

Canadian Parents for French, 47th Annual General Meeting
July 7, 2023, 10am to 10:30am (EST)
Hybrid Meeting Held In-Person in Gatineau, Quebec & via ZOOM

Voting Delegates in Attendance - 15:

- National Board of Directors:
President, Derrek Bentley; Vice-President, Kate Peters; Treasurer, Larry Vaters;
Secretary, Diane Tijman; Directors at Large: Wendy Carr, and Salma Al-Saquaf.
- Branch Presidents:
Nancy Taylor, BC & YK; Emma Piayda, AB & NWT Jaclyn Reaves Jacobson (VP), SK;
Michael Hudon, MB; Denise Massie, ON; Jane Keith, NB; Bailey Ross (VP), NS; Vanessa
Wachuku, PEI; Walter Parsons, NL

Chair of AGM - Derrek Bentley, President, CPF National Board of Directors

1. Call to order - Acknowledgement of the Territory / Ouverture de l'assemblée et reconnaissance du territoire
 - The meeting begins at 10:03 am ET.
 - President, Derrek Bentley, welcomes delegates and attendees to the 47th Canadian Parents for French Annual General Meeting.
 - President completes the land acknowledgment and reviews housekeeping points such as muting microphones for zoom participants, comments in the chat, all documents and reports posted online as well as new this year, the Treasurer's report and Auditor's report have been posted online in video form, as well as the Network CEO report in PDF form.
 - President reviews the rules of order. All in attendance may speak to a motion. Only the voting delegates will be able to vote on motions. The voting delegates are the CPF branch presidents or assigned delegates, and the directors of the CPF National Board.
 - President confirms that all 15 voting delegates are in attendance. All voting delegates asked to ratify their support in agreement by raising their green card if in the room or writing 'agree' in the zoom chat or 'disagree' if they disagree. Quorum is 2/3+1 or 11. As chair of the meeting, the President will only vote in the event of a tie.

Adoption of the Agenda / Adoption de l'ordre du jour

- President asks if there are any required changes to the agenda - no changes requested.

MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA

- Bailey Ross (CPF NS) moves to adopt the 47th Annual General Meeting agenda, seconded by Larry Vaters (CPF National).

CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the AGM of August 21, 2022 / Adoption du procès-verbal de l'Assemblée Générale annuelle du 21 août 2022

- Minutes from the 46th Annual General Meeting accepted at National Board of Directors meeting in May 2023. The minutes were posted on the CPF National website.

2. Business Arising from the Minutes / Affaires découlant du procès-verbal

- No business arising from the past AGM.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES

- Moved by Denise Massie (CPF ON) to accept the minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting, seconded by Nancy Taylor (CPF BC & YK).

3. President Report on CPF Network Governance Review Process / Rapport du Président sur le processus de revue de gouvernance du Réseau CPF

- Derrek Bentley states that this past fiscal year, from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, was quite a year, and how every year it seems CPF does more. He lists several large scale CPF initiatives: trialing a single ED managing two branches in the Atlantic region to allow for more staff; getting back to in-person Concours d'art oratoire with thousands of students; participating in a program review to better understand how we can improve as a Network; and tens of thousands of volunteer hours tracked.
- President recognizes Branches having managed disruptive times, such as Michael Hudon in Manitoba who, as president, was able to support his CPF MB Branch after his ED had to take an unexpected leave, and hire a new ED, CPF Alberta Board and Staff taking on leadership for NWT for a period of three years to ensure programming is offered on the ground there.
- On the Official Languages front, the President applauds the passing of C-13 to modernize the Official Languages Act and the inclusion, for the first time, of the importance of learning both of Canada's official languages. CPF also engaged in successful nationwide advocacy to stop plans to cut immersion and other FSL programs by local school boards in NL and even a whole province, New Brunswick. The release of the new action plan for Official Languages for 2023-2028 was applauded.
- From a Governance perspective, there has been progress on CPF's own strategic plan and most importantly, there is a new path forward for CPF, a renewed CPF, through the Network Affiliation Agreements. He reflected on CPF's time together last summer in Edmonton and remembers leaving that meeting feeling inspired. He went back and took a look at the words everyone shared in terms of how each was feeling as they departed, including: Energized, inspired, optimistic, hopeful, engaged, intrigued, relieved, achy from laughing, connected, invested, impressed, innovative, buzzing, satisfied, empowered, motivated, work to do.
- He stated that CPF certainly collectively got work done. After the first year of the governance review process that led to the first draft of the affiliation agreement, it was clear after the meeting in Edmonton that CPF had to work significantly to improve next draft. He thought back to the Dragon's Den Pitch exercise where 8 different table groups of CPF leaders pitched what an organization with the same goals as CPF would look like if they started from scratch. It was telling that when not a single group pitched the same structure it currently has that CPF was ready for change.
- The National Board was mandated to work towards the next - hopefully final - draft. This work was truly collective, with multiple consultations, feedback sessions, explanatory videos, group meetings, and individual follow-ups to create a second version of the Network Affiliation Agreement. And CPF did it, coming together to put on paper how everyone wants to work together. There will likely be changes in the months and years ahead, as CPF always stated it was a living document.
- The President states that 8 CPF Branches and CPF National have signed and committed to the Network Affiliation Agreement as of July 1. CPF notes that 1 Branch has made the decision to not sign. CPF respects its decision, and the different path the group has chosen to take.
- Now that the Network Affiliation Agreement is signed, the real work begins. The agreement is a starting point, the official formalizing of the idea that CPF is a Network and that we are stronger together. He is unbelievably excited for this next chapter, or perhaps even this new book, that we are currently writing for ourselves.
- So with this in mind, change is evident. One year ago, everyone was dreaming about what CPF could look like if it started from scratch. Today, everyone has established, in writing,

