

Footprints Infertility & Pregnancy Loss Support Society S0078054

Annual General Meeting Summary – April 11, 2025

Meeting Overview

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Footprints Infertility & Pregnancy Loss Support Society was held on April 11, 2025, at 5463 Godfrey Road, Nanaimo, BC. A quorum was confirmed, and the meeting commenced at 5:56 PM. All motions presented were unanimously approved.

Financial Review

The 2025 Women of Influence Nanaimo (WIN) Gala successfully raised \$30,523 despite higher event expenses. A comprehensive financial report for 2023 and 2024 by Cross and Company Accounting was presented and approved by the board. The society plans to file the necessary CRA documents by September 2025 following the July 31 fiscal year-end.

Board Elections & Appointments

The following board appointments were confirmed for the 2025–2026 term:

- Cheryl Hunter – President
- Kimberly Thomas – Vice-President
- David Robb Hunter – Treasurer
- Christine Welch – Secretary
- Dr. Jennifer Kusz – Director

Lauren Clough was not re-elected to the board due to prolonged non-participation and failure to fulfill duties. A motion was passed to remove her as Treasurer and Director under Bylaw 2.4. David Robb Hunter was appointed Treasurer with signing authority.

Strategic Planning & Future Directions

The board discussed ongoing initiatives supporting individuals and families affected by infertility and pregnancy loss. Priorities include producing additional support bags, developing workplace pregnancy loss policies, expanding educational outreach, and securing multi-level government support. It was noted that the Women of Influence Nanaimo (WIN) Awards have evolved from a pilot project into a major regional initiative fostering gender equity, tourism, and local economic growth. The gala not only raises awareness but generates measurable economic spinoffs for the mid-Island region through travel, accommodation bookings, restaurants, shopping, downtown revitalization, and increased community engagement. The event has become a cornerstone for highlighting women's leadership, equity and inclusion with underrepresented groups, Arts & culture and advancing community-based economic development across Vancouver Island.

Leadership, Health & Sustainability

The board acknowledged the extensive workload involved in leading both Footprints and the WIN Awards, much of which falls to President Cheryl Hunter. They recognized that Cheryl continues to manage her leadership duties while navigating a chronic illness and disability. Her resilience and dedication were commended, and the board emphasized the importance of ensuring that organizational goals and timelines remain flexible and supportive of her health needs. The board agreed that sustainability—both personal and organizational—must remain a guiding principle as the society moves forward.

Future Planning & Event Strategy

Plans are underway for the third annual Women of Influence Nanaimo Awards in February 2026. The board will adjust sponsorship models and explore new grants to enhance long-term sustainability and community impact. They also noted that venue costs at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre are expected to rise significantly in 2026 due to extenuating circumstances that previously reduced expenses. As part of its ongoing evolution, the organization intends to strategically leverage the WIN Awards as a driver of tourism, inclusion, and local business visibility, while continuing to fund reproductive health and pregnancy loss support initiatives.

The board emphasized a balanced approach moving forward—maintaining high event quality while ensuring financial and operational sustainability. Collaboration with other nonprofits will be explored to strengthen capacity and continue advancing both the gender equity and reproductive health mandates.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM. All motions carried unanimously.