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SYNOPSIS OF THE MAY 31ST, 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following is a synopsis of the key items of business that were addressed during the Annual Meeting of Members (AGM) held on May 31st, 2025 at the Coast Nisku Inn and Conference Centre in the greater Edmonton area of Alberta. It was a hybrid meeting comprised of in-person and remote attendance via Zoom.

Please note that the proceedings shown below are paraphrased for the sake of brevity. In the event of dispute, the specific wording should be taken from the official minutes. The detailed minutes of the meeting will be formally approved at the next AGM.

The event opened at 12:00 p.m. MDT by welcoming the keynote speaker, Dr. Alison Skipper, Veterinary and Research Advisor for the Kennel Club. Dr. Skipper joined the meeting from the United Kingdom to speak about *“Why History Matters: The Story of Closed Breed Registers in Pedigree Dogs”*.

Following a refreshment break, the Master of Ceremonies Lee Anne Bateman, Director for Zone 10 – Alberta, Northwest Territories & Nunavut, called everyone back into the meeting and invited Sylvain Sirois, Director for Zone 3 – Quebec, to the podium. Sylvain delivered an acknowledgement that the meeting was being held on the traditional lands and territories of the Indigenous Peoples who have lived on these lands and taken care of them since time immemorial.

Corinne Walker, Chair of the Board and Director for Zone 8 – Manitoba, then called the 2025 AGM to order at 1:15 p.m. MDT for the transaction of business. She welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Introductions were made.

This was followed by a moment of silence honouring members who passed away since the previous AGM.

In introducing the minutes of the previous meeting, the Chair commented that for the first time in CKC’s history both in-person and online attendees were eligible to vote during the AGM. In the 2022 Referendum, CKC members voted to approve By-law amendments to allow for electronic voting at Annual General Meetings and this was approved by Agriculture Canada in 2024.

Following a pause to allow for members to vote, the **minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting were adopted** with no changes made.

There was no **correspondence** received for the meeting.

Before inviting the auditor to present the 2024 Audited Financial Report, the Chair acknowledged and thanked our Audit Committee comprised of three Chartered Professional Accountants who are CKC members who volunteer their time. That Committee works throughout the year to assist the Board in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities by acting in an advisory capacity in areas of financial development, assessment of control environment, review of the financials, and appointment of the external auditor.

The **2024 Audited Financial Statements** were the presented by the independent auditor, Marcus Sconci, CPA. CA., Partner, BDO Canada LLP. BDO provided a clean audit with an unmodified opinion that the financial statements fairly presented the CKC's financial performance during the 2024 fiscal year. The highlights were:

- The CKC ended 2024 with a strong cash and liquid investment position of \$3,613,160.
- Total 2024 revenue was \$7,085,788 versus \$7,613,707 in 2023 and the total 2024 expenses were \$7,253,723 versus \$7,501,486 in 2023. The year ended with a deficiency of \$167,935, compared to a surplus of \$112,221 in 2023. The main reasons for the decline in revenue were a 15% in registrations and a 3% decrease in membership over the previous year.
- Total net assets decreased by \$167,935 in 2024, due to the current year deficiency.

In the Chair's report, Corinne Walker remarked that 2024 was the start of a new three-year term of the Board of Directors. She continued by stating, *"I was extremely pleased with the overwhelming application response we received for committees and councils. The value of our volunteers and their commitment to our sport is immeasurable. Our members come a variety of backgrounds, each bringing their own life experiences whether in business or within the fancy. This knowledge base is supporting our programs, working with the event councils and committees.*

Some of the new services that are now being accessed by members include an educational component available through the many webinars from experts such as Dr. Emmanuel Fontaine and eLearning with the Royal Canin Academy.

We are striving to complete some exciting announcements in 2025 that have been in the works for several years. Ongoing projects such as our Integrated Breed Health Program, our yet to be launched reciprocal agreements with the AKC and the great work going on with Genetics and Medical and Breeder Relations Committees. The work behind the scenes is extremely valuable when we approach professional organizations such as the CVMA and provincial and municipal governments. Across Canada, materials developed by our staff and committees have been accepted in areas of canine welfare.

We will continue to face challenges but if we maintain a unified front and remain focused, we can overcome them through discussion and education. It is so important to listen to varying opinions to understand those other groups around us. The development of the Advocacy Committee and the important role that they will play will continue to inform and advise federal, provincial and local governments and organizations on the role that CKC can play in helping to develop reasonable animal care legislation and guidelines.

