



Autism Alliance of Canada
Annual General Meeting (AGM) Notes
24 April 2025, 1.00 - 3.00 pm EST
(For the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2024)

In Attendance:
Autism Alliance of Canada Board: Shino Nakane, Rebekah Kintzinger, Maddy Dever, Anne Kresta, Kimberley Ward, Corey Walker, Debbie Irish, Cyndi Gerlach, David Nicholas, Stacey Herperger
Autism Alliance of Canada Staff: Jonathan Lai, Franziska Morin, Deepa Singal, April MacAleese-Jay, Stephen Gentles, Krista Leitham, Leilani Forby, Simone Daniels
Voting members present: 32 members (19 organization members and 13 community members)
Regrets:
Autism Alliance of Canada Board: Priscilla Burnham Riosa, Pascale Castonguay

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Shino Nakane, Co-Chair of Autism Alliance of Canada Board of Directors, called the Annual General Meeting for the Fiscal Year 2024 to order at 1:05 PM EST.

19 organization members and 13 community members of Autism Alliance of Canada were present at the meeting. With 32 members present and a quorum requiring at least 10 members, Shino confirmed that quorum was met in accordance with article 10.2 of the Corporation By-Laws.

2. Approval of Agenda

Materials: [Autism Alliance of Canada AGM 2025 | Agenda](#)

In accordance with article 12 of the Corporation By-Laws, all members in good standing as of 45 days prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) were deemed eligible to vote. Each eligible voting member was provided with the AGM package via email, which included the agenda for the 2025 AGM, the minutes of the previous year's AGM, the biographies of the slate of nominees for Director positions, the proposed revisions to the Corporations By-Laws, and the audited financial statements for the Fiscal Year 2024. As per organizational

voting policy, each member is entitled to one vote.

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Annual General Meeting Agenda for the Fiscal Year 2024 is approved.

Motion to approve: Debbie Irish

Seconded by: Maddy Dever

Motion passed.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes for AGM for the Fiscal Year 2023

Materials:  Autism Alliance of Canada AGM for the Fiscal Year 2023 | Meeting Minutes_Amended_April2...

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the Fiscal Year 2023 were circulated to our members for review prior to the meeting.

During the meeting, the following amendments to the minutes were requested:

- Agenda item 1. Welcome:
 - Update to read “Annual General Meeting for the Fiscal Year **2023**”
- Agenda item 3. Approval of minutes:
 - Update to read “The minutes of the **2023** Annual General Meeting”
 - Update resolution to read “BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE **2023** Annual General Meeting”

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Annual General Meeting Minutes for the fiscal year 2023 be approved with the requested amendments.

Motion to approve: Rebekah Kintzinger

Seconded by: Anne Kresta

Motion passed.

4. Year in Review

Jonathan Lai, Executive Director of Autism Alliance of Canada, presented highlights from the 2024 fiscal year.

Key achievements included:

- Canada’s first National Autism Strategy announced
- Creation and funding of the National Autism Network
- Expansion of Ready, Willing & Able program



- National research partnerships and fellowships
- Canadian Journal for Autism Equity
- Official charitable status attained for Autism Alliance of Canada

5. Annual Election of Directors

Materials: [Annual Election of Directors 2025](#)

Cyndi Gerlach, Co-Chair of the Governance Committee, presented the slate of nominees for the Board of Directors. Five current directors were nominated for re-election to two-year terms, and one new nominee, Emi Linds, was elected to a two-year term.

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following persons are hereby appointed directors of the Corporation:

Shino Nakane, Organization Member (2 year term)

Maddy Dever, Community Member (2 year term)

Corey Walker, Community Member (2 year term)

David Nicholas, Community Member (2 year term)

Debbie Irish, Organization Member (2 year term)

Emi Linds, Community Member (2 year term)

Motion to approve: Kim Ward

Seconded by: Marg Whelan

Motion passed.

6. Annual Approval of Financial Statements

Materials: [Autism-Alliance-of-Canada-2024-Financial-Statements-Final-1.pdf](#)

The audited financial statements were presented by the Treasurer, Debbie Irish. In the auditor's opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Autism Alliance of Canada as at December 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. It is a clean audit. In reviewing our financial position, the Alliance has assets valued at \$1,182,147. We currently have a significant amount of cash that is a result of funder prepayments and Summit revenues that have been deferred and will be recognized in this fiscal year. The Alliance has liabilities of \$1,005,031, resulting in a net asset position of \$117,116. In terms of the Statement of Operations, the organization had revenues of \$1,587,734 and expenditures of \$1,593,625, resulting in a small year-end deficit of \$5,891. This deficit is related to some

year-end housekeeping to clean some bad debt recorded in previous years. More detailed information on individual funded projects can be found on the last page of the audited financial statements.

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Members accept the 2024 financial statements.

Motion to approve: Maddy Dever

Seconded by: Anne Kresta

Motion passed.

7. Appointment of Auditors

Resolution:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Belliveau Veinotte Inc. is hereby appointed the independent auditor of the Corporation to hold office until the close of the next annual members' meeting or until a successor is appointed, at such remuneration as may be fixed by the directors, and the directors are hereby authorized to fix such remuneration.

Motion to approve: Kim Ward

Seconded by: Corey Walker

Motion passed.

8. Bylaw Updates

Materials: [Corporation By-Laws - For Approval at AGM April 2025](#)

Summary of recommended changes:

- Voting Eligibility Delay: Members must be in “good standing” for 30 days (from confirmation and dues paid) before gaining voting rights.
- Expanded Voting Access: Voting is now explicitly allowed both in-person and remotely (e.g., online platforms).
- Clarification on Tied Votes: Tied votes do not pass. The Chair does not get a second/casting vote.
- Definition of Good Standing Added: Included both in Article 12 and the Definitions section for clarity.
- Section Reorganization: Articles have been renumbered and reordered for clarity and flow.

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the recommended changes to Articles 8, 12 and 16, and the reorganization of the

order of the Articles from the Corporation By-laws of Autism Alliance of Canada, be approved.

Motion to approve: Stacey Herperger

Seconded by: Rebekah Kintzinger

Motion passed.

9. Co-Chair Report for 2024

Rebekah Kintzinger provided a detailed Co-Chair report. Highlights included the launch of the National Autism Network, federal recognition of Canada's autism strategy, and a strong emphasis on centring lived experience in advocacy and implementation efforts.

10. Remarks for Outgoing Directors

Acknowledgements were made to Karen Bopp, Tanya MacLeod, and Gail Francis for their service. Special recognition was given to Karen Bopp for her leadership as Co-Chair.

11. Conclusion of Formal Business Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM EST