



# Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario

[www.cwdo.org](http://www.cwdo.org)

## “Together We Are Stronger”

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### **19th Annual Meeting of Members May 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM EDT Zoom Meeting**

#### **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### **1. Call to Order by Chair / Land Acknowledgement**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm, with Mah-E-Leqa Jadgal chairing.

Mah-E-Leqa provided the Land Acknowledgement for the meeting.

#### **2. Greetings / Attendees**

**Board Members:** Adam Cohoon, Alexis Buettgen, Bruce Drewett, Heather Willis, Kate Tutu, Kirsten Doyle, Linda Hunt, Mah-E-Leqa Jadgal, Pat Seed, Dianne Wintermute, Tracy Odell and Julie Emeid.

**Members/Guests:** Gregor Wolbring, Laurissa Brousseau, Cheryl Stacey, Mazin Aribi, Lewis Boles, Steff Lee, Jennifer Coggon and Mary C. Kelly.

**Resource:** Karen Munro (Real-Time Captioning)

#### **3. Appointment of Secretary**

Moved by Tracy Odel, seconded by Heather Willis to appoint Kate Tutu as Recording Secretary of the Annual General Meeting.

**CARRIED.**

#### **4. Guest Speaker: Gregor Wolbring “The Environment and You: The Missing and/or Ignored Voice”**

Alexis introduced Gregor Wolbring, a wheelchair user born without legs and an academic working on many disability issues. Alexis

shared that Dr. Wolbring would present an interesting topic at the intersection of disability and the environment.

Dr. Wolbring highlights the significance of how many environmental issues impact disabled people in many ways. Dr. Wolbring emphasized the problem of the changing climate with an increase in bad weather events such as heat waves, flooding, fires, etc. As such, how to prepare, prevent, and deal with such events needs disabled people's voices as these bad weather events, in particular, impact them.

Dr. Wolbring notes how environmental education fails to acknowledge the lived reality of disabled people/people with disabilities and the influence such lived reality (e.g. many disabled people live in poverty) has on how disabled people experience environmental changes. Dr. Wolbring emphasized the importance of including disabled people's voices because there is no environmental justice without them.

Tracy noted the relevance of the presentation topic to the series 5 Days at Memorial, where, due to Hurricane Katrina and the lack of preparedness, hospital staff abandoned sick and disabled patients to die.

Mah-E-Leqa asked Dr. Wolbring to clarify and explain the linkages between emergency preparedness and climate change for disabled people. Dr. Wolbring shares that climate change exacerbates the challenges of evacuation for disabled people. Dr. Wolbring notes the complexities of evacuation and emergency preparedness grow due to how diverse disabled people are and how much different support we need. Dr. Wolbring highlights that society's infrastructure is not fully prepared to support emergency preparedness and climate change. Dr. Wolbring notes that it is vital that disabled people are not left behind in the disaster framework.

Laurissa asked Dr. Wolbring, who has lived in multiple parts of the world, if he could share his perspective on how disability climate action varies geographically. Dr. Wolbring shares that accessibility in Europe is behind in disability inclusion, especially since politicians are not taking action. He has not found countries that are not systemically accessible.

Laurissa shared with the guests that she will be working on a project requiring focus groups to research climate change and disability.

Mah-E-Leqa thanked Gregor for a thought-provoking presentation.

## **5. 2024 Strategic Planning**

Mah-E-Leqa and Alexis shared a presentation to kick off the strategic planning discussion. Mah-E-Leqa shared CWDO's vision, mission, and historical overview. Additionally, Mah-E-Leqa gave an overview of our strategic plan, which highlighted the required work on membership, public profile, contributing to government legislation, financial viability, and strategic alliances.

Alexis and Mah-E-Leqa asked guests/board members to give feedback on CWDO's improvements, successes, and ideas for engaging with the public. Kate commented on focusing methods on engaging the public using social media. Heather highlighted the importance of getting people involved in our action groups and noted the importance of completing our website transfer, as it will aid our engagement strategies.

## **6. Approval of AGM Minutes - May 16, 2023**

Moved by Kate Tutu, seconded by Kirsten Doyle to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2023 AGM. **CARRIED.**

## **7. BREAK – 10 minutes**

## **8. Matters Arising From the 2023 Minutes**

NIL.

## **9. President's Report on CWDO's Accomplishments**

Mah-E-Leqa gave a quick overview of the activities that Board members have worked on. She noted the excellent ongoing work on the Attendant Services Action group, transferring data to a new hosting site, developing a new website, and advocating the threat of e-scooters to pedestrian safety.

## **10. Financial Statements**

Linda Hunt reviewed the CWDO financial activity as outlined in her report. Our financial health as an organization has been in the negative in 2023.

Moved by Linda Hunt, seconded by Tracy Odell to approve the CWDO's Financial Statement for January 1st - December 31st as presented. **CARRIED.**

## **11. Report of the Nomination Committee**



Kirsten Doyle reported on behalf of the Nomination Committee. She noted that Bruce Drewett is stepping down from the board, leaving three vacancies and no submissions.

Heather Willis and Linda Hunt are standing for re-election.

Appointment of Scrutineer - none needed

## **12. Election of Directors**

The Chairperson called three times for nominations from the floor. Cheryl Stacey nominated herself. Cheryl provided an introduction and overview of her skills and background that may be relevant to CWDO.

Kirsten called for a motion to elect the slate.

Moved by Kirsten Doyle, seconded by Kate Tutu to re-elect Heather Willis, Linda Hunt and appoint Cheryl Stacey as Directors on CWDO for a 3-year term. **CARRIED.**

## **13. Conclusion of Meeting**

Mah-E-Leqa thanked the guests and members for attending the Annual General Meeting.

With no further business, Kirsten moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm.

**Note:** Election of Officers will follow at the board's next meeting.