We are actively working to improve our members' experience, develop more educational opportunities and further the groundwork for recognition as CKC to be the go-to entity for anything canine.

In 2024 we saw more exhibitors involved in a record number of events. Conformation event entries increased and not to be outdone, performance and field events saw their best year ever. The CKC is in a sound financial position, and we are moving forward with the membership foremost in our minds.

Thank you all for volunteering; whether at a club level, a match or on a committee or council. You the 19,000 members, make the hundreds of hours of volunteering worthwhile. See you at the shows and in the field. Remember that at the end of the day, we all take the best dog home."

The microphone was then turned over to the following three members of the Staff Leadership Team who delivered reports on some of the accomplishments, work under way and planned.

- The report given by Sherry Weiss, Director of Operations, included the unaudited financials as at April 30, 2025, and updates on operations, customer service, registrations, and events.
- The report given by John Atkinson, Director of Advocacy and Communications, included updates on two of the pillars in the Strategic Plan: the Integrated Breed Health Program, and Communications, Marketing & Advocacy.
- The report given by Andrew McAllister, Director of E-Business, included updates of two more of the pillars in the Strategic Plan: Modernization of Events and Internal IT Infrastructure.

Attention turned to the announcement of the three **2025 Chairs' Awards** recognizing the outstanding commitment, dedication, and accomplishments of CKC members. Eighteen qualified nominations were submitted by their peers, making selection of the winners difficult. On behalf of the Chairs' Awards Selection Committee, Corinne Walker congratulated the following recipients:

- Randy Doan, owner of Goldoan Kennels in Aylmer, Ontario, awarded the **2025 CKC National Heritage Canine Performance Award** which recognizes an individual who has shown exceptional commitment to heritage performance events and the role of dogs in supporting humankind. To qualify, the recipient must have demonstrated national and international success in events such as Field Trials, Herding, Agility, Lure Coursing, Tracking, Earth Dog, Draft

Dog and Scent Detection, while also encouraging others to participate and providing mentorship to new competitors.

- Janice Gunn, founder of TNT Kennels & Training Center in Abbotsford, British Columbia was awarded the **2025 CKC National Obedience Competitor of the Year** which recognizes an individual who has achieved excellence in CKC Obedience and Rally Obedience competitions. Candidates must demonstrate fair competition, success at national and international levels, and a commitment to helping others in the sport by offering support and mentorship to fellow competitors.
- Brenda Brown of Baywood Portuguese Water Dogs in Edmonton, Alberta, was awarded the **2025 CKC National Breeder of the Year Award** which recognizes a breeder who has made significant contributions to the improvement of purebred dog health and well-being. To earn this award, the breeder must be internationally recognized for their program's success, have a legacy of excellence, and show a lifelong dedication to advancing the health of their chosen breed(s).

The Vice Chair of the Board and Director for Zone 5, Ontario East, Robert Whitney, then presented the **2024 Annual Report** which not only highlights some of the activities of our 37 committees and councils and the dedicated member volunteers who sit on them but also showcases photos of many of the beautiful purebred dogs of our members and staff. Available in both English and French on the CKC website, it has stories that speak to the activities of the Club and its members in 2024 and is a summary of our challenges and achievements during the year.

Lee Anne Bateman, Zone 10 Director, congratulated the 139 members who are celebrating **50 years of CKC membership**. She noted that they are the people who have been driving our breeds and dog sports in Canada forward for the past 50 years. They have helped shape the CKC into what it is today and made it so that all of us can continue to enjoy the breeds and dog sports we love.

Corinne Walker remarked that Michael Calhoun's term as 2024 Honourary Chair concludes with this meeting and on behalf of the Board and the membership, she thanked him for his dedication to the CKC and purebred dogs, and for his years of volunteerism, judging, and mentorship that has allowed the CKC and purebred dogs in Canada to flourish.

The Chair then announced that during their May 30th, 2025 meeting, the Board appointed Dr. Michael Woods from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia as the **2025 Honourary Chair**.

The floor was then opened to questions and comments from the floor and from members who participated remotely. Fifteen questions were posed, and most were answered during the meeting. Questions and feedback from members requiring follow up will be considered at the next quarterly Board meeting for referral to committee or staff.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and announced that the 2026 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Québec city area on June 6th, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. MDT.

