

# 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  
Carol Casey  
Debbie Ohi  
Emily Sanford  
Heather J Wood

Janice Colbert  
Kris Kaila  
Marlene Grand Maître  
Michael Andrews  
Neall Calvert

Raymond Helki  
S A McCormick  
Sienna Tristen

**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  
Anne Marie Todkill  
Anto Chan  
Beth Everest  
Britta Badour  
Bruce Kauffman  
Carolyn Boll  
Charlotte Hussey  
Chugiao yang  
Claudia Coutu Radmore  
Cornelia Hoogland  
Cynthia Sharp  
Daniel G Scott  
Dannabang Kuwabong  
Dave Margoshes  
David Alexander  
David Bateman  
David Stones  
Deborah-Anne Tunney  
dee Hobsbawn-Smith  
Desiree McKenzie  
Doris Fiszer  
Douglas Walbourne-Gough  
DS Stymeist  
Elee Kraljii Gardiner  
Elizabeth Cunningham  
Elizabeth Zetlin  
Erin McGregor  
Eva Tihanyi

Felicity Sidnell Reid  
Fiona Tinwei Lam  
Flavia Cosma  
Gail Sidonie Sobat  
Geoffrey Nilson  
Gloria O'koye  
Heidi Greco  
Honey Novick  
Hugh MacDonald  
Jaclyn Piudik  
Jacqueline Valencia  
James Hawes  
John MacRae  
Julie Cameron Gray  
Julie McNeill  
Kaathleen Vera Skene  
Katerina Vaughan Fretwell  
Kevin Irie  
Kyeran Regehr  
Laboni Islam  
Laurie Anne Fuhr  
Laurie MacFayden  
Lidice Megla  
Lillian Allen  
Lindsay Soberano Wilson  
Madeline Bassnett  
Maja Bannerman  
Maria Caltabiano  
Martin Gomes

Mary Ellen Csamer  
Mary Rykov  
Maryellen Polikoff  
Maureen Scott Harris  
Melanie Flores  
Michael V. Smith  
Moir MacDougall  
Natasha Ramoutar  
NEIL MEILI  
Nicole Markotić  
Pamela Galloway  
Patrick Connors  
Paul Edward Sanderson  
Peter Taylor  
Renee M.S Sgroi  
Rhea Tregebov  
Sean Wiebe  
Sue Chenette  
Suparna Ghosh  
Susan Ioannoi  
Susan McCaslin  
Susie Whelehan  
T Liem  
Terese Svoboda  
Terry Ann Carter  
Terry Watada  
Tonya Lailey  
Wendy Donawa  
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 Iakoseljac

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 not 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 they 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 Holley 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