

Food Secure Canada / Réseau pour une alimentation durable
Annual General Meeting Minutes
 16 November 2014 * Marriott Harbourfront, Halifax
[Online documentation](#)

| Item | Discussion | Action |
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| Call to order | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric Chaurette, Board Chair, chaired the meeting and introduced FSC officers • Importance of Assembly as forum for ideas and the change strategies discussion this afternoon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to order 0840 |
| Appointment of minute taker | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathleen Gibson, Secretary, is prepared to take minutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathleen Gibson appointed |
| Notice of meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed on 10 October to meet requirements of bylaws | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| Establishment of quorum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 members present at start of meeting • 30 voting individual members and 16 voting organizational members by end of meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum established |
| Voting procedure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric explained the organization's consensus process • This meeting will approve our Articles of Continuance and revised Bylaws, which must be done by a vote | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| Adoption of agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No amendments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M David Askew, S Jen Pfenning: adopt agenda as circulated CARRIED |
| Adoption of minutes of 27 November 2013 Annual General Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Jordan Nikoloyuk, S David Askew: adopt minutes as circulated CARRIED |
| Chair's report | <p>Eric Chaurette reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Assembly in Eastern Canada • Conscious integration of food justice, fisheries, and 2015 election issues • Acknowledgement of the local organizing committee: Patty Williams, Satya Ramen, Marla MacLeod and Jordan Nikoloyuk • We have come a long way since 2011, continuing to develop along the lines of that strategic plan • We are advancing those priorities and the key objectives of the People's Food Policy through the networks animated by our staff: Amanda - Children and Food Network; Abra - Local and Sustainable Food Network; Jennifer - Institutional Procurement; and Joseph - Northern and Remote Food • Julie makes FSC visible to the public in our bilingual communications, and Diana Bronson leads our organization with passion and intelligence • Current challenge is financial sustainability • Last year we reincorporated and moved from a 25-person Steering Committee to an 11-person Board. We have adopted financial and staff policies and have re-scoped the Board role | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FSC is nothing without its members – members are our strength and our voice | |
| Executive Director's report | <p>Diana Bronson reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privilege to work with the staff at FSC; endeavour is to build an equitable, healthy and sustainable workplace to mirror the goals of the organization <p><i>Last year's key activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have devoted much of the last year to fundraising and improving systems in a tough financial climate Northern Network – we are looking forward to working with Joseph; priorities include a food costing survey Local and Sustainable Network – has offered Business Boot Camp and several working groups on meat, fish, food hubs, municipal food Children and Food - has just formed a national Coalition for Healthy School Food Institutional Food Procurement Program – hoping to leverage some market power We maintained coordination of provincial networks, strengthened connections with our academic partners, and were able to revitalize our Indigenous Circle and to bring many First Nations participants here Our Youth Caucus with Sasha, Sarah and others has done great mobilization through Meal Exchange and similar programs Faris Ahmed represents FSC at the Committee on World Food Security in Rome and coordinates the North American Civil Society Mechanism We did some advocacy this year around northern food security, Bill C-18 on seeds (supporting the National Farmers' Union), support for other campaigns We supported USC Canada's efforts at the Committee on World Food Security, especially around Canada blocking references to free, prior and informed consent in the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment <p><i>Results of member survey</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About a third of our current members have been members for more than five years Respondents confirmed our strategic priorities; they want FSC to be active federally and continue to provide national networking, information hub and advocacy National food policy is the most important issue People are interested in more research and monitoring of policy issues and government debates There is strong support for our non-profit non-charitable status Most feel that fees are reasonable Piggybacking and building synergy with other organizations is a great strategy, for example ACORN brought almost 300 farmers into FSC's orbit in Halifax Enormous gratitude to supporting organizations that give far above and beyond dues, e.g. FoodShare, UNIFOR, USC Canada, FarmStart, Inter Pares, Toronto Food Policy Council, Vancouver Food Bank Society, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |

