



CANADIAN  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION  
CANADIENNE DE  
SANTÉ PUBLIQUE

The Voice of Public Health  
La voix de la santé publique

## 2022 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 11 May 2022 | 12:00-14:00 (EDT)

Via Webinar

### MINUTES

*Chair: Vamini Selvanandan*

*Parliamentarian: Lynn McIntyre*

*In attendance: 29 members*

### 1.0 Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order and quorum was confirmed. Vamini Selvanandan, Chair, welcomed members to the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) with greetings in both official languages and acknowledged the traditional lands from which she was participating and where CPHA's office is located.

Members were instructed on how to ask a question, make a general comment, to move or second a motion, and to vote on a motion.

The Chair introduced the current CPHA Board Members:

- Jason Cabaj, CPHA Chair-Elect, and Chair of the Nominating Committee;
- Nashreen Dhalla;
- Monica Emode, Chair of the Finance Committee;
- Yipeng Ge;
- Caitlin Johnston
- Sume Ndumbe-Eyoh, Chair of the Awards Committee;
- Thomas Piggott;
- Camisha Rahmatian, Student Director; and
- Laura Taylor.

The Board of Directors is supported by five Standing Committees that do the pre-work of the Board of Directors: Finance Committee; Honorary Awards Committee, Indigenous Advisory Council; Nominating Committee, and Public Policy Committee. They analyze issues and present options and recommendations to the Board. The Board is grateful for the volunteer members of the standing committees and the hours of work they provided to support CPHA in 2021.

Lynn McIntyre was introduced as the official Parliamentarian for the meeting. The Rules of Order were included in the meeting information package.

### 2.0 Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 5 May 2021

***Motion:***

***Hope Beanlands/Faye Stark***

That the minutes of the 5 May 2021 Annual General Meeting be accepted as circulated.

***.../CARRIED***

### 3.0 Adoption of the 2021 Audited Financial Statements

Monica Emode, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the 2021 Audited Financial Statements. Both the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors reviewed the statements and recommended their approval. CPHA's goal is to have a balanced budget over any three-year period, understanding that there may be fluctuation on a year-to-year basis. The three-year budget cycle ending in 2021 was in a surplus position and, based on current projections, the surplus position will remain for at least the next three years.

The letter from the auditors to the Board of Directors details the terms of reference and specific conditions of their audit. CPHA has once again received a 'clean' audit as is indicated in the Opinion section at the start of the letter.

The Statement of Financial Position shows an increase of almost \$437,000 in assets. Liabilities also increased, but by only \$310,000, leaving net assets at just over \$1 million. The Statement of Changes in Net Assets reflects the remaining assets; again, just over \$1 million. The Statement of Operations reflects the revenue increase of almost \$300,000 and net revenue or a surplus of \$126,000 for the year. This represents a significant positive variance from the original budget for 2021, which included a forecast deficit of almost \$169,000. The Statement of Cash Flows shows the movement of cash through the year; it reflects the increase in net revenue resulting in an increase in the amount of cash available. There were no new accounting policies in 2021 and the remainder of the notes provide a breakdown of what is on the financial statements. There was nothing in the notes to which the auditor needed to draw attention.

The Board of Directors along with the qualified and dedicated Finance Committee continue to monitor the Association's fiscal well-being very closely and we remain optimistic for the future.

There were no questions and no discussion.

**Motion:** **Thomas Piggott/Sharon Yanicki**  
That the 2021 Audited Financial Statements of the Canadian Public Health Association be accepted. **.../CARRIED**

#### 4.0 **Appointment of the CPHA Auditor for 2022**

CPHA continues to receive excellent service and competitive pricing from the firm Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP (OHCD LLP). As such, CPHA's Finance Committee and Board of Directors recommend that the firm be appointed CPHA's auditors for 2022.

**Motion:** **Laura Taylor/Marie Des Loyer**  
That the firm of Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP (OHCD LLP) be appointed as CPHA's Auditors for 2022. **.../CARRIED**

#### 5.0 **Annual Report to the AGM**

Jason Cabaj, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the Nominating Committee report. The Nominating Committee implements the process by which Board members are elected by the membership and it offers advice to the Board on ongoing processes and possible appointments.

