



# MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

7:00 p.m. ET

Via Conferencing

## PRESENT:

**CATEGORY A – Equestrian Sports Disciplines** - Wendy Christoff, Patricia Frewen-Lord, Susan Karrel, Dessia Miller, Martha Worts

**CATEGORY B – Provincial & Territorial Sports Organizations** - Jessica Anstey, Sandy Bell, Adrienne Smith, Danielle Glanc, Deborah Smith, Karen Swantje

**CATEGORY C – National Equine Affiliates** - Peter Berringer, Ashley Cook Fletcher, Mary Cork, Dan Gall, Nancy Kavanagh, Charlotte Nagy, Faith Robillard, Gilles Seguin, George Von Platen

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Jason Edworthy, Eve-Marie Frappier, Andre Lanoix, Charles Antoine

## ABSENT:

**CATEGORY A:** Brenda Minor, Sue Foell, Charlene Kostecki, Karen Sparks

**CATEGORY B:** Robert Fournier, Cindy Klassen, Geri Sweet

## PRESENT:

**EC BOARD OF DIRECTORS – CURRENT** - Lisa Robertson, President; Charles Cue\*, Vice-President 1; Chris Lowe, Vice-President 2; Melanie Biron, Wayne Burwash, John Gallinger, Kelly Gravelle, Jennifer Hodgson, Rob Mitchell\* \*Outgoing

Incoming Board Directors – Audrey-Julie Dallaire, Gilles Levasseur

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kirsten Gilles, KPMG Auditor; Stephanie Parker, Sport Canada; Gord Peterson, EC Legal Counsel; Maude Boulanger Bouchard, Guest Speaker; Olivier Lepage, French interpreter for AGM – Company: America Interpretation.

**EC STAFF:** Meg Krueger, CEO; Danielle Bowness, Director Finance; James Hood, Director High Performance; Marilyn Korim, Manager Corporate Operations; Melanie McLearn, Director Marketing & Communications; Gerry van Blokland, Graphics & Web Designer

Board Recording Secretary: Carla Robin



**Agenda:** As per the EC By-laws, Article 5.2, and as amended by the Board of Directors on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Agenda for the Meeting shall include:

- (a) Call to Order - Lisa Robertson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm ET.

Lisa called upon Melanie McLearn for the Land Acknowledgement:

*The following text was approved by the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation on Dec. 21, 2020.*

Equestrian Canada respectfully acknowledges that Equestrian Canada is located on the unceded, Unsurrendered Territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation, whose presence and stewardship of the Kitchissippi and its tributaries, dates back to time immemorial and will continue in perpetuity. We honour their long history of welcoming many Nations to this territory and we acknowledge our shared responsibilities to ensure health and wellbeing for all creation for generations to come.

Further, we respect and affirm the inherent and Treaty Rights of all Indigenous Peoples in Canada. Our acknowledgement of the Algonquin Anishinabe territory recognizes the oppressive history and current experience of colonization, and is a reflection of our commitment to decolonize, and to recognize and honour the pursuits of Indigenous Nations and Peoples' self-determination and sovereignty.

Pronunciation:

- Pikwakanagan (PIK-WOK-ANA-GON)
- Anishinabe (A-NISH-NAW-BAY)
- Kitchissippi (KIT-CHISIP-EE)

Melanie McLearn then proceeded with the roll call for members to indicate their attendance for the meeting.

- (b) Confirmation of Quorum – Lisa Robertson confirmed that a quorum of voting members was present; and gave a brief synopsis of voting participation in the last AGM as part of responsible reporting.
- (c) Approval of the Agenda – Lisa Robertson called for a voting member to approve the agenda for the 2023 Equestrian Canada Annual General Meeting as circulated on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**MOVED by George Von Platen THAT the Agenda for the 2023 Equestrian Canada Annual General Meeting as circulated on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, be approved. SECONDED by Peter Berringer.** Lisa Robertson asked for any questions/comments; and asked for any opposed to the motion. There being none, the vote was called. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- (d) Approval of Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting – Lisa Robertson called for a voting member to approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.

