YMCA of Cape Breton

March 31, 2025, Annual General Meeting

Thursday, July 31st, 2025 (5:30pm)

(In-person at 399 Charlotte Street, Sydney, NS, and via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

Board Directors in Attendance: Kevin MacEachern, Jill Perry, Kelsey Harvey, Stephanie Sawler, Christine MacDonald, Mark Tambal, Simran Virdi, Staci Neville, Emily Dueck, Nicole Cammaert

Board Director Regrets: Jackson Tighe

Guests:

Alisa Ryan	Haley Johnston	Nicole MacDonald
Analyse Cameron	Genaya Fraser	Nicole Scott
Ann Davies	Jeff MacNeil	Patricia Watt
Angelique Swann	Jill MacKay	Peter Oyedijo
Ankit Wadhwa	Joannah Unsworth	Rob Wadden
Blair Cameron	Kelli Ransome	Robert Zwarun
Bridgette McDonald	Kelly McMullen	Sabrina Vatcher
Caitlyn Petrie	Mathew Kallachiyil	Sheldon Googoo
Cindy Chiasson	Maya Giorbelidze	Tammy Cameron
Claudia Bowers	Mary-Jo Fortune	Tanya Horne
Dariia Pasko	Monika Dutt	Tanya Wilneff
Divya Nagpal	Nakita Pentecost	Vanessa Young
Dodie Hanna	Nicole Gillis	William Roy

Kevin MacEachern established quorum and called the meeting to order at 5:36pm.

1. **Welcome**

   Sabrina and Kevin welcomed everyone to the March 31, 2025, annual general meeting of the YMCA of Cape Breton.

Shine On

2. Land Acknowledgement

Sabrina shared our land acknowledgment statement: *"We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet), and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations...We are all Treaty People."*

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: To approve the YMCA of Cape Breton March 31, 2025, AGM agenda as presented.

Moved: Nicole Cammaert
Seconded: Christine MacDonald — Carried Unanimously

4. YMCA Story

Joanne Davies (YMCA staff and volunteer) and Blair Cameron (YMCA staff) shared their YMCA stories.

5. Approval of 2024 AGM Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the YMCA of Cape Breton, March 31, 2024, AGM meeting minutes as presented.

Moved: Stephanie Sawler
Seconded: Mark Tambal — Carried Unanimously

6. Remarks from 2024/2025 Chair and CEO

YMCA Board Chair Kevin MacEachern and CEO, Sabrina Vatcher, provided brief remarks.

7. 2025 Financial Report & Approval

Rob Wadden, Principal with Doane Grant Thornton LLP, presented the financial report for fiscal 2024-2025.

Motion: To approve the YMCA of Cape Bretons Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2025, as presented.

Moved: Staci Neville
Seconded: Stephanie Sawler Carried Unanimously

8. **Appointment of 2025/2026 Financial Auditor**

Motion: To reappoint Doane Grant Thornton as the YMCA of Cape Breton's auditor for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.

Moved: Jill Perry
Seconded: Christine MacDonald Carried Unanimously

9. **2025/2026 Proposed Slate of Directors**

Kevin thanked this year's Nominating Committee which included board members Kevin MacEachern, Jill Perry, Simran Virdi, (Chair), Kelsey Harvey, well as community representatives William Roy and Marlene Usher, as well as CEO Sabrina Vatcher.

Kevin invited Simran Virdi, Committee Chair, to provide an overview of the Nominating Committee's work and the proposed slate of Directors for the 2025/2026 term. Simran shared that the Nominating Committee worked with the board to complete a skills and diversity gap analysis to identify priority skills for recruitment of new Board Director volunteers for interviews and reference checks. and identified community development/ community programming, fund development and childcare/children's programming as priority areas. The committee also strived to present a diverse group of candidates for the next term.

The following Board of Directors were recognized as retiring:

1. Emily Dueck (end of term)
2. Nicole Cammaert (end of term)
3. Kevin MacEachern (end of term)
4. Maryam Mohseni (during term)

The following Board of Directors will continue with their current term on the Board:

1. Kelsey Harvey
2. Staci Neville
3. Simran Virdi
4. Mark Tambal
5. Christine MacDonald
6. Stephanie Sawler
7. Jackson Tighe

The following Director would like to re-offer another term for a 1-year term:

1. Jill Perry

The following new candidates have been nominated for their first three-year term (2025-2028):

1. Peter Oyedijo
2. Dodie Hanna
3. Maya Giorbelidze
4. Claudia Bowers

Summary:

Returning Directors:	Re-offering Director:	New Directors:
• Kelsey Harvey (to 2027) • Staci Neville (to 2027) • Simran Virdi (to 2026) • Mark Tambal (to 2026) • Stephanie Sawler (to 2026) • Christine MacDonald (to 2026) • Jackson Tighe (to 2028)	• Jill Perry (to 2026)	• Peter Oyedijo (to 2028) • Dodie Hanna (to 2028) • Maya Giorbelidze (to 2028) • Claudia Bowers (to 2028)

Kevin opened the floor to any questions and called the following motion:

Motion: To approve the proposed slate of Directors as presented.

Moved: Mark Tambal
Seconded: Emily Dueck — Carried Unanimously

10. **YMCA of Cape Breton By-Laws**

Jill Perry provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Association's bylaws including the addition of a Past Chair role. As noted in the red-line version of the Association By-laws included in the AGM meeting package:

i. "Past Chair" is defined as the individual who served as Chair immediately prior to the commencement of the current Chair.

ii. The role of the Past Chair serves as a resource for the Board and is not counted in the maximum of 12 Directors.

iii. If the immediate Past Chair is retired without being re-elected to the Board, the immediate Past Chair may be invited, at the discretion of the Chair, to attend but not vote at, meetings of the board. The term of office for the immediate Past Chair shall be one (1) year.

Motion: To adopt the proposed revisions/additions to the YCB by-laws as presented.

Moved: Staci Neville
Seconded: Nicole Cammaert — Carried Unanimously

Abstained from vote: Kevin MacEachern

11. Remarks from 2025/2026 Chair

YMCA incoming Board Chair Jill Perry provided brief remarks.

12. Recognition of Retiring Board Director

Jill Perry recognized each of the retiring board directors Nicole Cammaert, Emily Dueck, Kevin MacEachern and Maryam Mohseni.

13. Recognition of Staff Years of Service

Sabrina Vatcher, CEO, recognized employees Blair Cameron and Joanne Davies for their 25 years of service to our Association.

14. New Business

No new business added.

15. Adjournment

Closing remarks and gratitude presented by Jill Perry.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm. Moved by Mark Tambal.