



Annual General Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2021

Voting Attendees

Amy Allison
Brian Bailkowski
Brenda Baxendale
Stephanie Bizzeth
Christine Bray
Krista Buchanan
Emma Burzotta
Cora Campbell
Sandy Cantwell-Kerr
Victoria Cernjak
Elaine Churchill
Pauline Cousins
Colleen Diggins
Ruth Duggan
Dorothy Edem
Andrew Edwards
Tania Embree
Alanna Emin
Jennifer Finlayson
Marybeth Fleming
Annette Fraser
Jo-Anna Halfyard

Jonathan Harris
Xavier Hartley
Rochelle Heighton
Kelsey Hunter
Victoria Jessome
Jennifer Keirstead
Myrna King
Bethany Lander
Karen Landry
Heidi Lauckner
Hilary Layton
Cherie Lewis
Norma Lewis
Heather Lowe
Diane MacKenzie
Jaclyn MacLeod
Ashley MacMullin
Lori MacNeil
Christine Marchessault
Katherine Mckee-Blanche
Terry McLaughlin
Christopher McWilliam

Jillian Mercer
Meagan Murphy
Catherine-Anne Murray
Shawna O'Hearn
Sheila Poulton
Lorian Putnam
Lisa Rand
Kendra Rex
Lisa Saunders-Green
Karen Roberts-Small
Lynn Shaw
Dominique Shephard
M. Angela Stairs
Kait Sullivan
Sarah Teklet
Scott Thieu
Dara Tugwell
Emily Webber
Kevin Wong
Tia Wormell
Alexandra Yip

Non-Voting Attendees

Chantel Armstrong
Leslie Greeno
Maria Lasheras
Jenn MacKay-Myra

Alida Mitchell
Emily O'Grady
Tonia O'Rielly
Sean Ponnambalam

Elizabeth Pullin
Carolyn Robinson

1. Call to Order

The AGM was called to order at 12:06pm by Sean Ponnambalam, Chair of the COTNS Board.

Sean read the following acknowledgment:

That we are gathered on the unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Sean introduced the Board and staff of the College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: It was moved by Christine Bray and seconded by Scott Thieu that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. Approval of the 2020 AGM Minutes

Motion: It was moved by Christopher McWilliam and seconded by Terry McLaughlin that the June 18, 2020, Minutes be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

4. Auditor's Report

The Auditor's report was presented by Alida Mitchell, CPA, CA and Tonia O'Rielly, CPA, CA from BakerTilly NS.

Motion: It was moved by Christine Marchessault and seconded by Myrna King that the Auditor's report was received. Motion Carried.

Motion: It was moved by Lynn Shaw and seconded by Sarah Teklet that COTNS reappoint BakerTilly as the 2021-2022 Auditors. Motion carried.

5. Annual Report

Kevin Wong, Registrar of COTNS, reviewed highlights of the annual report including: The pandemic's impact on occupational therapy in Nova Scotia including virtual-care practice and registrations and the proposed streamlined virtual care process nationally. The Credentials Committee reported on the registrations in 2020/2021 and the creation of a new Guide to Supervised Practice. The Continuing Competence Committee expects to release of the new continuing competence review within the 2022/2023 registration year and shared details of the assessment. The Practice Committee developed the Practice Standard: Conflict of Interest and is working on two new standards over the next year. The Investigation Committee received five complaints in the past year. The new COTNS Regulations have completed consultations and anticipate implementation in the next 12-18 months.

Motion: It was moved by Brian Bailkowski and seconded by Xavier Hartley that the 2020/2021 Annual Report was received. Motion carried.

6. Call for Nominations for the College Board of Directors

Cherie Lewis, Vice-Chair of the COTNS Board, reported that she, Cherie Lewis, and Dominique Shephard were ending of their terms, and will not be reoffering. There were two nominations received for the COTNS Board prior to the AGM from Sarah Teklet and Kelsey Hunter. Cherie opened the floor at the AGM for further nominations. No additional nominations were received during the meeting.

Sarah Teklet and Kelsey Hunter were proclaimed to the COTNS Board of Directors.

Sean Ponnambalam announced that three new public members will be appointed to the Board starting in July 2021.

7. Members' Forum

Questions posed by members:

Q: What are the new regulations that are coming? Are they in relation to COVID protocol?

Response: The new Regulations cover registration requirements, and they will help with facilitating expedited registrations which would be helpful in a pandemic situation.

Q: Can you review the registration piece again?

Response: Kevin Wong reviewed the College's registrations for the past year. A review of the proposed virtual care registration streamlined process was also reviewed that may remove the need for Canadian licensed OTs to register in NS for the delivery of OT services virtually.

Q: Are there any indications if in-person practice will increase as we move through the phases of reopening during the pandemic?

Response: There is nothing specific for the Directive for Private Practice Occupational Therapists for those who had their practice restricted by the pandemic. As soon as there is an announcement that will be released to the registrants.

8. Tentative date for the 2022 Annual General Meeting

The tentative date for the next AGM is June 23, 2022.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43pm by Sean Ponnambalam.