

Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Northwest Territories Region

Royal Canadian Legion Kingsway 175

14339 50th Street, Edmonton

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

(Approved at the 2025 AGM)

Attendance in person:

Calgary, AB: Donna Giroux, Joanne McAdam, Gerry McAdam

Devon, AB: Jim MacVicar, Nancy MacVicar

Edmonton, AB: Bob Forrow, Sylvia Forrow, Michel Charron, David Dawkins, Valerie Gattegno, Cécile Magnan, Pam Petrin, John Quinn, Bill Ringrose, Marg Ringrose, Dominique Roy, Julia Sargeaunt, Angela Smyth, Lisette Vienne, Ralph Williams, Doreen Williams, Bob Woodcock

Regina, SK: Lutz Walsh, Mireille Beaupre-Walsh, Monique Nenson, Jeff Nenson

Sherwood Park, AB: Gene Gregoret, Michèle Gregoret,

Sturgeon County, AB: Terry Whitson

Attendance via Zoom:

Calgary, AB: Jill LaForty, Orvel Miskew, Pattie Oxendale, Del Simon

Edmonton, AB: John Hanlon, James Hees, Don Heichert

Lethbridge, AB: Len Whyte

Regina, SK: Joan Gately-Johnson, Joanne Skidmore

Saskatoon, SK: Kathy Fitzpatrick.

1. Call to Order

President Bob Forrow welcomed attendees in the room and acknowledged those who joined online as observers. Greetings were also extended to members who are new to the PNA.

It was acknowledged that the meeting was taking place within Treaty 6 Territory, and within the Métis homelands and Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4. Members acknowledge this land as the traditional territories of many First Nations such as the Cree, Dene, Stoney, Anishinaabe, Saulteaux and Blackfoot.

2. Quorum established & Housekeeping

Vice-President Lutz Walsh explained that 5% of the regional membership (16 members) was needed for a quorum. With twenty-four

members present, (not including those online) the meeting proceeded. The process for voting was outlined along with other housekeeping matters

3. Introduction of Board and Special Guest

Bob Forrow introduced the Executive: VP Lutz Walsh of Regina, Richard Marcotte of Regina is the Treasurer and Del Simon of Calgary is the Secretary. Richard and Del are away and send their regrets.

Joanne McAdam, the President of the Southern Alberta Chapter, and Monique Nenson, the Past President of the Saskatchewan Chapter, represented their groups.

Dan Oldfield, the new President of the CBC Pensioners National Association was introduced as the guest speaker.

4. Moment of silence in memory of colleagues who have died

President Bob Forrow requested a Moment of Silence in recognition of former colleagues who passed away in the past year.

5. Acceptance of the Agenda

Bob Woodcock made the motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Jim MacIvar. Motion carried.

6. Approval of the 2023 AGM minutes

Lutz Walsh made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Dave Dawkins. Motion carried.

7. Discussion arising from the minutes

There were no questions arising from the 2023 AGM Minutes.

8. President's Report

President Bob Forrow read only an addition he made to his report as was presented in the AGM package.

9. Treasurer's Report

Vice-president, Lutz Walsh read the Treasurer's Report as presented in the AGM package. Lutz Walsh moved and Jeff Nenson seconded a motion to accept the Report. Motion carried.

Lutz asked for suggestions regarding the three-year forecast. One member asked about the surplus. Lutz explained that there is more money because of an increase in membership.

10. Southern Alberta Chapter Report

President Joanne McAdam presented the Chapter's report as presented in the AGM package. She also thanked Bob Forrow for his service to the organization and wished him well in the future.

11. Saskatchewan Chapter Report

Past President Monique Nenson presented the Chapter's report as presented in the AGM package. Monique also wished Bob well and thanked him for his work on behalf of the PNA.

12. Election Committee

Jim MacVicar presented the Election Committee report. All positions are filled. By acclamation, the President is Lutz Walsh of Regina, Richard Marcotte of Regina is the Treasurer and Del Simon of Calgary is the Secretary. The Vice-President is Richard Champagne of Edmonton.

Jim thanked Joanne McAdam and Bob Forrow for their committee work.

13. Appointment of Signing Officers

Moved by Joanne McAdam, seconded by Julia Sargeaunt that the members of the executive be appointed as signing officers. Motion carried

14. Approval of the updated ABSKNT Bylaws

Lutz Walsh explained that the changes were mostly housekeeping.

- The regional *board of directors* will replace regional executive in keeping with the national language and other regions language.
- the financial statement was presented as audited but the ABSKNT statements are *verified statements* so that is being changed

There was discussion regarding the change from *Executive* to *Board of Directors* as some believe that the latter is more confusing.

A motion was made by Dave Dawkins and seconded by Donna Giroux that the Bylaws be sent back for review. The motion passed 13 to 11.

15. Guest Speaker

Dan Oldfield, the new national President talked about the importance of recruitment, volunteering and communications.

He pointed out the need to grow our membership. The PNA is the official voice of 11,000 retirees, but its membership is only 50 per cent of

those. To be most successful the PNA should have at least 75 per cent of retirees as members. Dan urged attendees to recruit other retirees and to volunteer for positions.

He noted that the fight for the recent pension surplus was 25 years in the making. It took 9 years to negotiate the deal and the PNA board pushed to have surpluses allocated annually. The process to receive the money will be repeated for the 2023-24 surplus, but not for following years. That was achieved because of the work done by volunteers.

Dan said that people appreciated getting information regarding the pension surplus and he acknowledged that the PNA has to do a better job communicating its messages. He said all retirees need to know that the PNA is relevant in terms of benefits and pointed to the Special Assistance Fund as an example. The PNA played a major role in establishing the Fund that is used mostly by retirees for things like hearing aids and mobil devices and are not covered by health care.

Dan mentioned that there is a challenging election coming up and the future of broadcasting in Canada is at stake. It is rumoured that the Conservatives want to change the pension plan model for all the civil servants. CBC must maintain a defined benefit pension plan. The PNA is talking with other groups, forming alliances to find ways of working to save the system.

He reminded members that more credibility the PNA has the more effective it will be.

16. General Discussion

President Bob Forrow opened the floor for discussion.

Discussions included staffing at the national office. Dan explained that the PNA has moved from brick and mortar to online with people working remotely in New Brunswick and Montreal.

Efforts are being made to iron out some of the backlog on issues.

Questions were raised about the website. Dan explained that it is being updated to be more user friendly. Attendees were invited to send any questions or suggestions to the PNA and Dan.

The PNA is working with the CBC which to get the names of retirees who are not members.

The next pension surplus review will be in 2029. The last review was in 2019. The Agreement is in perpetuity.

17. Draws for gifts

Gifts were donated by Bob Forrow, the Southern Alberta Chapter and CBC Edmonton and CBC Calgary. Names of attendees were placed in a hat and a name was pulled for each gift.

There was also a “new member” draw for a \$100 gift card. The names of pensioners who joined the association since the last AGM were read by Lutz Walsh and entered to win. An attendee drew Lynn Hordal’s name and she was congratulated in absentia.

18. Next AGM Date

The date for the next ABSKNT Region AGM will be determined by the new Regional Executive and announced within a month.

19. Thank You

Lutz Walsh thanked the members who helped out with this annual event - Cécile Magnan, Joanne Skidmore, Donna Giroux, Bob Woodcock and Joanne McAdam.

Lutz presented Bob Forrow with a token of thanks for his years of service to the PNA ABSKNT - 6 years as President and 6 years as Vice-President.

20. Request for Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.