up for election for the 2024-2025 year.

- Rayanne Haines, President
- Hendrik Slegtenhorst, Vice President
- Tracy Hamon, Past President
- Michael Andrews, Treasurer
- Frances K. Boyle, Secretary
- Jaclyn Desforges, Chair of the Membership Committee and Board Member

Our motion at the 2024 AGM will be to accept the full slate of nominees, which includes all 8 candidates listed above.

Get to Know the League's Board of Directors



Rayanne Haines
President



Hendrik Slegtenhorst
Vice President



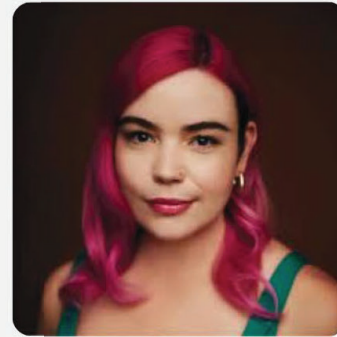
Tracy Hamon
Past President



Michael Andrews
Treasurer



Frances K. Boyle
Secretary



Jaclyn Desforges
Chair, Membership



Hollay Ghadery
Chair, Regional Reps



Stuart Ian McKay
Chair, EDI

Get to Know the League's Board of Directors

President: Rayanne Haines

Rayanne Haines (she/her) is an award-winning hybrid author and pushcart nominated poet as well as a cultural producer of intersectional films, stage shows, and panels. She is an Assistant Professor in Arts and Cultural Management at MacEwan University and hosts the literary podcast *Crow Reads* in partnership with Read Alberta. Rayanne has penned three poetry collections - *The Stories in My Skin* (2013), *Stained with the Colours of Sunday Morning* (Inanna, 2017), and *Tell The Birds Your Body Is Not A Gun* (Frontenac, 2021) which won the 2022 Stephan G. Stephansson, Alberta Literary Award for Poetry as well as being shortlisted for both the BPAA Robert Kroetsch Award for Poetry, and the National ReLit Award for Poetry. Her poetic memoir, *What kind of Daughter* releases Fall 2024 with Frontenac House.

Rayanne has been the League's President since June 2023, acted as the League's Vice President from 2020-2023, and acted as the League's Alberta Representative from 2019-2020

Vice President: Hendrik Slegtenhorst

Hendrik Slegtenhorst's executive and senior management work has been for local governments, post-secondary education, and heritage institutions, and on board directorships for cultural, community, and economic development. By design, he has worked in Canada's largest cities—Ottawa, Montréal, Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto, and Vancouver—and many of the country's smaller communities—and in the United States, Europe, and Africa. His publications include a six books' series on all the cantatas of J.S. Bach, a poetry trilogy *Solitary Ethics*, two books on Canadian local government, two books on music and art, and one on Vancouver's Stanley Park. He is a past president of the Federation of BC Writers, past co-chair of the Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton, a past director of the Canadian Authors' Association, former registrar of The Banff Centre, and past executive director of the Museum of Vancouver. He was born next to the Atlantic Ocean in the Netherlands, but after much peripatetic journeying finds himself living for the third time in Vancouver with a view of the Pacific.

Hendrik has been the League's Vice President since June 2023

Past President: Tracy Hamon

Tracy Hamon was born in Regina, Saskatchewan. She holds an MA in English from the University of Regina. Her first book of poetry, *This Is Not Eden*, was released in April of 2005 and was a finalist for two Saskatchewan Book Awards. A portion of *Interruptions in Glass* won the 2005 City of Regina Writing Award and was shortlisted for two Saskatchewan Book Awards in 2010. Her third collection, *Red Curls*, won the Drs. Morris and Jacqui Shumiatcher Regina Book Award in 2015.

Tracy has been the League's Past President since June 2023, acted as the League's President from 2021 to 2023, served as the League's Vice President from 2017 to 2021, and acted as the League's Saskatchewan Representative previous to these roles.

Treasurer: Michael Andrews

An accomplished Operations and Finance executive with experience across multiple sectors and industries, Michael Andrews is recognized for his ability to see beyond the numbers to recognize transformational business opportunities.

Michael currently serves as COO of Access Copyright, a collective that distributes millions of dollars annually in licensing royalties to creator and publisher affiliates. In this role, Mike is responsible for Finance, Business Development, Information Services and Operations. He is also the CFO of Prescient, Access Copyright's creator-focused innovation lab, dedicated to exploring the future of rights management and content monetization through Blockchain and other technologies.

