

AGM Minutes

March 22, 2022



Produced by: Priscilla Griffin, Office Manager
Date: April 8, 2022

Opening of Annual General Meeting

Master of Ceremonies: Hugh Maynard

Mr. Maynard opened the meeting

Approval of date for General Meeting - Shannon Keats, Executive Assistant

Motion 1

WHEREAS, the Coasters Association's by-laws stipulate that the auditor's report must be completed and approved by the board of directors before being presented to the annual general meeting within three (3) to six (6) months after the end of the fiscal year (March 31st);

WHEREAS, the auditor's report was only completed and approved by the board of directors at the March 2022 meeting (6 months late) due to the difficulties in completing documentation within the six-month period under the current pandemic circumstances;

ON A MOTION duly proposed by Johanne Beaudoin and seconded by Tony Roberts the members of the annual general meeting of the Coasters Association approves of the date of Tuesday, March 22nd, 2022, to hold the 27th General Meeting and 33rd Anniversary, and agrees to receive the 2020-2021 audited financial statements for the purposes of review and approval at the 27th Annual General Meeting and 33rd Anniversary of the Coasters Association. All in favor

Opening Prayer – Shannon Keats, Executive Assistant

Let us pray,

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for this day and for all those who are joining at this time to complete tasks and conduct matters of business that are deemed necessary to accomplish! We give thanks for the wisdom, talents, vision, abilities, and time given to help us make decisions for the benefit of the Lower North Shore! All these gifts you have generously given to us and only you know what will be fulfilled at this time. There is a season for every project, and nothing is ever done in vain. Strengthen our confidence and give us courage, especially in the days and months ahead as we continue to move onward despite the challenges we face daily. Bless this meeting today, all who are present via Zoom or teleconference and also those who are unable to join in! Lord, please ensure that this meeting is successful no matter the outcome and we ask that you bless all participants especially our board and staff as we continue to strive for wisdom, guidance, courage and strength. Amen

Introduction of Guests

Priscilla Griffin, Office Manager & Shannon Keats, Executive Assistant introduced guest on and off the Lower North Shore. Seventy-nine (79) participants (**See annex 1- participants list**)

Opening Remarks - Eileen Schofield, President, Coasters Association

Ms. Schofield welcomed participants to the Coasters 27th Annual General Meeting and the 33rd Anniversary. She noted that she is always impressed with individual attendance to the AGM, and that it is nice to see so many faces and hear so many voices in these challenging times. She went on to thank friends and partners for supporting the Coasters Association. She thanked the staff for their hard work and noted that they will be sharing projects and initiatives over the next few hours. She also thanked the Board for their on-going support to the Coasters Association's mission.

Words from the Prefet - Gladys Martin, Municipality of St. Augustine

Ms. Martin expressed thanks for being invited to address the participants of the meeting. She noted that the Coasters Association is an important entity in the region and the name in itself speaks volumes, Coasters. The Coasters are strong adaptable people and are always there to assist and help anyone. Throughout the many years the Coasters Association has lobbied on behalf of the residents as a voice to be heard, people to be seen and acknowledged. The organization, under the leadership of Cornella, has opened many doors for the coast and we trust this will continue. Thanks to the strong team that makes up the Coaster Association.

Words from the MNA - Lorraine Richard

She was sorry that she could not make the presentation in English. She offered her congratulations on the 33rd anniversary of the organization and noted that the Coasters good work could be seen everywhere, and that the organization does extraordinary things for the region. She went on to say that whatever Coasters requires, she is an ally and is there to support, anytime. She apologized for not being able to stay longer, wished everyone a good meeting and said "Bravo!" for everything the Coasters does "In your great region which is our great region!"

Message from the MP for Manicouagan- Marilène Gill (Via-Video)

Ms. Gill wanted to take the time to welcome all to the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Coasters Association and to congratulate them on their 33rd anniversary. She expressed that she holds the communities of the Lower North Shore very near and dear to her heart. The resilience and compassion demonstrated by the people of the coast is inspiring to all. Her visit to the coast last summer showed her again, not only how beautiful the coast is, but also how strong the spirit of community lives with each and every one of the villages. The work the Coasters do is necessary for the success of the beautiful communities and is admired by all. She wished everyone a great general assembly".

