The Canadian Association of Journalists
L'Association Canadienne des Journalistes

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting: March 13, 2025 6:30 pm ET via Zoom

Directors In Attendance: Brent Jolly, Paul Schneidereit, Jason Markusoff, Laurie Few (left at 7:31pm ET) (vice-chair), Julie Sobowale, Jameson Berkow, Zane Schwartz (chair), Paula Tran, Jenna Cocullo

Regrets: Fatima Syed, Karyn Pugliese, Patti Sonntag, Katrina Clarke

Staff In Attendance: Monique Durette (ex-officio), Emelia Fournier (ex-officio)

Summary of Meeting

1. Call to order: 6:36pm ET
2. Agenda amendments and approval: MOTION to approve agenda as presented. M: P. Tran, S: B. Jolly, Carried.
3. Previous Board Meeting Minutes corrections and approval: MOTION to approve Dec 2024 Board meeting minutes. M: J. Berkow, S: J. Sobowale, Carried.
4. Position reports
a. President's report - B. Jolly Verbal summary of report provided to the board. Discussed advocacy issue of access and accreditation. Agreement by the board not to put out a second statement in relation to "Barring a journalist…" statement. Recommendation to insure that a boilerplate of our position on whether an organization is or is not a qualified news organization is included in statements; also to be added to the website. MOTION to accept the president's report as presented. M: L. Few, S: J. Berkow, Carried.
b. Treasurer's report - P. Schneidereit Verbal summary of report provided to the board **MOTION** to approve the addition to the 2025 budget the revenues and expenditures related to the new Canadian News Industry Peer Support program. M: P. Schneidereit, S: B. Jolly, Carried. **MOTION** to approve the addition to the 2025 budget the revenues and expenditures related to the Emergency Support Fund. M: P. Schneidereit, S: B. Jolly, Carried. MOTION to accept the treasurer's report as presented. M: J. Berkow, S: J. Markusoff, Carried.
c. Chair's report - Z. Schwartz Verbal report. Reminder to electronically sign the peer support directors' resolution, if you have not already done so. All other governance work stated elsewhere in the agenda and meeting. TASK: M. Durette/B. Jolly to start a spreadsheet for director recruitment.

MOTION to accept the chair's verbal report. M: B. Jolly, S: J. Berkow, Carried.
d. Operations Manager's report - M. Durette Verbal summary provided. TASK Executive committee to consider recommendation contained in Operations Manager's report regarding management of human and financial resource allocation throughout the year. MOTION to accept the operations manager's report as presented. M: J. Sobowale, S: P. Tran, Carried.
e. Program Coordinator's report - E. Fournier Verbal summary provided. MOTION to accept the program coordinator's report as presented. M: L. Few, S: B. Jolly, Carried.
5. Board decisions:
a. Governance
i. **MOTION** to appoint Jenna Cocullo as a director-at-large until the 2025 AGM. M: B. Jolly, S: P. Schneidereit, Carried.
ii. **MOTION** to approve bylaw amendments as presented in the 2024 Bylaw Amendments document. M: L. Few, S: J. Markusoff, Carried.
iii. **MOTION** to approve the Regions Policy, with a first review of the policy to occur after one year. M: J. Berkow, S: J. Sobowale, Carried.
iv. **MOTION** to approve the Elections, By-elections and Appointments Policy, with a first review of the policy to occur after one year. M: J. Berkow, S: P. Tran, Carried. TASK governance committee to review term cycles to ensure balance in year-over-year elections/seats.
v. **MOTION** to appoint the office of Blake, Cassels & Graydon, the CAJ's retained legal counsel, as the registered office for the organization at the quoted cost of $500 per year. M: J. Markusoff, S: J. Sobowale, Carried.
vi. (Information only) Summary of directors' resolutions signed electronically:
1. Directors' resolution to discontinue Truth & Reconciliation Award
2. Directors' resolution to establish Canadian News Industry Peer Support program
b. Communications
i. DISCUSSION: Whether to cease posting content on X/Twitter platform but to remain in the space for monitoring and research purposes Suggestion to remain on X platform during this next conference and awards promo cycle, for research as to what engagement remains Suggestion to only post where/when necessary. Majority of board members wish to lurk and not post. **MOTION** that, effective Mar 21, the CAJ will no longer post on the X platform. M: J. Sobowale, S: J. Berkow. Carried. TASK: Staff to off-load the CAJ's contents from the X platform.
ii. DISCUSSION: Naming the member-focus newsletter. Named as: Scrum Crumbs
6. Activity updates

a. Conference. Verbal update provided. Keynote speakers to be announced by Monday. All planning work is well under way. 2026 Conference was originally planned to be in Halifax however it is now being recommended by the executive committee that the location be changed to Ottawa. **MOTION** to change the location for the 2026 conference from Halifax to Ottawa. M: P. Schneidereit, S: J. Cocullo, Carried.
b. Awards. Verbal update provided. Judging is well under way. Board members may be called upon to fill in for some judging panels that have been silent.
8. Other business
9. Date of next meeting: Jun 2025 TASK: Executive committee to discuss and plan Jun and/or in-person board meeting.
10. Adjournment. 7:58pm MOTION to adjourn. M: J. Markusoff, S: B. Jolly, Carried.

Summary of Resolutions (excludes meeting-operational motions)

BIRT the CAJ board of directors approves the addition to the 2025 budget the revenues and expenditures related to the new Canadian News Industry Peer Support program.
BIRT the CAJ board of directors approves the addition to the 2025 budget the revenues and expenditures related to the Emergency Support Fund.
BIRT the CAJ board of directors appoints Jenna Cocullo as a director-at-large until the 2025 AGM.
BIRT the CAJ board of directors approves bylaw amendments as presented in the 2024 Bylaw Amendments document.
BIRT the CAJ board of directors approves the Regions Policy, with a first review of the policy to occur after one year.
BIRT the CAJ board of directors approves the Elections, By-elections and Appointments Policy, with a first review of the policy to occur after one year.
BIRT the CAJ board of directors appoints the office of Blake, Cassels & Graydon as the registered office for the organization.
BIRT, effective Mar 21, the CAJ board of directors have agreed that the organization will no longer post on the X platform.
BIRT the CAJ board of directors will change the location for the 2026 conference from Halifax to Ottawa.

Summary of Policies and Documents Reviewed

2024-2025 Bylaw Update - Draft
Regions Policy - Draft
Elections, By-elections and Appointments Policy - Draft

Summary of Action Items

All action items/tasks added to CAJ board and committee task lists document. Document contains all progress on task items.

TASK Executive committee to consider recommendation contained in Operations Manager's report regarding management of human and financial resource allocation throughout the year.
TASK: M. Durette/B. Jolly to start a spreadsheet for director recruitment.
TASK governance committee to review term cycles to ensure balance in year-over-year elections/seats.
TASK: Staff to off-load the CAJ's contents from the X platform.
TASK: Executive committee to discuss and plan Jun and/or in-person board meeting.