

Easter Seals Ontario
102nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, June 12, 2024 @ 4:30 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
MINUTES

Voting Delegates and Members of the Corporation:

Voters

Michael Carli (P)	Jessica Metcalfe	Marc Henein	Victoria Chen
Sean Martin	Azam Ishmael	Jeffrey Man	Michael Grochmal
Ken Wilson	Tara Ingram	Anna Lafrance	Vince Enright
Todd Stevens	Mathew Patryluk	Francine Bouthillier	Paul Truelove
Karen Maguire	Julia Oliver	Nelson Millman	Graham Baskin
Jay Hira	Meredith Wiens	Kenneth Thompson	
Casey MacKay	Ryan Cruwys		

Voters – Represented by Proxy

Kevin Kelly	John Herhalt	Jennifer LaForge	Deanne Buckle
Michael Tzimas	Bruce Dodds	Theresa Sanders	Richard McGuigan

Guests in Attendance

Taylor Hanson	Tai Young	Melika Ghanaati	Gabriel Li
Mariyan Boychev	Lisa Young	Logan Pickells	Adizde Rubio
Isabella Alma	Tristan Boivin	Mariyan Boychev	Vladislav Chetvertkov
Sam Vitela	Alysa Morgan	Arta Giles	Emily Giugovaz
Natalia Debbo	Eric McLean	Dave Starrett	Amelia Pruchnicki
Erin Roberts	Valerie Rose	Charmaine Tuzi	Terry Baskin
Wanda Rose-Pickells	Elena Iacono	Cathy Cuyllé	Lindsay Gulin
Ian McLaughlin	Karen DeBreau	Juliane Goyette	Peter Allemang
Vanessa Oake Hogan	Greg McRae (Grant Thornton)	David Jones	Lito Paras
V. Chen	Tiffany Beveridge	Jeff Preston	Rob Thomas

Staff in Attendance

Kevin J. Collins (P)	Arlene Campbell (P)	Beth Ziehl (P)	Robyn Visheau (P)
Travis Sargeant (P)	Stephen Whitehouse (P)	Rebecca Mudrick (P)	Hamza Aziz (P)
Teresa Lo (P)	Sebastien Parent	Sabine Climans	Ali Morkas
Steven Greenwood (P)	Keith Rashid	Jennifer Raftis	Joey Wilson
Kate Douglas	Linda Clouthier	Jeanny Gonzalez	Carmen Bazinet
Rhonda Harrison	Jorge Guerrero	Lorna Manarin	Joanne Scott
Tharsy Karunakaran	Sebeena Bhikhari	Kayley Trumbley	Alison Morse
Ren Hiraishi			Haley Millman

Attended virtually unless otherwise indicated (P) = In Person

1. Call to Order

Kevin Collins, President and CEO of Easter Seals Ontario, called the 102nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Award Ceremony officially to order at 4:30pm, welcomed all those in attendance, both virtually and in person and read the Land Acknowledgement. The President and CEO then introduced Board Vice Chair, Michael Carli, who will act as Chair of the AGM.

2. Notice of Meeting

The Chair advised that a copy of the Notice of the Meeting had been distributed in accordance with Easter Seals Ontario's By-laws. A copy of the Notice of the Meeting, together with a Statutory Declaration of its distribution was placed before the meeting. The Chair reminded those in attendance that only members of the Corporation may vote in respect of the resolutions and other formal matters raised during this meeting and that as per the By-laws, and due to the meeting being held in person and virtually, a pause to confirm assent for each vote would be observed. For any members opposed, they should do so by raising their hand, in person or virtually and verbally declare dissent.

3. Declaration of Quorum

The Chair confirmed quorum was present and noted that 8 proxies had been received prior to the May 30, 2024 deadline and declared the meeting to be regularly called and properly constituted for the transaction of business.

4. Approval of the Minutes of June 7, 2023

A copy of the minutes of the AGM held June 7, 2023 were made available to all members of Easter Seals Ontario (ESO) prior to the meeting for review.