Special Guest speaker: William Floch, (replaced Christopher Skeet) , Secrétaire adjoint, Ministère du Conseil exécutif, Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise

Mr. Floch noted that he has a history with the Coasters Association dating back to the days when he was a teacher and principal on the Lower North Shore. At that time, he became aware of the situation and the challenges that face the citizens of the Lower North Shore. He noted that many things have progressed since the beginning of the Coasters to the organization it is today. The situation and the challenges have changed over time, and he is intrigued to see the work that the Coasters are undertaking, and how the organization is positioning itself to serve the population of the LNS. Given the vastness of their mandate and the activities they are involved in, he felt that it was a wise idea to look at how they work across the communities of the LNS and how they serve the population. He was happy to see the process and look forward to seeing the results

He noted that the secretariat is a young organization, just a little over four (4) years, and along the way have acquired funding resources. It is having an impact, but an organization, like the Coasters, that provides a way to invest into the communities, without them the impact would be much less. He also expressed that it is important that the regional organizations across Quebec, Coasters being an example, and the provincial organizations like CHSSN, QCGN, and CEDEC, continue to work together to ensure the vitality and the wellbeing of the English-speaking communities. At the secretariat they are a small team and can't be in every region, thus their approach is to work with organizations, such as the Coasters and CEDEC, Educaloi, etc... The secretariat is pleased to have this kind of relationship with the regional and provincial organizations. It is the best way to reach communities.

He congratulated the Coasters on all the amazing work that they do and offered his best wishes for the future and a successful AGM.

Business Meeting (March 22nd, 2022)

Chair - *Hugh Maynard*

Secretary of Meeting – *Priscilla Griffin*

Mr. Maynard called the meeting to order. The meeting opened at 9:15 am

Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2:

It was proposed by Juel Chouinard and seconded by Katie Roberts,

THAT the agenda of the Business meeting of the Coasters Association's Annual General meeting of Tuesday, March 22nd, 2022, be approved. All in favor

Motion Carried

Approval of Annual General Meeting minutes (February 23rd, 2021) – (*Minutes on file*)

MOTION 3:

It was proposed by Juel Chouinard and seconded by Dale Keats,

THAT the Coasters Association Annual General Meeting minutes of February 23rd, 2021, be approved. All in favor

Motion Carried

Business Arising

There were no questions or comments.

Approval of Annual Report (2020-2021)

Cornella Maurice, Priscilla Griffin and Shannon Keats gave a summary of the Executive Director's Annual report. (*Report on file*)

MOTION 4:

It was proposed by Honlee Etheridge and seconded by Tony Roberts.

THAT the Annual Report (2020-2021) of the Coasters Association be approved. All in favor

Motion Carried

Follow-up to report (2019 – 2020)

The follow-up to the report was summarized by the Executive Director and staff. *(Report on file)*

Questions & Answer Period

There were no questions or comments.

Approval of Auditor’s report (April 2020 – March 2021)

The auditor could not participate in the Annual General Meeting, therefore, he recommended that James Buckle, Director of Finance read the Auditor’s Report.

MOTION 5:

It was proposed by Tony Roberts and seconded by Juel Chouinard,

THAT the Auditor’s Report (March 31, 2021) of the Coasters Association be approved. All in favor

Motion Carried

Questions & Answer period

There were no questions regarding the Auditor’s report.

Approval of Restructuring Plan *(Plan on file)*

MOTION 6:

It was proposed by Eileen Schofield and seconded by Gladys Martin,

THAT the draft restructuring plan of the Coasters Association be approved. All in favor

Motion Carried

Approval of Board of Directors (2022-2024)

MOTION 7:

It was proposed by Katie Roberts and seconded by Shelley Fequet,

THAT the 2022-2024 board of Director be approved. All in favor

Motion Carried

No items under Varia

Business meeting closed at 10:21 am

Challenges and Opportunities across Quebec

David Birnbaum, MNA D'Arcy McGee & Official Opposition Critic of English-speaking Quebecers, Mental Health, Canadian Intergovernmental Relations and Canadian Francophone

Mr. Birnbaum expressed his gratitude at the opportunity to speak today and renew his relationship with the Coasters. He stated that he's been working with the Coasters for the better part of 30 years, and he was blown away with the quality of work that the Coasters Association does. Mr. Birnbaum was very excited to share his experiences with the participants regarding the Coast and the Coasters. He went on to state that the Coasters have been vigilant in their programming and support in serving the Lower North Shore and is amazed at how much they have accomplished to date.

He went on to say that the Coasters and the Lower North Shore should continue to advocate for its residents to ensure they have the best possible services, and he and his colleagues are available at any time to provide assistance, support and facilitation whenever needed.

