



## Board of Directors' Meeting

### MINUTES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Via Go to Meeting

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**Present:** Christine John (Chair), Linda Van Sligtenhorst, Tim Nicol, Alison Fernandes, Renee Schlonies, Susanne Snowden, Andrew Marttinen, Selwyn (Buck) Hicks, George Mackowski and Julie Lawrence and Christena Dawson

**Staff:** Phyllis Lovell, Kelly Ferris, Anne Bester, Deb Pope, Julie Lipsett, Jeff Nickel and Deane Brown-Anderson

**Reps:** Nancy Craig (FPA) and Darlene Ritchie, Chippewas of Nawash

**Guests:** John Bujold, Bakertilly and Sidney Nadjiwon, Chippewas of Nawash

**Regrets:** Marie Tudor and Theresa Root

**Recorder:** Kim Fleming

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**1. Welcome / Opening Remarks**

Christine John welcomed everyone to the meeting. Syd Nadjiwon from Chippewas of Nawash spoke about the impact of Residential School and honored the loss of the 215 children from Kamloops.

**2. Approval of the Agenda / Conflict of Interest Declaration**

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board accepts the agenda as presented.*

*MOVED by Renee Schlonies; SECONDED by Christena Dawson*

*CARRIED*

**No conflict of interest declared.**

**3. Approval of the Minutes from May 19, 2021 & Business Arising**

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board accepts the minutes from May 19, 2021 meeting as presented.*

*MOVED by Tim Nicol; SECONDED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst*

*CARRIED*

**4. Presentation – Audited Financial Statement**

**John Bujold, Bakertilly**

John Bujold from Bakertilly presented on the results of the audit to the year ending March 31, 2021.

Mr. Bujold thanked the finance team for their assistance with the audit. All materials were given to the auditors in a timely fashion.

Mr. Bujold brought the Board's attention to page 12 (Item 18 – Significant Event) where a revision will be added indicating the total net costs incurred to March 31, 2021 as a result of the pandemic in the amount of \$509,249 (2020 - \$80,132). Mr. Nickel will provide Mr. Bujold with the informational note that will be included in the report that will state that in addition, the organization has had reductions in travel and other various program expenses and due to the nature of the expenses, it is difficult to estimate the total cost of reductions.

Bakertilly will be issuing a clean audit opinion at the Annual General Meeting on June 23, 2021.

Ms. Lovell thanked Mr. Bujold and his team for their good work and also acknowledged Kelly Ferris, Jeff Nickel and the entire finance team for their hard work and dedication to this annual audit.

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board accepts the 'draft' financial statement report dated March 31, 2021 as presented.*

*MOVED by Tim Nicol; SECONDED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst*

*CARRIED*

## 5. **Reports**

- **Chair**

Christine John acknowledged and extended a big thank you to Sidney Nadjiwon for his words to the Board. There have been a number of ceremonies that have taken place at both Nations and M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre in recognition of the 215 children found.

Ms. John shared with the Board that there will be an invitation sent out to everyone to participate in a virtual paint class with Patrick Hunter on June 30<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will be a second date for some time in August. Art supplies will be required. Ms. John encouraged everyone to sign up and promises a great evening with Patrick.

Ms. John shared with the Board that the evaluation process is currently underway for the search of an Executive Search Firm. The Ad Hoc Search Committee membership has been confirmed including Sidney Nadjiwon representing Chippewas of Nawash. The hope is that Theresa Root will confirm her seat on the Committee representing Saugeen First Nation.

Ms. John has recently been nominated to sit on the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies' Board of Directors and she has accepted this nomination. In this role, Ms. John will provide updates to the Board from OACAS.

- **OACAS**

No report provided.

- **FPA**

Nancy Craig presented on her report.

A reminder went out to Board members to provide Nancy with their bios and photos to be included in the Foster Parent newsletter.

Ms. Craig shared with the Board that the biggest frustration from foster parents continues to be around access. The organization had created an access guide and it is not being followed. The rules have changed and this has not been communicated to foster parents.

Ms. Lovell once again reminded Ms. Craig of the importance for foster parents to find their voices and to raise any concerns or issues directly with their workers. We continue to be committed to working with foster parents and to hear from them any concerns or worries they may have.

Ms. Craig recently met with Julie Lipsett around summer day camps and the importance of encouraging foster parents to sign up.

- **Saugeen First Nation Representative**

No report provided.

- **Chippewas of Nawash Representative**

No report provided.

- **Chief Executive Officer**

Phyllis Lovell presented on her report.

Ms. Lovell recently attended the vigil for the Muslim faith at the Owen Sound City Hall. There continues to be work needed from the community as a whole around commitments and working together to build more of an understanding and connections with the Muslim community.

Ms. Lovell acknowledged Martha Pedonoquotte who was the board representative from Chippewas of Nawash. Ms. Pedonoquotte has been a long time foster parent with our organization and a mother, grandmother, counsellor at Nawash as well as the supervisor for the Native Child Welfare service on the Nation. Ms. Pedonoquotte has had the opportunity to take her dream job with the United Church of Canada so therefore will not continue on our board. Darlene Ritchie will replace her and will bring her experiences from Native Child Welfare to her new role as board representative.

- **Finance, Risk Management and Audit Committee**

Linda Van Sligtenhorst presented on her report.

On June 3, 2021, the Federal Government introduced a new federal holiday commencing on September 30<sup>th</sup> for Truth and Reconciliation. This would be declared a statutory holiday which would apply to federally regulated workers. This declared holiday does not transfer to BGCFS staff but we should be prepared for what it means for BGCFS staff and for a labour strategy or labour agreement. This holiday compares to the Remembrance Day holiday where it is a day off for federal employees but is not a statutory paid holiday for BGCFS staff. The recommendation would be that September 30<sup>th</sup> would not be a paid holiday for staff but will be marked as a special day for staff to honor Truth and Reconciliation.

Darlene Ritchie spoke about the purpose of the day of Sept 30<sup>th</sup> to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions that indigenous peoples have made and to learn the Indian Act. September 30<sup>th</sup> is also 'Orange Shirt Day'.

It will be important for the staff at BGCFS to work with CUPE on a plan and discuss the reasons this day should be important to serve the Nations and follow their lead on how they will be acknowledging this day.

The FRMA Committee recommends that a Committee be formed and Alison Fernandes has agreed to lead the Committee. Both Theresa Root and Darlene Ritchie will be invited to share the many resources from both Nations around Truth and Reconciliation.

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board accepts the FRMA Committee verbal report as presented.*

*MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst; SECONDED by Renee Schlonies*

*CARRIED*

- **Service and Quality Committee**

Julie Lawrence reported on her report.

Ms. Lawrence shared with the Board the presentation around staff churn and the Committee's recommendation to the board to look at changing the hiring credentials to include preferred/equivalent and to recommend that further discussions take place in the fall after staff have completed the work that they need to do.

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board accepts the Service & Quality Committee Report as presented.*

*MOVED by Christena Dawson; SECONDED by Renee Schlonies* *CARRIED*

6. **New Business**

No new business

7. **In-Camera (if required)**

The Board moved in camera to approve the minutes from the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and to discuss an item brought forward from the FRMA Committee Meeting.

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board of Directors meeting moves in-camera at 5:38 p.m. to approve the May 19<sup>th</sup> minutes.*

*MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhost; SECONDED by Selwyn Hicks* *CARRIED*

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board of Directors meeting moves out of camera at 5:52 p.m.*

*MOVED by Julie Lawrence; SECONDED by Christena Dawson* *CARRIED*

8. **Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

9. **Adjournment**

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 5:52 p.m.*

*MOVED by Julie Lawrence*