Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of the Association of New Brunswick Massage Therapists, Inc., held on 3 May 2025 at the Crowne Plaza-Lord Beaverbrook, Fredericton, NB

Total number of eligible voting members as of May 3, 2025: 735
Total number of eligible voting members attending the 2024 AGM: 32
Total number of proxies received from incumbent members for the 2023 AGM: 3
Total number of eligible voting members present and by proxy: 35
Quorum required twenty (20) voting members: Quorum confirmed.

Executive members present:
- Christine Léger, Chair
- Darcy Chiasson, Chair-Elect (Interim)
- Tom Peppard, Secretary-Treasurer

Regional Directors present:
- Samantha Estey, Zone 1 (Moncton/Southeast)
- Tamara Teakles, Zone 3 (Fredericton/River Valley)
- Martine Hudon, Zone 4 (Madawaska/North-West)
- Tiffany Matchett, Zone 7 (Miramichi)

Executive members not present:
- N/A

Regional Directors not present:
- Carla O'Donnell, Zone 2 (Fundy Shore/Saint John)

Executive Director's Office:
- Coralie Hopkins, Executive Director

Guests:
- No guests present.

1. **Call to Order**

Christine Léger, Chair, called the Annual General meeting to order at 10:24am on Saturday, May 3, 2025.

The option was given to provide information in either official language, English, or French. No one requested explanations to be provided in French. The option was also provided to ask questions and be provided answers in either language.

2. Establish Quorum

As of May 3, 2025, the organization had a total of 735 eligible voting members. At the AGM, 33 eligible voting members attended in person, with an additional 3 proxies received from an incumbent member, bringing the total to 35 members present either physically or by proxy. The quorum requirement of twenty voting members was easily met, confirming a quorum for the meeting.

> 6.10 QUORUM FOR AGMS AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS
> A quorum shall be twenty (20) Voting Members.
>
> 2.1.21 "Voting Member" means only Practising Members who are in good standing with the Association and with the College and have been in good standing for at least thirty (30) days immediately prior to a General Meeting may vote on all matters requiring same at General Meetings.

3. Word of Acknowledgment of Indigenous Nations

Christine Léger, Chair, read aloud the word of acknowledgement of Indigenous nations.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda, as presented, was made by Stephanie Mead.
Motion was seconded by Lindsey Fraser.
Discussion: there was no discussion.
Motion to approve the agenda, as presented, was voted on and approved by eligible voting members. Motion carried.

5. Reading, correction, and approval of Minutes from the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Motion to approve the 2023 AGM Minutes, as presented, was made by: Tiffany Matchett.
Motion was seconded by Jo-Ann Hache.
Discussion: there was no discussion.
Corrections: There were no errors or omissions.
Motion to approve the 2023 Minutes was voted on and approved by eligible voting members. Motion carried.

6. Executive and Committee Reports

a. Chair Report

Motion to receive the report, as presented, was made by Tamara Teakles.
Motion was seconded by Michele Arseneault.

Motion to approve the report, as presented, was made by Darcy Chiasson.
Motion was seconded by Katherine Hoblyn.
Discussion: there was no discussion.
Motion to approve the Chair report was voted on and approved by eligible voting members. Motion carried.

b. Executive Director Report

Motion to receive the report, as presented, was made by Tiffany Matchett.
Motion was seconded by Tamara Teakles.

Motion to approve the report, as presented, was made by France Champagne.
Motion was seconded by Stephanie Mead.
Discussion: there was no discussion.
Motion to approve the Executive Director report was voted on and approved by eligible voting members. Motion carried.

c. Assault Prevention and Education (APEC) Committee Report

Motion to receive the report, as presented, was made by Katherine Hoblyn.
Motion was seconded by Martine Hudon.

During the AGM meeting, Christine Léger expressed her gratitude to Darcy Chiasson, the committee Chair, and all the committee members (Tom Peppard, Hali Lewis, Carla O'Donnell, Tamara Teakles, Roberte Richard, and Lacey Tompkins). She emphasized the importance of having such a dedicated and knowledgeable committee, highlighting the valuable guidance they provide to our members.

