



BELGIAN | CANADIAN  
BUSINESS CHAMBER

**BELGIAN CANADIAN BUSINESS CHAMBER  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, July 23, 2013  
Novotel Toronto Centre  
45, the Esplanade; Toronto, ON**

**OUTGOING BOARD ATTENDEES:** Peter van Praet (President), Kristien Boets, Elly De Winne, Jacques Druart, André van der Heyden

**OUTGOING BOARD APOLOGIES:** Jan Carpentier, Christian Frayssignes, Michael Green, Klaus Koeppen, Pieter-Jan Michielsen, Mieke Pynnaert, Vincent van der Heijden

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM**

Twenty-two of seventy-nine active members were present at the 2013 Annual General Meeting. This constituted a quorum, and the meeting was called to order at 17h35.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA / MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Don Johnston motioned to approve both the minutes from the 2012 AGM, and the agenda for the 2013 AGM. Elly De Winne seconded the motion, and all were in favour.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Peter Van Praet)**

Peter provided members of the Chamber with an overview of the Board's activities for the 2012-2013 year, highlighting the creation of two new event series – "Business with Belgium" and "Frites Night" – as well as the continued success of "Belgians in Canada", created the previous year under the title "Belgians in Business". He also noted the enhanced relations between the Chamber and Belgium's representatives in Canada. As his final act as President, he thanked the members of the 2012-13 Board for their efforts over the past year.

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Elly De Winne)**

The BCBC is in a fiscally healthy position, with no outstanding debts at the time of the AGM. Total Assets and Liabilities & Equity for the 2012-2013 year equalled \$20,727.39. The Total Income for the year was \$23,626.81, and the Total Expense was \$23,131.77, resulting in a surplus of \$495.04. For the second consecutive year, the BCBC has a balanced budget. In order to become compliant with new legislation both from Canada & Belgium (see **NCPA Update** for details), we have shifted our Fiscal Year from July-June to April-March.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Jacques Druart)**

The membership of the BCBC has further increased over the past year, with 79 active members at the time of the AGM versus 58 the previous year. We continue to work on reconnecting with former members and recruiting new members. All members are asked to encourage their friends & interested business contacts to join the chamber.

**SPONSORSHIP REPORT (Idalia Obregón)**

Idalia review the sponsorship packages which are currently available, and which range from \$500 - \$3000. The sponsorship of the BCBC has tripled over the past year, with *Baker & McKenzie* and *Deloitte* joining *Agfa Healthcare* as Corporate Sponsors. We are currently in talks with *Prime Restaurants*, parent company of *Biermarkt*, to have the latter also become a Corporate Sponsor, as well as other possible organizations. *AB InBev* has provided "in-kind" sponsorship by supplying Belgian beers to several of our events. Don Johnston noted that *Aird & Berlis*, which recently became a Corporate Member, is actively considering upgrading to a Sponsor.



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**CHAMBERS ROLE & SUPPORT (Idalia Obregón)**

The most important development over the past year with our fellow chambers is the European Chambers of Commerce in Toronto's (EUCOCIT) decision to broaden their jurisdiction from local to nationwide; as such they have changed their name to the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Canada (EUCCAN). We have been partnering with them over the past several months to organize September's "Europe Now" conference. We also worked with EUCCAN and AB InBev to arrange for the latter to provide "in-kind" sponsorship for Europe Day 2013.

**NPCA UPDATE (André van der Heyden)**

We have been working for the past year on becoming compliant with new federal legislation, the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (NPCA), which will come into effect in October 2014. This has so far involved establishing & conducting audits of our accounts, reviewing existing letters patent & by-laws, preparing Articles of Continuance, and revising by-laws as necessary. This process is scheduled to be completed next spring or summer, at which time a Special Meeting of the members will be called to ratify proposed changes before submitting all documents to the federal government. In addition to becoming compliant with new Canadian federal legislation, we are taking this opportunity to also become compliant with changes to the fiscal requirements from Belgium for government subsidies as applicable to our Chamber. These requirements have led to the change in our Fiscal Year as noted above. We have retained the services of Lette LLP to act as our Legal Counsel during this process.

**ELECTION OF THE 2013-2014 BOARD (André van der Heyden)**

Approximately half of the outgoing board presented themselves as candidates for re-election, and a further six new candidates presented themselves for election. In addition, we had two new candidates for Honourary (Non-Voting) membership to the board. These were (Name, Organization Name):

- Returning Candidates
  - o Kristien Boets, Mercana Growth Partners
  - o Elly De Winne, Royal LePage
  - o Christian Frayssignes, CF&A Consulting
  - o Michael Green, AGFA Healthcare North America
  - o Klaus Koeppen, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC)
  - o Mieke Pynnaert, Flanders Investment & Trade – (Honorary Director)
  - o André van der Heyden, Grey House Publishing Canada
- New Candidates
  - o Claire Cui, BDO Canada
  - o Sébastien Dillien, AMtoFM Promotion
  - o Pieter Goubert, Prism Economics
  - o Don Johnston, Aird & Berlis
  - o Lucas Scoreneau, Aon Hewitt
  - o Lionel Tarin, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC)
- Honourary (Non-Voting) Candidates
  - o Frank Murari, Agence wallonne à l'Exportation et aux Investissements (AWEX)
  - o Bart Schobben, Brussels Invest & Export (BIE)

Peter Van Praet moved to elect all candidates to the 2013-14 board. This was seconded by Tony Baker, and all were in favour.

**AGM Adjourned:** 17h58

Respectfully submitted,  
André van der Heyden