

**Attending:** Al Hasham, Dan Dagg, Ian Batey, Christina Clarke, Rahim Khudabux, Carmen Charette, Catherine Holt, Lise Gyorkos, Mark Mawhinney, Julia Livingston, Kris Wirk, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).

**Regrets:** Patricia Jelinski, Captain (Navy) Jason Boyd, Mark Smith

1. Agenda/Minutes

Motion to approve agenda

**Moved by Al Hasham**

**Seconded by Ian Batey**

**Carried**

Motion to approve minutes from previous board meeting

**Moved by Lise Gyorkos**

**Seconded by Kris Wirk**

**Carried**

2. Chair's Remarks

Chair and CEO attended the Provincial Budget presentation at the Legislature. In conversations with the Premier, there was an agreement to have Premier Horgan present at a 5-Chamber Luncheon this year. The Finance Minister luncheon post-budget was very successful. The Chamber's response to the budget was clear and issues of note include the new Employer Health Tax and Speculation Property Tax. At the following CEO breakfast, business leaders underlined the potential costs to their businesses and importance of that issue for fostering growth in the community. At the city Stakeholder meeting the challenges relating to parking in downtown Victoria was heavily discussed. There is a need for an integrated strategy for accessibility which includes parking and commercial vehicle access.

Annual membership survey will be distributed to the membership in April and May. This is the third year of the survey.

SIPP's joint membership and collaboration MOU draft has been developed to leverage the combined strengths of both organizations. The Chamber is already working closely with SIPP on common objectives for the region including a focus on First Nation membership integration (10 First Nations). The target for this joint membership opportunity would be private businesses, typically 50+ employees. Ideally the MOU will be finalized and ready for Board approval at the May meeting.

**Motion to support the MOU in principle:**

**Moved by: Carmen Charette**

**Seconded: John Wilson**

**Carried**

There is an outstanding list of speakers scheduled for the spring including the CEO of BC Ferries, mayor of Victoria, Premier of the Province, CEO of BC Hydro, and the Governor of the Bank of Canada.

3. Financials

February financials were very good and the year looks to be on track. The Annual Audit was performed and results were aligned with what was presented to the Board in January.

**Motion to approve the financials as presented to the Board**

**Moved by: Al Hasham**

**Seconded: Carmen Charette**

**Carried**

Auditors report was presented to the Board. The Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee reported that the auditors were complimentary of The Chamber's financial processes and controls.

**Motion to approve the Audited statements as presented to the Board and to bring them forward to the membership at the AGM.**

**Moved by: Kris Wirk**

**Seconded: Mark Mawhinney**

**Carried**

An RFP for the Annual Audit has been sent out to appropriate Chamber members. Nine responses for the RFP have been received to date. The recommendation from staff will be presented to the Finance & Audit Committee at the next meeting and to the Board in May

4. CEO Remarks  
KPIs are on track in the first months of the year. Events continue strongly. Membership remains a focus both in terms of quantity and quality of members.
5. Governance Report  
There has been a request for an Island nominee for the board of the BC Chamber. A nomination was submitted for Al Hasham.
6. Policy Committee Report  
There were two recent presentations to the Policy committee, Mayor Atwell representing Saanich and Christina Clarke representing the Songhees Nation. Mayor Atwell talked about some of the challenges with the current CRD governance as municipalities grow and the efficiencies in regional use of programs such as the newly improved Saanich Emergency Service. In addition he was able to discuss the steps that Saanich and Victoria have taken in regards to amalgamation including their application to the Ministry for a Citizen’s Assembly on Amalgamation. In late April, The Chamber will present in support of the Citizen’s Assembly and Saanich Emergency Service being utilized locally to Saanich council. Christina Clarke was able to provide a clear picture of the challenges faced by the Songhees Nation. In particular housing is an issue, their land base is only capable of housing half their population and property expansion is needed. Work is under way to maximize their economic opportunities as the next decade is one of change under the Indian Act.
7. Policies for the BC Chamber  
In 2017 ten policies were presented at BC Chamber and adopted. This year we will focus on existing policies that need updating and supporting key policies championed by other chambers. The CEO and Chair will attend the BC Chamber AGM.
8. Process of Accepting New Committee Members on Policy committee  
The Chamber offers members a number of opportunities to engage through committee work. In order to provide this prospect universally, The Chamber will put out a Call of Interest in September/October for the coming year’s committees. The Chair & Vice-Chair of those committees will then review and accept/reject those applications for the following year’s committee. This process will be adapted for us for the other committee application forms.  
As part of the process, the optimum size of the committee will be reviewed along with the term for individual members. Committee work is often a gateway to applying and joining the board. Governance to finalize review and recommendations for each committee to integrate this into their terms of reference.
9. Priority Business Challenge  
The Chamber has been working to change the structure for the Employers Health Tax and will continue to shine a light on the issues for and impact on the business community. The goal is to ensure the province hears the voice of business on this. A meeting will be requested with the province. This will be a key issue that The Chamber will remain highly vocal on.
10. Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 29, 2018.  
Motion to adjourn  
**Moved by Rahim Khudabix**  
**Seconded by John Wilson**  
**Carried**

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**Secretary**

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**Chair**

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**Date**