



COMMUNITY LIVING ASSOCIATION FOR SOUTH SIMCOE

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

7:00 p.m., September 24, 2024

Via Zoom

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**Present:**

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Lisa Patterson   | Taylor Oliver    |
| Lara Macdonald   | Marc Ronan       |
| Sara Manieri     | Christian Glover |
| Carol Jackson    | Cindy Brent      |
| Barbie Barta     | Mike Brent       |
| Andrew Walker    | Barbara Kwias    |
| Junea Yaxley     | Svetlana Egorova |
| Manu Bhardwaj    | Garror Sands     |
| Mary Lou Osborne | Mae Baird        |
| Richard Norcross | Kyle Rowley      |
| Adrian Miedema   | Catherine Martin |
| Janet Knight     | Kelly Quail      |
| Marjorie Miedema | PJ Wilson        |
| Evelyn Shaw      | Vicki McQuarrie  |
| Ben D'Souza      | Dayna Walsh      |
| Tom Eagan        | Ann Morton       |
|                  | David Trache     |
|                  | Mary Sheridan    |

**Welcome:**

Andrew Walker, Executive Director welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided the land acknowledgement. Approximately 35 people were in attendance.

Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting. Let everyone know that the meeting is being recorded. Andrew also did a Land Acknowledgement. Andrew recognized Jenna's passing and said some kind words.

**Welcome**

Tom Eagan

Tom Eagan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the following guests:

- Garror Sands and Svetlana Egorova, Auditors, Truster Zweig LLP, Chartered Accountants
- Board of Directors introduced themselves.

## 1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mary-Lou Osborne

Mary Lou Osborne presented the minutes of the September 19, 2023 Annual General Meeting.

“Motion To accept the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held September 19, 2023

- a) Moved by Tom Eagan, seconded by Taylor Oliver
- b) Discussion? - No
- c) All in favour? Yes
- d) Opposed if any? - No
- e) Carried - Yes

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no old or new business arising from the minutes.

## 2. REPORTS

President’s Report

Tom Eagan

I want to thank everyone for attending our Annual General Meeting. My name is Tom Eagan and I am the President of the Board of Directors for Community Living Association for South Simcoe. I have stepped in for Colleen Butler who has taken temporary leave from the Board. On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to extend our thoughts to both Colleen and Al Dresser, who has also taken a temporary leave, and wish them a speedy recovery.

CLASS continued this year achieving many of its strategic priorities which includes improvement with our equity practices, person-directed service delivery, employee well-being and health and safety as well as our commitments to collaboration and partnerships. In the AGM package, you will see a handout that details many of our strategic accomplishments this year.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank all our wonderful Direct Support Professionals for their continued leadership providing exceptional supports to everyone in our organization aligned with our vision of creating an inclusive community where everyone is valued, diversity is a strength and all live with dignity. We know it is through your hard work where possibilities are achieved.

I want to high light three areas of importance this year. CLASS became compliant with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporation Act (ONCA). ONCA is a corporate legal framework that all non-profits in Ontario have to be incorporated under by October of 2024. CLASS worked with legal firm Pooran Law to update

bylaws, financial and board documents to ensure that CLASS is compliant under the act.

As part of our strategic plan, CLASS has set forward on the path towards accreditation. After much investigation, CLASS has engaged the Council on Quality and Leadership as the accrediting body that will help shape our services and supports now and into the future. We know as an organization that the people we support are at the centre of everything we do. The work that will come out of accreditation will ensure that CLASS is on firm path toward Person Directed Services.

CLASS, like every developmental service agency in the province had a very difficult year navigating the current economic environment. CLASS dealt with inflationary pressures not seen in decades. The price increases of food, gas, insurance, utilities and capital expenditures put tremendous strain on already tight financial resources. CLASS was proactive this year through its support of the #5tosurvive campaign organized by Community Living Ontario which called for across the board funding increases. Our Executive Director spoke directly with MPP Saunderson as well as the Minister of Finance and the leadership of the treasury board of Ontario about the financial strain agencies like CLASS are experiencing. In a recent survey of 230 developmental service agencies, over 65% of them are forecasting a deficit budget this year. We are beginning to see the erosion of services and supports as well. Two of our sister agencies here in Simcoe County have reduced services to meet budget demands. All of this at the same time where demands for services are increasing, with over 50,000 people right now in Ontario waiting for supports. CLASS will continue to work with our community partners to advocate for much needed base funding increases and resources for those waiting for services.

I want to conclude by saying that despite the current state of affairs facing the developmental services sector, CLASS endeavours to create an organization that positions the people we support at the centre of everything we do. By working alongside those we support, their families, our employees and other like-minded people in our communities, I am convinced that CLASS will achieve our mission of fostering personal journeys and being a credible voice for change.

**Motion: "that the President's Report be accepted as presented."**

- a) Moved by Taylor Oliver, seconded by Marc Ronan
- b) Discussion? - No
- c) All in favour? - Yes
- d) Opposed if any? - No
- e) Carried -Yes

### Treasurer's Report

Wole Adefila

The Finance Committee consists of President Tom Eagan (Chair), Alan Dresser (Treasurer), who I am standing in for, and Vice-President Mary-Lou Osborne. It receives staff support from Executive Director Andrew Walker, Chief Operations Officer Lisa Patterson, and Finance Director Wole Adefila. This committee monitors and reviews all resources and recommendations having financial implications for the Association on behalf of the Board.

