



Photo Credit: Lynn Fleming

Independent Living Nova Scotia supports consumers (people with disabilities) to:

- Live their lives the way they want;
- Stay in control of decisions that affect them;
- Find the services and contacts they need;
- Get information that is useful and clear;
- Break through barriers that are in the way; and
- Develop their skills.

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Independent-Living-Nova-Scotia



@ILNS2014

www.ilns.ca

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**independent
living**



NOVA SCOTIA

Staff

Sherry Costa	Executive Director
Randy Reede	Information & Outreach Coordinator
Ria Steenweg	Accountant
Carrie Ernst	ACEE, Program Manager
Jennifer MacNeil	ACEE, Career Exploration Facilitator
Tracy Spencer	ACEE, Job Developer
Lori Edgar	Assigned to ACEE by Affirmative Ventures
Nicole McDonald	Festival Coordinator
Nancy Walker	Autism Summer Camp Coordinator

Board Members

Julianne Acker-Verney	(2015)	Retired 2016
Mike Coady	(2014)	
Sarah Dubé	(2009)	
Louise Gillis	(2011)	
Karla Graves-Smith	(2015)	
Sheldon Higdon	(2014)	Retired 2016
Jeremy MacDonald	(2011)	Retired 2016
Kyle MacDonald	(2016)	
Lois Miller	(2012)	
Matt Spurway	(2016)	
Jenna-Leigh Wilson	(2015)	Retired 2016
Allan Wands	(2015)	Retired 2016
Ian Wilenius	(2016)	

We have enjoyed sharing our office space with Nova Scotia Interpreting Services and being close to so many community partners!

Executive Director's Report

Sherry Costa

Vice Chair's Report

Weighing heavily as I begin drafting my submission for our June 2016 Annual Report is a huge question

Vice Chair's Report - Julianne M. Acker-Verney

I became Vice Chair of the ILNSA board part way through the 2015-2016 fiscal year after joining the board in early 2015. As vice chair, I have had the pleasure of working with a group of people at the board level who are committed to the vision and mission of ILNSA and who come to every meeting and discussion with the goal of supporting the dignity and independence of Nova Scotians with disabilities. The majority of board members are persons with disabilities and, as a woman with disabilities who often feels excluded in an ableist society, I have enjoyed and valued the sense of belonging that serving on this board offers. I am leaving the board before completing my term because of increasing family and work demands but I am confident that persons with disabilities in Nova Scotia, the ILNSA and the Independent Living Movement will continue to be supported with strength, humility and wisdom by the board of directors.

The past year has brought challenges to the board and association, serving as a strong reminder that the ongoing support and involvement of persons with disabilities in our community is essential for the ILNSA to have a strong voice and the resources to address the needs of an ever-growing population of persons with disabilities in Nova Scotia. With this in mind, I encourage all members of the ILNSA to consider the many ways to you can help support the work of the organization. As Paul Jamieson, one of my most respected mentors once said to me, "we all have something important to contribute and, together, we can accomplish great things".

Co-Chairs' Report

The co-chairs of the ILNSA Board report on the 2015-2016 year's activities.

At ILNSA, we support persons with disabilities to make informed choices about how they want to live their lives. We provide this support by offering programs and services that promote independent living.

Our Association is one of twenty-five Nationally accredited Independent Living Centres across Canada, and there are many more in the United States, Europe, Asia and Latin America—Independent Living is truly a global movement!

ILNS office is located at 7071 Bayers Road, Halifax. This space is shared with Nova Scotia Interpreting Services, leading to shared costs and opportunities to be involved in new partnerships and networking.

ILNS members enjoyed the popular social programmes such as the Christmas Gala, the Dance-a-thon, Bowl-a-thon, and the Summer Art Festival, again this year. ILNS continues to offer workshops explaining Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSP). If you qualify for the Disability Tax Credit, you qualify for an RDSP! Contact 902.453.0004 to learn more.

ILNS had a very successful Bluenose Marathon—surpassing our fundraising goal.

We continue to enhance our visibility and name recognition through social media. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter at: @ilns2014 to stay informed of new opportunities and ILNS updates.

The Board's 24 October 2015 retreat considered **Board Governance**.

In an effort to ensure continued clear governance of the Board, this year's retreat was intended to act as a refresher for all Board members about ILNSA Board Governance.

Since the retreat, additional skill building workshops were held: another focused on Board Governance, and a review of Board Financial Responsibility. We welcomed the expertise of Veronica MacNeil and Murray Vandewater on these occasions.

The Board welcomes Matt Spurway (pending), Kyle MacDonald and Ian Wilenius as new Directors.

The Board bids a fond farewell to Jenna-leigh Wilson, Allan Wands, and Julianne Acker-Verney, as they have retired from the Board. You will be missed!

Your Board continues to work on our members' behalf. Please advise as to how we can best serve your needs.

Thank you for the privilege of co-chairing your Board.

Sarah Dubé and Mike Coady
Co-chairs
Board of Independent Living Nova Scotia Association

Nomination Committee Report

Report of the Nominating Committee June, 2016

The Nominating Committee--Mike Coady, Karla Graves-Smith and Lois Miller--submits this report to the Annual General Meeting of Independent Living Nova Scotia Association (ILNS).

First, we thank the board members who left the board in 2015-6:

- Julianne Acker-Verney (who joined the board in 2015)
- Sheldon Higdon (2014)
- Jeremy MacDonald (2011)
- Allan Wands (2015)
- Jenna-Leigh Wilson (2015).

These dedicated community members have shared their skills and experience with us, and we send them best wishes for their future endeavours.

