greater victoria ACTING TOGETHER

MINUTES

GVAT Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025

Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3259436146?omn=817472132
Minutes Recorder: Jen K
Vibes Watcher: Lane

Attendees: Christine Conkin (Chair), Stephen Tyler (Treasurer), Izzy Adachi (Organizer), Flossie Baker (Vice-Chair), Lane O'Hara Cooke (Board Member), Jane Welton (COEDI Rep), Jen Kostuchuk (Secretary), Sue Ward (trying out role of IRLC rep to board), Pawa Haiyupis (Indigenous consultant providing feedback to GVAT)

Regrets: Hannah De Guzman (Director at Large)

Action Items from this meeting:
- 2026 annual plan/calendar
- Regional training May 2026
- Discuss feedback from Pawa?

AGENDA

	Item	Lead
6:30	**Welcome** - Christine opens the meeting and acknowledges Pawa and Sue joining our call	Christine
	Territory Acknowledgement - Stephen expresses gratitude and notes the territories of where others on the board are calling in from as well.	Stephen
6:40	**Check-in:** What has stood out to you this fall?	Christine
6:50	Motion: **Approve Consent Agenda** ● Oct 7 Board Meeting Minutes for Approval ● Status Report: Organizer (Izzy) ● Status Report: Treasurer ● Status Report: COEDI report Nov 2025 ● Status Report: IRLC:Board Report:2025-11	Christine

	Item	Lead
	Approved: Flossie / Stephen	
6:55	**Organizer's Insights and current priorities** - Update re: Climate & Housing ARTs (leaders). It has been difficult to identify leaders to fill these roles. Izzy plans to return to this at a strategy meeting in December. - Izzy was in Edmonton supporting GEA with training. It went well. - Democracy through Dialogue programming (in collaboration with experts in various areas who give lectures) has been promoted in our newsletter and on social media. Next one is on December 15th at the Gorge Pavilion. - Izzy has been working on the Sidney action (advocating to put budget toward new location for extreme weather shelter)	Izzy
7:05	**IAF-C:** Request re: financial support for GEA - This arises from deliberations of the IAF Canada board. GEA has reorganized and rebuilt their connections and have been working under a temporary arrangement with a new organizer and would like to hire this person full-time. - We watched the video pitch requesting each of us three Canadian Alliances to provide GEA with about $9000 each. **Motion:** This Board hereby agrees to allow IAFC to re-allocate up to $9200 of charitable funds raised for our alliance, towards a repayable grant to Greater Edmonton Alliance, contingent on these funds being restored to our IAFC account within 24 months. Approved: Stephen / Flossie	Stephen
7:15	**COEDI Motion:** Amendment to Code of Conduct Code of Conduct **Motion**: Be it resolved that, in the Code of Conduct policy, under the bullet titled Non-Partisanship, the line "Although we engage in political activity, we are strictly non-partisan." be removed and replaced with ""Although GVAT engages in political activity, GVAT is strictly non-partisan. GVAT takes positions on issues but does not endorse particular parties, candidates or elected officials. Individuals involved with GVAT are welcome to be involved in partisan politics in other aspects of their lives but are to act and speak in non-partisan ways within GVAT or when representing GVAT." Approved: Flossie / Jen - Jane will ensure this code of conduct gets amended (verbatim from our live revisions)	Jane
7:30	**GEA Training in November update / follow-up** - Izzy reflected on her time supporting GEA with training	Izzy

	Item	Lead
	- GEA has strong labour support, is guided by core organizing principles, and includes capable organizers who will do the legwork to ensure GEA achieves what it wants to - The board expresses support for GEA AND Christine raised how this is a critical moment in Alberta for strong organizing (teacher strikes are mobilizing people)	
7:35	**Follow-up: Action Items from previous meeting** ● Identify leaders for climate and housing groups ○ Izzy is returning to this at the strategy meeting in December ● Focus on fundraising plan and look into grants from discussion ○ Flossie and Christine offer support to Stephen in calling donors and editing drafts of grant proposals. ● Revisit Flossie's idea of a promotional GVAT video? ○ We have tabled this for now. It is not an urgent task but might be something the UVic students can support with in February and March. We will return to this item in the new year. ● Create 2026 annual plan/calendar ○ We will return to this in the new year	
7:40	Feedback from Pawa and Q&A - Pawa observed our board meeting and offered feedback in some of the following areas: - 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,	Pawa

	Item	Lead
	highlights, or takeaways". Perhaps we consider a brief report-back from the vibes watcher at the end of each meeting? - Christine and other Board members thanked Pawa for her attention and helpful suggestions - Board Meeting:Indigenous Consultant Input:November 2025	
8:00	**Regional training May 2026: update** - **Regional Trainings Costing 2026** - We agreed to add this to our January agenda	Izzy
8:05	**Date and Roles for next meeting: Mon. January 19th, 6:30pm** Territory Acknowledgement: Lane Vibes Watcher: Joyce Minutes Taker: Jen	
8:05	**Motion to Adjourn Meeting** 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