NATIONAL NEWCOMERS CANADA

Minutes of 2026 NNAC Annual General Meeting (DRAFT)

Sunday October 4, 2026 via Zoom

1:00 pm Eastern Standard Time

Participants Registered online

Board Attendees:

1. Suzanne Brett-Welsh – President; London Newcomers Alumnae Club
2. Nivine Guindy – Communications Director; **Calgary Newcomers Club**
3. Margaret Townsend – Secretary; London Newcomers Alumnae Club
4. Karen Mayner - Western Regional Director; **Oceanside Newcomers Alumni**
5. Megan Wood - Director at Large; NOTL Newcomers Club
6. Deanna Hebert – Past President, **Calgary Friendship Club**

Absent with regrets: Maureen Royle, Burlington Newcomers Club

Club Members by Region

Eastern:

1. **Loreena VanBokhorst** - Guelph Newcomers Club - Programs/Events Coordinator
2. **Carol Riddell** – Barrie Newcomers Club - President
3. **Connie Jasinskas** London Newcomers Alumnae Club – Member
4. **Shelly Cain** – Kingston Newcomers and Alumnae Club - President
5. **Daryl Weese** - London Newcomers Club - President
6. **Dayna Zeliznak** - NOTL Newcomers Club – President
7. **Marie Louise MacDonell** -NOTL Newcomers Club – Representative
8. **Heather Paterson** - Oakville Friends and Newcomers Club - VP
9. **Kathleen Stokely** - Oakville Friends and Newcomers Club - Secretary
10. **Carol Pearson** -Ottawa Newcomers Alumnae Club – President
11. **Barbra Bailey** - Ottawa Newcomers Club – President
12. **Ivane Thiebaut** - Toronto Newcomers Club – VP
13. **Michela Ermasi** - Toronto Newcomers Club – President
14. **John Cushing** – Brockville Newcomers Club – President
15. **Sarah Cornett** – Peterborough Newcomers Club - President

Western:

16. **Sonia Reid** - Comox Valley Newcomers Alumnae - President
17. **Karin Dobbs** - Comox Valley Newcomers Club - Co-President
18. **David Apps** - Kelowna Newcomers Club - President
19. **Jerry Deroo** - Penticton Newcomers Club - Incoming President
20. **Elizabeth Libby** - Qualicum Beach and Area Newcomers Club - VP
21. **Isabel Somerville** - South Delta Newcomers Association - President
22. **Parm Middar** - Vancouver Newcomers Club – President

23. **Rose Mailloux** - Victoria Evening Newcomers - Club Treasurer
24. **Eleanore Boys**-Eddy Kelowna Newcomers Club - VP Special Events
25. **Jennifer Feddersen** - Peninsula Newcomers Club – Treasurer*
26. **Linda Sanderson** - Peninsula Newcomers Club- Incoming President*
27. **Suzanne MacKinnon** - North Shore Newcomers President
28. **Trudy Pound Curtis** = NOTL Social Club Finance Chair
29. **Susan Buss** – VENC Vice President

*Attended together

Registered but did not attend:

30. Deb Hoooper - Kelowna Newcomers club – Communications Director
31. June Macdonald Soth Delta Newcomers Association VP
32. Faye White - Victoria Evening Newcomers Club – President
33. Linda Stewart – White Rock South Surrey – President

Quorum (minimum 18 clubs) Achieved - one vote per club – 26 clubs represented including board member clubs.

Total Participants – 29; 35 including board members.

1:03 pm. - Call to Order and Welcome by President of NNAC Suzanne Brett-Welsh

1. **Agenda** – Motion to approve the NNAC Agenda for this meeting
   Tabled by Suzanne Brett-Welsh
   Approval by the majority of members via Zoom poll. 67%
   Motion Carried.

2. **President's Report/Highlights of the past Year** – Suzanne Brett Welsh

   Primary Achievements

   - Organized the first NNAC Summit in the Niagara Region on May 31
   - Supported the first NNAC regional lunch and learn in the eastern area of Ontario on Sept 9
   - Conducted 3 Club Directors meetings
   - Issued 4 editions of The Link
   - Developed and launched a new club membership renewal portal to simplify the membership renewal process - paperless
   - Supported regional engagement
   - Responded to over 100 inquiries from clubs offering guidance, advice and shared experience
   - Welcomed interest from potential new clubs

Expression of gratitude to 2025-26 Board Members

The following are stepping away from the Board for the coming year:

- Deanna Hebert
- Nivine Guindy
- Margaret Townsend
- Megan Wood

Special mention to Deb Mayes, who had to resign mid-year, and to Maureen, Margaret and Megan, who stepped forward to join the Board mid-year at a critical time. Their willingness to serve helped ensure NNAC's continued operation when a shortage of Board members placed the organization at risk. Also, a thank you to Deanna Hebert, who served on the Board for many years, and to Nivine Guindy for her work in communications and for putting together the Link.

Karen Mayner and Maureen Royle will continue as regional directors.

Finally, thank you to all club volunteers who generously give their time, organize events, and make the Newcomers experience so meaningful. And thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of NNAC. It continues to be one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences of my life.

Looking ahead, we plan to continue expanding our communication efforts by using Zoom meetings, regional in-person meetings where interest exists and with clubs' assistance, and Facebook.

3. AGM Business:

Previous Minutes from 2025 were attached to the meeting invitation and AGM package.

Motion to approve the NNAC AGM Minutes of 2025 as written by David Apps

2nd by Daryl Weese

Approval by Majority via Zoom poll (approx. 7-8 people present that attended last year) – 7 in favour.

Motion Carried.