He stated that his job is to be accountable for the estimated one million English-speaking population. A great deal of his time in the last few months has been focused on Bill 96 and trying to get to the heart of it and ensure the rights to English language services are protected. He stated that he also is focusing on the importance of mental health, prevention and outreach. Every indicator shows that things have worsened since the pandemic mostly especially, so emphasis must be put on making programs and services regarding mental health a priority. He expressed that he is always available to support any project applications or funding requests regarding mental health. Mr. Birnbaum finished his speech by thanking the Coasters Association for the opportunity to speak and the next time it will hopefully be in person.

Expanding the Social and Economic Growth of the LNS

Wellness Center Division

Presentation by members of the wellness center team (Kayla Kippen, Chelsey Thomas, & Latesha Fequet

(See annex 2- PowerPoint)

Mission:

- To improve the vitality, health and wellbeing of youth, seniors, families and communities on the Lower North Shore.

Wellness Center Goals

- To provide services and support relating to the nine pillars of health and wellness for youth, seniors, families and communities
- To increase community engagement
- To promote healthy and sustainable communities on the Lower North Shore
- To encourage inclusive social development

Types of activities:

- Health Prevention and Promotion initiatives
- Programs and services for youth, families, and seniors.
- Share information, procedures, or resources regarding health care, financial and legal services, etc.
- Support extra-regional services (Sharon & Steve)
- Investigate systemic challenges with the well-being of health indicators, government policies, etc.
- Advocate for economic and social change
- Research funding opportunities
- Represent the LNS on regional, provincial, national, and international round tables.

The Wellness Center is a place where people can connect with programs, services, and information to support them on their path to health and wellness, enabling them to live a well-rounded lifestyle.

Family Services - Little Coasters in Muddy Boots (LCMB) Program

Project Overview:

- Currently taking place in each community, through a mixture of in-person animation and activity packages prepared by the animators
- New private group on Facebook for all the families in our program which include promotions of projects, current information from our organization and tons of valuable activities ideas to promote quality family time, health and safety

Successes:

- 82 children registered in the LCMB program, which is a 65% participation rate for age 0-5
- Contact has been made with the Ministère de la Famille

Challenges:

- Securing long term funding, not just for programming but also the coordination and back-end sectors, such as finance
- Staffing in all communities, such as those in the West Sector

Priorities/Goals for 2022:

1. To establish a Maison de Famille de la Basse Côte Nord
2. 70% participation rate

Seniors Programming - Seniors Wellness Center (SWC)

Program Overview:

- Community-run program that aim to maintain and improve the health and well-being of seniors, increase access to knowledge of health and social services, and decrease social isolation through purposeful and informed programming.

Successes:

- Strong partnerships: Our partners have been there for us and great at supporting the program when it comes to infrastructure, funding, training for staff, all around it is the biggest success.
- Great response from many of our events i.e., Christmas activity, Walk for Wellness, Veterans Day
- Internal training for staff to build their capacity and evolve given the new circumstances of in-person animation.

Challenges:

- Covid 19 both for the organization and communities, tough to navigate and understand how we were going to proceed. We saw there was a need in the communities, but it was tough to mobilize and find ways of really reach them safety and effectively
- In-person animation had to be adjusted many times
- Getting seniors involved is always hard so we have to work on our partnerships in the communities and innovative ways to get them involved.
- Human resources in staff i.e., turnover rate. The hours are limited, we aren't serving the communities on these limited hours, and staff don't always stick around for only 12.5 hours a week.

Priorities/Goals for 2022:

1. Diversifying programming to encourage more inclusion
2. Secure long term sustainable funding
3. Increase animation hours, we are not currently serving the communities with the hours we have
4. Regional initiatives to bring all seniors across the Coast together
5. A get together will all animators across the Coast in 2022-2023

Youth Initiatives - Basse-Côte-Nord Youth Hub

Project Overview:

In January of 2021 we had the opportunity to apply for funding from the Secretariat a la Jeunesse under their infrastructure fund that focuses on vulnerable youth. Through that opportunity a vision for a Lower North Shore Youth Hub was born. A space that will welcome youth 14-35, that focuses on mental health and well-being, entrepreneurship, technology, innovation and education and training. The space will have the most up to date technology, allowing our youth to connect with other youth all over the LNS and eventually having satellite youth hubs in each community.

