



2021 CanWaCH Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

Tuesday, November 23rd, 2021
13:00 - 14:30pm EDT
Via Zoom

Meeting convened at 1:09pm by Onome Ako.

Agenda Item	Motion 1: To approve the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Agenda
Moved by	Mark Brender
Seconded by	Chris Dendys
Vote	Approved

Agenda Item	Motion 2: Approval of 2020 AGM Minutes
Moved by	Mark Brender
Seconded by	Chris Dendys
Vote	Approved

Agenda Item	Opening Remarks by Board Chair, Onome Ako
Key Points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The past 18 months have given us a greater appreciation for opportunities to come together. Granted, we have adapted and shifted to virtual gatherings and while we have become experts at maximizing digital meetings and moments, we look forward to seeing each other in person. • That ability to adapt, alongside a willingness to find new ways of doing things and to positively embrace change, is a strength of our membership and the global health and international development sector more broadly. • More importantly, we have also learned that when faced with a very serious common threat - a global pandemic - we are even stronger together. • We've seen the world experience unspeakable loss and suffering with five million deaths globally. We see communities already facing poor health and living conditions fall even further behind - and actually being left behind. We see the unequal burden that has been placed upon caregivers, mainly women. • All of this has bolstered our resolve. It became crystal clear that this is why we have chosen to pursue the advancement of health and rights and equity for all.



- We have found strength and resolve together as the pandemic has exposed and deepened inequalities around the world.
- The inequitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines has left millions of people still vulnerable to the virus. We are seeing the gaps that exist between rich and poor nations widen.
- It's important that as Canada begins to experience our own recovery from the pandemic that we don't forget the need for an equitable global response to COVID-19.
- We must prioritize the vaccination of everyone in the world, no matter where they live, and the fair compensation and support for healthcare workers, the majority of whom are women.
- We know with certainty that Canadians remain at risk so long as the majority of the world awaits vaccination and variants emerge.
- Going back to what some call "normal" cannot mean returning the status quo.
- Out of this adversity and tragedy the world has experienced, it is our responsibility to challenge the status quo, even if that makes us very uncomfortable about past and current decisions and actions.
- For example, that means we need to look at the challenges and gaps we experienced by not having Canadian staff deployed to the field to question ourselves about why our local capacity wasn't where it needs to be. Let's stop talking about localization and be the nation that firmly places leadership and critical roles in the hands of local actors.
- Community members are the most qualified to shine a light on the best way forward in their own communities. We must listen closely and respond quickly to those most impacted by the pandemic.
- We must acknowledge that the pandemic has highlighted that we **all** have a very long way to go to address colonialist approaches and racism.
- I have been heartened to see our sector do that - to take many steps towards learning and moving forward in recent months. CanWaCH has led and participated in sector learnings around anti-racism, diversity and inclusion and colonialism
- And that's how we will continue to move forward - we have seen unprecedented cooperation, collaboration and partnerships among organizations and individuals working to advance the health and rights of women, children and adolescents.
- We got creative. We embraced innovation. We problem-solved. We found workarounds.
- And because we had to stop and take a closer look, we discovered our weaknesses. As a result, many of those new approaches and collaborations borne of necessity amid the pandemic will forever improve our work.
- The year ahead will not be easy. We will need to persist and push to remind governments and citizens in richer nations of their responsibilities to ensure the health and rights of the entire globe as they seek their own



	<p>'return to normal'. Challenging the status quo amid this circumstance will be disruptive but we must persevere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We also have new Ministers in International Development and Women and Gender Equality who will require our knowledge, expertise, as well as alternating doses of tough advice and support. • Yet I am excited to face these challenges bolstered by the greater sense of togetherness we have found in the face of adversity. And I am excited about our new found confidence, grit, determination and resolve to move the dial forward toward equal futures for everyone, everywhere.
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Agenda Item	Welcome Remarks by Julia Anderson, CEO CanWaCH
Key Points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landing here with hope. Hope based in change, opportunity and the evolving self-awareness that I see in our sector, in our nation and around the world. • It all happened because we have had to struggle through adversity and the unprecedented circumstances that the COVID-19 pandemic thrust upon us. • Our challenges are far from over. Vaccines remain far out of reach for low and middle income nations. • I am full of hope because we have proven we can face very difficult and tumultuous times, from financial scarcity to disruption to our operations, from the mental toll experienced by our teams to combatting the self-interest of Canadians anxious about their own lives and imploring them to remember those who remain left behind. • While we could have never predicted the timing of the Speech from the Throne for a new Parliament, we can lament over the scheduling conflict - or - I <i>choose</i> to view it as very fitting that at the precise moment that we as a membership reflect on the past year and set course for the year ahead, there is a new course being charted by government that we can help to navigate. • There is always hope in change. We have a new Minister of International Development. We have a new Minister for Women and Gender Equality. No matter which government of whatever political stripe or no matter which minister - we have a fresh opportunity to support them, guide them and to shape their perspective on Canada's policies and commitment to the health and rights of women, children and adolescents. • The pandemic brought about an awakening of sorts among Canadians. Encouraged by the continued calls to address ongoing inequalities and demands for justice that we hear in Canada and around the globe. • As an active member of global civil society, the CanWaCH membership has a role to play in actively supporting these efforts, including calls for reconciliation and decolonization worldwide.



