

May 21, 2026 | 7:30 – 9:30 | In-Person  
201 C – 633 Courtney St Victoria, BC V8W 1B9

**Attendance:** Christina Clarke, Rose Arsenault, Elizabeth Brown, Josue Dubon, Corey Gillon, Inderbir Singh, Kelly Somogyi, Kara Udell, Spencer Walker, Ashka Wirk, Kris Wirk, John Wilson (CEO), Julia Banks (Staff Liaison)

**Regrets:** James Gatsi, Mary Lou Newbold

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*We acknowledge and respect the Lekwungen territory on whose land we are meeting on today.*

**Motion to approve the agenda as presented.**

MOVED BY Rose Arsenault                      SECONDED BY Ashka Wirk                      CARRIED

**Motion to approve the minutes from the previous Board of Directors meeting.**

MOVED BY Josue Dubon                      SECONDED BY Spencer Walker                      CARRIED

- Chair’s Report
  - Governance Education: Pedro Marquez will attend the June Board Planning Session to provide governance training and Board education.
  - HR Committee Update: Committee continues work on governance-related matters and will bring recommendations to the Board in the coming months, including Terms of Reference updates for the Executive Committee and Governance Committee.
- CEO’s Report
  - Stakeholder Engagement:
    - Attended a Vancouver Board of Trade breakfast event with the Prime Minister. Discussion around economic priorities and opportunities to bring similar high-profile events to Victoria.
    - Attended a transportation event hosted by Deloitte. Exploring opportunities for future collaboration and alignment.
    - Attended an Opposition Caucus meeting at the Legislature. Discussion included local government amalgamation, Citizens' Assembly, and the importance of proactive communication and advocacy. Board noted the value of ensuring elected officials are aware of local issues affecting the business community.
    - Attended a recent BC Transit announcement highlighting modernization initiatives, including expanded payment options and technology improvements.
    - Discussion around CORUS group and the importance of appropriate use of Chamber branding in external communications.
    - Update on Snowbirds event and progress to-date for August 04, 2026.
    - Preliminary discussions are underway with community partners regarding potential election-related forums and candidate engagement opportunities.

- Staffing Update:
  - CEO provided an update on recent staffing changes and organizational structure. Updated organizational chart was shared with the Board.
  - Board received an update on recent hires and staff transitions. Discussion around employee retention, organizational capacity, and future staffing needs.
- Upcoming Events
  - Board opportunity to participate in the Easter Seals Drop Zone fundraising event. Board Director volunteered to represent the Chamber.
  - Business Awards scheduled for June 11, 2026. Staff are implementing operational improvements based on lessons learned from previous years. Awards will return to Gala format in 2027, with announcement planned at this year's event.
- Executive & Governance Report
  - Review of Non-Partisan Policy. Discussion around maintaining non-Partisan while increasing member education and engagement during election periods.
  - Review of proposed Spokesperson policy for approval. Discussion around delegated spokesperson and whether specific staff roles should be identified within the policy.

**Motion to approve the Spokesperson Policy with the removal of the paragraph referencing the Senior Director of Government Relations & Communications role.**

MOVED BY Christina Clarke

SECONDED BY Elizabeth Brown

CARRIED

- Inclusion, Diversity & Equity Advancement (IDEA) Committee
  - Discussion around strengthening processes for bringing recommendations to the Board and staff for implementation.
  - Pride Parade planning continues through a subcommittee structure led by IDEA, involving multiple Chamber committees.
  - Review of proposed Terms of Reference for approval. Discussion focused on updates to committee objectives, accessibility and inclusion considerations, and revised language intended to better reflect the committee's mandate.

**Motion to approve the Inclusion, Diversity & Equity Advancement (IDEA) Committee Terms of Reference as presented.**

MOVED BY Christina Clarke

SECONDED BY Ashka Wirk

CARRIED

- Treasurer's Report
  - Cybersecurity and organizational risk management remain ongoing priorities. Additional resources and expertise being provided by Committee members.
  - Committee reviewed progress on the Chamber's corporate credit card migration from BMO to RBC. Discussion around potential adjustments to credit limits and management of rewards programs.
  - Preliminary discussion occurred regarding the capital reserve. Committee will revisit potential allocations in the Fall.

- Review of Executive Summary. Membership growth remains positive, with overall membership performance tracking ahead of prior year results.
- January through March financial statements were reviewed. Financial performance remains positive and generally ahead of budget expectations.

**Motion to approve the January to March 2026 Financials as presented.**

MOVED BY Spencer Walker

SECONDED BY Kara Udell

CARRIED

- Review of proposed Membership Dues increase for proposal. Committee recommended a 2.1% increase based on CPI.

**Motion to approve the 2026 Membership Dues Increase, effective September 2026, as presented.**

MOVED BY Spencer Walker

SECONDED BY Rose Arsenault

CARRIED

- Ambassador Committee
  - Committee met without a Staff Liaison following recent staffing transitions. New Staff Liaison would like to start increasing Committee engagement with event volunteer support.
  - Discussion around member privacy considerations and Ambassador outreach practices. Suggestions included adding an opt-in checkbox to membership applications and developing a formal Ambassador outreach policy.
  - Succession planning remains a priority as current Committee leadership roles evolve.
- Emerge Committee
  - Emerge Planning Session scheduled for the following week.
  - Sub-committees working well, communications team continues development of committee branding guidelines and philanthropy team working on Lifecycles volunteering over the summer.
  - Committee members continue supporting Pride Parade planning initiatives.
  - Mentorship Program remains active and successful, with a mid-year mentorship gathering scheduled.

**Motion to move in camera.**

MOVED BY Josue Dubon

SECONDED BY Elizabeth Brown

CARRIED

**Motion to move in camera, with CEO excused.**

MOVED BY Josue Dubon

SECONDED BY Elizabeth Brown

CARRIED

**Motion to move out of camera.**

MOVED BY Christina Clarke

SECONDED BY Spencer Walker

CARRIED

**Motion to adjourn.**

MOVED BY Christina Clarke

SECONDED BY Spencer Walker

CARRIED

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**Chair**

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**Secretary**

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**Date**

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**Date**