Moved: Michael Grochmal

Seconded: Sean Martin

THAT the minutes of the 101st Annual General Meeting of members held on June 7, 2023 be taken as read, verified as correct and approved as presented. **CARRIED**

5. Audited Financial Statements

The Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the Auditor's Report, provided by Grant Thornton, having been reviewed by the Finance & Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, were published on the Easter Seals Ontario website prior to the meeting and placed before the membership.

It was noted that as per Easter Seals Ontario's Financial Policy regarding auditing services, a request for proposal was tendered in late 2023 as part of the due diligence of the Finance and Audit Committee and the Board of Directors. The RFP process included the receipt of proposals and subsequent interviews that were conducted with a shortlist of firms, taking into account, experience and qualifications, audit approach, charitable and organizational knowledge and cost. There was no obligation to select a firm based solely on the lowest cost.

The result of this process was a recommendation brought forth by the Finance and Audit Committee and accepted by the Board of Directors to appoint Grant Thornton for auditing services, providing Easter Seals Ontario with continuity and historical knowledge as well as competitive and reasonable rates.

Moved: Marc Henein

Seconded Jessica Metcalfe

THAT Grant Thornton, Chartered Accountants, be appointed Auditors of Easter Seals Ontario until the next Annual Meeting, at a remuneration to be fixed by the Directors, the Directors being hereby authorized to fix such remuneration.

CARRIED

5. Election of Directors

The Chair stated that In accordance with our By-laws, Easter Seals Ontario requires all Directors to be elected at the Annual General Meeting for a three-year term and that of the current slate of directors, we have 7 Directors who are eligible for a second, 3- year term and who have graciously agreed to serve.

In the meeting package, biographical summaries for the seven (7) directors standing for re-election was included. With there being no other candidates brought forth, the following motion was presented:

Moved: Azam Ishmael

Seconded: Sean Martin

THAT Brenda Agnew, Jessica Metcalfe, Jeffrey Man, Marc Henein, Michael Tzimas, Michael Grochmal and Jennifer LaForge hold office for a second, 3-year term, ending June 2027 in accordance with the By-laws.

CARRIED

The Easter Seals Ontario complete Slate of Directors for the 2024-2025 term were presented as:

Brenda Agnew	Deanne Buckle	Michael Carli	Michael Grochmal
Marc Henein	John M. Herhalt (ex-officio)	Azam Ishmael	Kevin Kelly
Jennifer LaForge	Jeffrey Man	Sean Martin	Jessica Metcalfe
Michael Tzimas			

6. Report of the Chair of the Board of Directors

Michael Carli continued the business portion of the meeting by sharing his perspective on Easter Seals Ontario's current position and outlook. M. Carli spoke about the dedication and passion shown by staff, volunteers, stakeholders and donors and the amazing work that has been accomplished over the 102-year-old history of the organization. A financial overview with results noted included:

- the organization ended the year with a total revenue of \$10.6 million, slightly lower than the previous year;
- expenses for the year were up by 7% from 2022, mostly due to higher inflation costs yet despite the uncertain economy, it did not negatively affect our ability to meet the needs of Easter Seals families;
- Expenditures to support programs for children and families, and public education and awareness programs represented 63% of our expenses for the year. Fundraising expenses were 30% and Management and Administrative costs were 7%; and
- staff continued to monitor and maintain strict internal controls, which once again resulted in the organization receiving an unqualified audit opinion from our auditors, Grant Thornton.

Again, the Chair thanked all who contributed to Easter Seals Ontario achieving its mission of serving kids with physical disabilities and passed the meeting over to the President and CEO, Kevin J. Collins.

