



## **Minutes of CSCC Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday, 25 June 2020 18:00**

**Dolder Grand Hotel, Kurhausstrasse 65, 8032 Zürich, Suisse**

As Notice of the Annual General Meeting with Agenda was sent more than ten days in advance to all members of the CSCC, the meeting was properly convened. With 10 members of the CSCC present and 11 proxies for a total of 21 the quorum required under the CSCC By-Laws is met.

CSCC President Darren Downs serves as Chairman of the Annual General Meeting and Andrée Wind serves as Secretary. The Secretary General, Nathalie Bergeret, will take the minutes.

The Annual General Meeting is called to order at 18:00.

### **A word of welcome from Ambassador Susan Bincoletto**

Ambassador Bincoletto welcomes everyone and begins by underlining the difficulties we have had to cope with since the arrival of the Covid-19. New work methods and communication tools have had to be adopted in order to work remotely. She thanks the CSCC for the Craig Alexander conference that was highly interesting. She emphasizes the fact that, despite the situation, there are still great opportunities in Canada, and great partnerships to be done between both countries.

### **1. A word of welcome from President Darren Downs**

President D. Downs welcomes everyone to the beautiful Dolder Hotel. The President also extends a warm welcome to the CSCC's corporate members in attendance.

President D. Downs expresses his pleasure serving the Chamber for his third year as President. In 2019, the CSCC held 14 events, with about 600 attendees. The CSCC is committed to continue to make connections between the members as often as possible. Canada and Switzerland have a long list of shared values, including having a robust commercial relationship. They are both prosperous, multilingual countries, and they share French as one of their official languages. They share free trade agreements of around CHF 5 billions. Switzerland is in the top 10 countries investing in Canada. Many members of the Chamber are dual citizens of both countries. There is also a strong educational connection with many Swiss that are studying in Canada. Over the past 10 years, Canada has also significantly increased its flight capacities.

The Chamber has also made some changes. On the financial side, there were losses in 2018, but 2019 the operations were break even. The CSCC was also very successful in obtaining promotional revenues through the magazine.

#### **Acknowledgements:**

- Paul Drouin announced his departure as Secretary General very early in the process, which enabled a very smooth transition. The President thanks him for it and the great work done. He is not totally leaving the CSCC as he offered to become Board member.
- Nicolas Grégoire will be leaving the Board, after 10 years of presence. The President thanks him for all the work he put in the Chamber during all those years.
- Jennifer Fraser, Board member that is also leaving the CSCC, has been a strong addition, bringing in critical inputs and more connections during her 2.5 years as a board member.

## **2. Approval of the Minutes of the CSCC 2019 Annual General Meeting**

President D. Downs asked for approval of the 2020 Annual General Meeting Agenda and the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

Approval of 2020 agenda: Unanimously approved.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting: Unanimously approved.

## **3. Report on CSCC Activities since last Annual General Meeting**

CSCC activities presented by D. Downs

In 2019, the CSCC held 14 events (including this AGM) – one more than in 2018.

The attendees were split equally between the French Speaking and German Speaking Switzerland.

In Zurich, we had very strong networking events. We had a record attendance for the Canada Day with great sponsors, the Canadian Embassy, E&Y, Bombardier and BMO Capital (around 130 attendees). 80 people attended the Fall networking event.

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Daffodil Spring Networking Event took place in Geneva at the Société de Lecture on March 28<sup>th</sup>. We had a good showing with 60 people in attendance. Our sponsor for 2019 was Guardian Wealth Management along with the ever popular Air Canada ticket draw that was hosted Air Canada Country Manager, Mehdi Sentissi.

The annual Golf Tournament, in cooperation with Swiss Global Enterprise, was held at the Vuissens Golf Club in Canton Fribourg with a strong attendance of 60 participants. It will be again held this year on 21 August.

At the end of November, the Chamber held its annual Holiday Dinner in Geneva for the first time at the Hotel d'Angleterre. Tickets were sold out. Thanks are given to the Geneva team who put a lot of efforts for this event. We will continue to host this event in Geneva for the foreseeable future.

A breakfast seminar took place at the Dolder Hotel, with Mr. Lindwall as speaker.

