greater victoria ACTING TOGETHER

DRAFT GVAT Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 19, 2026

This was an IN-PERSON (hybrid) meeting.

Meeting Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m .
Date: January 19, 2026

Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3259436146?omn=817472132
Minutes Recorder: Jen
Vibes Watcher: Joyce
Copy of Role of GVAT Vibes Watcher: 2023-03-30.docx

Attendees: Christine Conkin (Chair), Stephen Tyler (Treasurer), Izzy Adachi (Organizer), Jane Welton (COEDI Rep), Joyce Harris (Strategy Team Liaison), Jen Kostuchuk (Secretary)

Regrets: Flossie Baker (Vice-Chair), Hannah De Guzman (Director at Large), Lane O'Hara Cooke (Board Member)

- **Action items for next meeting:**
  - Solidify the scope of involvement for the CEL students at UVic (Izzy/all?)
  - Reach out to Pawa about the February 5th delegates assembly (Jen)
  - Discuss year-end financials (Christine raised this point)
  - Board member recruitment - keep this on our radar
  - Establish a May regional training planning committee
  - Strat hub revival

AGENDA

	Item	Lead
6:30	**Welcome**	Christine
	Territory Acknowledgement COEDI: IRLC: Territory Acknowledgement Instructions Handout: 2023/2024 COEDI:2022.Pronunciation of Local Words in Indigenous Languages	Lane

	Item	Lead
	- Lane joined for the territory acknowledgement, offering a reflection of important events that occurred since we last met as a board (National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women)	
6:40	**Check-in:** Where do you see hope in 2026? - The board shared sources of hope for the 2026 year including alliance building, renewable energy, the positive influence of grandchildren, the success of the Sidney action, and people power!	
6:55	Motion: **Approve Minutes and Reports** ● Nov 24 Board Meeting Minutes for Approval ● Status Report: Organizer (Izzy) ● Status Report: Treasurer ● Status Report: COEDI:Report to Board:2026-01 ● Status Report: IR:Report to Board:2026-01 Approved: Stephen / Jen	Christine
7:00	**Organizer's Insights and current priorities** - Izzy discussed several current priorities including welcoming the students from the CEL program (who will dedicate 40 hours to volunteer with GVAT) - She notes that we still have to design the scope of their involvement - The May training prep is going well - Sidney council approved the library as a shelter for February (no beds but a step in the right direction) - We briefly discussed how to make the strat hub more functional - Jane suggests we review the terms of reference and the approach we would like to take for the strat hub moving forward	Izzy
7:10	**Priorities and planning for 2026** **2026 Strategic Plan** AGM date & tasks 2026 Board Calendar (for review) - The AGM is April 16th 2026 - We need to prioritize recruiting board members (Christine reminds us we need the right people rather than a lot of people).	Christine
7:25	**Regional training May 2026** **Regional Trainings Costing 2026** - No major updates - Izzy notes that the planning is coming together and she is excited for us to host the other alliances.	Izzy
7:35	**IAFC: Future planning** Role as charitable organization: able to issue tax receipts for donations Supervision of affiliate staff: IAFC provides a framework for potential collaboration and for engaging a senior organizer to provide supervision in future (instead of David / IAFNW).	Stephen / Joyce

	Item	Lead
	Board membership (replacing Joyce & Stephen) - We need two people to replace Joyce and Stephen's roles with the IAFC (ideally one replacement is from the GVAT board directly). - Flagging this item for the February 5th delegates assembly. - Stephen reminds us to be mindful in how we apply to grants and fundraise because IAFC funds (charitable donations) can only be used for public education and training purposes	

7:55	**Comments re: feedback from PAWA**
	Set meeting with IRLC?
	- IRLC will meet with Pawa on their own accord.
	- We reviewed Pawa's observations:
	  - Communications: When inviting people to attend the board meeting, ask how they prefer to communicate (e.g. text, email, phone?). Also send out a reminder 1 week and 1 day in advance with the agenda and Zoom links embedded.
	  - Territory acknowledgment: live, work, and play is a scripted and overused phrase. She encourages us to emphasize the local nations and consider their sacrifices rather than centering individual settler experiences - what can we do as a collective? Potentially carve out time for reflection here as well.
	  - Check in question: Pawa appreciated how the question was seasonal/nature-based. Perhaps this is something we consider carrying on with in future meetings.
	  - Etiquette: when a board member shares something heavy and expresses emotional vulnerability, Pawa encourages us to take a moment of silence for a more gentle transition to the next check in.
	  - Internal business: Pawa suggests including more visuals in our meetings as an accessible option for the board and invited guests.
	  - Meeting roles: Pawa admires the vibe watcher role. She explains that listening and observing/witnessing is important while also "sharing back their reflections, highlights, or takeaways". Perhaps we consider a brief report-back from the vibes watcher at the end of each meeting?
	- Area of improvement: trauma-sensitive support.
		Jen

8:05	**COEDI:** Culture (EDI) Survey timing Robert's Rules of Order? - Sonia has completed the survey update and this is ready to be distributed. The board agreed we will do so in Fall 2026.	Jane

	Item	Lead
	- Reminder: this survey is intended to provide people with the opportunity to share feedback about GVAT from their own perspective. - Jane reminds us that we do not use Robert's Rules. Our model is community based.	
8:10	**IRLC:** In-person meeting with Pawa?/next booking - We have used one-third of Pawa's time in the contract and have about ~8 hours remaining. - Jen will invite Pawa to attend our February 5th delegates assembly followed by a scheduled feedback session (on the process and content) for a later date. - Pawa's contract ends in June 2026 or when funds are used up, whichever is sooner..	Jane
8:15	**Date and Roles for next meeting: Mon. _____, 6:30pm** Territory Acknowledgement: Jen Vibes Watcher: Stephen Minutes Taker: Jen - We have not yet set a February board meeting date. Christine will follow up with a Doodle poll for this.	Christine
8:20	**Motion to Adjourn Meeting** Approved: Christine / all	Christine

For Reference (many of these accessible only to members of board@gvat.ca):

- 2025 Annual Board Calendar
- Board Contact Information [update after AGM]
- GVAT Board Manual
- Board Skills Inventory Dec. 2023
- Policies and Procedures reference folder
- Risk Management Resources; Recommendations from Risk Management Working Group
- Summary of Results of GVAT's First Annual Culture Survey
- Ten Key Decisions at GVAT and who is involved in making them