

**DRAFT**  
**NAFR York Branch Meeting**  
**9:30 AM – 12:30 PM Tuesday, May 6, 2025**  
**Videoconference**

**Present:** Fred Conway, President; Tom Nichols, Past President; John MacPhee, Treasurer; Frank Froude, Web Editor; Yasmin Bhatia, Recording Secretary

**Absent:** Vasdev Sawhney, Advocacy; Joe Vettese, Director-at-large; Linda Laffree, Membership  
Minutes recorded by Yasmin

**1. Review and Approval of Agenda:** Acceptance moved by Tom, seconded by John.

**2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of April 1, 2025:** Acceptance moved by Tom, seconded by Frank.

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes:** Nil

**4. Reports:**

**(a) President:** Fred discussed NAFR news items from the April Bulletin-to-Branchees and Minutes of the National Board (links in B2B).

- Resignation of Keith Chang from the Board of Directors and role of President-elect, due to health issues. Fred's term ends 31-July. It was decided to deal with the President's position at the first subsequent Board meeting, in September.

**(b) Treasurer:**

- John reported all payments were current and there was a surplus of \$70,960.32.
- Expense claims will be made from January to June.
- Suggestion made that an Expense Report and Balance Sheet be presented at each meeting.

**(c) Membership:**

Linda was not present but had circulated the Membership Report and Fred noted that membership was stable.

**(d) Website Editor:**

- Proposed Videocon with NAFR staffer (Gilet): **Frank** has been in contact with Gilet and a date for the Videocon is to be set up for either September or soon after.
- Branch currently has three Notebooks with a license from Microsoft.
- Fred discussed the advantage of using SharePoint vs. Dropbox.
- Fred to provide Frank with information required to update the website.

**(e) Advocacy:** Nil

## **5. AGM Postmortem**

- There were complaints about audibility - could be due to different hearing ability. Might consider relocating the speaker (i.e. the device) in the room.
- draft minutes of the AGM were approved by consensus, with final approval to be given by the 2026 AGM
- Documents to be sent to Ottawa: AGM minutes (2024 final and 2025 draft); Branch Annual Review Form; Branch Representation letter, audited branch financial statements, bank statements.

**6. Spring District Meeting Report April 29 - 30:** Tom attended the District Meeting on behalf of the Branch.

- A new strategic plan is being developed.
- Federal elections NAFR did not have an impact because ridings are scattered.
- Waiting for report on Branch restructuring.
- Three-fourths of participants from Ottawa.

## **7. AMM June 17 - 18:**

- Fred will attend instead of Keith due to Keith's resignation.

## **8. FMM – October 21, 2025**

- Tom will be away starting October 15, and his presence is critical for videoconference arrangements. The FMM date will be finalized at the June Board meeting to meet the publication deadline for the Fall SAGE
- June 29 Sage submission. Will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **9. New Business:**

- Fred's term as President of NAFR York Branch will end at the end of July and the Branch is looking for someone to take this position.

**10. Next BoD Meeting:** Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025, 9:30 - 12:00

**11. Adjournment:** Moved by Tom, seconded by John

## Ontario District Meeting

Tuesday and Wednesday April 29-30, 2025

Some new faces but unfortunately a number of long time Presidents. The Ottawa Branch President and the two Ottawa District Directors were invited guests. Roy Goodall was present for the whole meeting. Several Branches have not got a full slate of Directors, have not done their year end finances or audit and don't expect to do their AGM until fall at the earliest. Toronto is one of these Branches and they are also giving up their office space at the church.

### Reach 338.

Linda Macdonald mentioned 338 but no mention that it should be 343 and no mention of the election the day before. Points made that they would have to visit the new sitting MPs. Ottawa Board made comment about meeting candidates in all 8 ridings and I saw Fiona cringe. I mentioned that we had <1000 members spread across 13 ridings and most did not have enough members to make much of an impression. Fiona has the same issue in Peel.

### Strategic Plan and possible restructuring.

Roy said The Strategic plan would be voted on at the AMM. Regarding restructuring, the three reports had been received and currently waiting for the Restructuring report available by the AMM. Need to put it all together, potentially by October but realistically AMM 2026. No hints about any leanings so far.

If there is a structural change, this will need to go to a vote at each class. First the National Board, then Branch Presidents (not a weighted vote but 1 person 1 vote) then the membership. If you remember, each class holds a veto so if it fails along the line, does this mean that the proposed change is dead. They are trying to get a legal opinion on this.

### Briefing on Ottawa Branch

Amazing what having 35000 members means. They get 100 or more for exercising in the park. They have interaction with 4500 in a year. They have several webinars a year with 300+ participating. I made my point again that most branches have less than 4% participation...and that 300 of 35000 is less than 1%. We are spending a lot of money trying to keep branch activities going for a very small percentage of members. The president said he had 18 people apply to be one of the board directors and they screened that to 12 and then interviewed 12. I have written twice to the President asking how Board members get appointed to the board and without a clear answer, it sounds like the board chooses who they want and the Board then chooses the President from the Board members. So much for representing the membership. Their AGM is virtual only.

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