



**BCCOOP**

Building BC's  
Co-operative  
Economy

## **AGM Meeting Minutes**

**June 19, 2018**

**Location: Delta Ocean Point Resort, Victoria, BC**

**Commencement Time: 3:16pm**

Board members in attendance: Zoe Creighton, Theo Lamb, Angela Kaiser, John Kay, Ben Hyman, Mary Childs, Christian Brandt

Staff members in attendance: Brad Boyce, Maggie Miland, Lisa Furfaro

Attendees:

Erin Morgan, Keith Jardine, Karen MacDonald, Marc Duplantie, Michele Aasgard, Bettyrose Akinyi Okiri, Ryan Anderson, Christina Baker, Derek Ballantyne, Beryl Bauer, Elaine Bereziuk-Smith, René Bernatchez, Denis Bourdeau, Susan Braverman, Madeleine Brilliant, Lilian Choi, Michael Cook, Hazel Corcoran, Bruno Dragani, Martha Durdin, Joy Emmanuel, Siimel Esim, Michel Ferland, Lee Fuge, Katherine Gee, Erin Gilchrist, Claudette Gleason, Vera Goussaert, Gord Griffiths, Denyse Guy, Mark Hamel, Paul Hames, François Hastir, Janice Johnson, Shari Laliberte, Doug Lang, Adrian Legin, Ursula Leslie, Ritu Linfoot, Elizabeth Lougheed-Green, Mike Mac Isaac, Michael Mascall, Roger Massicotte, Kevin Millsip, René Moreau, Victoria Morris, Bill Oemichen, Valerie Pearson, Simon Pek, Gail Pike, Jan Pullinger, Jordan Rodier, Michele Snyder, Jennifer Spallin, Coro Strandberg, Jeannie Van Dyk, Margaret Vincent, Aaron Walker, Fay Weller, Jack Wilkinson, Musonda Yamfwa, Patrice Pratt, Don Skerik, Gael Storey, Eduardo Uranga, Ben Ziegler, Jasmine Chen, Mario Cimet Dattoli.

### ***Meeting Minutes***

### ***Action Items***

<b><i>Meeting Minutes</i></b>	<b><i>Action Items</i></b>
<b>1. Welcome from the Chair – Call to Order</b> Approval of Agenda Motioned by Zoe, seconded by John Kay, Carried	
<b>2. Approval of Last Board Meeting Minutes – Minutes are approved. Maggie Miland will be taking minutes this year.</b> Christian motioned, seconded by John, carried	

## Meeting Minutes

## Action Items

<p><b>3. Report from the Chair</b></p> <p>Ben, Chair of the BC Co-op Association, welcomed everyone and introduced the members, staff and Board of Directors. Ben delivered an overview of the health of the co-op sector, indicating that it was growing. He highlighted the programs that the BCCA manages to keep up with increased demand including Co-ops in Schools, Co-operate Now, and Co-op Cafes.</p> <p>The Chair also announced the three Board members who will be ending their terms and thanked them for their service with the BCCA: Elmer Epp (Central 1), Theo Lamb (Vancity), and Anne Davidson (CHF BC).</p> <p><b>4. Finance Report &amp; Audit Resolution</b></p> <p>John Kay, Vice Chair, gave the Finance Report. The Association is in good, stable financial shape despite no longer having government grants as we had in the past. This is due to careful spending and the development of various revenue streams.</p> <p>John explained that after adjustments, the year-end statement is \$72,000. This is the result of good money management and our unique circumstance as an association without an Executive Director. In place of an ED, we have a working Board. There is no need to increase dues and CIS solicitation.</p> <p><b>Motion to receive the financial statements:</b> <b>Motioned by Zoe Creighton, seconded by Ben Hyman. Carried.</b></p> <p><b>Motion to waive the audit: M/S/C</b></p>	
<p><b>5. Nominations Committee Report &amp; Board Election</b></p> <p>Of our 11-member Board of Directors, this year's nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies. Re-elected were Ben Hyman, <i>Chair</i> (BC Libraries Co-op), John Kay, <i>Vice Chair</i> (Realize Strategies), Zoe Creighton (UCCC), Mary Childs (CoopZone), Christian Brandt (OGO Car Share Co-op), John Groves (Coast Capital Savings), Angela Kaiser, <i>Treasurer</i> (Prospera Credit Union), and Phil Baudin (Co-operators).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Elizabeth Lougheed Green will take Theo Lamb's place on the Board as the Vancity delegate.</li><li>- Karen McDonald will take Elmer Epp's place as the Central 1 delegate.</li><li>- Michelle Iverson will take Anne Davidson's place on the Board as the CHFBC delegate.</li></ul> <p><b>M/S/C</b></p>	