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| | <p>Community Food Centres Canada and many more</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement of our funders, including McConnell Foundation, Industry Canada, Quebec en forme, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council <p><i>2014 Assembly</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing this Assembly has been a huge undertaking – amazing work by our local partners – Lucia and Satya managed to deliver local, organic, sustainably produced food We had larger fundraising goals for the Assembly than we were able to realize, but our members came through <p><i>Call to action</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think about what you can volunteer that we might need, e.g. writing, communications skills, venues, food – so we can conserve precious resources for our mandate | |
| Treasurer's report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tatiana Fraser reported on finances for the past, current and next financial years (see next three sections) | See materials online |
| Financial statements for fiscal year 1 September 2012 through 31 August 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tatiana Fraser presented the 2012-13 audited financial statements on screen The accumulated surplus is about \$26K and the hope is that this will grow Deferred revenues move to the next year Questions were raised about where staff salaries are reported (under HR) Some participants said they would find it helpful to see all expenses and revenues on one page Others asked whether we could show the financials according to project and activity: this is done for our budget, but not in the audited statements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M Susan Roberts, S Sasha McNicoll: that the audited financial statements of Food Secure Canada, for the year ending Aug 31st 2013 audited by Dagenais, Lapierre, Simard et Associé, be accepted by the membership of Food Secure Canada <p>CARRIED</p> |
| Revenue/ expense summary for 2013-14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tatiana Fraser presented the 2013-14 revenue/ expense summary Significant growth over the previous year Small deficit of \$7,584 that we worked hard to zero out | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |
| Budget for fiscal year 1 September 2014 through 31 August 2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tatiana Fraser presented the projected budget for 2014-15 Again significant growth and zero-based Note that the Assembly is a significant part of the budget Pie charts show revenue sources for past year and current year – note reduction of reliance on foundations Will be working harder on financial strategy this year Targeting increase in membership revenue <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the documents were sent to members and placed on FSC's website We are working on our value statement for members Internships are paid Question about the pie chart that shows increase in government funding for next year and slide says reduce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the goal is to shift over time to a different type and blend of revenue streams • Although the % may be going down, the amounts are going up because the budget is getting bigger • To date FSC has received corporate donations from Aramark and Sobey's; VIA Rail gave us two tickets | |
| Auditor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint auditors for 2014-15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Lauren Baker, S Tatiana Fraser: that the membership of Food Secure Canada appoint the firm of Dagenais, Lapierre, Simard et Associé, SENCRL as auditors for the Sept 1st 2014 to Aug 31st 2015 fiscal year CARRIED |
| Board of Directors | <p>Lauren Baker, Chair of the Nominations Committee, reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members were Lauren Baker, Diana Bronson, and Aart Schuurman Hess • Board members are nominated and then elected by the membership • The Nominations Committee guides the process and presents a slate that reflects the requirements for Board diversity, expertise and location • Board members who are stepping down and whose term is completed include Lauren Baker, Eric Chaurette, Norma Kassi, and Jordan Nikoloyuk • Board members who are returning include Sarah Archibald, David Askew, Tatiana Fraser, Kathleen Gibson, Aart Schuurman Hess, Mandy Melnyk and Utcha Sawyers • New and returning nominees include Elisabeth Abergel, Eric Chaurette, Raquel Koenig and Lucia Stephen • About 60 people voted online • Participant question about indigenous and farmer representation - Mandy Melnyk (farmer) and Raquel Koenig (indigenous) fill these roles; also, Norma Kassi has offered to advise as required • Departing Board members were thanked for their service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Lauren Baker, Holly Solomon: approve slate as presented CARRIED • M Jordan Nikoloyuk, S Marie-Josée Mascotte: that Elisabeth Abergel, Sarah Archibald, David Askew, Eric Chaurette, Tatiana Fraser, Kathleen Gibson, Raquel Koenig, Mandy Melnyk, Utcha Sawyers, Aart Schuurman Hess, and Lucia Stephen be elected as the Board of Food Secure Canada for the coming year CARRIED unanimously |
| Adjourn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question about plan to expand membership – how is FSC consulting with current members about how to grow FSC? Will be doing another survey of individual and potential members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Kathleen Charpentier: adjourn meeting CARRIED • Meeting adjourned 0945 |