

YWCA Halifax AGM (Annual General Meeting)

Wednesday, September 24th, 2025 - 4:45 p.m. - 6:23 p.m.

Cedar Event Centre, 111 Clayton Park Dr, Halifax NS, B3M 1M3

Present: Sylvia Parris-Drummond, Nikki Martin, Kate Shewan, Leslie Bishop, Sumaya El-falah, Eva Parada, Ceilidh Bray, Ann Ragbir, Chika Chiekwe, Stephanie Howatt, Uzoamaka David, Nicola Watson, Mel Clarke, Miia Suokonautio, Barrinique Griffin, Camilla Quaglia, Daniella Sam, Sandra Pineda (Minutes)

Regrets: None

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement: Sylvia Parris-Drummond

- Sylvia welcomed members and thanked everyone for attending. She read the Land Acknowledgement, recognizing that YWCA Halifax is built on Mi'kmaq land and reaffirming the organization's commitment to reconciliation, anti-racism, and meaningful action.

2. Review of Voting Procedures: Sylvia Parris-Drummond

- Sylvia explained the voting procedures. No questions or comments were raised.

3. Approval of Minutes from September 2024: Sylvia Parris-Drummond

- Sylvia asked whether there were any questions or amendments to the minutes of the meeting. No amendments were noted. She then proceeded to present the motion.
- **MOTION:** Be it resolved that the minutes of the 2023/2024 AGM are approved as presented. Moved by Nikki Martin, Seconded by Kate Shewan. All in favor, no abstention, no opposition – **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. President's Year in Review: Sylvia Parris-Drummond

Sylvia presented her President's report, highlighting:

- Key achievements and ongoing initiatives across YWCA Halifax programs and departments.
- The organization's focus is on equity, empowerment, and advocacy in the community.
- Her appreciation for the dedication and contributions of Board members and staff.

5. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements: Kate Shewan

Kate presented the audited financial statements, noting:

- The audited statements are available on the YWCA Halifax website, and everyone was invited to review them and follow along with her presentation.
- The organization experienced a strong financial year, with significant activity in childcare, and housing.
- Major expenditures related to staffing and benefits.
- Asset acquisitions, including childcare centres and affordable housing, contributed to reported surpluses.
- The financial statements were audited by Grant Thornton, with no concerns or irregularities identified.

Some questions were raised and were successfully addressed by Kate and Miia. Following these clarifications, Kate moved the motion.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the 2024/2025 Audited Financial Statements are approved as presented. Seconded by Ceilidh Bray. All in favor, no abstention, no opposition – **MOTION CARRIED.**

6. Appointment of Auditor: Kate Shewan

- Kate presented the following motion:

MOTION: Be it resolved that YWCA Halifax appoint Grant Thornton as auditor for the 2025/2026 fiscal period subject to the Board's authority to pursue other options in the interests of cost savings. Seconded by Eva Parada. All in favor, no opposition, no abstention. – **MOTION CARRIED.**

7. Nominating Committee & Election of New Board Members & Officers: Leslie Bishop

Leslie introduced the slate of the Board of Directors for consideration and reelection for 2025, presenting the following list:

For 1st 2-year term

- Melanie Clarke
- Uzoamaka David
- Stephanie Howatt
- Ann Ragbir
- Nicola Watson

First elected 2023 (for 2nd 2-year term)

- Eva Parada
- Camila Qualgia

First elected 2021 (for 3rd 2-year term)

- Sumaya El-falah
- Kate Shewan

Executive for Consideration and Election

- Sylvia Parris, President
- Nikki Martin, Vice President
- Kate Shewan, Treasurer

Nominating Committee for Consideration and Election

- Barrinique Griffin (Chair)
- Nikki Martin
- Camilla Quaglia

Returning Board Members

First Elected 2024

- Ceilidh Bray

First Elected 2022

- Barrinique Griffin
- Nikki Martin
- Daniella Sam

First Elected 2020

- Chika Chiekwe
- Sylvia Parris-Drummond

Outgoing Board Members

- Sharon Ishimwe
- Leslie Bishop

8. Appointment of 2025/2026 Nominating Committee: Leslie Bishop

- Leslie brought the motion to:

MOTION: Be it resolved that the 2025/2026 slate of directors, officers and nominating committee are approved as presented. Moved by Leslie Bishop. Second by Sumaya El-falah. All in favor, no opposition, no abstentions. – **MOTION CARRIED**

9. Recognition of outgoing Board members: Miia Suokonautio

Miia recognized and expressed sincere gratitude to the outgoing Board members and highlighted the incredible work the Board does as volunteers.

- Sharon Ishimwe
- Leslie Bishop

Leslie Bishop shared reflections on her time with the Board and the importance of YWCA Halifax's mission and impact.

10. Closing Remarks & Adjournment: Sylvia Parris-Drummond

- Sylvia requested a motion to adjourn. Moved by Beronique Griffin and seconded by Chika Chiekwe.

AGM finished: 6:23 p.m.