



**PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society
2026 Annual General Meeting
June 17, 2026: Microsoft Teams Webinar
Minutes**

1. Opening and Land Acknowledgement

Kelly Brennan opened the meeting with a Land and Peoples Acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order and Welcome

Catherine Rahey, Board Chair, called the 2026 Annual General Meeting to order and announced that in accordance with the Society's By-Laws, she would act as meeting chairperson and that a pre-identified Autism Nova Scotia staff member would act as secretary for the meeting and record the minutes.

Board Members present included:

- Dave Nicholson
- Janean Marshall
- Sarah Boyne
- Gareth Winsor
- Greg Smith

Catherine also acknowledged founder and honorary board member Joan Craig and the trustees of the Craig Foundation.

Catherine thanked Amanda Alexander for her service as Chief Executive Officer and welcomed Vicki Harvey as Interim Chief Executive Officer.

3. Meeting Procedures and Attendance

Catherine reviewed the meeting format and noted that the formal AGM would be followed by a presentation portion. She advised members that the 2026 Agenda, 2025-2026 Financial Statements, and the 2025 AGM Minutes are available on the Autism Nova Scotia Website.

4. Notice of Meeting, Regrets, and Quorum

Catherine confirmed that notice of the meeting was delivered on Thursday, April 23, 2026, and circulated to all members

MOTION: Sarah Boyne moved to dispense with the reading of the Notice of Meeting, seconded by Dave Nicholson

MOVED: Motion carried by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Microsoft Teams poll.

Regrets

Catherine delivered regrets from the following Board Members:

- Dr. Robert Strang
- Dr. William Lahey
- Paul DeWolfe
- Ian Sutherland
- Allison Garber

Quorum

Catherine stated that quorum was present and declared the meeting duly called and properly constituted for the transaction of business.

5. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Gareth Winsor moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Sarah Boyne.

MOVED: Agenda was approved by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Microsoft Teams poll.

6. Approval of Previous Minutes – June 18, 2025

MOTION: Greg Smith moved to approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 18, 2025, seconded by Sarah Boyne.

MOVED: Minutes approved by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Microsoft Teams poll.

7. Financial Statements

Discussion of the Financial Statements ending March 31, 2026 was presented by Autism Nova Scotia Treasurer Gareth Winsor.

MOTION: Dave Nicholson moved to approve the Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2026, seconded by Sarah Boyne.

MOVED: The Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2026, were approved by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Microsoft Teams poll.

9. Appointment of Auditors

MOTION: Dave Nicholson moved to appoint AC Belliveau Veinotte Inc. as auditors for 2026-2027, seconded by Greg Smith.

MOVED: AC Belliveau Veinotte Inc. was approved as auditors for 2026-2027 by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Microsoft Teams Poll.

10. Election of Directors

Catherine shared that Dr. Robert Strang, Dr. William Lahey, and Paul DeWolfe were leaving the Board of Directors.

Catherine thanked each of the board members for their support and dedication to the board.

As a result of these departures, there are three vacancies on the Board of Directors.

Catherine announced that the Board of Directors has nominated Elizabeth Mason – Squires to join the Board of Directors.

MOTION: Katrina Roberts moved to approve the election of the Board of Directors identified in the Annual Report with the noted updates, seconded by Rebecca Wadden.

MOVED: The Board of Directors identified in the Annual Report, with the noted updates, was approved by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Microsoft Teams poll.

Amy Farnell Award

Catherine recognized the continued impact of the Amy Farnell Award. The award is made possible through the generosity of the Craig Foundation and the Farnell family, and was established in honour of longtime supporter and cherished friend, Amy Farnell. Since its launch in 2021, the award has supported more than 100 Autistic students across Nova Scotia and has provided more than \$300,000 in educational funding.

Catherine extended a congratulations to this year's recipients of the Amy Farnell Award.

11. Interim Chief Executive Officer's Remarks

Vicki Harvey, Interim Chief Executive Officer welcomed attendees to the 2026 Annual General Meeting and reflected on the strength, resilience, and dedication of Autistic individuals, families, caregivers, and supporters across the province.

Vicki emphasized that meaningful change happens through conversations, partnerships, advocacy, and moments of connection that build over time.

Vicki stated that Autism Nova Scotia has continued to see a growing demand for autism-informed programs, services, and resources, and that Autism Nova Scotia has

experienced a 26% increase in inquiries coming directly from Autistic individuals throughout the province.

In 2025-2026, Autism Nova Scotia facilitated more than 1,000 programs, sessions and community events.

An update on the Provincial Autism Action Plan was provided, noting that Autism Nova Scotia continues to work with government, community partners, and the autism community on its development.

Weekend and Respite Program

The program was highlighted as an important example of Autism Nova Scotia's commitment to connection, participation and belonging.

A video presentation highlighting the Weekend and Respite program in Picou County was shared with attendees.

12. Termination

Catherine thanked Vicki and invited all Board members to return to the screen.

MOTION: Dave Nicholson moved that the 2026 Annual General Meeting now be adjourned, seconded by Greg Smith.

MOVED: The adjournment of the 2026 Annual General Meeting was approved by the majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Microsoft Teams poll.

A video presentation highlighting Autism Nova Scotia's year in review was shared with attendees.

Meeting Adjourned