**Meeting Minutes**

**Action Items**

<p><b>6. Special Speaker: Bill Oemichen, Federation Cooperative, Co-operative Network</b></p> <p>The Vice Chair, John Kay, expressed how the members in past years wished to see the BCCA making connections with other co-op associations and lobby on their behalf. We have reached out to Bill Oemichen of the Co-operative Network in Minnesota and Federation Co-operative of Wisconsin to share his story on strengthening the support for the vast number of co-ops in these two states. The goal is to see how we might use this knowledge to better collaborate with our neighbouring provincial co-op associations.</p> <p>Bill spoke about the formation of the Co-operative Network in Wisconsin and Minnesota, which is the heart of the co-operative movement in the United States. One Board of Directors serves both states alongside 24 staff. Bill highlighted several achievements of the co-op sector in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Co-op utilities have a securities exemption in these states. Bill also said that, after receiving mandatory education on co-ops, 58% of people knew the attributes of a co-op.</p>	
<p><b>7. Special Speaker: Michele Aasgard, Alberta Community &amp; Co-operative Association</b></p> <p>Michele Aasgard, Executive Director of the Alberta Community &amp; Co-operative Association, spoke about collaborating with the BCCA. When the ACCA conducted member engagement sessions, they found out that members wanted the ACCA to work with other provincial associations. Several possibilities are on the table, including sharing program delivery with the BCCA or amalgamation of the two provincial associations. Financially, the ACCA will likely continue to be in crisis in the upcoming years but for the moment we will look at what can be shared and what we might do in the near future.</p>	

<p><b>8. Special Speaker: Paul Cabaj, Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada</b></p> <p>Paul Cabaj, Manager of Co-operative Development with Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada, spoke about collaboration among co-operatives in Canada. He noted that the issues that co-operatives face are seen across the country, so why work separately? It would be easier to amass resources if we worked together; this is something that the CMC is committed to supporting.</p> <p>Questions for speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. How can we ask credit unions for help?</b> The BC Community Impact Investment Coalition (CIIC) “brings together co-ops and other groups from across BC to build a movement for local ethical investing that benefits rural and urban local communities.” John Kay and Ben Hyman will also be lobbying on June 20<sup>th</sup> with the removal of restrictions on investment co-ops as one of the top priorities.</li><li><b>2. In BC, credit unions see ag co-ops as a very high risk compared to in Minnesota. Why is there a difference?</b> Bill Oemichen said that in the US, credit unions and farm credit are co-operatives owned by members and they are active leaders. \$7.2 billion was lent to farmers in WI, MN and ND and \$168 million in patronage went back to members. Bill wonders if there is a way to both acquire farm credit in Canada and make it a co-operative.</li><li><b>3. Bill, how do you get co-ops in schools?</b> Bill Oemichen explained that Minnesota has established regional cooperative units called Service Cooperatives (SCs) that serve as vehicles for educational cooperation among school districts statewide. Every school in the state is a member, which keeps struggling schools from losing programming. Hospitals also act in this way.</li></ol>	
<p><b>9. Chair – gave the closing remarks. Adjourned at 4:15pm</b></p>	