



*Municipal Advisory Corporation Inc.*  
*La Corporation Consultative aux Municipalités Inc.*

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## **32ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

May 15th 2024 @ 11:30 a.m.  
New Maryland Community Centre

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER: President Chris Spear**

Chair, Chris Spear, CAO/Treasurer, Town of Saint Andrews, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. He welcomed everyone to the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Municipal Advisory Corporation, Inc. (MAC).

#### **(a) Introduction of 2023 – 2024 Board of Directors**

President Chris Spear introduced board members to the MAC membership. Board members present along with the President were: Vice-President Paul Lang, Executive Director Kent Regional Service Commission, and Gilles Legacy, CAO of Heron Bay. Absent were: Treasurer Scott Sparks, Village of New Maryland; Board members: Claudette MacLean, Corporate Analyst, Southwest Regional Service Commission, and Suzanne Coulombe, CAO, Town of Saint Quentin.

### **2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved** by Stephane Thorne, **seconded** by Serge Arsenault that the Agenda of the MAC AGM of May 15, 2024, be approved. **Motion Approved**

### **3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF June 7<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**It was moved** by Caroline LeBlanc **and seconded by** Gilles Legacy that the minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for 2022 be adopted as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

## **5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Chris Spear welcomed the membership and presented the following report:

Dear Members of the Municipal Advisory Corporation,

I would like to personally welcome you to the 2024 combined Education Day and Annual General Meeting. The board decided to combine the two meetings as some municipalities did not register for the AMANB-AAMNB Conference and the attendance tended to be sparse. It hopefully encourages more to come to the education component of the MAC as we strive to provide valuable information.

I am happy to report that membership increased after Local Government Reform. With newly formed municipalities plus new or expanded Councils, we were concerned that membership may decline. However, municipalities continue to see the benefits of working together in a larger cooperative which can buffer you from increases that can be 50% or higher outside the MAC, depending on their own experience. In 2024, the average increase was 5.84% within, but nation wide the annual increase was 7.5%. Good average increases we see are between 12 to 15% . Trends are up with all employers. One of the struggles we're currently facing is the cost of long-term disability benefits. We are seeing increased usage which is causing the insurer to lose money on this benefit. This is an industry wide problem as mental health illnesses have increased dramatically since the pandemic leading to longer absences.

To help attract and maintain good employees the board voted for the marketing benefits with the Blue Cross program. This allows employees to buy individual coverage at very competitive prices.

In today's mobile workforce, trying to keep key employees is both necessary and at the same time, a challenge. We struggle with varying compensation packages and benefits to be at least be competitive, if not be a leader in lowering employee turnover. We at the board, through the recommendation of our consultants, have increased mental wellness services through both Assumption and Homewood. In addition, we aim to maintain costs while providing this. However, in the MAC each of our member organizations can add more services, normally with an associated cost. That could be the difference between keeping an employee or not. Joel Drolet and Catherine LeBlanc would be happy to have discussions on how to increase the benefits within your plans to ensure you remain a desired employer.

The MAC continues to promote its annual Education Days as an opportunity to not only learn more about your corporation, but industry experts come in to discuss employer related trends. We typically only get a smaller portion of the member organizations attending, which is too bad because of the quality of the speakers. We will reach out after the conference with a survey to better gauge your thoughts on the quality of it and what additional information you would like to see.

I wish to acknowledge the other directors for their on-going support. I wish to thank Cheryl Emmerson for stepping in to serve on the board. I also need to thank Joel Drolet, Catherine LeBlanc and the team at Goguen Champlain. Finally, special gratitude for Brenda Knight, who despite playing nurse to Jim this year, managed to keep up with the responsibilities of her position.

Best wishes to all,  
Chris Spear, President

It was moved by Chris Spear and seconded by Gilles Legacy that the President's report be approved. **MOTION CARRIED**

**6. New Business**

**(a) Motion to Amend the Policies of the Municipal Advisory Corporation**

It was moved by Heather Moffatt and seconded by Stephanie Thorne,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: A portion of Section 3 of the Municipal Advisory Corporation Inc. "Policy Manual" be amended to add the following:

**3. Members**

*"Any incorporated municipality or municipal agency, committee or commission, incorporated or otherwise may be a member of the Corporation upon application. The employee/s of the Association of Municipal Administrators of New Brunswick (A.M.A.N.B.) may be a member upon application. The Directors may approve policy governing the eligibility and acceptance of members. Members may be subject to sign a "Non-Compete Agreement" attached as Annex "A".*

*The term "non-compete" shall mean that the signatory shall not directly or indirectly compete with the Corporation by serving as an agent, employee or consultant to any firm or entity substantially engaged in a business similar or competitive to the business of the Municipal Advisory Corporation in the Province of New Brunswick.* **MOTION CARRIED**

**AUDITORS' REPORT - 2023**

**(a) Auditor's Report**

The draft audited Financial Statements for the Municipal Advisory Corporation, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2023 as prepared by the firm of Bringloe Feeney LLP, were circulated to the members for approval. Chris Spear-President, reviewed the draft independent Auditor's Report with the membership.

It was moved by Chris Spear and seconded by Lynn Landry Caissie that the Auditor's Report for the Draft Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, as prepared by Bringloe Feeney LLP, be adopted as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED**

**(b) Appointment of Auditor for 2024**

**It was moved by** Caroline LeBlanc and **seconded by** Serge Arsenault that the accounting firm of Bringloe Feeney LLP, be appointed as auditor of the Municipal Advisory Corporation, Inc. for the 2024 fiscal year. **MOTION CARRIE**

**7. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Nominations for 2022-2023**

Paul Lang, Vice-President, was invited to present the Nominations for 2023-2024

Moved by Stephanie Thorne and by Sandra Kelly that the nominations begin.

Chris Spear, Town of Saint Andrews  
Suzanne Coulombe, Town of Saint-Quentin  
Paul Lang, Kent Regional Service Commission  
Claudette McLean, Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission  
Scott Sparks, Village of New Maryland  
Cheryl Emmerson, Town of Quispamsis  
Gille Legacy, Town of Dalhousie

Paul Lang asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor. As there were no further nominations, the following motion was passed:

**It was moved by** Serge Arsenault **and seconded by** Heather Moffett that the nominations cease.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, **on motion by** Caroline LeBlanc that the MAC AGM meeting of May 15, 2024 be adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Knight, Secretary  
MUNICIPAL ADVISORY CORPORATION, INC.