

AIDS Committee of Ottawa Annual General Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Quorum

With forty-eight (48) members of the AIDS Committee of Ottawa (ACO) present, **quorum was met.**

1. Welcome and call to order

Jason Brophy, Chair of the Board of Directors, welcomed ACO members to the 2020 virtual Annual General Meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. Approval of the agenda

MOVED by Laura Hoover-Jean and SECONDED by Mike Laframboise that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion CARRIED.**

3. Traditional welcome and opening ceremony

Mike, Austin, Jimmy, and Rosie guided members through the traditional welcome and opening ceremony and smudge, and acknowledged the Algonquin people whose land we gathered upon for this meeting

4. Hope and remembrance ceremony

Haoua acknowledge those people from the HIV community who passed away in the past year and lit virtual candles in remembrance, following which a minute of silence was observed.

5. Presentation and adoption of the Audited Financial Statement and Report

Jason introduced the ACO's Auditor, Marc Brazeau of Marcil-Lavallée) and invited him to present the Audited Financial Statement/Report for Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2020 (circulated to members with the official notice of this meeting). Marc reviewed the audit's highlights and significant findings noting that the Audit Team found no anomalies or specific areas of concern.

MOVED by Jeff Potts and SECONDED by Ali Sougou that the Audited Financial Statement/Report for Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2020 be adopted as presented. **Motion CARRIED.**

6. Appointment of Auditor for Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2021

MOVED by Rick Philips and SECONDED by David Stinson that ACO members approve the appointment of the Audit firm, Marcil Lavallée, to undertake the official audit of the ACO's financial records for Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2021. **Motion CARRIED.**

7. Annual Report

Peter Szanto, the ACO's Volunteer Coordinator, presented the 2020 Annual Report noting that, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, publication of the Report was undertaken virtually, and paper-based dissemination will be limited. A copy of the Annual Report may be reviewed at: www.aco-cso.ca.

8. Messages from the Executive Director and the Chair of the Board of Directors

Khaled Salam, the ACO's Executive Director reviewed the highlights of his message contained (in detail) in the Annual Report. He noted, specifically, that the COVID-19 crisis has necessitated significant modifications/adaptations to the ACO's programs and services delivery. He also noted that the pandemic has revealed serious issues related to racism and racial disparities that the ACO will strive to address in the coming year. Finally, Khaled, with Peter's support, presented details specific to the ACO's budget and offered sincere thanks to all of its funding agencies and private donors.

Jason Brophy, Chair of the Board of Directors reviewed the highlights of his message (also contained in the Annual Report) en français.

9. Approval of the minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting

ACO members received a copy of the draft minutes from the Annual General Meeting convened on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. While minor amendments were noted, it was **MOVED** by Edward Barbezat and **SECONDED** by Bello Mansour that the minutes of the ACO's 2019 Annual General Meeting be approved by members as presented and amended. **Motion CARRIED.**

10. Election of the 2020-2021 Board of Directors

A slate of candidates was circulated to ACO members as part of the official notice for this Annual General Meeting and there were no additional nominations made. Therefore, by acclamation, the following Board members were duly elected (for two-year terms):

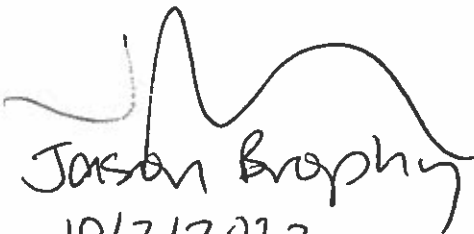
- Dare Abdullahi
- Vaughan Bauman
- Edward Barbezat
- Jeff Potts
- Ali Sougou


11. Closing remarks

Khaled (in English) and Jason (en français) offered sincere thanks and closing remarks. Khaled specifically offered a "shout out to the current Board of Directors and the amazing ACO staff team". And he also reassured members that despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, "We ARE and we WILL BE ok... we will get through this."

12. Adjournment

Agness Nalwamba **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** and the meeting was closed at 7:37 PM.


Jason Brophy
10/2/2022


BRIGITTE CHARBONNEAU
10/2/2022