- While we continued to adapt to a virtual world absent of in-person gatherings, we took what we learned in the early months of the pandemic in 2020 and refined it all even more.
- Our gatherings became increasingly strategic and targeted, bringing together the right people on the most salient topics at the right time.
- We dove deeper into our sector's expertise to enhance our knowledge and boost our capacity.
- From anti-racism to diversity and inclusion. From celebrating Canada's women in leadership to technical guidance on measuring women's empowerment. From menstrual hygiene and equity to family planning and sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- And while meaningful learning and engagement on such topics were made possible by the expertise of CanWaCH members and partners, the digital world that we sometimes found limiting, also allowed us to connect with new colleagues and like-minded allies.
- This included performing artists from Canada and around the world and inspiring indigenous leaders and youth - in fact we were able to integrate more youth representation than ever before in our activities thanks to technology.
- You will see an example of this in our next flagship event in May 2022 - a hybrid combination of online trainings and workshops combined with in-person connections across a series of days.
- Before COVID, we didn't realize the full potential in this approach. How combining the best of the online and in-person worlds on more flexible schedules could bring about even greater outcomes.
- As I reflect on the past year, I am most proud of our membership's steadfast resolve to hold the governments around the globe accountable for their duty to vaccinate the world.
- In the year to come, we will not give up on this commitment and you will see CanWaCH and its members continue to fight the fight so that no one forgets that health and lives remain in peril.
- And the most vulnerable are women, girls and gender diverse people. They have borne the worst of this crisis bearing the burden of care all while facing inequality and discrimination.
- That is why I have been so very proud to see the monumental success of CanWaCH's Equal Futures Network project, funded by Women and Gender Equality and launched last Fall.
- Almost 400 organizations from every region of Canada have joined the Equal Futures Network - all committed to accelerate progress for gender equality and social justice within Canada, harnessing local momentum and connecting it to the work being done on a global level.
- Alongside our nearly 120 CanWaCH members and associates, the tremendous potential, power of partnership and the hope that represents is awe-inspiring.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our partners in global health, our funders. • We could not achieve what we do without the steadfast collaboration and dedication of our colleagues at Global Affairs Canada. As we enter into our next 5-year project with Global Affairs, I am excited to continue to work with the departmental officials who have made this their life's work. • I would also like to express my gratitude to Women and Gender Equality Canada. We have found new allies and partners at WaGE as we embark on our third project with them working to achieve a gender-just Canada so that we can better follow our mission globally. • And I would like to thank the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for continuing to believe in and support the CanWaCH model of convening and collaboration through partnerships. We are indeed stronger together. • I continue to be energized by the sheer brilliance and talent that lives within the CanWaCH membership and within our international cooperation community. • It is our continued resilience, passion, hard work, and collaboration that will propel us closer to the equal world that we all seek to achieve..
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Agenda Item	Treasurer Remarks (Bill Chambers, on behalf of Treasurer Sian Fitzgerald)
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors' Finance Audit and Risk Committee, comprised of: Treasurer Sian Fitzgerald, Mark Brender and Eva Slawecki. • CanWaCH wrapped up our first five-year grant with Global Affairs Canada in the spring of 2021 • Throughout this project CanWaCH built an even stronger foundation and infrastructure to support our membership with opportunities to collaborate and exchange knowledge, all bolstered by solid data and evidence that demonstrates impact. • Excited to begin this next round of five-year funding with Global Affairs Canada, which will focus on amplifying the impact of gender transformative health programming and an equitable response to COVID-19 . • Alongside our new 5-year contribution from Global Affairs Canada, we have also diversified our funding, and we are executing on projects with the Department of Women and Gender Equality Canada and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. • Management's efforts to seek out strategic opportunities to engage with new funders and donors has been - and continues to be - successful. We continue our work to diversify our funding base with contributions from other funders, thereby supporting our overall organizational sustainability. <p><u>Audited Financial Statements</u></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CanWaCH's organizational year runs from October 1 - September 30. With the 2020-2021 year having closed, the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee worked with BDO Canada LLP - Lindsay, to undertake a financial year end organizational audit, which resulted in a clean audit. • Our Board-approved audited financial statements will be posted shortly on our website and the following is being shared for your information. In the audited statements, there are comparables presented from the previous fiscal year 2019/2020 to this year (2020/2021), which shows a decrease in assets and deferred revenue as we are in between funding grants. Overall, in the Statement of Operations and Net Assets, revenue and expenses are lower this year compared to last. • Given the type of work that CanWaCH undertakes, and the fact that CanWaCH was already well-positioned as a permanently virtual organization, CanWaCH continues to fare well through the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has continued to pause some activities, such as in-person gatherings and associated travel. However, there have been no substantive challenges. • With flexible, talented and nimble staff reimagining activities, the disruption has been minimal and we feel fortunate to still be in a healthy financial and operational position overall.
Agenda Item	<p><u>MOTION 3: To approve public accountant</u> At each AGM, as per our bylaws, we ask that the members approve the appointment of a public accountant for CanWaCH for the coming year.</p> <p>As Onome indicated earlier, we reached quorum in the electronic voting offered prior to this meeting. In that electronic voting process, the following motion was passed by voting members:</p> <p>To approve that Pennylegion Chung LLP be appointed the Public Accountant of the Corporation until the 2021-2022 Annual General Meeting of members or until their successors are appointed at a remuneration to be fixed by the Board of Directors and the Board of Directors are authorized to fix such remunerations.</p>
Moved by	Mark Brender
Seconded by	Eva Slawecki
Vote	Approved