Motion to approve the report, as presented, was made by Samantha Estey.
Motion was seconded by Lindsey Fraser.
Discussion: there was no discussion.
Motion to approve the APEC report was voted on and approved by eligible voting members. Motion carried.

d. Board Governance Advisory (BGAC) Committee Report

Motion to receive the report, as presented, was made by Katherine Hoblyn.
Motion was seconded by Darcy Chiasson.

During the approval of the BGAC report, Christine Léger, Board Chair, extended heartfelt gratitude to Matt Wills and the other committee members (Victoria Allen, Stephanie Mead, and Coralie Hopkins) for their dedicated service on this vital committee. Their collective experience and oversight were acknowledged as invaluable assets that assisted the Board of Directors in effectively governing the Association. On behalf of the Board, their strong commitment to the ANBMT was sincerely appreciated.

Motion to approve the report, as presented, was made by Stephanie Mead.
Motion was seconded by Anna Grant.
Discussion: there was no discussion.
Motion to approve the BGAC report was voted on and approved by eligible voting members. Motion carried.

e. Course Report

Motion to receive the report, as presented, was made by Jennifer Séguin.
Motion was seconded by Kayla Guy-Hessen.

Motion to approve the report, as presented, was made by Jo-Ann Hache.
Motion was seconded by Tamara Teakles.
Discussion: there was no discussion.
Motion to approve the course report was voted on and approved by eligible voting members. Motion carried.

f. Financial Year-End Review Report (Grant Thornton)

Motion to receive the report, as presented, was made by Samantha Estey.
Motion was seconded by Erika Steeves.

Motion to approve the report, as presented, was made by Jo-Ann Hache.
Motion was seconded by Martine Hudon.
Discussion: there was no discussion.
Motion to approve the Financial Review report was voted on and approved by eligible voting members. Motion carried.

g. Mentorship Committee report

Motion to receive the report, as presented, was made by Michele Arseneault.
Motion was seconded by Lindsey Fraser.

During the approval of the Mentorship Committee report, Christine Léger, Board Chair, expressed appreciation to Kimberly for her commitment to this committee. The work of the committee was recognized as providing invaluable support to members who sought guidance, support, or mentorship as they progressed in their professional careers. Members were encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to be paired with a seasoned peer mentor to gain valuable insights and experiences.

Motion to approve the report, as presented, was made by Stephanie Mead.
Motion was seconded by Jo-Ann Hache.
Discussion: there was some discussion.
During the discussion on the mentorship committee report, Christie Dennison raised the question of whether information about the mentorship program was presented during massage therapy education program presentations. She also inquired about its availability to new members. Coralie Hopkins confirmed that details about the program are included in the member guide and on the website. Samantha Estey suggested that regional directors could further promote this information to members within their zones. Darcy Chiasson then inquired about additional communication methods, leading to suggestions such as providing a calendar of events, referencing relevant books, utilizing social media platforms, and leveraging regional zone groups to enhance member engagement.

Motion to approve the Mentorship Committee report was voted on and approved by eligible voting members. Motion carried.

7. New Business

Christine Léger cited Bylaw 5.4.8, clarifying that nominations from the floor are not allowed during the AGM and must be submitted at least 15 days prior to the meeting.

h. Elections for the following positions:

During the meeting, Christine Léger announced that she would be to stepping down as Chair after serving two consecutive terms totaling four years. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity and the pleasure she had in leading the Association. Christine conveyed her full confidence in the new Board's ability to carry out their responsibilities for the benefit of all members. She acknowledged the privilege and honor of collaborating with Coralie, emphasizing her wholehearted dedication to the Association. In addition, Christine extended her thanks to the board and executive team for their dedication and hard work, highlighting the enjoyable and productive moments they shared together.

Position of Chair
Darcy Chiasson was nominated to the position of Chair.
Darcy accepted the nomination.
The number of nominees for the position equalled the number of vacancies. There were sufficient nominees for the position of Chair; no further nominations were submitted as of the deadline 15 days prior to the AGM.
Darcy was elected by acclamation to serve as Chair.
Congratulations, Darcy, on your continued role within the organization!

Darcy, expressed his gratitude to outgoing Chair Christine Léger for her dedicated service. Darcy specifically noted the significant impact Christine had on advancing the massage therapy profession in New Brunswick and transforming the culture of the ANBMT alongside Coralie and the entire Board. He acknowledged the positive changes that had occurred under Christine's leadership and expressed his pleasure in assuming a well-established position within the association. Darcy concluded by extending his sincere thanks to Christine for her exceptional contributions.

During the meeting, Board Secretary Tom Peppard expressed his gratitude to Christine for her many years of dedicated service to the Association. He commended her as a steadfast supporter and volunteer for over a dozen years, acknowledging the challenges of her role. Tom highlighted Christine's efforts in modernizing the Association, emphasizing her strong team-building skills and exceptional recruitment abilities. He admired her leadership in bringing new members on board and creating a positive working environment. Tom noted Christine's talent for listening to others and skill in balancing various opinions within the association. He remarked that Christine is leaving the association in excellent shape for her successor, Darcy.

Position of Chair-Elect
Ashley Brzezicki was nominated to the position of Chair-Elect.
Ashley accepted the nomination for a position, even though she was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. In lieu of her presence, she provided a statement to be read aloud during the AGM.The number of nominees for the position equalled the number of vacancies. There were sufficient nominees for the position of Chair-Elect; no further nominations were submitted as of the deadline 15 days prior to the AGM.
Ashley was elected by acclamation to serve as Chair-Elect.
Congratulations, Ashley!

Regional Director Positions

Zone 1–Moncton/Southeast

Samantha Estey was nominated to the position of Regional Director, Zone 1-Moncton/Southeast.
Samantha accepted the nomination.
The number of nominees for the position equalled the number of vacancies. There were sufficient nominees for the position of Regional Director for Zone 1; no further nominations were submitted as of the deadline 15 days prior to the AGM.
Samantha was elected by acclamation to serve as Regional Director, Zone 1-Moncton/Southeast.
Congratulations, Samantha!

Zone 2–Fundy Shore/Saint John
Carla O'Donnell was nominated to the position of Regional Director, Zone 2-Fundy Shore/Saint John.
Carla accepted the nomination despite her inability to attend the AGM.

The number of nominees for the position equalled the number of vacancies. There were sufficient nominees for the position of Regional Director for Zone 2; no further nominations were submitted as of the deadline 15 days prior to the AGM.
Carla was elected by acclamation to serve as Regional Director, Zone 2-Fundy Shore/Saint John.
Congratulations, Carla!

Zone 3–Fredericton/River Valley

Stephanie Mead was nominated to the position of Regional Director, Zone 3-Fredericton/River Valley.
Stephanie accepted the nomination.
The number of nominees for the position equalled the number of vacancies. There were sufficient nominees for the position of Regional Director for Zone 3; no further nominations were submitted as of the deadline 15 days prior to the AGM.
Stephanie was elected by acclamation to serve as Regional Director, Zone 3-Fredericton/River Valley.
Congratulations, Stephanie!

Zone 4–Madawaska/Northwest

Martine Hudon was nominated to the position of Regional Director, Zone 4-Madawaska/Northwest.
Martine accepted the nomination.
The number of nominees for the position equalled the number of vacancies. There were sufficient nominees for the position of Regional Director for Zone 4; no further nominations were submitted as of the deadline 15 days prior to the AGM.
Martine was elected by acclamation to serve as Regional Director, Zone 4-Madawaska/Northwest.
Congratulations, Martine!

Vacant Positions

During the meeting, Christine highlighted the vacancies in two ANBMT zones: Zone 5, Restigouche, and Zone, Bathurst, and the Acadian Peninsula. She encouraged members from these regions to consider taking on these roles. Christine emphasized that serving on the Board is a rewarding way to contribute to the profession, earn CEUs, and receive volunteer credit for ANBMT-sponsored courses.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

1. **Propose revising the eligibility criteria for Life Member status by incorporating a specific age threshold, in conjunction with the years of service requirement. This change would also involve transferring the criteria from the Bylaw to the Policies and Procedures manual. The revised criteria entail accumulating a minimum of *20 years of service and attaining the age of 60* to achieve Life Member status.**

   Note: Existing Life Members (43) will retain their status, and there will be no changes to their current standing.

