

# The Annual General Meeting of The Children's Bridge

November 11, 2006

*In attendance at The Verity Club in downtown Toronto, Ontario:* Rick Kenny, Gail Carruthers, Lianne Thompson, Loyde Henriques, Katharine Parsons, Richard Norman, Arnold Park, Young Lee, Jennifer Rodman, Paul Thompson, Calum Massarella, Maryann Madore, Nick Paonessa, Marjorie Cullen, Martha Maslen, and Kate Maslen.

*Via teleconference:* None.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM

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## 1) **Introductions**

Rick introduced himself, the board and Martha Maslen to members in attendance.

## 2) **Minutes**

Motion moved by Lianne Thompson  
*To accept the minutes of the 2005 AGM as presented*

Seconded – Nick Paonessa  
Carried unanimously.

## 3) **President's Report**

Posted to the CB website and distributed at the AGM (attached). Service improvements and future planning were the two main issues over the last year (in addition to regular operations).

Rick thanked all the members, staff and volunteers for their involvement with CB and thanked the membership for allowing him to serve.

## 4) **Treasurer's Report**

Financial statements and highlights were provided at the AGM (and are available from the CB office by hard copy). Loyde Henriques explained the statements and asked for questions.

### Appointment of Auditors

Loyde explained that he intends to put the audit out to tender in the coming year in order to secure the most cost-effective contract for auditing service. After this explanation he made the following motion.

A motion moved by Loyde Henriques  
*That the selection of auditors for the 06-07 year be delegated to the Board.*

Seconded – Young Lee  
Carried unanimously.

## 5) Executive Director's Report

Started last year in a good position with lots of optimism (China booming, Vietnam to open, etc.). Then China announced increased delays to time of referral (too many families, not enough children), Vietnam continued to be delayed in opening, recent changes in Korea resulting in fewer adoptions from that program. This seems to be the trend that will continue in some of the main programs with which CB works.

CB will continue to explore and open new programs and services (i.e. looking at Africa programs). We are very well regarded internationally. The future road is going to be good but may be a bumpy one.

## 6) Election Report

For the first time, CB members were able to vote electronically for the Board directors and we had an 8% return (132 votes) which is a huge increase based on previous years of in-person voting. Thanks to Nick Paonessa for setting up the process and administering it so well.

We had 5 candidates apply for the 3 available positions – our sincere thanks to all those who applied. Three new directors were elected: Calum Massarella, Jennifer Rodman and Paul Thompson.

Motion moved by Gail Carruthers

*To close the election for the 2006 CB Board directors, and that the election ballots be destroyed.*

Seconded – Richard Norman  
Carried unanimously.

Motion moved by Richard Norman

*For Nick Paonessa to pull the client identifier from the votes for the 2006 Board directors to create a generic, non-identifying demographic report, prior to the destruction of the ballots.*

Seconded – Katharine Parsons  
Carried unanimously.

(Nick Paonessa clarified that only non-identifying information is ever provided to the Board from any electronic surveys or votes.)

## 7) Questions from Members

More questions on the reduction/slow down of China adoptions. There was some discussion on possible reasons. Future timeframes and changes to the current programs are debatable at the moment.

Question about whether there has been any reaction to previously communicated request to not specify gender in adoption. This has not been enforced, but only suggested.

The issue was raised as to whether there should be policies set by CB that would allow it to screen out certain family applicants from adopting through CB (due to certain issues such as – perhaps - criminal backgrounds, medical or health issues). Discussion followed that this is a difficult area to set/enforce due to difficulties in fairly assessing the situations and various legal issues. Governance committee of the CB Board can look at this whole area in more detail. Some concerns expressed about considering such a screening process – the time, the expense, etc. Where would this fall into CBs and its Board's priorities.

Any news on Vietnam? Not a lot yet – it's a much smaller program than China so wait times will likely lengthen sooner rather than later and Vietnam will never be a predictable program - but the files currently in process are moving along.

**9) Adjournment**

A motion moved by Rick Kenny  
*To adjourn the meeting at 3:35 pm*

Seconded by Richard Norman  
Carried unanimously.

Director

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Director

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