A speech by Steven de Boer was also made on Canada's leading role in modernizing the WTO held in Geneva.

The AGM was held at the residence of Ambassador Steven de Boer in Genthod on 13 June 2019.

The CSCC has also expanded its association with other chambers and participated in the AICC conference. Anne Guimond helped drive it. It was to be held again in April 2020 but was cancelled due to the new gathering restrictions.

Finally, for 2020, our beginning of the year dinner and hockey evenings are an ongoing success. These have been highly attended over the years thanks to our strong corporate participation. All games were sold out this year.

And of course, the Annual General Meeting, held exceptionally at the Dolder Hotel this year.

2019 was a plentiful year and 2020 will be impacted by the Covid-19 situation. But the CSCC aims to continue to provide the members with strong business connections and an access to a great network of individuals who have connections with Canada and Switzerland.

### **Membership**

In 2019, the Chamber had 28 Corporate Members which includes our Gold Partner, Air Canada, and our Silver Partner, BMO Capital Markets, and 93 paid individual members. Compared to 2019, there is an increase of 1 corporate member and 5 individual members.

The President thanks everyone for their continued support without which we would be not be able to continue covering our administrative costs and continue to run this under the current structure.

#### **4. Treasurer's Presentation of the CSCC 2019 Financial Statement.**

The Treasurer, Harold Woolnough, being absent this year, the President D. Downs presents the Financial Statement on his behalf.

PwC will be paid a nominal fee for their services which consists of performing a limited scope review.

In 2019, the CSCC increased its total revenues which included revenues from membership fees, sponsorships, all the events, plus the advertising we get from the magazine. The revenues amount to CHF 90K. In 2018, there was 63K.

We broke even with a surplus of CHF 424.-- (compared to a loss in 2018 of CHF 10.5K).

The membership revenues are up to 8K. The fees were increased by 5.-- for the individual memberships and by 60.-- for the corporate memberships.

#### **5. Approval of CSCC 2019 Financial Statements**

Unanimously approved.

#### **6. Vote to discharge Directors and Officers of Liability for 2019**

Unanimously approved.

#### **7. Election of Directors**

President D. Downs announces the following concerning changes to the Board of directors.

Directors that are leaving the Board of Directors:

Jennifer Fraser  
Nicolas Grégoire

Board members that will continue their appointments:

Harold Woolnough  
Normand Lemire  
Tudor Iatan  
Pamela Hay  
Mehdi Sentissi  
Daniel Breeze  
Mark Gibbons

The following resolutions are recommended for ratification:

- The appointment of the following board members for an initial 3-year term effective June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020:
  - a) Paul Drouin
  - b) Jason Rempel
  
- The appointment of the following board members for an additional 3-year term effective June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020:
  - a) Darren Downs, as President
  - b) Andrée Wind, as Secretary
  - c) Anne Guimond Kostecki, as Board member
  
- That the role of VP Zurich is held by Daniel Breeze
- That the role of VP Geneva is held by Anne Guimond Kostecki and Norman Lemire
- That the role of Secretary is held by Andrée Wind
- That the role of Treasurer is held by Harold Woolnough
- That the signature access for the UBS bank account be assigned to the following:

- a) Harold Woolnough – with single signing authority for e-banking transactions
- b) Darren Downs – with single signing authority for e-banking transactions

President D. Downs asks for the approval of the above.

Unanimously approved.

### **8. Election of Officers**

President D. Downs asks for the approval of the above.

Unanimously approved.

### **9. Re-Appointment of PWC as Auditor for 2020**

PricewaterhouseCoopers AG, Zurich, have agreed to act as independent auditor for 2020. A nominal fee will be paid for the service.

Unanimously approved.

### **10. Other Business**

None.

### **11. Close of the Annual General Meeting**

President D. Downs asks if there are any additional comments and suggestions. Hearing none he thanks the officers and members of the Board for their work throughout the last 12 months and all participants in the room.

He adjourns the Annual General Meeting at 18:45.

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Darren Downs  
CSCC President

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Andrée Wind  
Secretary

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Nathalie Bergeret  
Secretary General