

DRAFT Minutes

League of Canadian Poets 2024 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 2 pm ET

Held online as a Zoom Meeting

Quorum requires 10% of voting members to be present; total active voting members as of June 25, 2024: 810 (quorum: 81 voting members). Some members came and left the meeting between 2pm and 3:30pm ET, but at no point was quorum compromised.

Attendance (101)

Voting Member Attendees (88)

Alexandra Oliver	Eric Folsom	Margaret Christakos
Alice Major	Eva Halus	Maria Figueredo
Allan Briesmaster	Frances Boyle	Marilyn Dumon
Amoya Reé	gillian harding-russell	Marvyne Jenoff
Anna Yin	Gavin Barrett	Mary Lou Soutar-Hynes
Anne Burke	Geoff Inverarity	Matthew Gwathmey
Bänoo Zan	Hendrik Slegtenhorst	Meghan Kemp-Gee
Bassam	Hollay Ghadery	Melanie Marttila
Gary Barwin	Jaclyn Desforges	Merle Amodeo
bill bissett	Jannie Edwards	Micheline Maylor
Blaine Marchand	Jay Ritchie	Neil Aitken
Bren Simmers	Jean Van Loon	Pamela Mordecai
Carla Harris	Jeffery Donaldson	Peace Akintade
Carol MacKay	Jenna Butler	penn kemp
Caroline Morgan Di -	John Barton	Pujita Verma
Giovanni	Johnny Trinh	Rayanne Haines
Cassy Welburn	Julie Paul Full	Rose Adams
cathy ford	Kate Rogers	S.A. Leger
Catriona Wright	Katie Marshall Flaherty	Samantha Jones
Charlie Petch	Kim Fahner	Shahanaz Hoque
Colin Morton	Kristina Bresnen	Shakkoi Hibbert
Conor Mc Donnell	Leesa Dean	Shani Mootoo
crystal hurdle	Lillian Allen	Sheniz Janmohamed
daniela elza	Lisa Reynolds	Stephen Roney
david brydges	Lisa Richter	Stuart Ian Mckay
Diana Manole	Lois Lorimer	Sue Bracken
Diane Taylor-Sexton	Lorri Neilsen Glenn	Susan McMaster
Dianne Joyce	Louise Carson	Susie Berg
Dina E Cox	Lynn Tait	Thandiwe McCarthy
		Tracy Hamon
		Vanessa Shields

Non-voting attendees (13)

Archana Sridhar	Janice Colbert	Raymond Helki
Carol Casey	Kris Kaila	S A McCormick
Debbie Ohi	Marlene Grand Maître	Sienna Tristen
Emily Sanford	Michael Andrews	
Heather J Wood	Neall Calvert	

Proxy voting (116 voting members assigned proxies in total, but 6 attended at least part of the meeting)

Frances Boyle, assigned by 87 members (plus 3 who left the meeting before it concluded)

Adebe DeRango-Adem	Felicity Sidnell Reid	Mary Ellen Csamer
Anne Marie Todkill	Fiona Tinwei Lam	Mary Rykov
Anto Chan	Flavia Cosma	Maryellen Polikoff
Beth Everest	Gail Sidonie Sobat	Maureen Scott Harris
Britta Badour	Geoffrey Nilson	Melanie Flores
Bruce Kauffman	Gloria O'koye	Michael V. Smith
Carolyn Boll	Heidi Greco	Moira MacDougall
Charlotte Hussey	Honey Novick	Natasha Ramoutar
Chuoqiao yang	Hugh MacDonald	NEIL MEILI
Claudia Coutu Radmore	Jaclyn Piudik	Nicole Markotić
Cornelia Hoogland	Jacqueline Valencia	Pamela Galloway
Cynthia Sharp	James Hawes	Patrick Connors
Daniel G Scott	John MacRae	Paul Edward Sanderson
Dannabang Kuwabong	Julie Cameron Gray	Peter Taylor
Dave Margoshes	Julie McNeill	Renee M.S Sgroi
David Alexander	Kaathleen Vera Skene	Rhea Tregebov
David Bateman	Katerina Vaughan Fretwell	Sean Wiebe
David Stones	Kevin Irie	Sue Chenette
Deborah-Anne Tunney	Kyeren Regehr	Suparna Ghosh
dee Hobsbawn-Smith	Laboni Islam	Susan Ioannoi
Desiree McKenzie	Laurie Anne Fuhr	Susan McCaslin
Doris Fiszer	Laurie MacFayden	Susie Whelehan
Douglas Walbourne-Gough	Lidice Megla	T Liem
DS Stymeist	Lillian Allen	Terese Svoboda
Elee Kraljii Gardiner	Lindsay Soberano Wilson	Terry Ann Carter
Elizabeth Cunningham	Madeline Bassnett	Terry Watada
Elizabeth Zetlin	Maja Bannerman	Tonya Lailey
Erin McGregor	Maria Caltabiano	Wendy Donawa
Eva Tihanyi	Martin Gomes	Zane Koss