7. Report of the President and CEO

K. Collins stated that the AGM is a time of reflection and allows us the opportunity to review the impact made over the course of the past year. A few notable highlights included:

- For the second year in a row, we accepted equipment funding requests up to December 31st. In 2023, we approved 963 applications, resulting in \$1.72 million in committed funding for essential mobility and accessibility equipment.
- Both Camp Merrywood and Camp Woodeden offered in-person, accessible camp programming to over 450 participants, and delivered 3,160 transformative days of camp.
- Each of our camp staff members complete approximately 75 hours of training during the summer, learning about physical disabilities, practical caregiving skills, and emotional intelligence, with an emphasis on camper independence, safety, respect, and dignity.
- We continued to lend our voice to remove barriers through public education initiatives, government consulting, conference participation and general education and awareness campaigns.
- Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC) across the province, participated in over 1,020 hours of meetings last year, raising their collective voices to increase awareness and educational advocacy.
- The change in the economy presented some challenges, but we still hosted 55 in-person fundraising events in 2023 and were amazed at the energy and excitement brought by participants, sponsors and volunteers.
 - **Conn Smythe Sports Celebrity Dinner and Auction:** over 700 guests came together to honour the legacy of Marnie McBean and raise over \$490,000 for Easter Seals.
 - **Drop Zone:** 73 brave rappellers challenged themselves by harnessing up and scaling down a Toronto high-rise to raise over \$60,000.
 - **Toronto Maple Leafs Skate** for Easter Seals returned for the first time since 2020, with over 420 participants raising over \$160,00.
 - **Celebrity Hockey Classics:** run in partnership with Jackson Events, raising nearly \$2.4 million across 10 locations; and through the support of Eric Lindros – a generous donation from the Jeremiah F. Coughlan Foundation of \$2 million over five years was secured which will assist in the continued success of the Lindros Charity Hockey Classic.
 - **Computer Charity Golf Classic** which saw 300 participants from the computer industry tee off, raising \$200,000 for Easter Seals kids.
 - **Bring on the Bay,** an annual open water swim event, returned and raised over \$80,000.
 - **Snowaramas:** in the north and east, 10 communities once again hopped on their snow machines for events to raise an amazing total of \$180,000.
 - **Dancing with Easter Seals Stars:** elegant evenings filled with professional and amateur dancers, took place in 7 communities across the province and raised an astounding \$670,000!
 - **We Care:** through our friends within the foodservice and hospitality industry, We Care Canada provided an amazing \$600,000 for our camping programs.
 - **Community Partners:** these supporters assist through our direct mail program, bequests, our corporate, foundation and community partners including rotary and other service clubs.

The President and CEO noted that the current strategic plan came to an end in 2023 and that a new, 3 year plan has been designed to further enhance our operational capabilities, enrich our core programs, and innovate our approach to deepen our impact. This forward-looking plan will continue to help us meet the needs of Easter Seals kids and families and expand our reach and effectiveness across Ontario.

And in closing, K. Collins noted that he has been a part of the Easter Seals Ontario family since childhood, having first-hand appreciation for the receipt of essential equipment, reaping the benefits of 8 years' of camp and attending many of these events and thanked everyone involved for their tireless efforts. The meeting was passed back to the Chair.

Question Period/New Business

Michael Carli opened the floor to questions and comments.

- No new business was brought forward and there were no questions.

8. Adjournment of the 102nd Annual General Meeting

Moved: Azam Ishmael

Seconded: Jessica Metcalfe

THAT the 102nd Annual General Meeting of Easter Seals be adjourned.

CARRIED

The business portion of the meeting concluded and the meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.

The Award Ceremony Celebration officially reconvened at 5:15pm

9. Introduction of Provincial Ambassadors

The Chair introduced the 2024 Provincial Ambassadors Chloe Fraser and Shamil Sohail who both spoke about their decision to become Ambassadors, and what they were looking forward to the most in the coming year. The Chair thanked them for their dedication and advocacy on behalf of Easter Seals Ontario.

10. Service Award/Retirement Announcement

Joanne Scott, a 50-year employee with Easter Seals Ontario was recognized for her outstanding service, commitment and longevity with the organization. Joanne was honoured as an invaluable and dedicated staff member who has played an integral role in various capacities throughout her tenure and will officially retire in October 2024.

