

## **RPNF Annual General Meeting Minutes (APPROVED)**

**May 27, 2025, at 12:00 CDT / 11:00 CST / 10:00 PDT**

**Present:** Bev Gradidge (President); Danah Bellehumeur, Anna Helewka (recorder)  
Matthew Parreñas, Renee Robinson, Yvonne Savard, Chelsea Van Aert, Marycia Kruk

**Guests:** Bonny Wynnobel, Marlene Fitzsimmons, Marcus Hammond, Lisa Steele

**Regrets:** Arlene MacLennan, Dana Naismith, Patsy Searle, Megan Daniels

### **1. Call to Order.**

- Bev Gradidge (President) called the meeting to order at 12:12 CDT /11:12 MDT/ 10:12 PDT and welcomed everyone.

### **2. Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes from May 27, 2024.**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes from the May, 27, 2024 AGM as circulated.

**Yvonne Savard / Danah Bellehumeur**

**Carried**

- No additions to the meeting agenda.

### **3. President's Report.**

- Bev provided the President's report.
- Discussed and reviewed the RPNF's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) philosophy statement.
- Discussion of current the Board structure, including representation from the Western provinces.
- Reviewed the RPNF scholarships and grants, noting that applications were down this year.
  - RPNF Scholarship and Grant presentations were a success.
  - Brandon University Foundation provided the RPNF Bursary, as per its usual protocols.
- Reviewed the (Manitoba) Awards of Excellence, noting that there were 3 recipients this year -
  - 2 for Clinical and 1 for Research.
- In keeping with leading practice principles, we have been putting a lot of effort into social media promotion.
  - Big thank you to Mallory Schmitz and Dana Naismith for the social media work.
- Fundraising events: 50/50, Art Auction. Expanded our reach for these events to a different audience. Thanks to the directors for the promotion of the events.
  - Goal is to increase our capital and provide additional scholarships and grants.
- Big thanks to the House of Silver for the production of the medals for the RPNF Medals of Excellence provided to the highest performing graduating BScPN students in each of the Brandon University campuses.
- Bev thanked the group of directors for their work on the foundation's activities.
  - The strategic plan is now complete.
  - A lot of committee work was done in the past year.
- We were fortunate to have several contributing volunteers throughout the year.

***RPNF Vision: Fostering Excellence & Celebrating Successes in Registered Psychiatric Nursing (RPN)  
Practice in Canada***



Thank you to the Board of Directors and the following volunteers!!

Angela MacDonald	Jennifer Adair
Marg Synyshyn	Alexandria Baluta
Amy Martyniuk,	Dave Cook
Mackinlee Brisban	Lisa Steele

#### 4. Review/approval of Audited Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2024.

- Chelsea Van Aert, (treasurer) presented the 2024 RPNF Financial Statements as audited by Dean Jenkyns, CPA, followed by the motion to accept the statements.
- It was noted that donations increased in 2024.

**Motion:** To accept the 2024 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

**Chelsea Van Aert / Anna Helewka** **Carried**

#### 5. Appointing an Auditor for the year 2025.

- As treasurer, Chelsea made the motion to appoint the auditor for the upcoming year.

**Motion:** To appoint Jenkyn Smith CPA as the RPNF's auditor for the 2025-2026 year.

**Chelsea Van Aert / Danah Bellhumeur** **Carried**

#### 6. Director Elections

The following individuals are departing from the RPNF Board. Bev, along with the group, extended sincere gratitude for their dedication and contributions throughout their tenure on the Board.

- **Dana Naismith**  
Since joining the group in 2018, Dana has effectively promoted the foundation by developing communication tools and increasing awareness of our mission and activities. Dana has also assisted with social media work, managing Instagram posts.
- **Mallory Schmitz**  
Mallory has served on the board since 2016, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to the foundation. Her tenure reflects dedication to the organization's goals, policy development and ongoing activities, contributing to the board's collective efforts over the years. She has also chaired the RPNF Awards Committee and acted as liaison to the Board for the 100 Years of Psychiatric Nursing in Canada Conference Committee, as well as managing the RPNF's social media.
- **Danah Bellehumeur**  
Danah has been on the Board since 2020. She brought with her, extensive experience in policy, particularly in financial matters and successfully having managed our accounts on two occasions. She also recruited two directors for the Board. Danah led the development and ongoing revision of the strategic plan and was the originator (and donated to) the RPNF Indigenous Studies Grant. Additionally, she is known for demonstrating a commitment to accountability by thoughtfully addressing challenging questions (asks the hard questions that need to be asked).

***RPNF Vision: Fostering Excellence & Celebrating Successes in Registered Psychiatric Nursing (RPN) Practice in Canada***



Due to the departure of the above individuals at the end of their terms as well as Marg Synyshyn (Vice President) in late 2023, the Vice President position and three Director positions were open for nominations. The following nominations were brought forward:

- **Vice-President:**

Matthew Parreñas was nominated and agreed to stand for election to this position.

- **Remaining three Director positions:**

- Megan Daniels was nominated and agreed to stand for election to a Director position (SK).
- Marcus Hammond was nominated and agreed to stand for election to a Director position (AB).
- Patsy Searle was nominated and agreed to stand for election (MB).

Bev invited nominations from the floor; however, no nominations were put forward.

**The proposed slate for nominations was as follows:**

Bev Gradidge (President)	Dr. Renee Robinson
Matthew Parrenas (incoming Vice President)	Marycia Kruk (legal research)
Chelsea Van Aert (Treasurer)	Marcus Hammond (incoming Director)
Arlene MacLennan (Secretary)	Patsy Searle (incoming Director)
Yvonne Savard (to shadow executive roles)	Megan Daniels (incoming Director)
Anna Helewka	(Vacant) Marketing & Promotions Director
Bonny Wynnobel (Past President)	

**Motion:** That the slate of RPNF Officers and Directors be elected as outlined as the 2025- 2026 RPNF Board of Directors.

**Yvonne Savard / Anna Helewka**

**Carried**

7.8. **Adjournment** at 12:55 CDT/ 11:55 MDT/ 10:55 PDT

***RPNF Vision: Fostering Excellence & Celebrating Successes in Registered Psychiatric Nursing (RPN)  
Practice in Canada***