



Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario

www.cwdo.org

“Together We Are Stronger”

15 Gage Avenue, Toronto, ON M1J 1T1
807-473-0909 (voice) or cwdo@tbaytel.net

18th Annual Meeting of Members May 16, 2023, at 7:00 PM EDT Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

1. Call to Order by Chair

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm, with Tracy Odell chairing.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Pat Seed provided the Land Acknowledgement for the meeting.

3. Appointment of Secretary

Moved by Kirsten Doyle, seconded by Heather Willis to appoint Kate Tutu as Recording Secretary. **CARRIED.**

4. Roll Call

Board Members: Adam Cohoon, Alexis Buettgen, Bruce Drewett, Heather Willis, Kate Tutu, Kirsten Doyle, Linda Hunt, Mah-E-Leqa Jadgal, Pat Seed, Tori Hunter and Tracy Odell.

Members/Guests: April D’Aubin, Elke Price, Gary Froude, Janet Rodriguez, Jennifer Coggon, Julie Emid, Kate Chung, Mary C. Kelly, Qween Victoria and Scott Allardyce.

Resource: Pam Heggie (Real-Time Captioning)

5. Approval of the AGM Minutes of May 17, 2022

Moved by Tori Hunter, seconded by Alexis Buettgen to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2021 AGM. **CARRIED.**

6. **President's Report on CWDO's Accomplishments**

Tracy gave a quick overview of the activities that Board members have worked on. She noted the lack of government responses from CWDO correspondence and the continued collaboration with other like-minded organizations. Tracy also shared that CWDO is working to create an efficient process of increasing member involvement with action groups.

Gary Froude asked, "How are we doing with government relations?" Tracy shared that CWDO does not get much attention from the Provincial Government. But we have been called upon to collaborate/participate with local and Federal committees.

Bruce asked attendees of an organization if they had any responses from the Provincial government. Some members voiced that they get some correspondence, but most shared that it is a consistent challenge.

7. **Speaker: Rabia Khedr on "Disability Without Poverty"**

Heather Willis introduced Rabia Khedr, CEO of DEEN Support Services, a disability support organization created by Muslim Canadians that provide culturally and spiritually relevant service for families and individuals with disabilities in Ontario, and a consultant with diversityworX, a company that trains organizations in cultural competency and accessibility.

Rabia gave a speech on her journey as a racialized disabled individual and how she found herself in the disability justice causes at local, provincial and national levels. Additionally, Rabia shared her experiences and reasons for co-founding the Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities, later transforming it into a direct service that raises thousands of dollars to support communities.

Further, Rabia shared her experience serving on the COVID Disability Advisory Board as the only racialized disabled person. Rabia spoke about intersectionality and how her fight to be represented led her to become the National Director of Disability without Poverty. Rabia shared how DWP built relationships that created non-traditional allies, funders, and a broader community. Additionally, Rabia spoke on the importance of addressing disability poverty and the importance of the Canadian Disability Benefit. Further, Rabia shared her

experience serving on the COVID Disability Advisory Board as the only racialized disabled person.

Tracy asked Rabia how DWP gained funding and visibility. Rabia provided insights and highlighted the importance of past-built relationships.

Rabia promised to share the DWP postcards with Scott Allardyce.

In closing, Rabia notes that DWP is run by disabled individuals across the country and partners that are disability focused. Overall, it is being led by people with disabilities.

Tracy thanked Rabia for their thought-provoking presentation.

8. ***BREAK – 10 minutes***

9. **Financial Statements**

Linda Hunt reviewed the CWDO financial activity as outlined in her report. Our financial health as an organization has been fairly good in 2022.

Linda clarified that the numbers under “capital equipment asset” stand as a technology stagnant cost.

Tracy reminded folks that CWDO is open to donations.

Moved by Linda Hunt, seconded by Bruce Drewett to approve the CWDO’s Financial Statement for January 1st - December 31st as presented. **CARRIED.**

10. **Report of the Nomination Committee**

Heather Willis reported on behalf of the Nomination Committee. She noted that there were four vacancies and three new, strong submissions. CWDO is putting forward three new nominations and one vacant spot for the floor.

Mah-E-Leqa Jadgal, Julie Emid and Diane Wintermute introduced themselves.

Appointment of Scrutineer - none needed

11. **Election of Directors**

The Chairperson called three times for nominations from the floor. There being none, Tracy called for a motion to elect the slate.



Moved by Heather Willis, seconded by Bruce Drewitt to appoint Julie Emid, Diane Wintermute and Mah-E-Leqa Jadgal as Directors on CWDO for a 3-year term. **CARRIED.**

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, Scott Allardyce moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm.

Note: The Election of Officers will follow at the next meeting of the board.