

**Easter Seals Ontario**  
**102nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, June 11, 2025 @ 4:30 pm**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**MINUTES**

**Voting Delegates and Members of the Corporation:**

**Voters**

Kevn Kelly (P)	Michael Carli(P)	Jessica Metcalfe (P)	Marc Henein (P)
Brenda Agnew (P)	Jessica Metcalfe (P)	Deanne Buckle (P)	Michael Grochmal (P)
Jennifer LaForge (P)	Sean Martin	Azam Ishmael	Jeffrey Man
Nelson Millmann	Paul Truelove	Dennis Robert	Allyson Eamer
Brad Hutchinson	Robert Stephens	Merith Wiens	Ken Wilson
Todd Stevens	Joey Arfin		

**Voters – Represented by Proxy**

Bruce Dodds	Casey MacKay	Dianne Domelle	Heather Hunter
Ken Thompson	Mark Nagus	Mel Woolsey	Nancy McFadyen
Paul Manieri	Pierreette Levesque	Theresa Sanders	Tony Pagnotta
John Watson			

**Guests in Attendance**

Priya Dass	Tai Young	Gabriele Martinez	Rob Eatough
Peter Allemang	Emily Begg	Greg McRae(DGT)	Taylor Hanson
Maria Collins	Shamil Sohail	Carol Fraser	Logan Pickells
Wanda Pickells	Emerson Carmicha	Nicole Ferguson	Sherry Caldwell
Tom Mrakas	Rene Flavelle Marchen	Ian McLaughlin	Patrick Drolet
Gabriel Li	Eric McLean	Nicole Ferguson	Gabriele Martinez
Athena Roy	Rhonda Haley	Meghan Pancucci	Abdulghani Abu-kaka
Amanda Zurkowski	Chloe Fraser	Frank Hewitt	Darlene Clement
Rob Hilton	Catherine O’Hagan		

**Staff in Attendance**

Kevin J. Collins (P)	Beth Ziehl (P)	Arlene Campbell (P)	Robyn Visheau (P)
Travis Sargeant (P)	Stephen Whitehouse (P)	Rebecca Mudrick (P)	Hamza Aziz (P)
Teresa Lo	Keith Rashid	Alison Morse	David Hoang
Ali Morkas	Olivia Or	Canute Chin	Carmen Bazinet
Haley Millman	Jennifer Tremaine	Joey Wilson	Kate Douglas
Sebeena Bhikhari	MJ Pappin	Ren Hiraishi	Vanessa Enviye
Jenny Gonzalez	Susan Smith	Jennifer Raftis	Rhonda Harrison
Charlene Myke	Tharsy Karunakaran		

Attended virtually unless otherwise indicated (P) = In Person

## **1. Call to Order**

Kevin Collins, President and CEO of Easter Seals Ontario, called the 103<sup>rd</sup> 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 Chair, Kevin Kelly, 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 deadline of May 30th, 2025 and declared the meeting to be regularly called and properly constituted for the transaction of business.

## **4. Approval of the Minutes of June 12, 2024**

A copy of the minutes of the AGM held June 12, 2024 were made available to all members of Easter Seals Ontario (ESO) prior to the meeting for review.

Moved: Jennifer LaForge

Seconded: Sean Martin

**THAT** the minutes of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of members held on June 12, 2024, 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, 2024 and the Auditor's Report, provided by Doane 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 membership.

It was noted that Doane Grant Thornton Chartered Accountants will continue as Auditors for the ensuing year, fulfilling the second year of their three-year term, ending at June 2027 AGM.

## **6. 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 1 Director who are eligible for a second, 3- year term.

In the meeting package, the biographical summary for the one (1) director standing for re-election was included. With there being no other candidates brought forth, the following motion was presented:

Moved: Jessica Metcalfe

Seconded: Sean Martin

**THAT** Azam Ishmael hold office for a second, 3-year term, ending June 2028 in accordance with the By-laws.

***CARRIED***

**The Easter Seals Ontario complete Slate of Directors for the 2025-2026 term were presented as:**

Kevin Kelly	Deanne Buckle	Michael Carli	Brenda Agnew
Michael Grochmal	Marc Henein	Jennifer LaForge	Jeffrey Man
Jessica Metcalfe	Michael Tzimas	Azam Ishmael	Sean Martin

K. Kelly thanked the outgoing Past Chair, John Herhalt, for his extraordinary leadership over the past 12 plus years in various capacities with Easter Seals Ontario. John’s commitment, financial acumen and passion have made a measurable difference for the kids and families we serve.

