



**53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS  
YOUTH SCIENCE CANADA**

**1. Welcome/Opening Remarks**

The Chair, Malcolm Butler welcomed everyone to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting, including Brad McCabe, Jennifer Gerritsen, Bob Thirsk, Gorick Ng, Len Reimer, Najib Hayat, Reni Barlow, Robert Young from Greater Vancouver, Gord Eamer from Rideau-St. Lawrence and Melinda Mills from Algoma Rotary who joined by conference call.

In the Youth Science Canada offices was Lori Murray.

Malcolm announced that he would be Chairing the meeting today and Lori Murray will record the minutes and act as the Scrutineer.

**2. Report of the Scrutineer**

Lori Murray, acting as Scrutineer, tabled a report that ten (10) Members were present in person/on the phone with twelve (12) Members represented by proxy for a total of twenty-two (22) Members eligible to vote. Lori reported that the necessary quorum of 15 required for conducting the business of the Annual General Meeting was in place.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of Members**

The Chair asked if there were any questions about or amendments to the minutes. No changes were forthcoming.

The Chair asked for approval of the following motion:

By Len Reimer:

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE 52<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jennifer Gerritsen  
CARRIED

**4. Chair, Board of Director's Report**

Hello everyone, and best wishes for the season.

I want to welcome once again everyone on the line and in the offices of Youth Science Canada. Youth Science Canada's strength continues to be its efforts to engage youth in science and inquiry. I said this last year – and once a year is not enough – the foundation of this strength continues to be our volunteers across Canada. Without them, none of what we accomplish would be possible. Large or small, volunteer groups create life-changing opportunities for our youth. I see that first-hand in my own regional science fair, and also at the CWSF. We owe all those volunteers, including those on this call, a debt of thanks that cannot be repeated often enough.

Last year's CWSF was in Windsor. It was the first for our new Executive Director, Brad McCabe, and once more a great success, right from the intimate opening to the spectacular award ceremonies and banquet.

Youth Science Canada continues to be a small organization – Lori Murray and Brad McCabe in the office, Liette Philippe, Dominic Tremblay, and Mike Newnham as contractors. Lori has been the bedrock of the organization through the transition to a new ED. Liette is working hard on ensuring a strong and exciting future for the CWSF, and Dominic and Mike continue to present Smarter Science/Educasciences to new cohorts of teachers across the country. We thank them all for their dedication and commitment to YSC. At the Windsor SGM, we elected two new members to the Board, Alison Thomson and Rob Thirsk. Both have already contributed enormously to the Board and YSC. I was grateful to be elected to a second term at that same meeting.

Last year we spoke about renewed youth representation on the Board. These members, Brian Le and Gorick Ng, have been working with Brad on strategies for keeping contact or renewing contact with our alumni. So, not only are they themselves representing recent alumni, they are working to leave a legacy of ongoing engagement with the youth whom YSC has served to enthuse with passion about science and inquiry. We also noted at that meeting that Mayur Gadhia was leaving us as Treasurer, and I am pleased to report that, at the November Board meeting, we appointed Najib Hayat as our new Treasurer. Najib is with us here today, and is enthusiastic in his interest in working with us to ensure the long term success of Youth Science Canada.

The Board continues to meet regularly, face-to-face as required, but also by Lync and through ongoing conversations on the Hub and in email. Now that the ED transition is complete, the Board will return its focus to policy governance and the strategic governance of YSC. There is great promise for the future and that is where we will focus our energy. I want to thank all the Board of Directors for their continued commitment – they are:

- Alison Thomson, from Calgary, Alberta
- Brian Le, from Vancouver, British Columbia
- Gorick Ng, from Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Jamie Parsons, Vice-Chair from St. John's, Newfoundland
- Jennifer Gerritsen, Board Secretary from Calgary, Alberta
- Len Reimer, from near Vancouver, British Columbia
- Najib Hayat, Treasurer from Pickering, Ontario
- Robert Thirsk, from Ottawa, Ontario (and Calgary, Alberta)

Together, with everyone involved with YSC, we represent a profound commitment to the youth of Canada – and that is something to be very proud of.

## **5. Executive Director's Report**

YSC is currently in year two of its current Strategic Imperatives.

