



CONSCIENCE CANADA 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday, April 4, 2019, 4:30 p.m.
Saint Paul University, Ottawa, ON

Minutes of Meeting

1. **Verification of Quorum** (minimum total of 15 members to be present either in person or by proxy)
___8___ members were in attendance in person, ___32___ by proxy (list of proxies appended at end of these minutes. The Quorum having been confirmed the business of Conscience Canada (CC) proceeded. The following are the motions and resolutions presented and approved by the membership. All supporting material was available at the meeting, is appended to the original of these minutes, and is available to all members on the CC website at www.consciencecanada.ca
2. **Verification of proper Notice of Meeting:**
On February 27, 2019 the Notice of Meeting of the 2019 AGM was sent by email to all the members' addresses CC has on record as required by Conscience Canada's by-laws. The Notice of Meeting was also printed in the CC Spring 2019 Newsletter. The CC Spring 2019 Newsletter with Notice of Meeting was posted to the CC website by February 27, 2019.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 AGM:**
Moved by Dwyer Sullivan; Seconded by Mary Groh - Carried with one abstention.
4. **Motion to approve the Agenda for the 2019 Conscience Canada AGM:**
Moved by Diane McIntyre; Seconded by Dave Bechtel - Carried
5. **Annual Report for 2018:**
Doug Hewitt-White distributed and presented the report on behalf of the CC Board. The report is appended to these minutes and is available upon request. It will be posted on the CC website and a notice of the report's posting will be sent out with the fall CC newsletter. Questions and answers followed.

Motion to receive the 2018 Board report:
Moved by Murray Lumley; Seconded by Diane McIntyre - Carried
6. **Conscience Canada bylaw changes:**
Proposed changes to bylaw were posted on CC website on January 12, 2019. Doug Hewitt-White distributed and explained changes proposed to the bylaw, in particular the need for a special resolution to be approved by members adopting the changes to Section 12 – Absentee Voting at Members' Meeting. The amended bylaw is appended to these minutes. Approved bylaw will be posted on the CC website and is available upon request. Questions and answers followed.

Motion to approve Special Resolution to amended bylaw section 12 on Absentee Voting:
Moved by Dwyer Sullivan; Seconded by Mary Groh - Carried

7. Confirmation of board members standing for re-election:

The four officer positions required by our by-laws, and to be chosen from within the Board within two weeks of the AGM, are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary; in addition there can be board members at large. Standing for re-election are: **Scott Albrecht, Dave Bechtel, Charlie Diamond, Mary Groh, Doug Hewitt-White, Murray Lumley, Jan Slakov, Dwyer Sullivan, Eric Unger**

Motion to appoint/ confirm Directors:

Moved by Diane McIntyre; Seconded by Eric Schiller - Carried

8. Nomination of any new board members: There was no nomination of any new board members.

9. Presentation & Approval of 2018 financial statements (copies available):

Dave Bechtel presented and explained the financial statements. They are appended to these minutes and are available upon request. Questions and answers followed.

Motion to receive the 2018 Financial Statements;

Moved by Dave Bechtel; Seconded by Diane McIntyre - Carried

10. Appointment of an Auditor for CC for 2019:

Motion to appoint Edward M. Simon CA, Professional Corporation, Kitchener, Ontario as Auditor for CC for 2019.

Moved by Dave Bechtel; Seconded by Diane McIntyre - Carried

11. Members joining CC Board Committees.

Board working committees are formed from time to time to work on specific objectives identified in CC's Strategic Plan. Membership in these committees will include at least one board member and up to two CC members at large who are not members of the CC Board. The Board would welcome new members at large for any of the board's working committees/teams.

12. Other business and announcements

Diane McIntyre volunteered to be a member of the Legislation and Lobbying Working Group along with Murray Lumley, Jan Slakov and Mary Groh. Diane's contact information was recorded by the secretary.

13. Adjournment - Moved and seconded by Diane McIntyre and Dave Bechtel respectively.

7:30 pm - Guest Presenter – Elizabeth May, M.P. and leader of the Federal Green Party

To see and hear the introduction to Ms. May's speech by President Doug Hewitt-White and Ms. May's speech followed by a Question and Answer time, please go to Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/MurrayLinToronto/videos/10156374517978931/> or to Conscience Canada's website, <http://www.consciencecanada.ca>

Since this video is owned by Facebook there is no guarantee of how long it will remain up. It can presently be found on Facebook at Conscience Canada: Canadian Taxpayers Against War.



Conscience Canada

Work for peace. Stop paying for war!

Travaillons pour la paix. Cessons de payer pour la guerre !