   The current Bylaw pertaining to Life Member eligibility is as follows:

   Current

   4.1.6.3 To become a Life Member, an individual shall:

- a) have been a member of the Association for at least twenty (20) years;
- b) be a Registered Massage Therapist;
- c) be a current member in good standing of the Association and College;
- d) be a Practising Member; and
- e) complete a Life Member application.

Amendment

4.1.6.3: To qualify as a Life Member, individuals must meet the specified requirements outlined in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

Motion to approve the proposed Bylaw amendment, as presented, was made by Lindsey Fraser.
Motion was seconded by Darcy Chiasson.
Discussion: there was some discussion.
During the AGM meeting, Mychka Champagne raised a question regarding the proposed Bylaw amendment concerning the qualifications for Life Membership, specifically referencing the need to meet requirements outlined in the Policy and Procedures Manual, which she was unable to locate. Coralie explained that the full policy for Life Membership would soon be added to the website and the policies document after undergoing a comprehensive revision by the graphic designer. This information can be accessed on the webpage designated for life membership, and the exact wording of the proposed amendment would be integrated into the policy for clarity. Further inquiries were made by Mychka regarding the Board's authority to modify the policy without members' approval. Coralie confirmed this, but assured attendees that, due to the recent implementation of an age threshold, there is no current need for changes to the life membership criteria, ensuring stability and sustainability moving forward. She expressed confidence in the established criteria remaining unchanged. Discussion shifted towards the decision-making process behind introducing the age threshold requirement, with Coralie referencing a detailed rationale presented in the accompanying addendum distributed with the meeting agenda. The idea of removing the 20-year requirement in favour of solely the 60-year threshold was deliberated, but Coralie emphasized the importance of acknowledging members' long-term commitment and support to the Association as a significant aspect of Life Membership criteria. Lastly, the topic of potentially lowering the age threshold was addressed, with Coralie advising against this action to maintain a balance between significance and attainability for all members over time.

Motion to approve the Life Member eligibility criteria by incorporating the age threshold in conjunction with the years of service requirement was voted on and approved by eligible voting members. Motion carried.

2. **Proposal to amend the Bylaw 6.1.2 to reduce the number of mandatory Board meetings from 6 per year to 4 per year.**

   The current Bylaw pertaining to mandatory Board meetings is as follows:

   Current

   *6.1.2 The **Board of Directors** shall hold such meetings no less than six (6) times per calendar year.*

   Amendment

   *6.1.2 The **Board of Directors** shall hold such meetings no less than four (4) times per calendar year.*

Motion to approve the proposed Bylaw amendment, as presented, was made by France Champagne.
Motion was seconded by Katherine Hoblyn.
Discussion: there was some discussion.
Darcy Chiasson highlighted during the discussion that the proposed Bylaw amendment specifies a minimum of four meetings, providing flexibility to adjust and hold more meetings if required in the future. Christine added to the point by noting that in addition to the Board meetings, the Executive Committee also convenes separately. This arrangement ensures that both the Board and the Executive Committee have structured opportunities for collaboration and decision-making.

i. Announce date and location for the 2025 AGM.

Discussion: there was some discussion.
Christine Léger announced that the next Annual General Meeting is scheduled for May 2026. The specific date and location will be disclosed at a later time and posted on the website under the AGM section for easy access.

*6.4.1 **Annual General Meetings** shall be held at least in every fiscal year and not later than fourteen (14) months after the holding of the preceding **Annual General Meeting**.*

8. Adjournment

All items on the agenda were covered.
Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anna Grant.
Motion was seconded by Tiffany Matchett.
Discussion: there was no discussion.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was voted on by eligible voting members. Motion carried.
The meeting was declared adjourned at **11:36am**.

Approved by Board of Directors (signed)

Chair, Darcy Chiasson: