

ISANS AGM
Minutes of Meeting
June 24, 2025
2:30 to 4:00 pm

Present: Rick Power, Cecil Snow, Sonja Erman, Carmelle d'Entremont, Byron Rafuse, Jeannie Chow, Abdallah Yousri, Tabinda Sheikh, Stefan Leslie, Frank Dunn, James Maguire, Tanisha Blackmore, Tashi Yangtso, Paula Knight

Regrets: Lilani Kumaranayake, Chris Xiao

Minute Taker: Kan Ie

1. WELCOME

Board Chair Rick Power welcomed everyone to the AGM on behalf of the Board of ISANS.

2. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair addressed the dignitaries and distinguished guests attending the AGM and expressed appreciation to the clients, funders, community partners, staff members and volunteers for their support to the organization in the past year. He went on to deliver his opening remarks.

He shared greetings from the Government including Honorable Diab, Minister of Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Honourable Mike Savage, ONS, Lieutenant Governor. The messages were displayed with voice recording played.

The Chair invited Honorable Nolan Young, Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration for the Province of Nova Scotia to come to the podium to deliver remarks.

This was followed by Halifax Mayor Andy Fillmore's recorded greeting video.

The Chair announced quorum was confirmed and the meeting was called to order. He explained the procedures and eligibility for voting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM JUNE 24, 2024

UPON MOTION, duly made by Carmelle d'Entremont and seconded by Tashi Yangtso, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of AGM June 24, 2024 be approved.

4. PRESENTATION OF ISANS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2024-25 FISCAL YEAR AND MOTION TO APPOINT AUDITOR FOR 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR

Cecil Snow, as Treasurer, presented the Financial Statements for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Chair requested a motion to appoint BDO Canada LLP as ISANS Auditors for 2025-2026 fiscal year.

UPON MOTION, duly made by Stefan Leslie and seconded by Byron Rafuse, it was unanimously resolved that BDO Canada LLP be appointed as ISANS Auditors for 2025-2026 fiscal year.

5. MOTION TO ELECT DIRECTORS OF ISANS

Sonja Erman, Chair of Governance Committee, presented the nominations for ISANS Directors for 2025-2026. They are as follows:

- Tanisha Blackmore
- Marcela Cameron
- Jeannie Chow
- Frank Dunn
- Carmelle d'Entremont
- Sonja Erman
- Layla Khalil
- Paula Knight
- Stefan Leslie
- James Maguire
- Rick Power
- Byron Rafuse
- Tabinda Sheikh
- Cecil Snow
- Chris Xiao
- Abdallah Yousri

UPON MOTION, duly made by Cecil Snow and seconded by Frank Dunn, it was unanimously resolved that the nominations for ISANS Directors for 2025-2026 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
- Treasurer – Frank Dunn
- Secretary – Chris Xiao

UPON MOTION, duly made by Jeannie Chow and seconded by James Maguire, it was unanimously resolved that the nominations for Officers of ISANS for 2025-2026 be approved.

7. CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS PORTION OF AGM

UPON MOTION, duly made by Tanisha Blackmore and seconded by Tabinda Sheikh, it was unanimously resolved that the ISANS 2025 AGM be concluded.

The Chair welcomed new members to the Board:

- Marcela Cameron
- Layla Khalil

The Chair thanked outgoing members of the Board:

- Lilani Kumaranayake
- Tashi Yangtso

This concluded the business portion of the 2025 AGM.

The program content of the AGM included the following:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Paula Knight thanked Minister Young for his remarks and support to ISANS. She acknowledged the Board of Directors' unwavering leadership and ISANS staff's commitment to make ISANS a success, reflecting the heart of our mission "Belong and Grow" – the theme of this year's AGM.

Paula Knight presented the Chief Executive Officer's report highlighting the past year's accomplishments and shared success stories. She reported on the programs and services provided by ISANS in the past year to more than 17,500 immigrants through settlement assistance, language training, employment and business development, and community integration. Various Belong and Grow videos were played to share voices of immigrants and ISANS' achievements. One of the graduates of the Immigrant Women Entrepreneurship Network (IWEN), Navdeep Parmanands, was invited to speak about her path to grow her business in Nova Scotia.

PRESENTATION OF ISANS AWARD

The ISANS Award was presented after the CEO Report. Paula Knight explained the purpose of the ISANS Award and announced the recipient of the 2025 ISANS Award, Ryan Kidney, Director of Human Resources, Dexter Construction. Anna McBeth, Supervisor of Employment and Bridging of ISANS was invited to introduce the winner and talked about his support to ISANS throughout the years. Ryan Kidney was invited to say a few words and received the award from Minister Young, Rick Power and Paula Knight.

CLOSING REMARKS

Paula thanked everyone for coming, and particularly thanked the Board, employees, funders, clients and partners for their support of ISANS.

This concluded the 2025 AGM.