2018 Annual Report

Leading up to our AGM in April 2018 the focus of the CC board was to complete our three year strategic plan that would plot our future. We had looked at where we were, our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. The goal was to create a plan to give us a clear idea on how to revitalize CC — a flexible tool for guiding CC forward — always open to reworking and adjusting. The plan, though not entirely complete, was presented by Doug Hewitt-White at the CC AGM in April 2018.

In May the board followed up on discussions about the Strategic Plan at the AGM. Particular attention was paid to the objectives identified and how to track them and assess progress and success. The first objective, Focusing Our Efforts, was seen as essential to working on all the others. Creating 3 or 4 Board committees or teams would focus our efforts. Each team would work on one or two specific objectives in the plan. Each team would have at least one board member. We would try to find one or two other CC members not on the full board to be part of each team. There would be a board member on each team responsible for reporting back to the full board on progress. There was consensus agreement that this working in teams on objectives was the way to moving forward.

The board agreed on forming three teams to work on the priority objectives: a Court Challenge Team; a Legislation and Lobbying Team; and a Fundraising and PTR Promotion Team. The other lower priority objectives (collaboration with other peace groups, creating a culture shift) would be deferred for a later time.

Throughout 2018 the board was as frugal as possible in order to live within our means. In 2017 CC finished the year with an operating deficit of almost \$3500. In 2018, as reported in the Financial Statements, we were able to reduce the deficit to just under \$850. Nevertheless it is clear that CC must raise its revenues in order to survive. The Fundraising and PTR Team will continue working on this in 2019.

CC was a sponsor of the World Beyond War (WBW) annual global conference in Toronto on Sept. 21 & 22. at OCAD University. The theme of replacing war with the rule of law was well explored by activists and experts. Entitled *Designing a World beyond War: Legalizing Peace* this event brought together new and long-time activists from around Canada and the world, formed new alliances, strategized plans for future work on education, closing bases, and divestment, and worked on developing ideas for future creative actions. . CC had an information table at the conference, an ad in the program, and Doug Hewitt-White led a 75 minute workshop on the topic of War Tax Resistance – Legality, Practicality, Value.

CC board members come from all across Canada. That necessitates conducting board meetings using streaming meeting software (Skype et al). As well day to day communications relies heavily on email messaging. This year the board explored using cloud storage using Google Drive so board members could access and store in a common space documents, images and data files. This will be particularly helpful in sharing very

large files. This is also seen as a possible first step to using on-line collaborative task management, scheduling and meeting software. The hope is that board members may be able to share and do collaborative work online rather than by sending and exchanging files via rivers of email.

In 2018 CC updated its promotional materials with the new CC logo. Our brochure is now available in a bilingual tumble format. A new pop-up banner for use at conferences, meetings and exhibit tables was produced. And a bookmark that concisely tells the CC story was created.

Looking over our CC website the board concluded it needed to be more concise, pithy and deliver with more impact. The design – the look and feel – of the site needs to appeal to visitors, particularly the new young visitor. CC needs to present an image of being active, connected and valuable. Users of the site need to be able to find information quickly or at least be able to follow a clear path to the information they are looking for. We know the need. We currently do not have the means to hire expertise to design a new site. We have to wait for improved revenue to start any extensive website renovation. In the meantime the board will move forward as best it can on a thorough page by page examination of the information that is currently there and how it could be best updated, organized and presented. All CC members are encouraged to contribute content. Content drives viewership.

The CC newsletter had a new editor this year as Eric Unger took over the reins from Jan Slakov our past editor of many years. The board thanks Jan for her excellent work and commitment to producing so many newsletters full of insight and wisdom. And thanks to Eric for pitching in to take on an editorial and production task entirely new to him.

As a final note at our AGM in 2018 a few board members were able to meet with the Archivist-Librarian with the Mennonite Archives of Ontario held at Conrad Grebel University College and have a short overview of the CC archival material held there. Documents are being retained in paper format. The priority for digital content is video, audio and photographic records. Recently new material comprised of board meeting minutes, AGM reports and board member list have been sent in and are now part of the collection.

Doug Hewitt-White
for the Conscience Canada Board of Directors

Two questions were raised following the presentation of this report at the AGM. The questions are:

1. Who last sponsored Bill C-363, 'The Conscientious Objection Act', in 2011? It was MP Alex Atamanenko, MP from British Columbia Southern Interior, retired in 2015. http://www.consciencecanada.ca/?page_id=292 and <https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&billId=5268440>
2. Where is the Archive located? This information is in the last paragraph of the Report - Conrad Grebel College of the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario.