

CANADIAN BOTANICAL ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION BOTANIQUE DU CANADA

Minutes (draft) of the Annual General Meeting 2014

Wednesday, June 18th, 2014, 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, Montreal, QC

Those Present: Ibrahim Abouelsaad, Geraldine Allen, Andre Arsenault, Denis Barabe, Marion Barbe, Behrang Behdarvandi, Shannon Berch, Irwin Brodo, Luc Brouillet, Anne Bruneau, Joelle Castonguay, Nadia Cavallin, Jacques Cayouette, Simon Chuong, Mihai Costea, Hugo Cota-Sanchez, S. Dayanandan, Yolande Dalpe, Adrian Dauphinee, Art Davis, Tim Dickinson, Nicole Fenton, Bruce Ford, Andre Fortin, Kate Frego, Moira Galway, David Garbary, Jean Gerrath, Sara Gitto, Ryan Godfrey, Sean Graham, Arunika Gunawardena, Laryssa Halat, Remi Hebert, Nicholas Hill, James Jones, Kirsten Kilde, Rim Kalbi, Christian Lacroix, Sylvie Laliberte, James Macklin, John Markham, Hugues Massicotte, Christine Maxwell, Irene McKechnie, Deborah Metzger, Christine Petersen, Larry Peterson, David Punter, Elizabeth Punter, Diana Robson, Cynthia Ross Friedman, Jeff Saarela, Santokh Singh, Tyler Smith, Paul Sokoloff, Julian Starr, Linda Tackaberry, Iain Taylor, Sylvia Taylor, Kshitij Trivedi, Liette Vasseur, Catherine Weiner, Erica Wheeler, Edward Yeung, Mohanad Zraik.

President Frédérique Guinel was in the Chair.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The Agenda was adopted unanimously on a motion by Iain Taylor, seconded by Cynthia Ross Friedman.
2. **Declaration of conflict of interest.** Liette Vasseur presented the declaration of conflict of interest.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Kamloops, B.C., 2013.** The Minutes were adopted unanimously on a motion by Iain Taylor, seconded by Liette Vasseur.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes.** Any matters would be covered in the President's report.
5. **Reports of Officers**
 - a. **President (Frédérique Guinel)**
 - (i) **Explanation of the Continuance process under the New Canadian Corporations Act:** The President explained that CBA has until October 17, 2014 to transition into the new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (CNCA). The CNCA has established a new set of rules for federally incorporated not-for-profit corporations which will replace a portion (part II) of the Canada Corporations Act (CCA). Authorization to continue under the CNCA requires a special resolution of the current members, approving the Articles of Continuance and the related By-law drafted in accordance with the provisions of the CNCA. The President reminded that under the CCA, all By-law amendments require confirmation by a 2/3 vote of the Members.

The changes brought to the Association and its By-law, were explained. It was proposed that the Institut de Recherche en Biologie Végétale, Montreal would serve as an address for CBA. It was also suggested that because of our designation, we must have a public accountant

whose role is to review the financial statement. It was proposed to shorten from 6 months to 3 months the amount of time needed before terminating a membership. It was mentioned that “Article e” was added in Schedule 1 of the “Articles of Continuance” to indicate our meetings in the USA. It proposed to change the quorum at any annual meeting from 30 members to 15% of the members (Article 4.09). The President mentioned that the officers of CBA would be the President, the President-Elect, and the Past President; the Vice-President; the Secretary and the Treasurer; the Editor of the Bulletin and the Webmaster. Under the CNCA, all directors must be elected by the members and *ex-officio* Directors are not allowed. To complete the Board, there may be up to six Directors-at-large. The membership is now alerted of meetings by electronic means instead of by post.

Liette Vasseur moved (Andre Arsenault seconded) that the By-law be translated in French. The motion passed unanimously.

Liette Vasseur moved (Hugues Massicotte seconded) to thank Frédérique Guinel for the hard work. The motion passed unanimously.

- (ii) **Special Resolution of the members.** The procedure involved members signing the registration sheet, and receiving a ballot. Tom Friedman acted as the Scrutineer. John Markham (President-Elect) read the Special Resolution. Liette Vasseur moved and S. Dayanandan seconded the Special Resolution. ***The Special Resolution passed with 62 votes for and 0 vote against.***
- (iii) **The Governor General’s patronage.** The President wrote to the Governor General’s office for continuing the patronage of the Association. There was no reply received from the Governor General’s office.
- (iv) **Archives.** The CBA records would be kept at Library and Archives Canada (LAC). Dr. William Cooney is our contact at Library and Archives Canada.
- (v) **Undergraduate Student Regional Awards.** Christine Petersen moved (Cynthia Ross Friedman seconded) that we offer one year free CBA membership to the winners of Undergraduate Regional awards. Unanimous.
- (vi) **Teaching award.** The President suggested that a taskforce (members: Cynthia Ross Friedman, Moira Galway, Frédérique Guinel) should work on making the criteria for the Teaching award less cumbersome.
- (vii) **A Plaque for Mel Fisher.** Liette Vasseur moved (Hugues Massicotte seconded) to honour Mel Fisher with a plaque. Unanimous.

b. Past president (Hugues Massicotte)

(Re)election of Officers. Hugues Massicotte announced the nominations for the following to serve on the Board.