Successes:

Partnerships: MRC, CSSL, CISSS, Steel River Group, CEDEC, Municipality of Bonne-Esperance

Challenges:

1. The project was not accepted for both applications that were submitted under the Infrastructure Fund with the Secretariat a la Jeunesse.
2. The number of youths it will serve in our region, versus in a more urban center such as Montreal is vastly different, however, the need is extremely high here because we do not have any recreation centers for youth.

Priorities/Goals for 2022:

1. The project was submitted to the Société du Plan Nord. We are really hoping for a positive response. If not, we will continue to explore possibilities for this project. The youth have expressed a need for this, so we have to find a way to secure the funds to support their personal and professional development.
2. Continue to advocate for youth initiatives and programming across the region. Again, the need is there, we must continue to push to get opportunities for all youth in the region.

Place aux Jeunes

Program Overview:

Place aux Jeunes was established on the Lower North Shore 2 years ago. The program aims to attract and retain youth ages 18-35. The program offers support to people looking for employment in the region, and any/all support they may need when moving such as; housing, childcare, etc. We also offer exploratory stays to individuals or groups that are interested in the region and want to visit before making the final decision. We cover the cost of meals, activities and accommodations for the exploratory stays.

Successes:

1. Working with the Cote-Nord agents and the new regional coordinator to increase numbers for the entire Cote-Nord and action plan together.
2. Partnerships with Steel River Group, the Regional Development Network, CEDEC, CSSL, MRC
3. 6 Migrations since we started.

Challenges:

1. Lack of housing
2. Lack of recreation for youth, adults & families
3. Transportation costs

Priorities/Goals for 2022:

1. Work closely with the Cote-Nord team
2. Increase migrations numbers

3. Increase exploratory stay numbers
4. Improve quality of life for youth on the Lower North Shore

Youth Mental Health Initiative

Project Overview:

The Coasters Association had the opportunity to apply for funding from the CHSSN in July for Youth Mental Health. The project was accepted and began in September of 2021 until March 2022, for \$15,000. The activities in the project consisted of:

- Distribute a survey in partnership with CHSSN for 18-29
- Create a survey for 15-17 and partner with the CSSL to distribute
- Begin draft of needs assessment
- Meet with local service providers to gather information on services for the population and gaps in service (CISSS, CSSL)

Successes:

1. A reasonable number of participants of the Youth Pulse Check Survey
2. Partnerships with the CISSS and CSSL
3. Engagement from youth

Challenges:

1. Limited services for youth in the region
2. Lack of funding to make the program a full-time position
3. Needs are high for mental health support and human resource is limited

Priorities/Goals for 2022:

1. Find funding for full-time position
2. Keep working with service providers to create a better link with youth
3. Engage more youth in activities and events

Wellness Center Goals Overall

- Sustainability of the programs (long term funding, expanding partnerships)
- Expanding programs to meet the needs to the communities (including more family and adult programming)

Northern Research Center

Presentation by members of Katie Roberts, Mason Organ & Shelley Fequet **(See annex 3 - PowerPoint)**

The team provided a rundown of the presentation - introduction of presenters, an overview of the NRC as a division, and the key actions and the priorities for 2022

- The NRC has three pillars economic development, social development and r&d

- The NRC’s mission is to facilitate and conduct economic, social and scientific research and act as a hub of northern knowledge. We aim to synchronize knowledge from all fields of science to implement change, innovation and growth in all of the communities on the LNS.
- Our vision is a future where the LNS is recognized for being an innovative, healthy, competitive and prosperous region

5 Goals:

1. Bring together natural, human health and social sciences in northern arctic regions
2. Become a hub for scientific activity to enhance the knowledge of northern natural resources
3. Support and strengthen the diversification of economic and social development of QC’s northern region
4. Foster current and future generations of students, trainees and early career researchers to help ensure their success
5. Collaborate with various groups, such as indigenous, northerners, non-profits, government and private sector to exchange knowledge to develop sustainable economic and social development

Importance of a Team

The NRC team consists of Katie Roberts, Mason Organ, Honlee Etheridge, Leah Monger, Samantha Tinkham, Hailey Jones, as well as other staff that supports the NRC team on a daily basis - besides general administration, we have Kayla Kippen - Director of operations and innovation, Chelsey Thomas - Director of Youth and development, Shelley Fequet - Director of community development and mobilization, Kimberly Buffitt - Director of Engagement and Development and Latesha Fequet our Place aux Jeunes migration agent. With a strong team, all things are possible.

