

Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace (SAFE) Society
Annual General Meeting

March 9, 2021
6:30-7:30pm
Online Zoom

Present: Esmaeel Al Hariri, Najlaa Alzaanin, Hina Ansari, Mark Ballard, Mary Ballard, Jack Beaton, Sue Channen, Randy Charles, Bronwen Cooke, Annette Daemen, Marla Gaudet, Hatem Ghouma, Lucille Harper, Dwight How, Carrigan Martell, Jordan MacDonald, Kenzie MacNeil, Cindy Murphy, Heather Murphy, Farhiyo Salah, Sheila Sears, Othman Soufan, Heidi Steinitz, Michael Steinitz, Nancy Turniawan, Norine Verberg, Peter Wade

Minutes

It was acknowledged that we are holding our meeting in Mi'kmak'i, the ancestral land and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people. We recognize that we are all treaty people. We thank the Mi'kmaw people for caring for and nurturing their lands and waters and for sharing with all people who live here.

Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions

Lucille Harper

Agenda Item: Financial Review Engagement

Sheila Sears

Discussion:

Sheila introduced Heather Murphy from the accounting firm of MacDonald and Murphy Inc. Heather was hired to perform the Financial Review Engagement. The Review and conclusions were summarized.

Action:

Sheila Sears moved to accept the Financial Review.

Seconded by Michael Steinitz.

The Financial Review Engagement report was accepted unanimously.

Sheila Sears moved that we reappoint Heather Murphy of MacDonald & Murphy Inc. to perform the 2021 Financial Review Engagement.

Seconded by Hatem Ghouma.

All approved.

Agenda Item: Guest Speaker

Discussion:

Farhiyo Salah spoke about her experiences as a WUSC student and some of the challenges that she has overcome.

Agenda Item: SAFE Highlights for 2020

Committee Chairs

Discussion:

An annual report was circulated. Lucille Harper provided a summary of the SAFE Annual Report. Marla Gaudet presented a report on behalf of the Settlement Committee. Jack Beaton presented a report on behalf of the Education Committee. Peter Wade presented a report on behalf of the Housing Committee. Mary Ballard presented a report on behalf of the Health Committee. Hatem Ghouma reported on the families we hope will arrive in 2021.

All committee representatives thanked volunteers who provide so much support to SAFE and enable more families to begin a new life in Antigonish.

SAFE AGM Business Meeting

Agenda Item: AGM Minutes 2020 Approval

Lucille Harper

Actions:

Lucille Harper moved that the minutes from the SAFE AGM 2020 be approved.
Seconded by Jack Beaton
All approved.

Agenda Item: Fundraising Goals for 2021

Sheila Sears

Discussion:

The Facebook auction is currently underway, as a collaboration between SAFE and St FX for SAFE. The \$10000 matching campaign was very successful. One of our fundraising goals is to raise enough money to bring a BVOR family. There is a need for a fundraising committee.

Actions:

Please reach out to Sheila if you are interested in being part of a fundraising committee.

Agenda Item: Committee Reports

Lucille Harper

Discussion:

Committee reports were tabled.

Agenda Item: Election of Steering Committee

Jack Beaton

Discussion:

The SAFE Steering Committee is made up of a maximum of 10 people, each with 2-3 year terms. Terms are staggered and so each year there are 3 openings on the Steering Committee.

Nominations for the Steering Committee were welcomed from the floor.

Othman Soufan was nominated to the Steering Committee. Hatem Ghouma is stepping off the Steering Committee, Harry Daemen will complete Hatem's term. No other nominations were brought forward.

Sheila Sears, Marla Gaudet and Jack Beaton have agreed to serve a second term (March 2021-March 2024) on the Steering Committee.

Therefore, the Steering Committee for 2021 will be: Mark Ballard, Mary Ballard, Jack Beaton, Bronwen Cooke, Harry Daemen, Marla Gaudet, Lucille Harper, Sheila Sears, Othman Soufan, Peter Wade.

Actions:

Jack Beaton moved that we accept the Steering Committee for 2021 as listed above.

Hatem Ghouma seconded the motion.

The membership of the Steering Committee was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item: Thank you to Hatem Ghouma

Discussion:

Hatem has been an instrumental part of SAFE since its early days. The Steering Committee, volunteers, and families are so grateful for everything that Hatem has done to support, educate and enrich our community. Thank you to Hatem for the time, energy and care that he has given to us all.

Agenda Item: Meeting Close

Discussion: The meeting was adjourned.