how we imagine CPF over the next three years and now it is time to turn this vision into reality.

- Over the coming year, it is full steam ahead from membership and digital donorship to shared human and financial resources to the centralization of certain services to better results and impact to increased collaboration.
- Round of thanks: Derrek thanks his colleagues on the National Board: Larry, Diane, Salma, Wendy, and Kate. Three are leaving CPF this year as the organization welcomes new members to the board. Derrek thanks Larry, Wendy, and Kate, for their dedication to CPF and also for their personal support this past year. He thanks the National and Network staff, and sends a special thank you to Nicole, Network CEO, for the incredible, sometimes difficult work, that was completed this year. He also thanks Cathy, who found a new hotel for this event in less than a week, only one example of the arguable miracles she pulls off. And, most importantly, he thanks everyone involved at the CPF branches, and by extension the chapters. He thanks the Branch Presidents and EDs participating in this AGM. Canadian Parents for French has always been about promoting French for all. Branch presidents and their boards who volunteer many hours and EDs and their teams go above and beyond their roles and are inspirations to everyone around them, including himself and the National Board. Their tireless work to support CPF and to push forward with a new vision is a mark you will leave with the organization and Canada for many years to come.
- In conclusion, CPF agreed change was needed a year ago. The organization has now codified this change, and now comes the fun part of seeing where this will take CPF. He calls for a round of applause for everyone and CPF looking toward the future.

4. Treasurer Report / Rapport du trésorier – Larry Vaters

- Derrek Bentley invites Larry Vaters to the stage.
- He states that Larry Vaters' Treasurer Report for the 2022/2023 fiscal year was posted online. Larry says he has already posted the Treasurer's Report 'video' online and invites people to watch it.
- Derrek asks Larry if he sees a particular priority for CPF in the immediate future.
- Larry shares a priority identified in the strategic plan is the ongoing need for CPF to diversify its funding. With the Official Languages Action Plan aligning well with what CPF does – and the fact that CPF is so successful in receiving funding from that project – this has kept CPF reliant on PCH funding. He asks the Board and Branches to look at how CPF can diversify its funding in the future. It is a double-edged sword: CPF has access to programs and funding opportunities, but this also takes time away from us to diversify funding.
- Derrek asks Larry when looking further ahead, whether there is an area or two CPF should focus on. Larry says everyone needs to adequately track in-kind contributions. CPF needs to capture the amount of time and effort volunteers put in this organization. He encourages branches and National to better track volunteer contribution as this helps build credibility and tell the CPF story of how involved volunteers are and why it takes so many volunteers for the organization to succeed. Secondly, the proposed new approach to CPF digital membership as put forward by Yves Savoie and truly utilizing the technological advantages of today is something CPF needs to hone in on. There is so much potential and opportunity to do things more efficiently and it is also a mechanism by which CPF can diversify its funding. Larry reiterates the importance of tracking in-kind contributions and pursuing digital membership.
- Larry shares that CPF once again worked with the auditing firm Marcil Lavallée and the auditor Marc Brazeau posted his Auditor's report online. Larry asks if there are any questions. None asked. Larry puts forth a motion to accept the Auditor's report for 2022/2023.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR 2022-2023

- Larry Vaters (CPF National) moves for the audited financial statements to be accepted as received, seconded by Walter Parsons (CPF NL).