In keeping with CPHA's by-laws, Vamini Selvanandan stepped into the role of Chair of the Board of Directors on the passing of former Chair, Dr. Benita Cohen. V. Selvanandan will complete B. Cohen's second year as Chair as well as serving her own two-year term. In March of this year, the Board nominated J. Cabaj to become the new Chair-Elect and that nomination will be put to CPHA's membership for ratification as part of the 2022 election process.

Effective January 1, 2022, two new Directors began their first two-year term on the Board of Directors:

- Nash Dhalla from Vancouver, and
- Camisha Rahmatian, the new Student Director, also from Vancouver.

Monica Emode, the former Student Director, was re-elected for a second two-year term, and Caitlin Johnston was appointed for a one-year term to fill the vacancy on the Board. More information on all of the Directors is on CPHA's website. Katie-Sue Derejko and Donika Jones, whose terms ended 31 December 2021, were recognized for their dedication and contributions to CPHA.

The formal Call for Nominations for the 2022 election will be circulated to all members in June with a closing date of 31 August 2022. Elections will take place in October and November. Candidates are being sought who collectively possess a mix of knowledge, experience and

expertise. In particular, those from a variety of public health disciplines and roles who can bring experience in the distinct needs of diverse populations and communities, finance and business, or communications and membership engagement. To enhance the geographic diversity on the Board, candidates from the North, Quebec and Atlantic Canada are particularly being sought. Members are encouraged to consider this call, for themselves, or to nominate a colleague they feel is a good fit for the Board. Members were encouraged to contact a member of the Nominating Committee or the Board if they are interested in standing for election.

The Chair presented [CPHA's 2021 Annual Report](#). A variety of papers and documents were referred to throughout the report that are available on CPHA's website

### **Strategic Plan**

A significant achievement in 2021 was the launch of the Association's [Strategic Plan for 2021-2025](#) that charts a new course for the Association that builds on the strengths established by previous strategic plans. The plan features new vision and mission statements for the Association as well as these inextricably linked organizational values that are a declaration by CPHA of what it holds important and to what it aspires. By communicating and living these organizational values, CPHA knows where to put its attention, can make decisions more quickly, and can commit more fully to those decisions. The Board of Directors is focused on advancing work on the six interconnected strategic priorities and a report on some of the progress was presented.

### **Truth and Reconciliation**

CPHA's [Indigenous Advisory Council](#) meets quarterly to discuss a wide range of topics and to provide feedback on CPHA's policy development. The Council has supported plans to hold a quarterly online gathering for Indigenous public health workers and to establish a practicum placement for an Indigenous MPH student that will be paid a living wage by CPHA.

### **COVID-19**

A [Review of Canada's Initial Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) provides a non-governmental perspective and overview of the public health measures taken during the first wave of the pandemic, and those actions taken to address the social determinants of health. CPHA was part of a group of 30 health organizations and 644 health professionals calling on the Government of Canada to dedicate more resources to supporting the [equitable global supply of vaccines](#).

### **Population Mental Wellness**

Population mental wellness has been an underlying theme in much of the Association's recent work, whether it be to address [children's access to play](#), [substance use](#), the social determinants of health, [stigma and racism](#), [Jordan's Principle](#) or sexual health. CPHA's position statement on [A Public Health Approach to Population Mental Wellness](#) describes how personal, social and ecological determinants of health can affect population mental wellness, and how public health approaches can be applied.

### **Tobacco and Vaping Use in Canada**

In May 2021, CPHA released a position statement entitled [Tobacco and Vaping Use in Canada: Moving Forward](#). Tobacco products and nicotine-containing vaping devices are used to provide nicotine, an addictive substance; however, the two products have differing health effects. The position statement included a series of recommendations directed at federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments.