11. 2023 Provincial Ambassador Awards (new)

Niki Tokhi and Ryerson Beardmore, Provincial Ambassadors in 2023 were awarded with a new award and monetary gift. This has been created for Provincial Ambassadors who have completed one year of service in the role. Ambassadors are eligible for this service award in the year following their service and are encouraged to use or save the funds for post-secondary education or future endeavors. This gift is a one-time payment and recognizes the advocacy efforts of our Provincial Ambassadors.

12. 2023 Scholarship Presentation and Volunteer Awards (*denotes recipients who were present)

The presentation of scholarship and volunteer award recipients was emceed by President and CEO, Kevin Collins. Many recipients were present and were provided the opportunity to say a few words.

Recipient

Vladislav Chetvertkov*

Arta Giles*

Eric McLean*

Alysa Morgan*

Paige Zaldin

Natalie Debbo*

Isabella Alma

Tristan Boivin*

Scholarship Received

Easter Seals Ontario

Easter Seals Ontario

Easter Seals Ontario

Easter Seals Ontario

Easter Seals Ontario

Board of Directors Scholarship

KPMG

KPMG

Emily Guigovaz*
Gabriel Li*
Sebastien Parent*
Logan Pickells*
Tristan Boivin*
Mariyan Boychev*
Taylor Hanson*
Eddie Oliviera
Dylan McGuire
Grace MacFarlane
Sam Vitela
Melika Ghanaati*
Tai Young*
Adizde Rubio*
Lauren King
Victoria Chen*

KPMG
KPMG
KPMG
KPMG
Kevin and Christy Kelly Scholarship
Hira Scholarship
Hira Scholarship
Hodglyn Holsteins Scholarship
John Domenic Caggiula Memorial Scholarship
Ursula Carsen Scholarship
Connie O'Connor Memorial Scholarship
Truelove Dell Scholarship
Erica Vanclief Memorial Scholarship
Vigneswaran Scholarship
Sal Iacono Family Bursary Endowment Fund
Hira Post Graduate Scholarship

Recipient

Kayley Trumbley
Casey MacKay*
Vanessa Oake Hogan, C21 United Realty Inc.
Jessica Metcalfe*
C21 BJ Roth Golf Committee
Tiffany Beveridge*
Debbie Fraser, MLSE
Rorie McIntosh, McCam Insurance*
Motion (Sue Gilpin)*
Ken Thompson*
Barrie Colts Foundation
Bring on the Bay Committee 2008-2024
C21 Millenium Inc.
Erin Cerenzia, Neighbourhood Network/Magna International*
Allan Cockburn, Old Village Free House
Andrew Jackson
David Jones*
Greg Last
Kyle Schutte
Titanium Transportation Ltd. (Rob Thomas/Aaron Glazier)*
Daniella Altieri*
Kendal Douglas*
Josée Bélanger
Campbell Amusements
Todd Colbourne*
The Dennis Family
Chris Emanuel, Central York Chamber of Commerce*
Cliff Friesen

Volunteer Service Award Received

Ruby Award
Yvonne Alexander Award
Diamond Creative Altruism Award
Diamond Leadership
Joe Persechini Award
Roger Abbott Award
Award of Distinction
Award of Distinction
Award of Distinction
Award of Distinction
Spirit of Giving Group/Team
Spirit of Giving Group/Team
Spirit of Giving Group/Team
Spirit of Giving Group/Team
Spirit of Giving Group/Team
Spirit of Giving Group/Team
Spirit of Giving Group/Team
Spirit of Giving Group/Team
Spirit of Giving Individual
Leader of Tomorrow
Easter Seals Alumni
Service Award
Service Award
Service Award
Service Award
Service Award
Service Award

Juliane Goyette, Riverwalk Wealth*
Lito and Sandra Paras*
Christine Seidman*
Dave Thomas
Sheri Tomchick

Service Award
Service Award
Service Award
Service Award
Service Award

13. Closing Remarks

The President and CEO once again congratulated all scholarship recipients and thanked the volunteer award winners for their dedication and commitment to helping children and youth with physical disabilities. The floor was handed back to the Chair who added his thanks to everyone for their time and incredible support over the past year.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:55p.m.

Michael Carli
Vice Chair, Board of Directors
Easter Seals Ontario