**7. Report of the Chair of the Board of Directors**

K. Kelly continued the business portion of the meeting by sharing his perspective on Easter Seals Ontario’s current position and outlook. K. Kelly spoke about the dedication and passion shown by staff, volunteers, stakeholders and donors and the amazing work that has been accomplished over the 103<sup>rd</sup> year-old history of the organization. A financial overview with results noted included:

- The organization ended the year with a total revenue of \$10.7 million, slightly higher than the previous year
- Expenses for the year were up by 3% from 2023, mostly due to the impact of inflation on fundraising events and operational costs, ending the year with a deficit of \$380,000
- Despite facing a challenging financial year in 2024, we have upheld the funding levels for our Camping Program and Equipment Funding Program. Thanks to the support from our donors and supporters in recent years, this funding has made it possible
- Expenditures to support programs for children and families, and public education and awareness programs represented 60% of our expenses for the year. Fundraising expenses were 35% and Management and Administrative costs were 5%
- Staff continued to monitor and maintain strict internal controls, which once again resulted in the organization receiving an unqualified audit opinion from our auditors, Doanne 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.

**8. 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:

**Equipment Funding:**

- In 2024, we approved 891 applications, resulting in \$1.61 million in committed funding for essential mobility and accessibility equipment
- Camp Merrywood and Camp Woodeden provided over 570 accessible camp experiences to young people with physical disabilities and their families
- These were delivered over 14 in-person sessions, and 3,260 days at camp
- In 2024, each of our camp staff members completed approximately 80 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 are proud that our camps play a role in fostering empathetic leaders and caregivers

**Advocacy and Awareness-SEAC members:**

- As part of our mission is to act as an effective voice for the needs and interest of those we serve, in 2024 we continued to lend our voice and remove barriers through public education initiatives, government consulting, conference participation and general education and awareness
- In 2024, we had 32 volunteers on 25 school boards who dedicated over 1,410 hours to SEAC meetings
- Your efforts help ensure that students with physical disabilities are heard and supported in their schools

**2024 Fundraising Events:**

- 720 guests came together at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel for the Conn Smythe Sports Celebrities Dinner & Auction to honour the legacy of Darryl Sittler and raise over \$525,000 to send kids to Easter Seals camps
- 63 brave rappellers challenging themselves at Drop Zone by harnessing up and scaling down a Toronto high-rise to raise over \$77,000
- The Toronto Maple Leaf's Skate for Easter Seals Kids brought out 350 participants and raised over \$202,000
- A full season of Celebrity Hockey Classic excitement, run in partnership with Jackson Events, raised nearly \$2.6 million across 10 locations – a new fundraising record for the series
- The Computer Charity Golf Classic, which saw 200 participants from the computer industry tee off, raising \$103,000 for Easter Seals kids
- Bring on the Bay brought swimmers for 3 and 5 km open water swims, and raised over \$112,000
- Dancing with Easter Seals Stars, elegant evenings filled with professional and amateur dancers, took place in 9 communities across the province and raised an astounding \$914,000
- We were pleased to expand the series with a successful inaugural event in Ajax
- While we've highlighted just a few of our larger events, each one represents countless hours of planning, dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors, and community members who showed up—whether to give, participate, or simply learn more
- To everyone who played a role in making our 2024 events possible—thank you

And in closing, K. Collins noted that he has been part of this organization since childhood, and having had the honour of serving as President & CEO for the past eight years, it continues to be both a joy and a privilege to lead such an extraordinary team. I'm deeply grateful to our staff for the passion, commitment, and tireless effort they bring to our work every day. Thank you for all that you do.

To our Board of Directors, thank you for your leadership, your insight, and your unwavering commitment to our mission. Your guidance is truly valued.