Art Davis as President-Elect, Frédérique Guinel as Past-President, John Markham as President. Andre Arsenault, Liette Vasseur seconded it. Unanimous.

Santokh Singh as Secretary (for a one-year term). Sylvia Taylor, Bruce Ford seconded it. Unanimous.

Michele Piercy-Normore as Treasurer. David Punter, Kate Frego seconded it. Unanimous.

Erica Wheeler (nominated by Anne Bruneau) and Yolande Dalpé (nominated by Frédérique Guinel) for the two positions of Directors for a three year term. Deborah Metzger (nominated by Tim Dickinson) and Geraldine Allen (nominated by Frédérique Guinel). Irwin Brodo, Anne Bruneau seconded it. Unanimous.

Tyler Smith to continue as Bulletin Editor. Iain Taylor, Paul Sokoloff seconded it. Unanimous.

S. Dayanandan to continue as Web-master. Liette Vasseur, Art Davis seconded it. Unanimous.

Kirsten Kilde and James Jones as student representatives for a one-year term. Simon Chuong, Luc Brouillet seconded it. Unanimous.

Jocelyn Hall as Vice President. Andre Arsenault, Christian Lacroix seconded it. Unanimous.

Santokh Singh moved to thank Hugues Massicotte for his tremendous contribution to CBA over many years.

c. **President Elect.**

John Markham thanked the award judges. The next year's meeting is a joint meeting in Edmonton from July 25 to July 29.

d. **Vice president.**

Anne Bruneau announced that 150 people attended the Montreal meeting. Hugues Massicotte moved (seconded by Frédérique Guinel) to thank Anne Bruneau and Denis Barabe for their excellent contribution in organizing the meeting.

The President announced the CBA meeting in Edmonton in 2015, University of Victoria in 2016, and Brock University in 2017.

e. **Secretary.**

Santokh Singh mentioned that there were no nominations for the teaching award this year. It was suggested to simplify the nomination procedure for this award.

f. **Treasurer.**

In the absence of treasurer, Jane Young, Hugues Massicotte presented the Treasurer's report to the members (see attached), and briefly reviewed the current financial status of the Association.

Motion 1: Keep Vanda Wutzke as Executive Assistant for another year. Julian Starr, Linda Tackaberry seconded it. Unanimous.

Motion 2: To allocate money (\$4,000) for Plant Canada 2015. Sylvia Taylor, David Punter seconded it. Unanimous.

Motion 3: Encourage members to contribute more to CBA funds. Sylvia Taylor, Irwin Brodo seconded it. Unanimous.

Motion 4: Prepare a Request for proposal for a Public Accountant for review engagement.

g. **Bulletin editor.**

Tyler Smith reported that the Bulletins are now available on the CBA website. More contributions from the members were invited.

6. Section Reports

- **Ecology & Conservation. Liette Vasseur and Andre Arsenault.**

Liette Vasseur and Andre Arsenault presented the Ecology & Conservation section report. It has been a busy year for the section. Two motions were made.

Motion 1: A Proposal for the new nomination for the designation of the area of Special Conservation Concern. Andre Arsenault, Liette Vasseur seconded it. Unanimous.

Motion 2: A proposal for the position paper of transplanted species at risk (revised). Andre Arsenault, Cynthia Ross Friedman seconded it. Unanimous.

Liette Vasseur stepped down from her position as the section co-chair. Andre Arsenault thanked Liette Vasseur for her strong contribution to the section activities. Nicole Fenton will replace Liette Vasseur.

- **Plant Development. Moira Galway.**

Moira Galway presented the Plant Development section report. There were two submissions for the Taylor Steeves Award for the best student paper in plant development, structure or morphology.

Moira's two-year term as Chair of the Plant Development section has ended. Simon Chuong has agreed to work as a co-chair with Moira Galway.

- **Systematics & Phytogeography. Julian Starr.**

Julian Starr presented the Systematics & Phytogeography section report.

Special Resolution: We propose that the CBA sections of Systematics & Phytogeography work with other societies to join forces with CSPB to express our concern regarding the way NSERC research evaluation funding levels appear to be diminishing Canadian Universities' research productivity. Julian Starr, Cynthia Ross Friedman seconded it. Unanimous.

- **Mycology. Hugues Massicotte, Shannon Berch.**

The Mycology section had a successful Weresub lecture. We are working with MSA for next year's conference.

- **Teaching. Christine Petersen.**

The teaching section had a wonderful Teaching symposium in Montreal. Christine Maxwell was thanked for organizing the poster judging team for many years. It was proposed to give a prize at the Canada-wide Science Fair to encourage young High school students.

7. Any other business

Motion to thank the organizers of the Symposium on Monday. Jacques Cayouette, Tim Dickinson seconded it. Unanimous.

Frédérique Guinel thanked Hugues Massicotte, Local Organizing committee including all volunteers, Symposium organizers and speakers, Contributed talks and posters, students, Field trip leaders, and Judges.

8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4.17pm, on a motion by Hugues Massicotte.