Next, we present these motions to the Annual General Meeting:

That Independent Living Nova Scotia Association elect to the board these persons who were appointed to fill vacancies during 2016: Kyle MacDonald, Matt Spurway, and Ian Wilenius.

That Independent Living Nova Scotia Association re-elect Lois Miller to the board; Lois is going into the first year of her third term.

Finally, we thank these continuing board members whose terms continue into 2016-7:

- Michael Coady, going into the second year of his first term
- Sarah Dubé, going into the second year of her fourth and final term
- Louise Gillis, going into the second year of her third term
- Karla Graves-Smith, going into the second year of her first term.

If you want to volunteer for the board, or know someone else who wants to volunteer, please contact Lois Miller as board secretary: loisemiller45@gmail.com. The nominating committee will send you the application form and invite you to an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Coady
Karla Graves-Smith
Lois E. Miller

AGM Agenda 2016

Draft Agenda

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 23RD, 2016

Independent Living Nova Scotia Association

BUSINESS MEETING

5:00 p.m. Welcome: Sherry Costa

Pizza is served

5:30 p.m. Board Meeting – Review & Approval of Financials

5:45 p.m. **Annual General Meeting**

Call to order and approval of agenda

Minutes of 2015 AGM – printed in annual report

Auditor's report

Motion to appoint auditor for 2016-17

6:15 p.m. Presentation of reports printed in annual report

6:30 p.m. Accessibility Legislation Update – Department of Community Services Executive Director, Disability Support Program, Joe Rudderham and Disabled Persons Commission Delegate Sandra McFadyen

7:00 p.m. Adjournment

Dessert, coffee and tea

AGM Meeting Minutes 2015

Annual General Meeting
Independent Living Nova Scotia Association
June 18, 2015, L 151-7071 Bayers Road, Halifax, NS

Opening

Sherry Costa, Executive Director, welcomed everyone to the new Independent Living Nova Scotia Association (ILNS) offices. She presented retiring board co-chair Steve Estey and treasurer Murray Vandewater with framed certificates of appreciation, and also thanked outgoing board members Pat Gates and Robert Ganong for their service.

The executive director introduced the board members present: Mike Coady, Sarah Dubé, Sheldon Higdon and Lois Miller; former co-chair Brian Hennen; staff members Carrie Ernst, Jennifer MacNeil, Nicole McDonald, Randy Reede and Stephanie MacWhirter; and former staff member David Wareing.

Call to order: Co-chair Sarah Dubé called the meeting to order.

Attendance: 24 people were in attendance. Regrets had been received from Julianne Acker-Verney, Marian Bulley, Robert Ganong, Pat Gates, Louise Gillis, Allan Wands and Jenna-Leigh Wilson.

Agenda

Motion: to approve the draft agenda. Moved, seconded and carried.

Minutes of 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The minutes are included in the printed annual report, pages 11-13.

Motion: to approve the minutes of the 2014 AGM as circulated. Moved, seconded and carried.

Audit

The treasurer's report was included in the annual report, page 7.

Motion: to accept the auditor's report. Moved, seconded and carried.

Motion: to appoint Mitchell Miller Inc. as auditor for 2015-6. Moved, seconded and carried.

There was discussion about appointing new auditors from time to time, and a suggestion that the board review the process of appointing auditors.

AGM Meeting Minutes 2015

Nominating Committee

The report of the nominating committee was included in the annual report, page 8. The committee thanked retiring board co-chair Steve Estey and treasurer Murray Vandewater, and outgoing board members Robert Ganong and Pat Gates. The committee recommended for re-election Sarah Dubé, going into the first year of her fourth term; Louise Gillis and Jeremy MacDonald, going into the first year of their third terms; Michael Coady, Jenna-Leigh Wilson, Julianne Acker-Verney and Karla Graves-Smith, who had been appointed by the board to fill vacancies during the past year; and Allan Wands. Lois Miller will continue in the second year of her second term, and Sheldon Higdon in the second year of his first term.

Motion: to accept the report of the nominating committee. Moved, seconded and carried.

Executive Director Report

The executive director presented her report which is included in the annual report, pages 4, 5. Sherry Costa highlighted these aspects of her report:

- Congratulations to ACEE ambassadors Ashley and Ryan
- Celebration of the tenth anniversary of ACEE on June 25, 6 p.m.
- New fund development initiatives
- Summer program for young adults with autism running this year at the Waverley Fire Hall; this program, new to ILNS, continues a successful community initiative
- Workplace attendant program is in its pilot phase
- Move to this new location where space is shared with Nova Scotia Interpreting Services which provides interpreting services in over 40 languages
- Accreditation with Imagine Canada
- Thanks to our many supporters: volunteers, donors, staff, participants

Reports

Motion: to accept all reports as circulated in the annual report. Moved, seconded and carried.

Steve Estey noted that he had not provided a report as representative to the board of Independent Living Canada. He said he would follow up with Independent Living Canada and provide information to the board of directors.

Memorials

We remembered several members and friends of ILNS who had died during the past year, including Carol Killeen and Dick Sircom.

AGM Meeting Minutes 2015

Other business and announcements

Sherry Costa reminded everyone of the upcoming Art of Disability Festival on July 30+. She also drew attention to the message from the Minister of Community Services' Advisory Panel on Accessibility Legislation in the annual report, pages 14-15. Steve Estey announced that Independent Living Canada and Council of Canadians with Disabilities will jointly draw attention to the disability tax credit during the upcoming federal election campaign.

Adjournment

The business of the meeting having been concluded, the chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois E. Miller, Secretary