And finally, to our donors, volunteers, and supporters: thank you for your continued partnership. Your compassion, generosity, and belief in our work make everything we do possible.

The meeting was passed back to the Chair.

**Question Period/New Business**

K. Kelly opened the floor to questions and comments.

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

**9. Adjournment of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Moved: Jennifer LaForge

Seconded: Brenda Agnew

**THAT** the 103rd Annual General Meeting of Easter Seals be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

The business portion of the meeting concluded and the meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.

**The Award Ceremony Celebration officially reconvened at 5:15pm**

**10. Introduction of Provincial Ambassadors**

The Chair introduced the 2025 Provincial Ambassadors Tristan Bujan and Asha Buliung and announced and thanked Chloe Fraser and Shamil Sohail for their 2024 Provincial Ambassador commitment and their dedication, advocacy on behalf of Easter Seals Ontario.

The Chair thanked them for their dedication and advocacy on behalf of Easter Seals Ontario.

**11. Retirement Announcement**

Alison Morse, employee of Easter Seals Ontario, was recognized for her 37 years of outstanding service, commitment and longevity with the organization. Alison was honoured as an invaluable and dedicated staff member who has played an integral role in various capacities throughout her tenure

**12. 2025 Scholarship Presentation and Volunteer Awards**

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

<b>SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:</b>	
Easter Seals Ontario Scholarships	Abdul-Ghani Abu-Daka
Easter Seals Ontario Scholarships	Emerson Charmichael
Easter Seals Ontario Scholarships	Priya Dass
Easter Seals Ontario Scholarships	Athena Roy
Easter Seals Ontario Scholarships	Tai Young

Board of Director Scholarship	Gisele Holyome
Kevin and Christy Kelly Scholarship	Gabriel Li
Karen, Mark and Quinn Smith Scholarship	Nicole Ferguson
Hira Scholarship	Taylor Hanson
Hira Scholarship	Eric McLean
Hodgylnn Holsteins Scholarship	Saffron Cote
Vigneswaran Scholarship	Gabriele Martinez
Truelove Dell Scholarship	Logan Pickells
Erica Van Clief Memorial Scholarship	Joseph Spahn-Vieira
John Domenic Caggiula Memorial Scholarship	Sierra Ryan
Ursula Carsen Scholarship	Isabella Alma
Connie O'Connor Scholarship	Isabella Pryznyk
Sal Iacono Family Bursary Endowment	Johnathan Malak
Sal Iacono Family Bursary Endowment	Kaytlynn Millegan-Arsenault
Hira Post-Graduate Scholarship	Meghan Pancucci

<b>VOLUNTEER AWARDS</b>	
Service Awards	Boston Pizza North Peterborough, Debbie Bekker-Fawcett, Darlene Clement, East Peterborough Lions Club, Maria Collins
	Ryan Davies, Mary Ann Gagnon, John Fischer, Rob Hilton, Corby Hannam
	Kinsmen Club of Peterborough, Knights of Columbus, Peterborough, Nancy Payne, Don Pratt, Murry Solski, Hailey White, Trailers Plus
	Emily Begg, Patrick Drolet, Liz Robinson
	Rene Marchen-Flavelle
	Dario Zullich, Mayor Paul Lefebvre
	Amanda Zurkowski
Spirit of Givig Award	Marco Di Girolamo, Bernie Roth, Bartimaus SurviveOar Dragon Boat Team, Rotary Club of Peterborough , Bear Creek Golf Club
	Century 21 Millennium Inc., ES Fox, Main Street Realty Ltd.
	Tony Belbeck
	Town of Aurora – Mayor Tom Mrakas
Award of Distinction	Howie Campbell, CCR Solutions Inc., Bill Elliott, Rhonda Haley, Kris McGowan, Bruce Robinson
Joe Persechini Innovation Award	Eryn Richardson
Leader of Tomorrow	Shamil Sohail
Diamond Creative Altruism	Darling Insurance
Diamond Leadership	Kevin Kelly

### **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 6:20 p.m.

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Kevin Kelly  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Easter Seals Ontario