Quarterly the Board of Directors reviews financial statements and explanations of variances from budget are explained. This includes reviewing the current cash position and donations received.

Our audited financial reports are available on CLASS website. The Committee and the Board of Directors supports the Auditors' Report which will be provided by a representative of the firm Truster Zweig LLC - Svetlana Egorova.

Thank you.

**Motion: "that the Treasure's Financial Report be accepted as presented."**

- a) Moved by Benjamin D'Souza, seconded by Evelyn Shaw
- b) Discussion? - No
- c) All in favour? - Yes
- d) Opposed if any? - No
- e) Carried

### 3. AUDITOR'S REPORT

Svetlana Egorova

Svetlana Egorova, Truster Zweig provided the auditor's report.

Thanked Wole Adefila, Director of Finance and the Finance team for being attentive and providing all the information in a timely basis while working on-line.

Svetlana commented that CLASS continues to be in a good financial position.

**Motion: "that the audited financial statements be accepted"**

- a) Moved by Mary-Lou Osborne, seconded by Cindy Brent
- b) Discussion? No
- c) All in favour? Yes
- d) Opposed if any? No
- e) Carried - Yes

**Motion: To appoint the Auditor Truster Zweig LLP, Chartered Accountants as auditors for the Corporation for the fiscal year ending 2024/2025 and authorize the Board of Directors to fix the remuneration:**

- a) Moved by Taylor Oliver, seconded by Marc Ronan
- b) Discussion? - No
- c) All in favour? - Yes
- d) Opposed if any? - No
- e) Carried

**Motion: "To ratify, sanction, confirm and approve all acts, contracts, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments enacted, made, done and taken by all Directors and Officers of the Corporation since the close of business at the last Annual General Meeting'.**

- a) Moved by Cindy Brent, seconded by Taylor Oliver
- b) Discussion? No
- c) All in favour? Yes
- d) Opposed if any? No
- e) Carried

#### 4. **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Taylor Oliver

Taylor Oliver reviewed the profiles of the Board members standing for re-election:

Director Nominations – visit <https://www.class.on.ca/about/team> for bios and profiles of board:

- Tom Eagan
- Ben D’Souza
- Dana DeSante

Taylor reviewed the profiles of the Board members standing for re-election:

- Tom Eagan
- Ben D’Souza
- Dana DeSante

All accepted their nominations.

Motion: “that the report of the Nominations Committee be accepted”

- a) Moved by Marc Ronan, seconded by Taylor Oliver
- b) Discussion? No
- c) All in favour? Yes
- d) Opposed if any? No
- e) Carried

Motion: “that all nominees be elected and inducted into the Board of Directors”

- a) Moved by Marc Ronan, seconded by Mary-Lou Osborne
- b) Discussion? No
- c) All in favour? Yes
- d) Opposed if any? No
- e) Carried

#### 5. **INSTALLATION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Mayor Norcross

Richard Norcross, Mayor of Town of New Tecumseth told the membership it was an honour to install the Board and thanked the Board members for volunteering their time. The Board was installed with all the Board members reading the installation commitment.

## 6. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Andrew goes through the results of the Family/Caregiver survey.

42 respondents  
15% completion

**The survey results for the CLASS family engagement report (2023-2024) highlight the following:**

1. Support Duration: Most respondents (51%) have received support for over 10 years, with 21% being newer (0-2 years).
2. Satisfaction Levels:
  - High satisfaction (over 80%) with CLASS's understanding of family needs and communication, although areas like meaningful input (71% positive) and goal support (70% positive) show room for growth.
  - Overall services satisfaction is strong, with 86% being "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied."
3. Community Inclusion: 93% affirm community inclusion opportunities, citing activities such as events and outings.
4. Staff Understanding: 79% agree or strongly agree that staff understand their family members' needs.
5. Mission Alignment: 88% feel CLASS aligns with its mission statement.
6. Future Use: 100% indicate they are likely to continue using CLASS services.

### **Challenges and Suggestions:**

- Key challenges include respite options, employment readiness, social skills, and mental health.
- Recommendations for improvement include enhanced communication, stable staffing, more community outings, and weekend respite options.

## 7. SELF-ADVOCATES PRESENTATION

David Trache and Ann Morton

Hi My name is David

Hi My Name is Ann

We are the president and vice president of the self advocates group.

- Every month we meet as a group to talk about self advocating and how to teach others to self advocate.
- We enjoy meeting because we get to be with our friends,

- We get to know what's going on at class
- We get to advocate to have parties

A few of our achievements over this past year were.....

- Meeting Keith Dee from Ontario community Living.

He was able to tell us how other self advocates groups are ran, and really liked ours as well.

- We had a Christmas Party

The Leach family donated 3000.00 Dollars to us.

- The leaches donated these funds, 6 of us are going to the "Speaking Out" conference in Port Elgin on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 19, and 20<sup>th</sup>.

We are excited to learn new things about self-advocating at the conference.

More importantly,

- One of the self-advocates was able to advocate for themselves and their voice was heard.

The future is bright for us all.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our speech.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

Tom asked for a Motion: "to adjourn the September 24, 2024 CLASS Annual General Meeting"

Moved: Taylor Oliver

Seconded: Victor Bankole

Carried.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Tom thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Tom Eagan  
In-Term President

Andrew Walker  
Executive Director