Stuard Ian McKay, assigned by (2):

George McWhirter

Kamal Parmar

Tracy Hamon, assigned by (4):

Brenda Sciberras

Linda Frabk

Clarise Foster

Yvonne Trainer

Jaclyn Desforjes, assigned by (8):

bianca lakoseljac

Hugh Thomas

John Terpstra

Derek Webster

Ian Williams

Kelly Madden

Ellen Chang-Richardson

James (Jake) Byrne

Blaine Marchand, assigned by (5):

David Blaikie

Ronnie R. Brown

Stephanie Bolster

George Elliott Clarke

Rosemary Clewes

Mary-Lou Soutar Hynes, assigned by Sheila Stewart

Kim Fahner, assigned by Joe Fiorito

David Brydges, assigned by DC Reid

Allan Briesmaster, assigned by John B. Lee

AGM 2024 Proceedings

1. Call to order and welcome

- a. Speakers: Rayanne Haines, President), Nic Brewer, APD, and Lesley Fletcher, ED
- b. Rayanne Haines welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance
- c. Lesley Fletcher provided an overview of how voting, discussion, and questions will work for the session
- d. LCP staff took approximately 10 minutes to accurately gather attendance information to ensure quorum
- e. Meeting called to order at 2:26pm ET

2. **MOTION** to approve the meeting agenda

- a. Speaker: Rayanne Haines, President
- b. **Moved:** Hendrik Slegtenhorst
- c. **Seconded:** Penn Kemp
- d. Cathy Ford asked if reports on lobbying with/for PLR and Access Copyright are on the agenda; staff responded that this information is included in Annual Report, where relevant.
- e. **Vote**
 - i. In favour: 178 (71 present, 107 proxy)
 - ii. Opposed: 0
 - iii. Abstain: 8 (5 present, 3 proxy)
- f. Motion carried

3. **MOTION** to approve minutes of the League of Canadian Poets' 2023 Annual General Meeting

- a. Speaker: Rayanne Haines, President
- b. **Moved:** Vanessa Shields
- c. **Seconded:** Penn Kemp
- d. Lesley Fletcher noted that there was one member in attendance in 2023 whose name was note changed in Zoom, but who diligently voted in every poll; as we couldn't verify their name, they are not included in the attendance list, but if the are present at today's meeting please inform us and we can update the minutes. Nobody claimed the name.
- e. **Vote**
 - i. In favour: 175 (71 present, 104 proxy)
 - ii. Opposed: 0
 - iii. Abstain: 13 (8 present, 5 proxy)
- f. Motion carried

4. Business arising from the minutes

- a. Speaker: Rayanne Haines, President
- b. No business is arising from the 2023 LCP AGM Minutes

5. **Presentation of the Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements for the 2023-2024 fiscal year**

- a. Speaker: Michael Andrews, Treasurer
- b. Michael Andrews presented the Treasurer’s Report as circulated in advance of the meeting
- c. Michael Andrews presented the 2023-2024 Financial Statements
- d. **MOTION** to receive the Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements for the 2023-2024 fiscal year (Year-end March 31, 2024)
 - i. **Moved:** Michael Andrews
 - ii. **Seconded:** Gavin Barrett
 - iii. Blaine Marchand asks: the total membership fee revenue does not seem to be a reasonable calculation based on the number of members (approx. 60% of potential revenue), why? Answer: Our membership numbers change throughout the year, and at this moment in time they are the highest ever, and not an accurate reflection of our potential membership fee revenue; additionally, some members are Associate members with a \$70 fee (as opposed to \$185 Full fee), new members receive pro-rated discounts based on the month they join, and some fee waivers are granted for accessibility purposes.
 - iv. Cathy Ford asks: Why have travel reimbursements gone up, while poet fees have gone down? Answer: In 2022-2023, many events were still taking place online, and in 2023-2024 we saw much more happening in person and needing travel reimbursement; additionally, in 2022-2023 we received one-time funding from COVID relief funds and allocated them entirely to poets’ fees, which unfortunately was not available to us in 2023-2024.
 - v. Cathy Ford asks: Why have juror fees increased so much? Answer: We have added a few prizes, but we also raised juror fees to better reflect the amount of work our jurors need to complete.
 - vi. Cathy Ford asks: Why were professional fees so much higher? Answer: We had one-time expenses to support governance review, including a consultant and legal fees.
 - vii. Blaine Marchand asks: Why are volunteer contributions (hours) not included in our revenues/financial statements? Answer: As noted in Note 1f: 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.
 - viii. **Vote**
 - 1. In favour: 178 (74 present, 104 proxy)
 - 2. Opposed: 0
 - 3. Abstain: 12 (4 present, 8 proxy)
 - 4. Motion carried