Economic Development

- The NRC is working on economic development from many avenues, one of which is our Business Incubation Acceleration Program.
- Define business incubation acceleration program

Success

- it's been incredibly successful working with nearly 30 business since inception

Challenges:

- Recently, COVID stalling many businesses’ abilities to buy BIAP services, also putting their operations at a standstill
- internally we struggle to secure both long term funding for business support workers on the BiaP team as well as in our internal structure for administration and human resources positions

Priorities:

- Our goals moving forward to provide more support to industries of tourism and culture because at the NRC we want to be there supporting every industry the entrepreneur and SME is in.

Social Development:

- Lifelong learning & career development, which is inspiring a passion in youth and adults about opportunities on the LNS, through internships, trainings and connecting resources
- By networking and meeting with organization and institutions on and off the territory the NRC is able to build the bridge needed for the population to access more available resources that were unknown or underutilized because of the barriers of distance, isolation and language.

Successes:

- Our Numerous Internships
- Continued to build and improve on our positive experiences with partners
- Interview key people in villages along the coast to create a bank of videos

Challenges:

- COVID stalling, unable to travel to reach people
- Consistency in Human Resources, find more long term oriented and sustainable funding moving forward.

Priorities:

- Continue to capture and extend the culture and lifestyle of the coast by making it an all-around attractive place to live and work.

Research and Development:

- Under the research and development arm the Northern Research Center completed applied research (feasibility studies, research projects, ingredients formulas and identifying new opportunities for growth)

Successes:

- Housing Assessment in TALB, on the status, need and demand for housing in the community.
- New setup of the lab in Bonne Esperance, to better equip to do more testing research and production locally on the territory.
- Collaborations with partners grow the Resources of the NRC to support this world class research

Challenges:

- find and fund suitable and long-term human resource employees, both in R&D but also in administration and finance as well.

Priorities:

- focus on finding the right partners and funders in our four main industries of science: environmental science, engineering, marine science and biochemistry.

Increasing Government Relations:

- Thanks to funding from SREAQ, through ERCC, CA has been able to prioritize building relationships with government department – important for many reasons.
- With support from MAMH, CA had the opportunity to present itself to the members of the C.A.R.
- Collected and translated action plan of government departments members of C.A.R.
- To date, met with MAPAQ, MEI and Plan Nord to share concerns and priorities identified during the 2020 Coastal Summit.
- Applications submitted to Plan Nord and MEI.
- Recent meeting with Minister of Tourism – follow-up meeting in spring.
- Reaching back out to municipalities, community groups and non-profits to update current priorities and challenges

Project applications:

- There has been a total of eleven (11) projects applied to grow the Northern Research Center in the last fiscal year, totaling close to 3/4 of a million dollars.
- We have had the opportunity to host four (4) different internships/student jobs and hope to grow that number in the coming year.

Katie noted that she will be going on maternity leave as of March 31, 2022, and Mason Organ will be replacing her as interim Director of NRC. She also noted that the NRC team will be in good hands with Mason leading them. She will be returning to join the team again on March 20, 2023.

Strategic Growth of the Organization

Presentation by Hugh Maynard, Kimberly Buffitt & Roderick Fequet (See annex 4- PowerPoint)

The team presented the restructuring process taken by the Coasters Association and the “Growing up” concept

- Now approaching the scale of a mid-sized business
- Diversification of activities
- More employees
- More programs and services
- More infrastructures

Eight areas of Restructuring, Challenges & Opportunities

Coasters Association's Growth and Change - The first priority areas identified for restructuring were:

- Organizational Structure
- Human Resources
- Operational Policies and Procedures

Organizational Structure and the three (3) Divisions

- 1) The Coasters Association
Governance and leadership, Management and Operations
- 2) The Wellness Center
Access to Health and Social Services
Programs and support services for Seniors
Youth and Family
- 3) Northern Research Center
Economic Development (Business incubator and Acceleration program)
Research and Development
Social Development (Training, development models, collaboration)

The following are KEY areas of restructuring

Organizational Structure, Human Resources, Communication Management, Financial Management, Materials and Infrastructures, Risk management, Evaluation Management, Stakeholder Engagement, and Project Management.

