

ISANS AGM
Minutes of Meeting
June 24, 2024
2:30 to 4:00 pm

Present: Lilani Kumaranayake, Rick Power, Cecil Snow, Sonja Erman, Rosalind Penfound, Jeannie Chow, Amy Parker, Carmelle d'Entremont, Stefan Leslie, Tashi Yangtso, Paula Knight

Regrets: Chris Xiao, Byron Rafuse, Abdallah Yousri, Tabinda Sheikh

Minute Taker: Kan le

1. WELCOME

Lilani Kumaranayake, as Chair, welcomed everyone to the AGM on behalf of the Board of ISANS. Quorum was confirmed and the meeting was called to order. Lilani explained the procedures and eligibility for voting.

2. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair read the message from the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Hon. Marc Miller with the letter shown on screen. The Minister recognized ISANS as an integral support for newcomers by guiding them to settle in Nova Scotia, helping them to find a place to live, providing them language training, job searching support and much more.

The Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration for the Province of Nova Scotia, Hon. Jill Balser recognized the contributions of ISANS in empowering newcomers to settle here and reach their potential. She emphasized the importance of helping newcomers not only feel at home here but also stay and find their dreams. She commended the entire ISANS team for playing a huge part in making this happen and continuously delivering incredible work to support new Nova Scotians.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM JUNE 19, 2023

UPON MOTION, duly made by Amy Parker and seconded by Rosalind Penfound, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of AGM June 19, 2023 be approved.

4. PRESENTATION OF ISANS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2023-24 FISCAL YEAR AND MOTION TO APPOINT AUDITOR FOR 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

Cecil Snow, as Treasurer, presented the Financial Statements for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

The Chair requested a motion to re-appoint Grant Thornton as ISANS Auditors for 2024-2025 fiscal year.

UPON MOTION, duly made by Stefan Leslie and seconded by Rick Power, it was unanimously resolved that Grant Thornton be re-appointed as ISANS Auditors for 2024-2025 fiscal year.

5. MOTION TO ELECT DIRECTORS OF ISANS

Sonja Erman, Chair of Governance Committee, presented the nominations for ISANS Directors for 2024-2025. They are as follows:

- Tanisha Blackmore
- Jeannie Chow
- Frank Dunn
- Carmelle d'Entremont
- Sonja Erman
- Paula Knight
- Lilani Kumaranayake
- Stefan Leslie
- James Maguire
- Rick Power
- Byron Rafuse
- Tabinda Sheikh
- Cecil Snow
- Chris Xiao
- Tashi Yangtso
- Abdallah Yousri

UPON MOTION, duly made by Carmelle d'Entremont and seconded by Rick Power, it was unanimously resolved that the nominations for ISANS Directors for 2024-2025 be approved.

6. MOTION TO ELECT OFFICERS OF ISANS

Sonja Erman presented the nominations for the Officers of ISANS Board of Directors as follows:

- Chair – Rick Power
- Vice Chair – Sonja Erman
- Secretary – Chris Xiao
- Treasurer – Cecil Snow
- Past Chair – Lilani Kumaranayake

UPON MOTION, duly made by Jeannie Chow and seconded by Carmelle d'Entremont, it was unanimously resolved that the nominations for Officers of ISANS for 2024-2025 be approved.

7. CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS PORTION OF AGM

UPON MOTION, duly made by Stefan Leslie and seconded by Amy Parker, it was unanimously resolved that the ISANS 2024 AGM be concluded.

The Chair welcomed new members to the Board:

- Tanisha Blackmore
- Frank Dunn
- James Maguire

The Chair thanked outgoing members of the Board:

- Agnes Lomoro
- Amy Parker
- Rosalind Penfound

Rick Power, the new Board Chair, was invited to come to the stage to give remarks and thanked Lilani for her contributions leading the Board in the past years. He presented a bouquet to Lilani to express gratitude on behalf of the Board.

This concluded the business portion of the 2024 AGM.

The program content of the AGM included the following:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Started by playing the AGM video which shared the words from ISANS staff, clients and partners, Paula Knight presented the Chief Executive Officer's report highlighting the past year's accomplishments. She shared that the stories and successes reflected the committed leadership of Jennifer Watts, the preceding CEO. Paula also acknowledged the Board of Directors' unwavering support and ISANS staff's hard work and commitment to make ISANS a success.

Referring to the AGM theme "Pathways to Empowerment", Paula shared ISANS is committed to creating the conditions for newcomers to feel welcomed and empowered to have a beautiful life here in Nova Scotia. She invited an ISANS staff member to speak about the special moment when she was granted permanent residency. Paula also gave a report to the audience on the accomplishments of different programs in the past year. Finally, a video of ISANS' youth client was played, telling how ISANS has offered support on her settling in Nova Scotia, job searching and getting ready for future opportunities.

PRESENTATION OF ISANS' AWARD

Paula explained the purpose of the ISANS Award. The recipient of the 2024 ISANS Award was MetroWorks Employment Association. Kate Elms who nominated MetroWorks was invited to come to the stage to introduce the winner and the close partnership with ISANS. President and CEO of MetroWorks Dave Rideout was invited to say a few words and received the award from Lilani and Paula.

CLOSING REMARKS

Paula thanked everyone for coming, and particularly thanked employees, funders and partners for their support of ISANS and making a positive impact on many lives in Nova Scotia.

This concluded the 2024 AGM.