

Attended: Ann Squires-Ferguson, Bruce Williams, Christina Clarke, Dean Clarke, Frumsa Ibrahim, James Gatsi, Jessica Stigant, John Wilson, Josue Dubon, Judith Ethier, Captain (Navy) Kevin Whiteside, Kris Wirk, Pedro Marquez, Rose Arsenault, Richard Michaels, Ashley McCartie (staff), Julia Banks (staff).

Regrets: Deborah Huelscher

We gathered in the ancestral lands of the Lək̓ʷungen speaking peoples who have been the stewards of these lands for thousands of years.

Motion to approve the agenda.

MOVED by Pedro Marquez

SECONDED by Dean Clarke

CARRIED

Motion to approve the minutes from the previous Board meeting.

MOVED by Pedro Marquez

SECONDED by Ann Squires-Ferguson

CARRIED

1. CEO report

- a. CEO provided updates on events. Leading to Election Series with Eby, Falcon, Rustad, have been successful. Hosting Furstenau in September to ensure we are giving equal access to all official parties. Well received and leaders answered our questions directly. Leadership race is quite tight right now. Greens could be the swing vote. Received a lot of media across a variety of outlets on these events. We are hosting an Indigenous Business Mixer June 25th at Salish Seaside RV Haven in conjunction with IPC and the IBD.
- b. Engagement with stakeholders
 - i. Habitat for Humanity is not getting the support they need and are having challenges and are concerned about viability. Moved one Restore location in 2023. Would like to connect them with government so that they can be seen as part of the housing solution.
 - ii. Port Angeles trip will be rescheduled
 - iii. SIPP is still looking for a CEO and we will look to do more to work with them in future years and develop a strong relationship with
 - iv. DVBA AGM was held recently
 - v. Victoria Francophone Society, making connections with the Base and other community organizations
 - vi. Belleville Terminal – steamship terminal is going well, temp terminal up in July. Clipper slip is moving. Wharf modification starts this summer and will be impacting the community with noise.
 - vii. Vital Signs consultation is under way with the Victoria Foundation
 - viii. Meeting with RBC shortly for Hall of Fame
 - ix. Restaurant awards last night – Courtney Room was named top restaurant in Victoria.
- c. BCCE Conference was great to connect with other Chamber executives. Offered an opportunity to discuss common challenges facing BC Chambers, share our initiatives around DEI, member code of conduct and Indigenous reconciliation.

- d. BC Chamber AGM was very challenging. They seem to be in financial trouble and are not communicating well with their membership. Board Chair is unhappy with the current culture. Chambers Plan partner change was cancelled the night before the AGM.
 - e. Canadian Chamber has asked us to submit a Host Proposal for the 2026 AGM. We have met with them to discuss commitment and responsibilities. We would host 1 social evening and provide local suggestions for the rest of the conference.
 - f. The City of Victoria reached out about our plans to move our office. CEO communicated our reasons for moving and will be meeting with them next week to discuss.
 - g. New website is about 25% over budget for the website design. Will discuss further in the planning session.
 - h. New to Canada Program 4th sponsor has been confirmed as the Victoria Foundation
 - i. Fontana California Chamber is coming to Victoria for their annual retreat at the beginning of August and have invited us to meet with them.
2. Executive & Governance Committee (no meeting in June)
- a. [Board nominations are now open](#). The Board has 5 seats available and 6 Board members reaching the end of their terms. Anticipate that 1 of the 6 will run for 2025-2026. Those not running are stepping back for a variety of reasons. New Board members bring new perspectives, energy, and new life and members are stepping down to allow others to step in and lead the way. Discussion around potential members to encourage to run. Voting is weighted based on business side.
 - b. All other committee reports taking place during planning session

Motion to move in camera.

MOVED by Josue Dubon

SECONDED by Jessica Stigant

CARRIED

Motion to move out of in camera.

MOVED by Kris Wirk

SECONDED by Dean Clarke

CARRIED

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED by Josue Dubon

SECONDED by Ann Squires-Ferguson

CARRIED

Secretary

Chair

Mid-year presentation to the Board by Chamber Staff and Committees.

Next Board Meeting – September 24, 7:30am – 9:30am