



Marking a Century of Women's Suffrage  
Commémorer un siècle du droit de vote des femmes

*e*qual voice  
*ve* À voix égales

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## Equal Voice's Annual Meeting of Members April 8th 2017

### *Minutes*

#### **1. Meeting called to order at 1:22PM**

#### **2. Roll Call of Participating Equal Voice Chapters:**

- British Columbia
- Alberta South
- Alberta North
- Manitoba
- Yukon
- Toronto
- Ottawa
- Quebec
- Nova Scotia
- New Brunswick

#### **3. Adoption of 2016 minutes**

Moved: Amy Kishek

Seconded: Michelle D.

Motion carried.

#### **4. Chair's Report - Lynne Hamilton**

- Lynne highlighted the key successes from Equal Voice's historic and ambitious Daughters of the Vote (DoV), including generating significant revenue for the program through private donors, Canadian Heritage, and Status of Women Canada. It is likely that we made a very modest profit on DOV. EV's fiscal position is significantly improved from last year.
- Huge achievement for Executive Director Nancy Peckford and the core team of 5 DoV staff plus many dedicated volunteers.
- Because of the intensive nature of DoV, audited statements are not ready to review today but we expect to have another meeting to review the financials before the next regularly scheduled AMM

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- On a move forward basis, we are focusing on the mission of getting more women elected. Our aim is to maintain good relations with all prospective candidates across party lines.
- A reminder to EV board members : if you run for office, you have to step down from the EV board. Two former chapter chairs are now serving in elected office.
- EV has seen significant growth in its membership. EV seeks to ensure there are chapters in every province and territory across Canada.

**Discussion:**

- New chapter policy is still under review of the board. EV has significantly improved its financial management practices with the transition to Number Crunch, the accounting firm. In certain cases, chapters have closed their bank accounts to comply with new bylaws.
- New funding from systemic change initiative structure will enable some funds to be dedicated to regionally focused staff and to increase national office's capacity. EV seeks to revitalize its committee structure so that we ensure that the work is shared among many talented people given limited resources. Folks who get elected to EV board need to be ready to not simply hold a title but work hard. Also, just a reminder, you don't need a title to do the work.
- Equal Voice recognizes that corporate partnerships are also key. EV expects to hold a fundraising dinner in next 6 – 12 months to raise significant additional dollars. Need to maintain/increase staff capacity to continue to capitalize on emerging opportunities. Mandate is too important not to do this.

**5. Motion to appoint Welch LLP as Equal Voice's public accountant for Y2016-17**

Moved: Scott W Thurlow  
 Seconded: Anne Clarke

**Discussion:**

Lynne Hamilton indicated that Equal Voice transitioned to Welch LLP for its audit of FY2014-15 at the recommendation of Susan Richards, CEO of Number Crunch who currently oversees EV's bookkeeping. EV is very satisfied with the results. They were able to recognize approximately \$60K in deferred revenue for the last audit. Last two audits have been very efficient.

Motion carried.

**6. Executive Director's Report -Nancy Peckford**

- Obviously, DOV took a tremendous amount of energy and resources, but we are very pleased with the result. EV began a conversation last June with SWC about additional support to undertake a "legacy" project going forward to continue to engage DoV delegates. In February 2017, the Minister approved a two year grant to



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support networking and capacity building to assist delegates and other young women to become better intervenors for political change.

- EV's Systemic changes initiative: Equal Voice will receive \$1M from Status of Women Canada between 2017 – 2020 to pursue an impactful systemic change in 9 legislatures across the country. Clearly, EV's activities in the last year convening DoV events in 11 legislatures has given us early insight into where there may be an appetite for change. EV Senior researcher Grace Lore has already completed a draft needs assessment based upon extensive research. Through this research, she has surveyed the legislative landscape to better understand best practices and innovations. While some regionally based organizations have also received funds from SWC to pursue systemic change, EV is regarded as the "sectoral lead".
- International engagements: EV has/will engage with with women in politics fora/networks in Morocco, Bolivia, Chilea and Sri Lanka in the last year. There is a huge opportunity to expand international presence, share expertise, develop insights and potentially generate revenue.

Discussion:

- ParlAmericas has approached Equal Voice about partnering on a proposal to Global Affairs Canada to advance a similar DoV model in parts of the Caribbean.
- Nancy was asked to list all of the DoV corporate partners, and other government funders.

## **7. Statement of Past Chair - Raylene Lang Dion**

## **8. Statement of candidates for Equal Voice Chapter Chair or At Large positions**

## **9. Chapter Chair Reports (Outgoing chairs/representatives only)**

- Toronto - Alanna Newman – Encouraged to see healthy competition for EV chapter chair positions. Daughters of the Vote & Girls Government obviously major preoccupations.
- EVNCR - Mary Anne Carter: Really proud of tthe expansion of chapter and its impact in the region. 'Skills to go' series very successful, as well as holiday events. Proud to leave a vibrant chapter with diverse steering committee.

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- Youth - Kyla Ronellenfitsch: Youth wing in better shape than ever. There is a growing number of campus chapters. Increased interest following DOV. A note to incoming board to keep the youth wing a priority. They're the future of the organization.
- Alberta North - Anne Gordon: Chapter has had a concerted focus on 2017 municipal elections. EV undertook presentations across city, and offered a campaign school series. Significant media attention. EVAN intends to report and compile research on our outcomes to EV National and related partners.

**10. Keynote speaker: Pam Goldsmith Jones, Member of Parliament**

**11. Presentation of thank you gift to Raylene Lang-Dion**

**12. Announcement of Election Results as tabulated by Simply Voting, EV's secure and confidential online voting system.**

**13. Motion to adjourn**

Moved by Evelyn xx.

Seconded by Amy Kishek.

Motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:12PM.**