Agenda Item	Governance Committee Remarks (Danny Glenwright, on behalf of Jocelyn Mackie, Chair of the Governance and Human Resources Committee)
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking to you all on behalf of the CanWaCH Governance Committee comprised of myself, Margaret Biggs, and Jocelyn Mackie.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was a big year for CanWaCH, not only did we transition to our new Global Affairs Canada project, CanWaCH executed on a new project with Women and Gender Equality Canada, known as the Equal Futures Network. • We enjoyed our first year under Onome's leadership as our new Board Chair. After the CEO onboarding process in the fall of 2020, the Governance Committee began working on the CEO evaluation and performance review. • This year we also began discussions and planning around a diversity, equity and inclusion strategy which we will be continuing to work on in the new year. We are excited to continue to build on this work and have a diverse representation around the table. • With the new Global Affairs project underway, as well current projects with WaGE and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CanWaCH is well-positioned with Julia's leadership and a talented, experienced and dedicated team to execute on all strategic and operational deliverables. <p><u>Overview of Board Slate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the summer of 2021, CanWaCH launched its annual Board nomination process. An open call for nominees was circulated over the summer. This was the highest number of applicants we have received to date, which has enabled us to finetune our processes around nominations and board recruitment. The Governance Committee and the Board worked with Management to conduct a skills assessment and gap analysis of current Board members, reviewed criteria for new Board members, and interviewed nominees. • The Governance Committee made a recommendation to the full Board of Directors, and with the Board's approval, we presented a motion for the election of directors. • With quorum met in the advance of the electronic voting process, that motion was passed by members. Therefore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elected to the Board of Directors is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lindsay Glassco, President and CEO of Plan International Canada. ○ Re-elected to the Board of Directors for second 3-year terms are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chris Dendys, Executive Director of Results Canada, ■ Jocelyn Mackie, Co-CEO of Grand Challenges Canada ■ Eva Slawecki, Executive Director of the Canadian Association for Global Health.
Agenda Item	Motion 4: To approve the board slate.
Moved by	Danny Glenwright
Seconded by	Jocelyn Mackie



Vote	Approved
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Agenda Item	Motion 5: To adjourn the 2021 AGM.
Moved by	Bill Chambers
Seconded by	Harry Kits
Vote	Approved

Dr. Alaa Murabit provided the closing keynote address.

Meeting adjourned at 2:28pm by Board Chair, Onome Ako.