Michael has acted as the Treasurer of the League since 2019

Secretary: Frances K. Boyle

Frances Boyle is the author of three books of poetry: *Light-carved Passages* (BuschekBooks 2014), *This White Nest* (Quattro Books, 2019) and *Openwork and Limestone* (Frontenac House, 2022). Her other books include a novella, and an award-winning short story collection. Frances's poetry has won local and national prizes and been selected for the Best Canadian Poetry series and Poem in Your Pocket Day. Raised in Regina, she lived in Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver before settling in Ottawa. She spent 10 years as part of Arc Poetry Magazine's editorial board, and volunteered for a number of other arts organizations, and is currently a Board member of VERSeOttawa, which produces VERSeFest, Ottawa's poetry festival. She has been a proud member of the League since 2015. Frances's website is www.francesboyle.com.

Frances has acted as the League's Secretary since June 2023.

Chair, Membership Committee: Jaclyn Desforges

Jaclyn Desforges is the author of *Danger Flower* (Palimpsest Press/Anstruther Books), winner of the 2022 Hamilton Literary Award for Poetry and one of CBC's selections for the best Canadian poetry of 2021. She's also the author of *Why Are You So Quiet?* (Annick Press, 2020), a picture book which was shortlisted for a Chocolate Lily Award and selected for the 2023 TD Summer Reading Club. Jaclyn recently served as the 2023/2024 Mabel Pugh Taylor Writer In Residence at McMaster University and Hamilton Public Library. She is a Pushcart-nominated writer and the winner of several prizes, including the 2018 RBC/PEN Canada New Voices Award. Jaclyn was a finalist for the 2023 CBC Poetry Prize and the 2023 CRAFT Short Fiction Prize, and was longlisted for the 2024 Room Magazine Fiction Contest. Jaclyn's writing has been featured in literary magazines across North America. She holds an MFA from the University of British Columbia's School of Creative Writing and lives in Hamilton with her partner and daughter.

Jaclyn has acted as the Chair of the Membership Committee and a member of the League's Board since June 2023.

Chair of the Regional Representatives Committee and Board Member: Hollay Ghadery

Hollay Ghadery is a multi-genre writer living in Ontario on Anishinaabe land. She has her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph. *Fuse*, her memoir of mixed-race identity and mental health, was released by Guernica Editions in 2021 and won the 2023 Canadian Bookclub Award for Nonfiction/Memoir. Her collection of poetry, *Rebellion Box* was released by Radiant Press in 2023. *Widow Fantasies*, her collection of short fiction, is forthcoming with Gordon Hill in fall 2024. Hollay is the host of the 105.5 HITS FM Bookclub, as well as HOWL on CIUT 89.5 FM. She is also the Poet Laureate of Scugog Township.

Chair of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee and Board Member: Stuart Ian McKay

Stuart Ian McKay is a Calgary/Edmonton based poet. His poetry and nonfiction have been published in many Canadian journals and anthologies. *Stele of Several Ladies*-a long poem and a cognate of prayer, his first two books of poetry, were published in 2005 and 2013 by Passwords Enterprises. *even the idea of maya is maya*, a poetry chapbook, was published by Frog Hollow Press in Victoria as part of its Dis/Ability Series in 2019. AOS Publishing in Montreal published his new book of poetry *the commune of our waking* in 2023. Stuart is the editor of the poetry chapbook anthology *the way out is the way in*, published by the League of Canadian Poets in 2022. He and fellow Calgary poet/noise and sound artist Matt Smith comprise the poetry creation and performance team "the thornlake endeavour". Stuart serves as a member of the filling Station poetry collective. In January 2022, he was the writer in residence at the Wallace Stegner House in Eastend, Saskatchewan. In September 2023, Stuart was the Writer in Residence at the Penny Lou Cottage at the Rivendell Retreat Centre on Bowen Island, British Columbia.

Stuart has been the Chair of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee and served on the League's board since June 2022, and previously acted as the League's Alberta-NWT Representative.

Motion to the 2024 League of Canadian Poets AGM

“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.”

Since its founding in 1966, the League’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) traditionally brought poets together from across the country in a different city each year. This weekend event had two components – the Annual General Meeting, which allowed the membership to discuss and vote on League business brought forward by the LCP Council as well as motions brought forward from the floor; and, a conference that offered poets the opportunity to network, forge and renew friendships and contacts, sell books, and hold panels and talks, both planned and spontaneous through readings and discussions about poetry and poetics.

This in-person event created and deepened the sense that the poets were actively part of a national poetry community. The friendships and contacts forged at these AGM events have lasted for decades and in a way that a solely online AGM, focused exclusively on necessary League business, never will.

