

# technology for living

Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Performance Works Granville Island

## **In Attendance:**

Christine Gordon (Chair), Don Danbrook (Treasurer), Anthony Chan, Terry Leblanc, Nancy Paris, Ken Kramer, Walt Lawrence, Ruth Marzetti, Susan Dessa and Richard Bing.

Elizabeth Rathbun – Guest Speaker, Sharon Demeria, Heather Morrison, Leslie Lee, Shirley Valoria, Nancy Lear, Rona Danbrook, Vita Gabinete, Ean Price, Nirmata Hickey, George Pope, Charlene Taylor, Roger Jones, Chris Hofley, Jan Bruce, Clark Tan, Paul Gauthier, Brian Cross, Terry Howard, Betty Jung, David Chan, Karen Furniss, Ace Ganotisi, Kara Molgard, Veronica Westcoff, Jochem Boehm, Pat Stockbrocks, Mark Stockbrocks

## **Regrets:**

David Hill , Shirley Hill, Chuen Lung, Dale Mcleod, Art Jonker, Pam Horton, Linda Harding

Most members are unable to attend due to their high level disability limiting their ability to travel.

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### **1. Welcome and Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Christine introduced herself and announced our new name Technology for Living and welcomed everyone and thanked them all for coming.

### **2. Acceptance of Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve and accept the agenda.

**Moved by:** Paul Gauthier

**Seconded by:** Chris Hofley

**All in favour.      None Opposed. Carried.**

### **3. Approval of Minutes from last AGM held September 25, 2018.**

**Motion:** To approve and accept the previous year's AGM minutes as presented. No questions were tabled.

**Moved by:** Chris Hofley

**Seconded by:** Ean Price

**All in favour.      None Opposed. Carried**

#### **4. Chair's Report – Christine Gordon.**

The Chair's report focused on the value of partnerships. The BC Rehab Foundation and the Kinsmen Foundation have been true and loyal partners for many years. These partnerships have allowed us to take on some major projects that have enabled our members' independence. There was special thanks extended to Concord Pacific and the thousands of people who voted for TFL in online polling which led to a contribution of \$30,000 which went directly to TIL's programming.

Special remembrance was paid to one of our members, Cathy Grant, who passed away this year. Cathy attended every one of our AGM's and always contributed in any way that she could. She inspired us and held us to account by telling us what we were doing right and what we were doing wrong.

The Chair noted that one of our Board's passions is the Simon Cox Design Competition, which is coming up again in 2020, and encouraged everyone to participate in any way that they can. The competition honours Simon and what he cared about, which was innovation; young people with ideas and collaboration. A big event will take place in May and everyone was encouraged to participate.

The Chair concluded by thanking the Board of Directors. She underlined how much the board appreciates the phenomenal staff of TFL. Good-bye and good luck was extended to one of our Biomedes, Roger Desmarais, who has worked with us for 13 years and will be leaving us in October.

#### **5. Executive Director's Report – Ruth Marzetti**

Thank you everyone for coming to our annual general meeting, your attendance is greatly appreciated and I look forward to connecting with you later in the social part of the evening.

I commend the board for our rebranding as "Technology for Living". The new format Balance newsletter has recently been circulated and a cleaner more functional website will follow in October.

In this ED report I am going to touch on the three pillars of Technology for Living, I will start with the Technology for Independent Living program, followed by the Provincial Respiratory Outreach Program and, last but not least, the Peer Support Program.

TIL:

This is an exciting time for our TIL team. Technology has been rapidly changing and the TIL biomedes are moving fast with the times under Wayne Pogue's experienced guidance. As new technologies emerge and change, similarly our team is adapting and changing to meet the new challenges and opportunities. Our small lean team of four biomedes are travelling extensively throughout the province adapting homes.

The biomed team is all about choice and unique customizations. They will always provide infra-red technology to those who choose it; more and more they are providing voice automated devices such as Google Homes. The TIL biomed team is providing home automation for lights; blinds; doors; bed controls; TVs; fans; thermostat controls. The list goes on.

This year Ean Price has joined the team as the Innovation Strategist, his role is to look to the horizon and bring back to the team new technologies that he believes will work well with people living with disabilities. After Ean has done his research and testing, he can bring these ideas back to the biomed to start implementing the developments in people's homes.

Ean has been a valuable asset to the TIL team, his lived experience as a *person* with disabilities is helping to shape and inform our TIL programming, as a super tech he fits right in with the biomed and speaks their language.

We are also bidding farewell to Roger Desmarais after thirteen years of service and have welcomed biomed Ace Ganotisi to the team. We wish Roger all the best in the next chapter of his journey and look forward to working with Ace. We are planning the recruitment of one more technician to meet the full complement of staff.

Next year is the 50th year of TIL, which we mark with a larger Simon Cox Student Design Competition in May. This will be an opportunity to celebrate TIL's achievements; reflect on how far we have come and build for TIL's future.

