

**Annual General Meeting
October 17, 2015
Mount Saint Vincent University, Seton Faculty Lounge**

Member Attendance: Andrea MacDonald, Catherine Cross, Collette LeBlanc, Elizabeth Conrad, Michelle Lohnes, Natasha Couture, Victoria Chaisson,

Board Member Attendance: Carrie Smith via proxy, Bernadette Fegan, Elaine Ferguson, Elizabeth Hessian, Heather Hansen-Dunbar, Kelly Goulden, Margot Nickerson, Penny Whynot, Kathleen Couture, Valerie Rafuse,

Board Member Regrets: Alexa Nicolaou, Suzanne Saulnier, Jodi MacKinnon Leblanc,

Agenda

- 1) Welcome and Order of Events: Elaine Ferguson welcomes guests and presents agenda for the Annual General Meeting for the Year May 1, 2014-April 30, 2015, acknowledges Kathleen Couture as Chair for the 2014-15 year
Elaine Ferguson provides an explanation regarding incoming Board Members. Board Slate is presented at the Annual General Meeting, and attends their first meeting as Board members at the November meeting. In an effort to maximize resources and give new members a chance to settle in, Officers of the Board (Chair, Recorder, Treasurer) are elected in May (for the next fiscal year)
- 2) Mission, Vision, Values reviewed from Annual Report Page 4-5
- 3) Financial Report presented by Elaine Ferguson for Carrie Smith from Annual Report Page 16 (*see the 2014-2015 Annual Report for particulars*)

Motion by Kelly Goulden that the auditor for 2015-16 fiscal year be Janet Cheverie, Chartered Accountant. Second, Carrie by proxy, motion carried.

Discussion about the Professional Recognition Project: NSCCA will be covering the cost of the project as it will increase our credibility and will be completed without compromising the Values and goals of NSCCA.

NSCCA has hired Christine Forsyth who is beginning on Phase one of the Project
Budget for 2015-16 is provided for Member information

*Note: Edit to complete in Annual Report- pie chart does not reflect numbers in document, Kelly will adjust

Motion from Andrea MacDonald to accept the financial report as read with changes to the pie chart. Seconded by Bernadette Fegan, all in favour, motion carried

- 4) Achieving our Goals: Overview of Reports Annual Report Pages 7-15 (*see the 2014-2015 Annual Report for particulars*)
 - a. Board of Directors Report- presented by Elaine Ferguson
 - b. Operations- presented by Kelly Goulden
 - c. Advocacy- Presented by Margot Nickerson

- d. Membership- Presented by Kelly Goulden
- e. Ethics/Mentoring- Presented by Kelly Goulden
- 5) Questions, Comments Considerations from the floor- Nil
- 6) Nomination Slate- Presented by Heather Hansen-Dunbar Nomination Committee Chair

Board Members reoffering:

Alexa Nicolaou
Carrie Smith
Jodi MacKinnon-LeBlanc
Suzanne Saulnier
Bernadette Fegan
Margot Nickerson
Penny Whynot
Elizabeth Hessian
Elaine Ferguson
Heather Hansen-Dunbar
Valerie Rafuse
Kathleen Couture

Nominations received applications from three Members offering

Mary- Ellen Shatford
Annette Comeau
Catherine Cross

Motion from Elizabeth Conrad to accept the Slate of Officers for NSCCA Board of Directors 2015-16 as read; seconded by Kathleen Couture; all in favour motion carried

- 7) Group Work- received feedback from members on Professional Development, Membership, Professional Recognition Project (Member Dialogue attached below)

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:35pm by Elizabeth Conrad



Nova Scotia Child Care Association

October 17, 2015
Annual General Meeting
Members Dialogue

At the NSCCA Annual General Meeting Members present were asked to give their comments, concerns and considerations regarding the member services which NSCCA is currently providing. Four areas of Member services were highlighted:

- Membership
- Advocacy
- Conference & PD, and
- Professional Recognition Project

Members present chose the area they were interested in and Board Members who chaired or served on relevant Committees led and recorded the dialogue. This and a broader dialogue providing members opportunity for input through social media, feedback and key informant interviews will provide the Board of Directors with Member input as they continue to provide members with services. Following is a summary of the comments, concerns and considerations given at the Annual General Meeting.

- **Membership**

Members present said that the email correspondence from NSCCA was good. A number of suggestions arose from this dialogue.

- Develop a centre package to recruit membership including materials and ways to facilitate payment of membership for centre staff by centres.
- Change the timing of the Annual General Meeting and include professional development opportunity as part of the program.
- Develop means to increase Acadian and Francophone services
- Involve members in hands on activity for professional development.

- **Advocacy**

Advocacy activities include raising awareness regarding the value of child care and society caring for and about children and families; and advocating for salaries and working conditions which support ECE's.

A number of suggestions arose from this dialogue:

- Provide more notification of initiatives and more ways to involve more members in them
- Develop and put a calendar of monthly events on the web site including advocacy activities and relevant events.

- **Conference and PD**

NSCCA hosts two conferences:

The Spring conference in June is our annual convention. This conference focuses on gathering the membership and sector to learn together through keynotes and workshops; celebrate each other at the awards and recognition gala; and build community through activities, dialogue, and networking. Our Fall conference focuses on Social and Emotional Well Being of children or Mental Health in the Early Years. This conference is multidiscipline, bringing together a diverse group of researchers and practitioners who are interested in mental health in the early years and ECE's vital role in it.

- Members present said that each conference builds on the other and keep getting better.
 - Members present agreed that having Ann Pelo as a featured guest in June and Mary Gordon as a keynote in October was great.
 - The multidisciplinary aspect of the October conference was a plus providing an opportunity to network with related fields.
 - Ethics and mentoring series facilitator training and offering the series on a regular basis was positive
 - Wanted to know if the nutrition workshops would be provided again.
 - Outreach activities be explored which provide more access to members outside Metro- opportunities for PD such as sponsorships of local pd opportunities; survey or needs of rural and Acadian/francophone members; utilize online methods; hold gatherings.
- **Professional Recognition Project**

The first phase of the Professional Recognition Project is underway with the hiring of Christine Forsythe to research the ingredients needed for professional recognition; explore models of EC professional recognition that are in place; and develop case studies of professional recognition processes that have taken place in Nova Scotia in related fields.

There was a general enthusiasm for NSCCA beginning the professional recognition project (September 2015) with comments such as "high time!" Some areas to be considered were professional being defined; self regulation as compared to legislative recognition; Standards; ethics; enforcement and research backing the value of ECE. These members expressed that it was important to keep members informed regarding the process and progress of the project. Other phases of the project will include consultation and dialogue with members and others in the sector.