4. **NNAC Bylaw Revisions Review**

Any by-law change that did not directly affect clubs was previously approved by the Board. A high-level summary and track changes document were provided for review with the meeting invitation.

What follows: Revision explanation, motions, discussion, vote.

Revision of by-law changes 1.1-1.3

Class A Membership Requirements (Class B explanation and nobody present from this classification)

2021 required governance structure and membership roster
2026 requires governance structure including a board of directors and bylaws
Authorized Representative Process simplified

Membership Dues

2026 clarifies dues are based on a July 1-June 30 cycle

Motion to approve by-law revisions as outlined by Karen Maynar
2nd David Apps.

Discussion of by-law changes: 1.1-1.3

Parm Middar - Should memberships be prorated? Suzanne, NNAC bylaws do not apply to a club's bylaws. Clubs are fully independent, so this is a club decision.

Vote on by-law revisions:

23 voted out of 29, reflecting multiples, so 100 percent

Carried.

Revision of the by-law change 2.1, which eliminated proxy voting

Quorum – how quorum is established with the removal of proxy voting;

Language that clearly reflects the process of voting

Motion to accept by Loreena VanBokhorst

2nd Elizabeth Libby

No discussion related to this revision.

23 voted in favour

Carried.

5. Financial Report for year ending August 31, 2026. (Attached). NNAC remains in a strong and stable financial position.
   Explanation of miscellaneous line item - from cash back and interest on GIC
   Net income $-24.56 for 2026

   Motion that the financial statements for the 2026 NNAC AGM be accepted by Eleanor Boys-Eddy
   2nd by Karen Mayner

Discussion:
Money set aside for in-person club events was not necessarily being achieved by breakout sessions.
Daryl Weese commented that her club's board has returned to in-person meetings, and she has found people are more engaged.
Loreena – How much was the GIC investment? Suzanne: $1,000 offset by credit card. RBC is our bank.
Isabel – How many people can attend these meetings? We have a Zoom limit of 100

Approval by majority via Zoom Poll – 100 Percent approved
Motion carried.

6. **Elections:**

Proposed slate of Directors: that will comprise the new Board

- President
- Registrar-Treasurer
- Secretary
- Western Region Director
- Eastern Region Director
- Communications
- Director at Large

Current Proposed Slate of Directors

- Suzanne Brett-Welsh London Newcomers Alumnae Club
- Karen Mayner Oceanside Newcomers Club
- Maureen Royle Burlington Newcomers Club
- Loreena VanBokhorst Guelph Newcomers Club

Call for Nominations or Volunteers from the floor noting there is flexibility to make co-director positions. NONE

Poll to accept the slate of board of directors as presented

Voted via poll 100 percent in favour. Motion carried.

Suzanne mentioned that earlier this year, the Board was at risk of folding because there were not enough members. As a result, it was necessary for a couple of people to step up so we could continue to function. In order to prevent this from happening again, the Board revised the by-law to reduce the number of Directors required – in the past required 5 but now requires 3. However, in order to do more, we will need more help so please consider after the meeting and contact her directly if interested in volunteering.

Close of the AGM at 1:54 pm.

Club Director Meeting Discussion led by Suzanne Brett-Welsh

CRA reporting update: an ongoing issue for a few years. Previously, NNAC was incorporated, and so had to do a complex CRA reporting process.

NNAC is no longer incorporated – did not need to be, and there was a reporting burden.

We understand that they are going back and forth on the rules: whether registered or not, or incorporated or not, it seems they want to know a little bit more about everybody. They want to know about the money the clubs are managing. It appears they are interested in clubs generating at least $10,000 in gross revenue. Even if you collect revenue for dinners and then pay it out, collecting it might put your club over that limit. It is on the horizon. They have not finalized the rules. Gives us time to prepare.

Currently, NNAC is not over $10,000, so no reporting would be required.

Questions about Directors and Officers insurance

Parm Middar – What is the purpose – does this insurance protect individual Board members – cost is $350 + tax

Suzanne – general liability is required before you can get Directors and Officers insurance. It is a shield when a club is not registered or incorporated. It means the insurer will step in to help in various situations.

Examples: monetary misappropriation, poor financial decision, failure to follow by-laws, discrimination, failure to provide appropriate oversight.

Whether to use a waiver or not is a club decision. Noted that even with waivers, there could still be litigation.

Example for using waivers: non-members attending public venues where events are held would not need one, but if it were a small club event like a hike, then a waiver could be helpful.

Discussed why the storage of waivers can be problematic (record retention for 7 years) and solutions.

Suzanne advised that clubs should feel free to consult with Co-operators about specific examples. Insurance covers lawyer's fees and settlements less the deductible.

Newsletter Privacy

Hard for NNAC to manage clubs' members' permissions. 8,500 members in 57 clubs, so it is up to the individual clubs to manage.

If a club has permission, NNAC can publish something from the club newsletter – need to be careful as we don't want to breach someone's privacy. If the consent form specifically states that information will not be shared with 3rd party, then this means NNAC.

We appreciate the ability to share ideas in the Link. However, out of an abundance of caution, no identifying information should be included.

Planning

Want to do more regional meetings and a Summit out west. Will develop guidance documents to help with these, but will need club assistance and support to organize. Host club?

Final thoughts

Jerry Deroo requests a summary of what is covered by insurance.

Response: payments are made directly to Co-operators. Will try to get Co-operators to offer an hour to the clubs to address some of the questions. Insurance is not required to be part of NNAC. You can only get that insurance by being a member of NNAC.

Breakout sessions – we are over time now, so we won't do those today, but will take them on in future.

A survey will go out following the meeting,

The next Director's meeting is January 10, 2027. 3 pm Eastern

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35.