Steps to date:

A multi year process that was started at the base consultations were held with the:

- Community
- local leadership
- partners
- board
- staff

Various planning and implementation frameworks, tools, policies and procedures, and action plans have been developed and are being implemented as we move through the process

Organizational Structure

- Board of Directors governance and oversight
- Two divisions established
- Management expansion
- Staff organization with integration of roles and responsibilities under the new structure
- Policies and Procedures
- Satellite offices and main office development
- Remote work

Human Resource

- Human Resource staff person engaged
- Staff consultations through surveys and individual and team meetings
- Orientation manual created
- Employee Handbook & tools under development
- Policies under revision and development
- Training initiated and being expanded on
- Human Resource software acquired

- Benefits package being developed
- Addressing staff retention and succession planning
- Pay equity assessment
- Staff growth planning and future needs

Communication Management

- Communication plan developed
- G-suite integrated across team
- E-mail addresses created
- Rebranding of organization, programs and services
- Social media channels restructured and being expanded
- Newsletter revamped
- Website revamped
- Reorganization of communication within the organization and key staff put in charge

Financial Management

- Financial policy under development
- Increase in staffing in finance department
- Reorganization of management of assets
- Reorganization of human resource templates (i.e. time sheets, absenteeism, etc..)
- Agreement structure put in place for Northern Research Center division
- New software being built and purchased to manage increase staff and finance management

Material and Infrastructure

- Purchase of equipment and software for staff to properly carry out tasks
- Procurement systems being put in place
- Agreements with external partners for spaces being put in place
- Inventory system being put in place for materials
- Staff under training to be able to carry out technical support
- Budget management systems being put in place

Risk Management

- Covid Action Plan
- Operational Risk management
- Occupational health and safety
- Safety Plans for each satellite location and main office

Evaluation Management

- Gender based analysis (GBA) system under development and being put in place for all programs and services
- Event evaluation system being put in place
- Online attendance sheets being put in place for all programs and services
- Improving communication on reporting evaluation results to community

Stakeholder Engagement

- Data base management
- Stakeholder integration, communication and planning
- Defining roles and responsibilities within partnerships
- Partnership agreement development
- Managing stakeholder transitions and cessation

Project Management

- Project workplans
- Project management software purchased (WRIKE)
- Training underway on project management software
- Direction and management of work within the organization
- Developing integrated change control management within projects
- Improving systems of project reporting and or closing of project phases

Growing Up Challenges

- Improving governance
- Improving Operation
- Increasing Efficiencies
- Increasing Effectiveness
- Lack of funding for back-office support
(i.e finance, administration,
- Communication départements, etc..)

Growing up Opportunities

- Increased Leadership Role
- More Capacity
- More Depth
- More Jobs
- More Programs and Services
- More Development

Without the partnerships the restructuring activities would not be taking place. Thanks to Service Quebec, the anglophone secretariat, the ERCC funding and RDN-Human Resources.

Recommendations and/or remarks from participants - *Hugh Maynard*

Darlene Rowsell Roberts:

She expressed her thanks for the wonderful presentations. She noted that they were very professional and well done. She thanked everyone for all the work that they do for the Lower North Shore.

John Buck:

He expresses his pleasure at being apart of the Coasters Annual General Meeting and wished it could have been in person. Super impressive, well done, the presentations were amazing and the CEDEC is very pleased to be partnered with the CA and look forward to a bright year ahead.

Allan Richards:

Mr. Richards expressed greeting from CASA, he noted that as usual, he is impressed with the work that the Coasters do and the passion that is done with. He wished the Coasters a productive AGM and much success going forward.

Charles Taker:

He expressed his delight at seeing so many of the Coasters and as always, he is once again blown away by the quality and the quantity of the work done in the communities. He noted it is truly heartening to watch the Coasters grow and prosper in the community. The last few days he's been getting memory pop ups in Facebook and many of those are with Coasters. Long life to the Coasters as they go forward and continue to build better communities.

Caroline Fortier, Coordonnatrice Régionale, Place aux Jeunes

Ms. Fortier noted that she was honored to have been invited to the Coasters Annual General Meeting. She discovered that the organization is very large and covers a large area. She was very impressed and happy to know and to work with the Coasters Association, especially with Latesha on Place aux Jeune.

Vision for the Regions - *Cathy Brown, Executive Director, Regional Development Network*

Ms. Brown expressed her thanks at being invited and asked to present at the AGM. She extended her congratulations to the Coasters Association for another successful year on behalf of RDN and their Board of Directors. She noted that during her time as Executive Director of CASA, she understood the drive for growth and the needs of the communities.

She visited the region eight years ago and came back in the fall of 2021, and she was amazed at the growth of the organization during that time. She noted that the Coasters Association's ability to think out of the box makes things happen, with so many programs, partnerships and collaborations on and off the Coast, they have a lot to be proud of. She stated that she is very impressed with the number of youth who have returned to the Coast, and noted that the Coasters Association's recruitment efforts are paying off.

