

67th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) of Members of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton

MINUTES

Monday, June 21, 2021

11:34 a.m. – 12:13 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Attendees:	Mr. David Hennick, Chair	Ms. Deborah Lancaster	Mr. Arthur Smith
	Ms. Jacqueline (Jackie) Bajus	Ms. Claudette Mikelsons	Mr. John Spatazzo
	Ms. Rosaline Dean	Dr. Ian Preyra	Dr. Gary Warner
	Mr. Konstantine Ketsetzis	Ms. Samidha Singhal	Father David Wilhelm
	Ms. Antonietta (Toni) Kovach		
Recorder:	Ms. Gail Gray, Staff		
Regrets:	Ms. Melissa Button		
Staff:	Mr. Rocco Gizzarelli, Executive Director		
	Ms. Donna Zan, Director, Child Welfare Services		
	Ms. Marlene Dei-Amoah, Service Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity		
	Ms. Krystal Buxo, Service Director, Permanency		
Invited	Mr. Anthony Frisina		
Guests:	Ms. Nora Melara-Lopez		
	Ms. Michelle Rodney		

Item	Description
1.0	WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER Board Chair, Mr. David Hennick, called the 67 th Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton to order at 11:34 a.m.
1.1	<u>Opening Prayer</u> Ms. Antonietta (Toni) Kovach read a prayer to open the meeting.
1.2	<u>Land Acknowledgement</u> Ms. Claudette Mikelsons provided a special reading to acknowledge National Indigenous Peoples Day, as follows:

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	<p>En cette journée nationale des peuples autochtones et à la lumière des événements récents en Colombie-Britannique, la Société d'aide à l'Enfance de Hamilton honore la mémoire des 215 enfants autochtones du pensionnat de Kamloops morts dans l'anonymat.</p>
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	<p>Nous tenons également à rendre hommage aux nombreuses femmes et filles autochtones assassinées et disparues en exprimant nos profondes sympathies aux survivants et survivantes des pensionnats, et à toutes les personnes autochtones touchées par ce passé tragique et douloureux.</p>
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	<p>En plus de célébrer l'héritage et la diversité des peuples autochtones au Canada, le Mois national de l'histoire autochtone est une bonne occasion de réfléchir sur l'historique colonialiste du Canada. S'éduquer sur la colonisation, le racisme envers les peuples autochtones et la décolonisation nous concerne tous et toutes.</p>
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	<p>On this National Indigenous Peoples Day and in light of recent events in British Columbia, the Catholic Children's Aide Society of Hamilton honours the memory of the 215 Indigenous children who died anonymously at the Kamloops residential school.</p>
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	<p>We also pay tribute to the many murdered and missing First Nations women and girls by expressing our deepest sympathies to the survivors of residential schools, and to all Aboriginal people affected by this tragic and painful past.</p>
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	<p>In addition to celebrating the heritage and diversity of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, National Aboriginal History Month is an opportunity to reflect on Canada's colonial history. Learning about colonization, racism against Aboriginal peoples and decolonization is something that concerns us all.</p>
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2.0	PROOF OF NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
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	<p>The Board Chair confirmed that the Notice calling the meeting was sent to all members and others to whom Notice is required, in accordance with the By-laws of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton.</p>
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3.0	REPORT ON ATTENDANCE
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	<p>The Board Chair confirmed that there are 13 Members in attendance and that there was quorum present.</p>
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4.0	MEETING REGULARLY CONSTITUTED
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	<p>The Board Chair stated that Notice of this meeting having been duly given to all Directors in accordance with the By-laws of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of</p>
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Hamilton and a quorum of the members being present the meeting was therefore duly constituted for the transaction of business.

5.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A copy of the agenda was included with the Notice of Meeting and was in the package distributed at this meeting.

It was

RESOLVED that the Agenda for the June 21, 2021 Annual Meeting of Members be approved.

MOVED: Ms. Jackie Bajus

SECONDED: Mr. John Spatazzo

CARRIED.

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 66th Annual General Meeting (AGM) dated June 22, 2020

It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the June 22, 2020 Annual General Meeting of Members be approved.

MOVED: Ms. Deborah Lancaster

SECONDED: Mr. John Spatazzo

CARRIED.

7.0 CONFIRMATION OF PRIOR ACTS

It was

RESOLVED that all acts, contracts, resolutions, Bylaws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments enacted, taken, passed, made and done by the Directors and Officers of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton since June 1, 2020, to the date hereof as the same are referred to in the minute books of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton or in its financial statements or are otherwise within the knowledge of the Members of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton, be and the same are hereby approved, ratified, sanctioned and confirmed.

MOVED: Mr. Konstantine Ketsetzis

SECONDED: Mr. John Spatazzo

CARRIED.

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8.0	REMARKS FROM THE BOARD CHAIR
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The Board Chair spoke about the numerous accomplishments during the past year in moving the agency's mission forward while keeping the children, youth, and families it served as the focus of the decisions and providing them with high quality, holistic, and strength-based services, founded on Catholic teachings, and evolution through a lens of equality, diversity, and inclusivity. The Society has continued to make positive strides in its service delivery through the enduring pandemic.

The Board Chair stated the Board continues to support the agency in addressing the long-standing issues of over-representation of Black and Indigenous children and youth in the child welfare sector inclusive of this Society. The Board has instituted regular reviews of race-based data and approved an *Equity Statement*; both of which will be shared with the community. As well, the Society had become an inclusive agency recognizing the needs of the LGBTQ2S+ community.

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services had introduced a multi-year plan to redesign child welfare and the Board fully supports the fundamental shift in the provincial system whereby every child and youth have the supports they need to succeed and thrive. With this in mind, and in conjunction with the Agency, the Board has approved a refreshed 2021-2023 Strategic Plan, which will be shared with the community.

The Board Chair affirmed on behalf of the Board, their commitment to strategic advancement of the agency's mission, vision, and values towards the success of the children, youth, and families the Society serves.

In conclusion, the Board Chair recognized fellow Board members, staff, foster and kin caregivers, volunteers, donors, and senior staff of the organization for the professional and collaborative approach in serving the needs of the children, youth, and families. He made special mention to Mr. Rocco Gizzarelli, Executive Director and the senior leadership team for their tremendous efforts in leading the agency through an unparalleled time of change and sweeping reforms of the child welfare system.

9.0	REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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The Executive Director reported that the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton continues to be inspired by its vision statement – *Child and youth safety, well-being, and resilience. Thriving families. Community partners working together.*

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	The Executive Director highlighted some the agency's key accomplishments of the past year:
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Achieved Partial French Language Services designation in October 2020 and continues to work in partnership with the Hamilton Children's Aid Society and the Children and Family Services Niagara to expand on services through a joint French Languages Services Team.• Continual collaboration, expansion, and strengthening of its community-based services to address adult mental health and addictions, violence against women, and the oppression of poverty, all of which have been brought to the forefront as outcomes of the pandemic.• The agency's Information Systems department continued its valuable work on improving the network infrastructure in supporting staff virtually and implemented several new platforms to support the secure delivery of services.• Maintained prudent fiscal management of the Society's resources and being proactive on grant applications that support initiatives that enhance service delivery.• Performed a review of the fundraising program and will implement recommendations to enhance this portfolio to increase its philanthropic endeavours to support the children, youth, and families the agency serves.• Engaged in the work of the government's 10-year strategy and vision of the reformation of child welfare with a renewed emphasis on the need to put the voices of children, youth, and families at the centre of all decision-making, reduce the reliance on residential care, while improving the quality of this care when it is needed, and move the system to one of prevention rather than protection. The agency has been fully supportive in making the necessary transformative changes to the system to serve the community and achieve better outcomes and of which, has practiced this approach for many years now and is fully in position to operationalize the design strategy.• Development of an <i>Equity Statement</i>, <i>Race-based Qualitative Data</i>, and a refreshed <i>Strategy Map</i> – all of which are posted on the agency's website. |
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The Executive Director reiterated the Society will continue to put children and youth at the centre of decision making, ensure services are more inclusive and culturally appropriate, and support better outcomes for First Nations, Inuit and Métis, Black and African Canadian children, and youth in the community.

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The Executive Director also recognized and expressed immense gratitude to the generous donors, all staff, foster, kin, and adoptive families, and volunteers. He acknowledged the strong and committed Board of Directors; His Excellency Bishop Crosby for his guidance and enduring support; the support of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, especially Ms. Elaine Pilgrim, Program Supervisor; and the agency's Senior Leadership Team, Ms. Gail Gray, Executive Assistant, and the community partners.

10.0 REPORT OF THE TREASURER

10.1 Presentation of Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditors for the Year Ended March 31, 2021

The financial audit was conducted by the firm of HGK Partners LLP in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards.

Father David Wilhelm, Board Treasurer advised that a copy of the Audited Financial Statements, together with the Auditor's Report for the year ended March 31, 2021 were received by the Members. The Audit and Finance Committee of the Board met with the team from HGK Partners to review the financial statements and audit findings report in detail on June 4, 2021. The audited Financial Statements F2021 were approved at the Board Meeting on June 14, 2021.

It was

RESOLVED that the Financial Statements of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021 and the Auditor's Report thereon be received and approved by the Members.

MOVED: Father David Wilhelm

SECONDED: Mr. Arthur Smith

CARRIED.

11.0 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

It was

RESOLVED that the Audit and Finance Committee of the Board of Directors undertakes a process to appoint Auditors for the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton prior to October 31, 2021, for the fiscal years F2022 through F2026.

MOVED: Father David Wilhelm

SECONDED: Mr. Arthur Smith

CARRIED.

Item Description

12.0 RECEIPT OF SLATE OF NOMINEES

12.1 Election of Candidates

Ms. Rosaline Dean, Nominating Committee Chair presented the slate of nominees to the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 term:

- Mr. Anthony Frisina
- Ms. Nora Melara-Lopez
- Ms. Michelle Rodney

It was

RESOLVED that Mr. Anthony Frisina, Ms. Nora Melara-Lopez, and Ms. Michelle Rodney be elected to the Board of Directors of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton for the three-year term from July 2021 to June 2024.

MOVED: Ms. Rosaline Dean

SECONDED: Ms. Deborah Lancaster

CARRIED.

12.2 Election of Directors

Ms. Rosaline Dean, Nominating Committee Chair presented the incoming slate of Directors to the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 term:

Mr. David Hennick	Board Chair
Ms. Jackie Bajus	Director
Ms. Melissa Button	Secretary
Ms. Rosaline Dean	Director
Mr. Anthony Frisina	Director
Mr. Konstantine Ketsetzis	Executive Officer
Ms. Antonietta (Toni) Kovach	Vice Chair
Ms. Nora Melara-Lopez	Director
Mrs. Claudette Mikelsons	Director
Dr. Ian Preyra	Director
Ms. Michelle Rodney	Director
Ms. Samidha Singhal	Director
Mr. Arthur Smith	Director
Mr. John Spatazzo	Director
Dr. Gary Warner	Director
Father David Wilhelm	Treasurer

Item	Description
	<p>It was RESOLVED that the named persons for the slate of Board of Directors and Executive Officers be hereby elected for the July 2021-June 2022 term. MOVED: Ms. Rosaline Dean SECONDED: Ms. Jackie Bajus CARRIED.</p>
13.0	<p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUTGOING CCASH BOARD MEMBERS The Board Chair publicly acknowledged outgoing Board Director Mrs. Deborah Lancaster for her outstanding service to the Board of Directors these past 9-years who played a key role in supporting the work of the organisation. Mrs. Lancaster was further acknowledged for her commitment and contributions, including being a proud sponsor of the bursary award program along with her husband Ken Lancaster.</p> <p>The Executive Director thanked Mrs. Deborah Lancaster for her lengthy volunteer services, her leadership, and valuable support to the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton; adding it has been an honor to work with her.</p>
14.0	<p>NEW BUSINESS There being no further business, the Board Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p>
15.0	<p>ADJOURNMENT OF AGM BUSINESS MEETING</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton's Annual General Meeting of Members be adjourned at 12:13 p.m.</p> <p>MOVED: Dr. Gary Warner SECONDED: Mr. Konstantine Ketsetzis CARRIED</p>

APPROVED:



David Hennick
Board Chair



per Gail Gray
Recording Secretary