

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
(the “BC SPCA” or “Society”)

Minutes of the **129th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Society
Saturday March 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. (PST)
Held via TEAMS Video Conferencing

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Notice of the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) having been given to all Members of the Society on March 1, 2024, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Society, Victoria Brydon acted as Chair, and called the AGM to order at 9:06am PST noting that a quorum of 50 voting Members had been met, and the meeting was duly convened.

The Members were welcomed to the 129th AGM and provided an overview of the meeting proceedings and instructions to indicate their desire to speak.

2.0 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair acknowledged their participation in the AGM was from the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh traditional territory of the Indigenous First Nations People; and that each meeting participant are on respective territories of the Indigenous First Nations People.

3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Members were asked if there are any requested changes to the agenda, of which none were noted.

Upon motion made by Victoria Brydon, RESOLVED, that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4.0 APPROVAL OF AGM MINUTES

The Members were asked if any errors or omissions were identified within the minutes of the 128th AGM, of which none were noted.

Upon motion made by Victoria Brydon, RESOLVED, that the minutes of the 128th Annual General Meeting held on April 22, 2023, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5.0 BOARD CHAIR ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair presented their Annual Report to the Membership and highlighted the work of the Board over the course of the 2023/2024 governance year that included the work to date in the development of the new strategic plan. The Board Chair noted that the Board and Executive team had held constructive discussions on a new vision, mission and values for the organization and that discussions would next be held on goals of objectives for the next five-year period. The Chair noted that the new Strategic Plan would be formally approved in November and made public early in 2025.

The Chair also applauded the work of the Society on advancing animal welfare within BC and across Canada and the enhancement of cyber security systems within the organization.

The Chair acknowledged their fellow Board members and their commitment to the Society, in particular outgoing Board member Ashley Thandi and thanked the CEO and Executive Leadership Team, for their efforts to support the Board and work of the Society. The Chair noted a new Board Chair would be elected at the first meeting of the new Board. The forum was opened to questions.

6.0 CEO ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair introduced Craig Daniell (CEO) who thanked the dedicated BC SPCA staff & volunteers, as a result of which the Society was able to assist more than 135,764 animals through direct care, community programs and support services in 2023. This represented an increase of 12.8% year over year in the number of animals assisted. The CEO then provided an overview of the highlights of the Society over the past governance year, that included:

- 10,350 youth attending humane education school presentations with another 1,140 kids attending summer camp, an increase of 22% from the year before.
- The BC Pet Registry registering 29,757 new pets in 2023 bringing total registrations to more than 204,000 while AnimalKind now had 35 accredited dog training businesses.
- 17,914 spay/neuter surgeries had been conducted and increase of 19% of the previous year, while 17,964 animals had been treated at the Society's four veterinary clinics.
- BC SPCA food banks had provided 461,737 meals to vulnerable animals in partnership with 134 community partners as well as 9,600 nights of emergency boarding for the animals of people leaving domestic violence or displaced by wildfires.
- Responding to 7,841 suspected animal cruelty complaints, assisting 41,715 animals and removing 2,795 animals from abusive or dangerous situations. The Animal Helpline also responded to 75,968 enquiries, a 5% increase over 2022.
- 17,729 animals had been rescued, representing an increase of 12% year over year, while 11,138 animals had been adopted into new homes and 2,165 lost animals had been reunited with their guardians. Additionally, 2,132 wild animals were cared for at Wild ARC.
- The CEO also noted that the Society maintained its 80% target rate for annual voluntary staff retention and saw 140 positive internal movements over the past year.
- The number of volunteer hours grew 11% to 221,302 hours, equivalent to 122 full time positions.
- The number of website users exceeded 5 million, while the communications team was responsible for 21,480 print stories. The active donor base grew to 105,000 donors.

The CEO provided an update on capital projects in Fort St. John, Cowichan and Vancouver; and highlighted the work underway to develop a new Strategic Plan for the Society. The Board was thanked for their commitment, particularly outgoing chair Victoria Brydon and outgoing Board Director, Ashley Thandi. The forum was opened to questions on the CEO Annual Report to Members.

7.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chair introduced Emily Thorner (CFO/CTO) who provided a report on the 2023 Audited Financial Statements of the BC SPCA for the year ended September 30, 2023. The CFO noted that:

- The Society continues to have a strong growth in assets and effective management of liabilities. There is no debt and a very stable balance sheet.
- The goal each year is to deliver a balanced budget, which was achieved and exceeded in the past year.
- The Society has significant ongoing capital requirements as the age and condition of its facilities across the province varies. The majority of the 2023 surplus was therefore designated by the Board to upcoming capital investments.
- The continued challenges in recruiting veterinarians due to the vet shortage continues to impact the financial performance of the Society's veterinary hospitals and medical expenses.
- Revenues had increased from prior years, primarily driven by a provincial government grant of \$12 million for facility replacement projects.
- Financial markets remain variable and interest rates continue to present a reasonable investment option and as such the Society is reducing risk by increasing asset allocation to GICs.
- Total revenue for 2023 was \$75,714k as opposed to \$65,810k in 2022 and \$51,564k in 2021, while expenditures were \$57,445k in 2023, \$49,789 in 2022 and \$44,131 in 2021.
- The Capital Fund stood at \$72 million, consisting of \$29 million in capital assets and \$43 million in restricted gifts designated for capital purposes.
- Total assets had increased from \$118.5 million to \$135.3 million, primarily driven by an increase in restricted gifts as well as the \$12 million provincial government grant.

The Board Chair reported that the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended September 30, 2023, have been reviewed by the Finance & Audit Committee, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve the year-end Audited Financial Statements. On January 16, 2023, the Board approved the Audited Financial Statements. The forum was then opened for questions.

Upon motion made by Victoria Brydon, RESOLVED, that the Audited Financial Statements of The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the year ended September 30, 2023, along with the auditor's report thereon, are received as presented.

CARRIED

8.0 BOARD COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

Each of the four Board Committee Chairs reported on their respective Committee's, providing an overview of the role, responsibilities, and composition of their committee and highlighting the accomplishments over the past governance year as reflected in the respective Committee AGM Information Reports to Members provided in the AGM meeting material. Upon conclusion of each Committee report, the Committee Chairs opened the forum to questions.

9.0 REGIONAL COUNCILS ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair referred the Members to the Activities Report from the Regional Councils included in the AGM meeting material, and the Report was taken as read. The Chair thanked the Members of the Regional Councils for their dedication, particularly those who served as Chairs and Vice-Chairs and encouraged Members to join their respective Regional Council.

10.0 CONFIRMATION OF OFFICE OF BOARD DIRECTORS

The Chair acknowledged and thanked outgoing Board Directors Ashley Thandi for their dedication and commitment in serving as a Director of the Society; and shared the results of the recent election noting that Mark Montemurro had been elected by acclamation for a second term as Regional Directors for the Thompson/Okanagan/Kootenay Region, and that Sydney Redpath had been elected by acclamation as a Regional Director the Cariboo & North Region.

Upon motion made by Victoria Brydon, RESOLVED, that Mark Montemurro and Sydney Redpath be confirmed as Regional Directors of The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for a three-year term beginning March 23, 2024.

CARRIED

11. CONCLUSION

The Chair thanked the Membership for attending the 129th Annual General Meeting.

Upon motion made by Victoria Brydon, RESOLVED, that the 129th Annual General Meeting of the Members be concluded at 10:12am PST.

CARRIED

Signed By: Mark Montemurro, Board Chair
Minutes to be approved at the March 29, 2025, Annual General Meeting