Ms. Brown noted that the Coasters Association was the first regional group to become a member of RDN in 2020. She noted that the organization is very supportive and the RDN is very grateful. She explained that the RDN's mandate is to support the Social Economic situation of the English-speaking regional organizations throughout Quebec and that they are financially supported by the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise.

Through the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise, they were able to sign a contribution agreement with the Coasters Association, which allowed them to be apart of the employability strategy. The objective of this strategy is to increase employability services to English speakers by building partnerships with existing services. RDN is looking forward to working with the Coasters on many files, such as Tourism, MAPAQ, Municipal affairs, etc. She stated that the RDN has many goals and hope to have the Coasters Association by their side throughout. She expressed her congratulations to the organization for all their amazing work.

Words from the Mayor - Dale Keats, Municipality of Bonne Esperance

Ms. Keats thanked the Coasters for a very interesting AGM and noted that it was a pleasure to participate. As mayor of Bonne Esperance, she appreciated being asked to say a few words. It is very evident that the Coasters is moving in the right direction when it comes to the revitalization and moving forward the vulnerable and isolated area, who continually face many challenges those other developed areas do not face. Even though things have moved forward, there is still a long way to go. The region still contends with the exorbitant cost of transportation; and still do not have completion of our famous Route 138 and at time less than ideal medical care.

She noted that it takes forever to get an appointment with a dentist or the eye team. An example, she had an appointment with the dentist for April 21st, 2020, which was cancelled due to Covid, two years later she is still waiting for an appointment. She checked with the dental office in Blanc Sablon, and was told that there is still no need to reschedule, she will get a call sometime. It may be this year or maybe not. It could be 2 years. There is a similar situation with the eye team. She had her name on a list for a couple years and have not been able to get an appointment. The team has been here several times but have not cleared up all the backlog of appointments. Of course, when we become mayor, we can't miss a chance to say a few words or get in a few complaints. Those are my complaints for this morning.

All the presentations and guest speakers this morning have been very enlightening with their information and comments. She commended the staff and leadership of the Coasters Association for all the advancements that have been made in the last few years and wished them all continued success in the future.

She recalled a meeting that she went to in St. Augustine in May or June of 1988. There were three of participants from St. Paul's River who attended. They travelled by charter and was one of the very first meetings she participated in. She noted that from that initial meeting in 1988 to the great organization there is today, has been an exciting ride indeed. She has been a member of the Coasters board of directors for many of the ensuing years and have seen the organization grow exponentially from two to three employees in the early nineties to more than thirty-five now and possibly as high as fifty in the summer months.

There is no doubt that the Coasters Association is a remarkably successful organization not only for the Municipality of Bonne Esperance, where the head office is located, but in every village along the beautiful coastline. The Lower North Shore has benefitted because of this organization. Many jobs have been created and families have moved home because of employment at the Coasters. She looks forward to this trend continuing far into the future. This is exactly what the Lower North Shore needs young families moving back to the territory with stable, well-paying employment. Once again, hats off to all the Coaster's staff and board of directors! Congratulations for work well done! Thank You!

Wrap-up – Hugh Maynard

Mr. Maynard noted that it has been an extremely robust participation and contribution from everyone during the AGM. Bravo! Another successful year despite the pandemic. Nevertheless, we have to keep pushing, one success has to lead on to something else. The Coasters are in the throws of restructuring, and it may not be exciting, but it is fundamental and a huge step forward which will not only expand the organization but further add to the organizations' development on the Lower North

Shore.

Mr. Maynard noted that Randy Jones suggested earlier in the meeting to take a moment of silence to mark the situation in Ukraine and to pray for the people who have died and for those who are continuing to struggle. A moment of silence was held.

Special Acknowledgements

Eileen Schofield: Goodbye Tension, Hello Pension - Happy Retirement Vincent

The **Coasters Association** is truly grateful for your contributions and efforts for the formation of the Lower North Shore Coalition for Health, and for the development and implementation of the Wellness and Northern Research Centre programs across the Lower North Shore. The numerous events, meetings and consultations you took part in were well beyond your working hours – *Eileen Schofield, President.*

We have been involved in some outstanding projects together. Although we didn't always agree, it would be impossible to overstate how valuable you have been to the Coasters team. Without your support the Lower North Shore wouldn't have all the wonderful things in place that we have today – *Cornella Maurice, Executive Director.*