#### PROP:

The PROP team continues its recognised excellence in providing home ventilation. This outstanding program has set up annual home ventilation visits for over 900 people this year, as well as additional follow up visits and support phone calls. This small team of 6 Respiratory Therapists and one Registered Nurse punch above their weight in offering timely responses throughout the province, sometimes in isolated locations.

This year PROP has forged strong networks and relationships with the five provincial Health Authorities and other service organisations. The PROP team has succeeded in gaining recognition for their work through collaborating with other healthcare professionals on the ground as well as attending strategic meetings.

In early May PROP manager, Esther Khor, was awarded the prestigious 'Respiratory Home Care Award' which was presented by the National Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapy. The award recognised her significant contribution of encouraging others to aspire to higher levels of achievement in home ventilation. It is particularly apt that the leader of PROP receive this award, which shines light on all of the PROP team and all of us at Technology for Living. This year the PROP team have excelled in striving to develop higher levels of achievement. The PROP staff is vigilant in researching technology, reviewing evidenced based techniques and best practices of home ventilation to ensure greater choices for those receiving our services. One example is the new capability of the PROP staff to remotely modify prescription settings on ventilators in a safe and efficient manner.

#### Peer Programming

We are grateful to the peers on the Peer Support Program. Our peer programming started with Heather Morrison and Jeanette Anderson, long before my time. We are proud that Heather is still at the helm of our peer support programming. She attends to our PROP trach and vent

courses allowing students to practice their techniques on her, talk about their work and ask pertinent questions in a safe environment.

Nancy Lear has formally returned to our staff team as the part-time Network Support Facilitator responding to peer questions, organising peers to attend events on our behalf, writing blogs and articles. In the next few months she will be piloting a writing workshop using video conferencing technology.

As mentioned, Ean is working in TIL. This has a peer component. He will be piloting a program to educate peers in technology which is readily available, the pilot will include demonstrations of easy set up using the video conference technology.

We are grateful to all the peers who have participated and guided our services; spoken on our behalf; and written blogs and newsletter articles. It is the peer involvement which informs all aspects of our work.

A fundamental part of our programming has been to partner with IFRC, it has been an honour to work with Paul Gauthier and his team in providing a peer support group. I have learnt so much about the CSIL program including the critical benefits it brings; as well as some of the challenges of employing and maintaining a well-trained staff team on a limited income. Paul brings practical information, support and advice. I am leaving it to him to talk of the success of the peer support group in a few minutes.

Finally I want to acknowledge our administrative staff who have efficiently supported these initiatives.

I would like to thank the Board, the staff and the membership we serve for their engagement in our work - it has been an honour to be part of such a thoughtful and committed community.

## 6. Treasurers Report – Don Danbrook

Don briefly commented on the auditor's report and presented the Financial Statements.

**Motion:** To accept the financial statements as presented by Tompkins Wozny Miller & Co . for Technology for Living.

**Moved by:** Don

**Seconded by:** Ean Price

**All in favour.**

**None opposed. Carried**

No one requested to see the paper copy of the Financial Statement.

Don reviewed the balance sheet and Statement of Financial Position. PROP receives funding from every health authorities but we don't always receive those funds on time. We also don't make expenditures for new equipment until we can obtain both a fair price and high value. This means that PROP often sits with excess cash, which will eventually be spent.

Overall, TFL is in good financial shape and there were no problems encountered during the annual audit.

No questions were tabled.

## **7. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements**

**Motion:** To accept the financial statements as of March 31, 2019 audited by Tompkins Wozny Miller & Co. for BCITS as presented.

**Moved by:** Don            **Seconded by:** Chris Hofley  
**All in favour.**        **None Opposed. Carried**

## **8. Motion to Appoint Auditor for 2019 - 2020.**

Christine thanked Adam Gilchrist from Tompkins, Wozny, for coming.

**Motion:** To appoint Tompkins Wozny LLP. as auditors for 2019-2020

**Moved by:** Don  
**Seconded by:** Anthony  
**All in favour.**        **None Opposed. Carried**

## **9. Election of Board of Directors.**

Anthony introduced the current board members for re-appointment: Walt Lawrence, Ken Kramer, Terry Leblanc, Nancy Paris, Anthony Chan, Christine Gordon and Don Danbrook.

He called for nominations from the floor. No nominations after the third call.

**Motion:** To accept the current slate of candidates as presented by Anthony for the year 2019-2020.

**Moved by:** Anthony  
**Seconded by:** Don  
**All in favour.**        **None Opposed. Carried**

## **10. Other Business:**

Christine called upon Ken Kramer to say a few words to thank Richard Bing who is moving on from his Board responsibilities. Richard was presented with a token of appreciation.

## **Adjournment and Thank you**

**Motion:** To adjourn the 2019 Annual General Meeting

**Moved by:** Heather Morrison  
**Seconded by:** Chris Hofley  
**All in favour.**        **None Opposed. Carried**

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.