

Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
September 21, 2022 6:00PM - 7:00PM

The Annual General Meeting on September 21, 2022 was held online over Zoom, due to COVID-19. The number of members registered for the annual meeting exceeded the quorum requirements and, in addition, staff, students and guests were present.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Nadia Rajaram to approve the agenda for the business portion of the AGM.

Parmbir Gill - seconded. **Motion is carried.**

2. Adoption of Minutes of last AGM, September 22, 2021

Motion by Nadia Rajaram to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2021 AGM.

Parmbir Gill - seconded. **Motion is carried.**

3. Presentation of 2021-2022 Annual Report

Tenzin Tekan summarized casework highlights from PCLS' four areas of law practice this past year. Kara Gillies also highlighted key organizing campaigns that PCLS was involved with over the past year.

4. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements

Arthur Kong presented the Auditor's Report. The purpose of an annual audit, is to provide the membership with a "reasonable assurance" that the Financial Statements do not contain any misstatements, due to fraud or error. Parkdale's audit was performed by the accounting firm Segal LLP. The auditors test the financial systems and assure the members that the financial picture presented is a fair description of Parkdale's financial position.

PCLS received 92% of its funding from Legal Aid Ontario, which provided PCLS with the support to successfully move our offices back to Parkdale, after a difficult couple of years. Generous donations to our community legal clinic accounted for 2% of the annual revenue. The annual Osgoode Hall Law School Grant, and project funding consisting of grants from the Community Housing Transformation Centre, came it around 5% and 1% respectively.

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 Arthur Kong to accept the Audited Financial Statements for 2021-2022.

Parmbir Gill – seconded. **Motion is carried.**

5. Reappointment of Segal LLP

Motion by Arthur Kong to reappoint Segal LLP as the PCLS Auditors for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Nadia Rajaram - seconded. **Motion is carried.**

6. Election of Directors – Sarah Robicheau, Membership Committee

Class A – Community Members

The three new Class A Board members on the slate are Ayan Kailie, Emina Gamulin, and Randy Mclin. The two Class A Board members standing for re-election for another term on the board are Nadia Rajaram and Nicole Biros-Bolton.

1. **Ayan Kailie** is a community leader and strong equity advocate. She has a deep connection to Swansea Mews and has volunteered for many events within the larger Swansea community. She is a parent of three young children and has served on the Parent Council at the local elementary school for the last 5 years. Ayan is the first Black council chair in Swansea school history.

As a member of the Swansea Mews community, Ayan Kailie organized a tenant food bank and was involved in a variety of other community initiatives. During the recent crisis in Swansea Mews, Ayan was a vocal advocate for her community. Ayan has since moved to Parkdale where she plans to continue her community work.

2. **Emina Gamulin** is a longtime renter in the Parkdale neighbourhood. She began organizing at her building after ownership changed hands. Her and her neighbours launched their first action just as the province was going into lockdown and their landlord was shutting off water without notice and handing out eviction notices to paying tenants. The tenants' efforts went viral and garnered support from all over the world. They were successful in getting their landlord to agree to drop the evictions and commit to a pause on renovation work in the empty units. Emina has been organizing with her neighbours ever since, and assists other Parkdale tenants and renters across the city in their collective efforts to improve their living conditions and stop displacement. Emina has a professional background in media, communications and organizing.
3. **Randy McLin** is a licenced paralegal and community legal worker with strong ties to the Parkdale community. Much of this started in 2012, when he first became involved with the Parkdale Tenants Association and learned about tenants' rights issues from the CLWs working at PCLS. The tenants' rights and organizing strategies he learned through PCLS helped him to save his own housing from an attempted renoviction the next year. He then spent the next 6 years working in many different roles within the social service sector serving precariously housed and homeless clients, before returning to school to become a paralegal. Since 2021, he has worked as a community legal worker in the area of social assistance law at Scarborough Community Legal Services. He is passionate about access to justice and grassroots community organizing with working class communities across Toronto.
4. **Nadia Rajaram** is a Parkdale resident who grew up in Parkdale and attended Queen Victoria school. Nadia's activism started when she was a kid and her mother would brought her to all the organizing meetings in the neighbourhood. Nadia is a proud member of the Worker's Action Centre and the Fight for \$15 and Fairness campaign fighting for better wages for all workers in Ontario. Nadia is also a member of the Parkdale Tenants Association which organizes with tenants and fights back against slumlords in Parkdale. Nadia is also a member of Black Cap and involved in harm reduction and HIV /AIDS education and outreach. Nadia is also a member of the Parkdale People's Economy and Mutual Aid Parkdale. Nadia was the

recipient of the Dorothy Leatch Award in 2019. She loves to be involved in many organizations to help make change and make a difference in her community. Nadia's goal is to advocate for others in her community as she did during the MetCap rent strike and cuts to legal aid.

5. **Nicole Biros-Bolton** is a feminist social justice lawyer. She brings over 20 years of experience working as a front-line counsellor and advocate for women, children and gender-diverse individuals who have experienced violence, trauma and abuse. She believes that justice and equity are non-negotiable and always worth fighting for and she pursues these goals with empathy and compassion for her clients. Nicole articulated at the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, a national legal organization promoting gender equality rights through law. She has provided advocacy and support within the criminal justice and family legal systems, working at the Victim Witness Assistance Program and the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, supporting survivors of gender-based violence. Nicole holds a law degree from King's College London, UK, and a Masters in Human Rights Law from the University of London, UK. While not working to promote social justice, you can find Nicole with her partner and two wonderful children, dancing and cooking up a storm.

Motion by Sarah Robicheau that the members approve the slate of candidates.

Parmbir Gill - seconded. **Motion is carried.**

Class B - Elections scheduled for next week

Class C – Osgoode Hall Law School Dean

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. I invite the Dean to introduce the two new Class C Directors, and one Class C Director who will be serving another term.

Dean Condon re-elects Janet Mosher, introduces and elects Priyanka Vittal and Amar Bhatia to the Board.

Janet Mosher thanked all the outgoing board members: Adrian Smith, Allison Woods, Arthur Kong, Luca Lucarini, Newsha Zaragaran, and Opal Sparks.

ADJOURNMENT 7:00 PM

Motion by Parmbir Gill to Adjourn the Annual General Meeting

Nadia Rajaram - seconded. **Motion is carried.**