**MOVED by George Von Platen THAT the Minutes of the 2022 Equestrian Canada Annual General Meeting as circulated on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, be approved. SECONDED by Gilles**



**Seguin.** Lisa Robertson asked for any questions/comments/corrections; and asked for any opposed to the motion. There being none, the vote was called. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- (e) Opening Remarks & Presentation – Lisa Robertson opened by remarking that it was her first year in the President’s seat and it was a great pleasure meeting everyone; and that in meetings with the members, she appreciated the great passion, value of receiving expertise and historical perspectives and noted her eager approach to listen and learn as a foundation for good leadership.

Lisa then asked Melanie McLearn to present a video sharing the Vision and Mission of EC with Imagine 2030 as its north star strategy and the future of equestrianism in Canada. The BOD is dedicated to a modernized purpose: Imagine 2030 where we will be a leading, trusted, collaborative and well-funded national sport organization that provides quality products and services to meet the needs of a strong, inclusive network of horse enthusiasts, recreational and competitive athletes, industry, partners, service providers, fans, and donors.

The presentation explained that EC is well underway with the clear roadmap of Strategy 2022-2025: Building for a Better Future into operations of the organization. CEO Meg Krueger, senior directors, and staff are focused on ‘Building a Strong Foundation’, ‘Investing in the Future’, and ‘Serving Our Community’.

Lisa noted that EC is in the foundation building stage and that the work is not just directed by these pillars, and that all are professionally held to account on very clear OKRs to ensure targets are being met. Lisa noted that collaboration and change in sport is a necessity as sport is in crisis at many levels in Canada with a 30% funding gap being experienced in all NSO’s (National Sport Organizations), Safe Sport issues, the lack of diversity and inclusion, and unprecedented inflation.

The Board is no longer leaking into operations as CEO Meg Krueger is highly capable as are her team. The Board of Directors is skills-based, with the governance renewal project being initiated, and funding gaps are being addressed by examining new revenue streams, and a funding strategy.

Lisa exuded gratitude to staff, volunteers, coaches, competitors, all included in making the equestrian community what it is, and to the Board, including thank you’s to outgoing members Rob Mitchell and Charles Cue, wishing them all the best.

- (f) President’s Report – Lisa noted that the President’s Report has been posted as part of the package and she has touched on some high-level issues already. Lisa referred to those in attendance to read the documents if they have not had the opportunity to yet do so.
- (g) Lisa reintroduced Melanie McLearn, who introduced as a guest, Stephanie Parker, Senior Programs Analyst from our valued partner Sport Canada and explained the working relationships involved, including OSIC; and the funding EC receives from Sport Canada.



- (h) Lisa then introduced CEO Meg Krueger, who spoke to the EC strategic plans, operational reports and achievements of fiscal year 2022-2023. Meg spoke about the progress of operational planning and effectively operationalizing the plan for results which were reviewed with staff, PTSO's and other key stakeholders. The production of quarterly reports tracked progress and areas facing delays. Meg spoke to the grass roots and industry development, relationship with PTSO's, program delivery, changes in fee structures to leave significant funding at grass roots level, transparency, and the launching of three funds. Understanding our sport and the equine sector through data has been a valuable industry sector study and its critical impact in Canada. Equity, diversity and inclusion; and the expansion of our equine images bank. Progress with discipline and industry committees, show organizing, connecting circuits and the CEID program.

Meg discussed the investment in leaders and athletes – coach certification and high performance; symposiums for coach education and networking; all coaches licensed and NCCP certified by 2025; and the FEI and WEG championships in representing Canada, congratulating athletes, coaches, horses and grooms who support them/Canada on global stage.

Meg wrapped up thanking all who worked and volunteered together, funding partners, and donors who support the sport. Meg remarked that at the heart of our organization are our athletes and our horses, stating that EC does this for you and for a better future. Lisa thanked Meg for her well-spoken words.