### **Climate Crisis**

On 25 March 2021, the [Supreme Court of Canada](#) ruled in favour of the constitutionality of the federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* (2018), affirming the authority of the federal

government to set national standards for carbon pricing. CPHA was an intervenor that supported the federal government and [applauded the decision](#), noting that greenhouse gas emissions are a quintessential public health concern because the emissions, wherever the source, disrupt biophysical and economic systems, threatening the well-being and health of populations everywhere. In collaboration with the Canadian Health Association for Sustainability and Equity and the Ontario Public Health Association, CPHA produced [a series of blogs, factsheets and backgrounders](#) to disseminate important and timely research on the need to improve public health, decrease health inequities and provide beneficial side effects in the fight to address climate change. The [Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change](#) is a comprehensive yearly analysis that tracks progress on key indicators of the impact of climate change on human health and the world's efforts to minimize it. The [Policy Brief for Canada](#) (co-published by CPHA and the Canadian Medical Association) provides country-specific recommendations by leading domestic experts to highlight areas in which leaders and policy-makers should focus to develop a healthy response to climate change.

### **Funded Projects**

With funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), CPHA's Infectious Disease and Climate Change project organized a [national poster contest](#) for Grade 6 students from across Canada to learn more about climate-sensitive infectious diseases like Lyme disease and West Nile virus, and share awareness and prevention information with their communities. The project also published a [key informant report](#) that describes what is happening in Canada with respect to climate change and infectious diseases and highlights challenges and opportunities within this emerging field of inquiry.

With funding from PHAC, CPHA launched a free online continuing professional development course entitled [Provide safer, more inclusive care for people with STBBIs](#). Intended for family physicians and other clinical care providers, this modular course explores the stigma and discrimination often encountered by patients/clients seeking services for sexual health, substance use or STBBIs.

The Canadian Substance Use Resource and Knowledge Exchange Centre launched [a new website](#) created by CPHA to support the implementation of a public health approach to substance use. Visitors can access hundreds of free knowledge exchange products, bookmark resources and save searches on the website.

### **Conferences**

CPHA hosted three very successful virtual conferences in 2021 and while the annual conference will again be a virtual event from June 14 to 16, it is currently planned to hold the 2022 Canadian Immunization Conference in-person in Ottawa in December.

CPHA's dynamic and engaged membership includes all who participated in today's meeting. Members demonstrated their commitment in so many ways in 2021. These contributions are invaluable and allow the Association to do so much of its work.

## **6.0 In Memoriam: Benita Cohen**

CPHA and the entire public health community suffered a great loss with the sudden passing of Benita Cohen. As the Chair of CPHA's Board, she worked to strengthen public health system capacity to promote health equity and social justice. Benita was a great advocate for public health and health equity who will be greatly missed by her family and friends, her colleagues and students, and by everyone at CPHA. A short [video tribute](#) to Benita was played and thanks expressed to all of her colleagues, friends and family who helped make the video.

**7.0 Presentation of the 2022 Honorary Awards**

Sume Ndumbe-Eyoh, Chair of the Honorary Awards Committee, presented this year’s honorary awards. All recipients were present. Following an introductory background, each candidate in turn was congratulated and invited to speak on their acceptance. Their full citations are on CPHA’s [website](#).

**Certificate of Merit**

Regan Murray

**Ron Draper Health Promotion Award**

Pegeen Walsh

**National Public Health Hero Award**

Moms Stop the Harm

**R.D. Defries Award**

Benita Cohen (posthumous)

**8.0 Question and Discussion Period**

Lynn McIntyre noted that CPHA seems to have successfully received PHAC, and other government funding to keep it in positive balance and asked what is the status of diversifying CPHA’s funding sources.

*It is always best to have diverse funding to remain sustainable now and in the future. Current funding streams include: membership fees; conferences; government funding for public health projects managed by CPHA; and strong corporate supporters. These streams have remained fairly steady for several years. While the overall balancing of revenue streams has improved significantly from a decade past, which has reduced reliance on government funding, a new revenue stream is needed that would help secure and sustain CPHA operations in the future. A charitable giving campaign had been prepared to launch, but it was postponed when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. It will likely be launched in 2023. The goal of the campaign is to build an investment fund that can support CPHA’s ongoing operations in the future.*

**9.0 Closing Remarks and Date of Next Meeting**

The next Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 26 April 2023.

*Note: As a result of a change in the date and format of the 2023 annual conference, the next Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 14 June 2023 on a virtual platform.*

The meeting was adjourned at 13:02 (EDT).