We will miss your random drop ins to the Coasters office, to make sure we were working on the files that you wanted us to push forward, and all the lively discussions that were held when you were around the table. Your passion for our region and its people will never be forgotten – *Kimberly Buffitt, Director of Engagement and Development.*

"Like Moses who spent 40 years leading his people to the promised land. Vincent – since 1981, you spent 40 years making a difference on the coast, not only to our students, but to the communities" and for that we are forever grateful! *Cornella Maurice, Executive Director*

The Coasters Association have benefited from your expertise and continued support in fostering a positive working relationship among the many stakeholders of the Lower North Shore Coalition for Health, and beyond. Your persistence, inspired leadership and integrity were astonishing – *Eileen Schofield, President.*

"I've learned through my 33 years with the Coasters Association that people will forget what you say, people will forget what you do, but people will never forget how you made them feel, AND Vincent, you always made us feel proud" – *Cornella Maurice, Executive Director*

An outstanding milestone: Vincent - you built a foundation of inspiration and motivation on the Lower North Shore that has deeply touched us ALL. **THANK YOU** for your support and friendship, it is not a time to part ways, but to keep in touch! From the Staff and Board of Directors of the Coasters Association!

Congratulations to Philip Joycey (Kimberly Buffitt)

The Coasters Association has grown and become stronger due to your commitment to our mission, vision and values. You have been instrumental as a board member since 2019, representing the Centre de services scolaire du Littoral. You have been there for us whenever we called upon you. We are very proud of our joint undertakings, please know that we will always value our partnership.

Although you are not originally from our region you became a valuable community member that believed in our territory, and you have the lead the CSSL to be a stronger organization that is more present on the territory it services and for that we will be forever grateful.

Thank you for the amazing co-operation and support you have given us. You have set an example to be followed in the future and cherished by those who have been fortunate enough to have worked with you. Your absence will be missed. Happy Retirement from the board of directors and staff of the Coasters Association!

Board of Directors (Cornella Maurice)

We must extend a warm thank you to our board of directors, and to those who have served in the past, Garland Nadeau and Stella Bobbitt. We would like to welcome Kristopher Fequet who will be joining for the first time, and welcome back again Ghislaine Nadeau Monger. We have great confidence in your ability to do the work required of you. We extend our hand in congratulating you for all you have accomplished in the past two years and for all that you will achieve in the coming two years. Thank you.

Staff (Priscilla Griffin)

The long hours and the dedication of the staff are impressive, and we are very grateful for their dedication, commitment, and courageous spirit. They have touched so many lives. They are the backbone of all our achievements and for that we are very thankful.

We cannot close without thanking our Executive Director, Cornella Maurice, who has guided the Coasters Association since its inception, and her tenacity keeps things rolling and keeps us all on our toes. And as Alfred North Whitehead once said, "No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others". This is and always have been Cornella's moto, she always acknowledges her staff, her Board of Directors, her friends and her partners. Let us give Cornella and the Staff a well-deserved a round of applause.

Hugh Maynard (Shannon Keats)

Mr. Maynard, as per usual, an absolutely fantastic job as Master of Ceremonies, and also chairperson of the business meeting. We are very fortunate to have Hugh as part of our team, and this year marks his 30th year since his first visit to the Coast. He has played a major role in all of our accomplishments and successes, and for that, we are very thankful. He has always been there when we needed his guidance and support, ready to offer advice whenever we needed it. As staff, we are eternally grateful and look forward to many more years of friendship and growth. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, Hugh.

Closing Remarks (Eileen Schofield)

She noted that one of the most important and pleasant jobs to do is take the time to say thank you. Special thanks to Canadian Heritage, other government departments (federal, provincial, and local), to all the organizations, institutions and businesses who have contributed to the success of the Coasters Association, it could not have been done without them.

The Coasters success in largely is due to innovative thinking, after trying to fit the square peg into a round hole so many times, they have adapted the mold to fit the coast. It comes down to originality, creativity and passionate determination, and collaboration. Bringing new ideas for economic development and working together with partners such as the MRC, CSSL and the CISSSCN to name a few. Collaboration and partnerships allow the Coasters Association to develop, promote and provide programs to the population on the Lower North Shore.

The most important asset of the Coasters is the staff, under the direction of the Executive Director, Cornella Maurice, they work tirelessly for the English-speaking population, while always including the French and native population as well in this growth. Congratulations for all the successful endeavors and look forward to the coming year.

Eileen Schofield, President

Date

Priscilla Fequet Griffin, Secretary

Date