- (i) Lisa passed the floor back to Melanie McLearn to introduce the guest speaker – Maude Boulanger Bouchard. Maude provided a heartfelt background of the reality of growing up in a horse business family and working hard to be able to afford horses and showing and expanding facility operations. She described her competitive and coaching career with EC and her desire to learn more about the discipline of hunters and the challenges and goals of travelling for a show hunter career. She discussed business strategy, budgets, and the showing costs of horses. Maude discussed the EC High Performance certification program, educational resources, its comprehensive requirements, and its aim to level our sport up with other sports in Canada. Describing the team efforts required to look after the horses and her program management, Maude explained the personalized goals of all involved, the Quebec Hunter Development Program, encouraging all levels of competition and the importance of being an engaged equestrian in horsemanship and sportsmanship.

Lisa congratulated Maude on her accomplishments as an HP1 Hunter, her passion and for giving back to the equestrian community. Lisa thanked Maude and also Melanie for having Maude join us today at the AGM.



- (j) Lisa Robertson referred to the By-Laws documents, Phase I of bringing the EC bylaws into compliance with Sport Canada's recommendations, which requires these changes by all NSOs by 2025. Lisa then called for voting members to put the motion on the floor for discussion.

**MOVED by George Von Platen THAT the EC Proposed By-Law Amendment as circulated on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 be approved. SECONDED by Gilles Seguin.** Lisa noted that the documents are on the table for discussion or question. Lisa noted that there were no questions or discussion and called the motion to vote, asking for anyone not in favour. Hearing none, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- (k) Presentation of the Financial Statements. Lisa invited Kirstin Gilles of KPMG to share her screen for a high-level report. Kirstin Gilles noted a clean and unmodified opinion was presented; describing the four statements involved. The Finance & Audit Committee 2022/23 Annual Report - investments were noted, liabilities and net assets described; Statement of Operations describing revenue and expenses; Statement of Changes and Net Assets; and Statement of Cash Flow.

Kirstin then passed the floor to Danielle Bowness to describe items including the details on revenue increases, declines in areas, operating expenses when factoring out the Sport Recovery Funds, expenditures for salaries to support return to pre-Covid levels, FEI expenditures, and a small operating surplus overall. Danielle described the withdrawal to the EC Corporate Reserve Fund and its replenishment plan.

- (l) Lisa thanked Kristin and Danielle for their explanations, and asked the voting members if there were any questions. Lisa stated that the voting members have now received the statements approved by the Board of Directors, and the Auditors Report, and that there were no questions or comments.

- (m) Appointment of Auditors. Lisa then asked for a motion to appoint KPMG as EC's auditor for the April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024, fiscal year.

**MOVED by Gilles Seguin THAT EC appoint KPMG as our Auditor for the April 2, 2023 – March 31, 2024, Fiscal Year. SECONDED by Charlotte Nagy.** Lisa called for any questions/comments; and asked if anyone was opposed to appointing KPMG, noting none opposed. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- (n) Question Period. Lisa noted that a request for questions had been made to the voting members, noting that none had been received. Still wanting to provide an opportunity to do so, Lisa asked if there were any questions from the floor at this time and asked Melanie to monitor for questions. Seeing none, hearing none.



- (o) Lisa then introduced Kelly Gravelle, a new board member shadowing on the Nominations Committee this past year. Kelly explained her experience on the committee, noting the applicant and interview processes, fair representation and that the best interests of EC were taken into account. Kelly noted three successful applicants to the Board – Lisa Robertson, Audrey-Julie Dallaire (AJ), and Gilles Levasseur. Kelly noted that everyone knows Lisa and welcomed AJ and Gilles who provided the members with brief backgrounds of themselves and why they are pleased to be directors for Equestrian Canada. Lisa welcomed them both to EC.
  
- (p) Adjournment. Lisa noted that the formalities of the AGM have been completed, wishing everyone a wonderful week, and adjourned the EC 2023 AGM meeting at 8:28 pm ET.