

**Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
September 25, 2019 6PM-8PM**

The Annual General Meeting on September 25, 2019 was held at the Toronto Public Library, Parkdale Branch at 1303 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario. The number of members registered for the annual meeting exceeded the quorum requirements and, in addition, staff, students and guests were present. There were approximately 100 attendees. Food was served between 6PM and 7PM.

1. Johanna Macdonald, Clinic Director, welcomed staff, students, volunteers, in and outgoing Board members, our funders, community organizations and community members and groups. Asked members to register and all guests to help themselves to copies of the agenda, bios of Board members, copies of Annual report, Financial Statements and bylaws. A generous thank you to all staff, students, Board members and volunteers that have contributed to making this AGM come together!
2. The excellent work of PCLS's partners in the community was recognized by the presentation of awards.

The Dorothy Leach Award celebrates a community member who selflessly contributes to the well-being of the community, was awarded to Nadia Rajaram. The award was presented by Dorothy Leach's daughter Joanne Leach. Joanna highlighted: My mother was a receptionist at PCLS but also was more than a receptionist, was an activist. Thank you for presenting this award on behalf of my mother. This year the award goes to Nadia Rajaram.

Nadia: Hello and thank you everyone. For years, I dedicate my time and energy to making Parkdale strong. Let's keep up fight.

3. Fred Zemans was our founding Clinic Director and has maintained both academically rigorous and supportive relationship with the Clinic since he founded the Clinic. The Frederick H. Zemans Prize in Poverty Law, awarded annually to an outstanding student enrolled in the Intensive Program in Poverty Law, was presented by John No to David Sworn, caseworker in the Workers' Rights Division.
4. Guest Speaker Deena Ladd- Worker's Action Centre, showed a video and gave an invigorating speech. Spoke about the Workers' Action Centre and the \$15 and Fairness campaign. She recognized the attacks on clinic: losing space, ½ staff, and the full services that community should have. Highlighted that this has come from a long history of cuts, not getting back services and supports cut in the early 1990's, and that we are facing the same attack and strategies deployed 24 years ago. She also recognized that the fight back has been inspiring. Though the cuts keep us busy, stressed out, tired and feeling like there's no point, it's a time to come together. Instead of pointing fingers at politicians, point fingers at each other. The cuts are distracting. We must continue to act and take action – challenged everyone in the room to get 5 people in Parkdale to get involved in the fight back!

5. The business portion of the AGM was called to order by Chair Elizabeth Shilton who announced that the annual meeting of members includes the presentation of our annual report, a financial report, and elect members to our Board of Directors.

Motion by Amar Bhatia to approve the agenda for this business portion of the AGM

Bryan Daley - seconded

CARRIED

6. **ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19** — Johanna Macdonald thanked PCLS' core funders, Legal Aid Ontario and Osgoode Hall Law School, for continuing to support the Clinic's essential work in social justice advocacy and legal education. Thanks were also given to the Maytree Foundation for supporting PCLS to advance our community organizing and clinic support for right to housing activities. Johanna Macdonald thanked outgoing and welcomed incoming individuals. Outgoing Board member Elizabeth Shilton, incoming Board members Luca Lucarini, Parmbir Gill, Tsering Lhundup and Dave Shellnut. Johanna recognized the loss of staff members due to funding cuts, and the loss to the community. Johanna thanked community members and donors for their support, and community organizations for their volunteering space and resources to our legal clinic drops ins and meeting spaces.

John No summarized key activities within the annual report: first – a quick plug for Lerner's campaign for charity challenge. Highlights from areas of law: The housing and homelessness division assisted 850 households, and kept busy with the rooming house eviction prevention project; the immigration and migrant rights division was busy as ever hosting 3 focus groups with IRCC and arguing and Intervenor in the *Vavilov* case. The income security violence and health division supported pop up overdose prevention site and the I am NOT invisible campaign; and the workers division recovered over 574,000 of unpaid wages and engaged in the fightback for workers rights through the \$15 and Fairness campaign.

7. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF LAST AGM, September 26, 2018**

Motion by Arthur Kong to approve the minutes from the September 26 2018 AGM
Opal Sparks - seconded

CARRIED

8. **PRESENTATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Christine Andrews, Treasurer, presented

The PCLS audit is performed by the accounting firm, Segal LLP. Please refer to my report and the financial statements in the Annual Report. The auditor verifies that the accounting records and policies are in order to ensure the financial statements are accurate, complete and in adherence with generally accepted accounting principles. We receive over 95% of funding from Legal Aid Ontario and other core funding from Osgoode Hall Law School.

The audit was clean except for the qualification around fundraising events. This is common with many not-for-profit-organizations because the auditor cannot independently verify

donations. As funds received from fundraising represent only a small percentage of our budget these amounts are not considered material.

Motion by Christine Andrews to accept the Audited Financial Statements for 2018-19

Opal Sparks – seconded

CARRIED

Motion by Christine Andrews to reappoint Segal LLP as the PCLS Auditors for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year and the membership authorize the directors of the Corporation to fix the remuneration to be paid to the auditors and the terms of the auditors' engagement.

Opal Sparks – seconded

CARRIED

9. **BOARD ELECTIONS**

Membership Committee Representative- Anchal Bhatia presented

I am a member of the Membership and Community Participation Committee. In addition to nominations coming through the Membership and Community Participation Committee, members can provide nominations up to two days before the Annual Meeting. Earlier this Board year, the PCLS Board of Directors appointed Board members Parmbir Gill and Dave Shellnut to the PCLS Board. They now stand for election. We additionally received a nomination for Tsering Lhundup. Because no separate nominations have been received by PCLS, we are presenting the slate of candidates recommended by the Membership and Community Participation Committee. Three new Class A Board members include:

Parmbir Gill
Tsering Lhundup
Dave Shellnut

In addition to the new Class A Board members, one returning Class A Board member is standing for their second term of election and we are presenting this Directors in a slate for vote:

Christine Andrews

Motion by Kalsang Dolma that the members vote for the approved the slate of candidates – the new and returning Board members to be elected by the membership.

Bryan Daley - seconded

CARRIED

Anchal Bhatia – Students enrolled in the Intensive Program in Poverty Law are 'Class B' members. They elect one Board member for the 2019-20 term as the Class 'B' Board member. The student elected is: **Erin Sobat**

PCLS' Membership Class 'C' is made up solely of the Dean of Osgoode Law School who elects four Board members. One member must be a full-time faculty at Osgoode Hall Law School.

This year, the Dean re-elects one Board member, **Amar Bhatia**, to the PCLS Board of Directors.

10. **ADJOURN AGM**

Motion by Amar Bhatia to adjourn the Annual Meeting
Opal Sparks seconded

CARRIED