The Covid pandemic changed the way the League held its AGM and moved it to a 60- to 120-minute digital meeting. While virtual AGMs do provide efficiencies, the nature and length of time for the digital meeting cannot compare to a weekend event, which allowed motions and nominations to Council and other League positions to be made from the floor in the final business meeting session. This was in addition to a range of events which highlighted and celebrated poets and poetry.

The last in-person AGM weekend was in June 2019 in St John’s, Newfoundland. Since 2020, as mentioned above, the pandemic curtailed gatherings. Since, it has not been feasible to hold an in-person AGM weekend. At first it was assumed to be a temporary solution during the pandemic. However, it now seems to be a permanent one, favoured by funders and the League Office itself.

That said, I, seconded by Alice Major and with the support of the undersigned poets, put forward a motion to the Council and to the membership that the League of Canadian Poets examine options to (a) bring the membership together in-person in 2026 to mark the 60th anniversary of the organization; and (b) explore other opportunities or events that can bring members together in the individual provinces and territories and within different regions of the provinces. Both of these would underline the breadth and diversity of Canada’s national poetry organization.

Blaine Marchand (President & past president, 1991-95)

Alice Major (President and past president 2000-2005)

LCP Members supporting this request:

Full Members

Ronnie Brown (Ottawa, ON)
Susan McMaster (Ottawa, ON – former League President)
Eric Folsom (Kingston, ON)
Colin Morton (Ottawa, ON – former League Council)
John Barton (Victoria, BC)
Mary Lee Bragg (Ottawa, ON)
Robert Priest (Toronto, ON)
rob mclennan (Ottawa, ON)
Joan Conway (Terrace, BC)
Susan McCaslin (Fort Langley, BC)
Stephanie Bolster (Pointe-Claire, QC)
Monty Reid (Ottawa, ON)
Carolyn Zonailo (Montreal, ON)
Stephen Morrissey (Montreal, QC)
Keith Garebian (Mississauga, ON)
David C. Brydges (Cobalt, ON)
Di Brandt (Winnipeg, MB)
Richard-Yves Sitoski (Owen Sound, ON)
Patrick Connors (Toronto, ON)
Kate Rogers (Cobourg, ON)
Katerina Fretwell (St. Catherine's, ON)
John Oughton (Toronto, ON - former League Treasurer)
Allan Briesmaster (Thornhill, ON – former League Council)
Patrick O'Connor (Toronto, ON)
Linda Frank (Hamilton, ON)
Lynn Tait (Sarnia, ON)
Gay Allison (Stratford, ON)
Roger Nash (Sudbury, ON – former League President)
George Elliott Clarke (Toronto, ON)
Lilian Allen (Toronto, ON)
AF Moritz (Toronto, ON)
Sneha Madhavan-Reese (Ottawa, ON)
Vanessa Shields (Windsor, ON)
Brian Bartlett (Halifax, NS)

David Blaikie (Ottawa, ON)
Clara Blackwood (Toronto, ON)
Gary Geddes (Thetis Island, BC)
AJ Dolman (Ottawa, ON)
Louise Carson, (St-Lazare, QC)
Terry Ann Carter (Victoria, BC)
Jean Van Loon (Ottawa, ON)
Jan Conn (International)
Carol Stephens (Ottawa, ON)
JC Sulzenko (Toronto, ON)
Ellen Chang-Richardson (Ottawa, ON)
Karen Mulhallen (Toronto, ON)
Doris Fiszer (Ottawa, ON)
Susan Musgrave (Masset, Haida Gwaii, BC)
Chad Norman (Truro, NS)
Jim Nason (Toronto, ON)
Anita Lahey (Ottawa, ON)
Jannie Edwards (Edmonton, AB)

Associate Members

Sally Quon (Kelowna, BC)
Lindsay Soberano-Wilson (Barrie, ON)
Dharmpal Mahendra Jain (Toronto, ON)
PJ Thomas, (Peterborough, ON)
Claire Bolton (Barrie, ON)
Anne Hopkinson (Victoria, BC)
Alison Newall (Montreal, QC)
Patricia Narynski (Selkirk, MB)
Nan Williamson (Peterborough, ON)
Mel Gil (Victoria, BC)
Carol Casey (Blyth, ON)
Joanne Belanger (Belleville, ON)
Karin Cope (Port Dufferin, NS)
Richard Brait (Toronto, ON)
Meg Freer (Kingston, ON)
Danny Peart (Vancouver, BC)
Margaret Code (Toronto, ON)