6. **Presentation of the 2024-2025 budget**

- a. Speaker: Michael Andrews, Treasurer, and Lesley Fletcher, ED
- b. Lesley Fletcher presented the 2024-2025 budget in comparison to the 2023-2024 actuals, as outlined in the Member Package circulated in advance of the meeting.
- c. **MOTION** to approve the Budget for fiscal year April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025
 - i. **Moved:** Kate Marshall Flaherty
 - ii. **Seconded:** Lorri Neilsen Glenn
 - iii. Blaine Marchand asks why earned revenue seemed to note only membership revenue, when the budget suggests that increasing earned revenues will be a priority in the coming year. Answer: Earned revenues include contest and award submission fees, registration fees, book sales, and other such revenue, in addition to membership fees.
 - iv. Lesley Fletcher notes that although the League has budgeted for a small deficit, it is our hope that we will have a break-even year, but we were unwilling to sacrifice our poets' fees and programming budgets to achieve a break-even year in the budget.
 - v. Sienna Tristen thanks the staff for a careful and diligent budget during difficult times, which is seconded by Rayanne Haines.
 - vi. **Vote**
 - 1. In favour: 174 (72 present, 102 proxy)
 - 2. Opposed: 0
 - 3. Abstain: 12 (0 present, 12 proxy)
 - vii. Motion carried

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
- b. **Moved:** Hendrik Slegtenhorst
- c. **Seconded:** Gavin Barrett
- d. No discussion
- e. **Vote**
 - i. In favour: 171 (67 present, 104 proxy)
 - ii. Opposed: 0
 - iii. Abstain: 9 (2 present, 7 proxy)
- f. Motion carried

2024-2025 Board of Directors election

- g. Speaker: Rayanne Haines, President
- h. Rayanne Haines thanked all current Board members for their invaluable contributions to the League, and introduced Hollay Ghadery as a new nominee to the Board, for the role of Regional Representative Committee Chair. Stuart Ian McKay is standing for re-election as Chair of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.
- i. **MOTION** to approve candidates for the 2024-2025 Board of Directors as presented

- i. **Moved:** Gary Barwin
- ii. **Seconded:** Neil Aitken
- iii. No discussion
- iv. **Vote**
 1. In favour: 176 (67 present, 109 proxy)
 2. Opposed: 0
 3. Abstain: 6 (1 present, 5 proxy)
- v. Motion carried

8. **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.

Moved: Blaine Marchand

Seconded: Alice Major

Blaine Marchand, Alice Major, Lesley Fletcher, and Rayanne Haines all spoke about the motion, noting the historical importance of in-person gatherings, and the professional and personal benefits of in-person networking. Rayanne Haines noted that this motion is not specific to an AGM, but more generally to supporting more in-person programming.

Members participated in rich brainstorming and engagement, noting accessibility issues around in-person programming, considering the possibility of hybrid events, and reiterating the value of both online and in-person gatherings.

The discussion included considerations of budget and expenses around travel and accommodation for in-person events, including suggestions for ways to save, fundraise, and support members.

Prior to calling for a vote, Rayanne Haines again clarified that the motion does not commit to in-person programming, but to an investigation of how the League may pursue in-person gatherings again in the future.

Vote:

In favour: 165 (61 present, 104 proxy)

Opposed: 3 (3 present, 0 proxy)

Abstain: 14 (4 present, 10 proxy)

Motion carried

9. **Review of the Annual Report** (Year-end March 31, 2024)
 - a. Speaker: Lesley Fletcher, Executive Director
 - b. Lesley Fletcher presented a summary of the Annual Report as circulated in advance of the meeting.

10. **MOTION to adjourn**
 - a. **Moved:** Alice Major
 - b. Meeting adjourned at 3:38pm ET