In moving toward the Practical Vision, we continue to make a number of significant achievements:

### Succession and Organizational Structure

- I have completed my first year with Youth Science Canada
- We have renewed our accreditation with Imagine Canada
- Youth Science Canada is moving to becoming a greater service centre to the Regional Science Fairs and participant youth

#### Revenue Growth Strategy and Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP)

- 2014 was an improved year over 2013 but the challenges of 2013 had an extended impact into 2014
- We are broadening our financial support base
  - i. This includes focus on government funding, donations from individuals and earned revenue opportunities
  - ii. Our sponsor representation with T1 Partnership Marketing has been replaced with Sponsorship Canada
    - i) This change has resulted in greater growth opportunities for YSC
- Microsoft partnership continues
- BlackBerry's and CIHR's partnerships have ended
- New partnerships have been launched with Astra Zeneca, L'Oreal Canada and EF Tours

#### Alumni Strategy/Roadmap

- Michael Serbinis was recognized as the 2014 Microsoft Alumni Award recipient
- Strategies for the development of an active alumni group are being put into place

#### CWSF Roadmap

- YSC continues to build on its leading role in the event to create a world-class experience for participants, sponsors and visitors
- CWSF 2016 has been confirmed for Montreal and CWSF 2017 is scheduled for Regina

#### Communication and Brand Strategy

- CWSF branding/signage continues to be updated and energized
- Website updates - our system was recently updated to the latest version early in 2014
- A CWSF App is being launched for CWSF 2015

#### Smarter Science Roadmap

- We are continuing to transition Smarter Science to a self-sustaining social enterprise
- We have started to introduce Teacher Resource kits as part of the program and will be developing a multi-level resource portal for trainers and participant teachers
- We have also started to broaden the Smarter Science offering and have recently entered into a curriculum development partnership with 4-H Canada

Looking forward to a great CWSF2015 in Fredericton!

Thanks to staff for my first year as ED.

Thanks to Reni as well for all his help.

Questions:

4-H

-partnership

-internally science but not in Canada

-program delivery for science

-doing Smarter Science workshops

-inquiry-based

-4-H Canada award at CWSF2015

-4-H Canada to be a region in 2016

## 6. Financial Report

Chair present a report on the audited financial statements:

- Deloitte audited the financial statements for the year-end June 30, 2014 prepared by management
- The Board received and reviewed the draft financial statements on November 8, 2014:
  - Deloitte provided a qualified audit opinion on the financial statements consistent with what many other charitable organizations are provided.
  - Deloitte expressed their appreciation for management and the overall audit process. They noted that this was one of the smoothest audits yet.
- 2014 financial statements:
  - Note the operating deficit in 2013 of \$329K, as noted in last year's report. For 2014, this operating deficit was reduced substantially to approximately \$27K.
  - In both years, challenges in fundraising by local host committees created a financial liability for YSC.
  - This was flagged by the auditors in their letter under "Emphasis of Matter," noting that the existence of the ongoing deficit was a matter of material uncertainty. The auditors are obliged to make this note when the organization is in deficit for two years in a row.
  - We note that Fredericton has already met/exceeded their fundraising targets, and that the ED is aggressively pursuing funding opportunities with a goal to both sustainable operations and wiping out the accumulated deficit.

Questions?

Rideau-St. Lawrence

-hands off region but glad they are more engaged this year

-emphasis of matter

-2 years of deficit is a concern but the response is reassuring

Malcolm thanked and appreciated the comments.

-Board are also concerned

-Board monitoring the finances and it's good

-it is very unusual for two years in a row deficit

Reni Barlow commented that the CWSF that are located in the West and East coasts always have a deficit but the central location (Ontario or Quebec) should have a surplus. The east/west CWSF are offset by the central CWSF surplus.

### **Accept FY2014 Financial Statements**

The Chair asked for approval of the following motion:

By Bob Thirsk:

THAT THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014 BE ACCEPTED.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Melinda Mills, Algoma Rotary  
CARRIED

**7. Appointment of Auditors**

Management and the Board are pleased with the auditors and recommend that Deloitte be reappointed auditors for FY2015.

The Chair asked for approval of the following motion:

By Jennifer Gerritsen:

THAT THE FIRM OF DELOITTE BE REAPPOINTED AS AUDITOR FOR THE 2015 FISCAL YEAR.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Len Reimer

CARRIED

Malcolm thanked everyone for joining the AGM today and wished everyone a wonderful holiday season and see you in Fredericton CWSF2015.

**8. Adjournment**

Len Reimer made the following motion:

THAT THE 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS BE ADJOURNED.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31am.