CARRIED

- Larry puts forth a motion for the appointment of auditor, Marcil Lavallée, for 2023/2024.

MOTION TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR

- Larry Vaters (CPF National) moves to approve the appointment of the auditor, Marcil Lavallée, for the 2023/2024 fiscal year, seconded by Bailey Ross (CPF NS).

CARRIED

- Larry Vaters thanks Cathy Stone, Director of Operations at CPF National, and Sylviane Pichardie, Director of Finance at CPF National, for their continued diligent work on behalf of the organization, as they are doing a tremendous job. He is stepping away from the organization as of today, but CPF is very dear to him, so you'll never know if he'll be back in the future. Derrek Bentley thanks Larry Vaters.
- The President thanks the several standing and ad hoc working groups that excellently supported the National Board of Directors and that often include different branch Presidents, Executive Directors, and CPF members at large. Their voluntary contributions help the National Board ensure a broad CPF network perspective on many pertinent topics. The reports from the Nominations and Bylaw standing committees have been posted on the website.

5. Ratification of the election of the Directors to the National Board 2023-2024 /
Ratification de l'élection des administrateurs au Conseil d'administration national
2023-2024 – Wendy Carr, Chair of the Nominating Committee

- The President invites Dr. Wendy Carr to share key highlights of the Nominating Committee's work and to take everyone through the process of votes and ratifications of Directors and Officers.
- Wendy stated that the first highlight was the team she worked with: Salma, Vanessa, and Alex. Everyone applauds the team. The committee has always looked at a mix of various variables but competencies needed by the Network was a key criteria, particularly with a smaller National Board. The committee prioritized competencies, background and experiences for the needs of the organization at this time. Focusing on our mandate, they were mindful of the work we are trying to do in equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization. We wanted to continue that work and draw from different sources and shift the bar. The committee reached out through Charity Village, LinkedIn, and other sites, and received a breadth of candidates, which was really exciting. The list was very long. The committee ensured that people understood it was a volunteer position, but the list remained long.
- The committee narrowed down the choices and found another group of really interested and interesting people who want to work with our organization and be engaged. The online voting process took place with all the details of the results included in the Committee's report.

Ratification of the Election of the Directors to the National Board 2023/2024

- Wendy Carr (CPF National), serving as Chief Electoral Officer, asks the Voting Delegates to affirm the decision taken virtually to accept the Board of Directors for 2023/2024:
Derrek Bentley, Salma Al-Saquaf, Diane Tijman, Kate Ashley, and Isabelle Levert-Chiasson.

MOTION TO RATIFY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2023/2024

- Vanessa Wachuku (CPF PEI) moves to ratify Board of Directors for 2023/2024, seconded by Larry Vaters (CPF National).

CARRIED

Ratification of the nominations for 3 Officer Positions to the National Board of Directors 2023-2024

- Wendy Carr (CPF National), serving as Chief Electoral Officer, asks the Voting Delegates to affirm the decision taken by the National Board of Directors in assignments of the Officer positions for 2023/2024:
 - Derrek Bentley, President
 - Kate Ashley, Vice-President
 - Salma Al-Saquaf, Treasurer

MOTION TO ACCEPT NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS FOR 2023/2024

- Kate Peters (CPF National) moves to ratify Officer positions for 2023/2024, seconded by Vanessa Wachuku (CPF PEI).

CARRIED

Presentation of the National Board of Directors and Officers 2023/2024

- Wendy Carr (CPF National), serving as Chief Electoral Officer, presents the 2023/2024 National Board of Directors, and the audience offers their congratulations.

Derrek Bentley, President
Kate Ashley, Vice-President
Salma Al-Saquaf, Treasurer

Diane Tijman, Director
Isabelle Levert-Chiasson, Director

- Derrek thanks Wendy for all her support this year. Derrek also notes that the Bylaws committee report, the other CPF National standing committee, is online and thanks Diane Tijman (CPF National) and Nancy McKeraghan, a past President who has continued with the committee, for their fantastic work on the bylaws this year. They spent significant time reviewing the bylaws and making changes and edits, and he thanks them for their hard work.

6. Question and Answer Period – from Members and the Public

- No questions were received. Derrek invites everyone to send any further questions to the National Office in the coming days, and at any time of the year.

7. Adjournment of the Business Portion of the Meeting / Levée de la portion administrative de l'Assemblée

- The President adjourns the 47th meeting of Canadian Parents for French.
- 47th Annual General Meeting adjourned at 10:33am.

Submitted by Debbie Murphy, CPF National Board Support

Reviewed by Diane Tijman, Secretary, National Board of Directors

Final version for distribution, May 13, 2024