

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICISTS  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES PHYSICIENS ET PHYSIENNES

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
PROCÈS-VERBAL DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE**

DATE: Thursday, June 19, 2025

TIME/HEURE: 12h00-14h00 ET

PLACE: CAP Zoom Meeting

ATTENDANCE: W. Whelan, Past Pres.  
M. Williams, President (Chair)  
P. Bénard, Vice-President  
W. Taylor, Vice-President Elect  
F. Ford, CAP Executive Director  
C. Kraus, Secretary-Treasurer  
plus members listed in Appendix A

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER, ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order at approx. 12h15 ET. M. Williams confirmed that over 50 members were present and so quorum was confirmed. The agenda was approved as circulated.

**2.0 REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND EXPLANATION OF VOTING PROCEDURE/WELCOME TO INCOMING DIVISION CHAIRS**

W. Whelan presented the report of the Nominating Committee and thanked committee members M. Campbell, R. Hilborn, and G. Drake for their work over the previous months reviewing candidates, conducting outreach, and supporting the nomination process.

The following nominees for the Board of Directors and Executive positions were presented:

- President: P. Bénard
- Vice-President: W. Taylor
- Vice-President Elect: Richard Boudreau and Cornelia Höehr
- Director of Communications: B. Frisken
- Director of Private Sector Relations: Ian D'Souza
- Director of Student Affairs: M. Robbins
- Secretary-Treasurer: C. Kraus

As there were two candidates for the position of Vice-President Elect, both candidates were invited to provide brief introductions. C. Höehr introduced herself and highlighted her long-standing involvement with the CAP, including service as Chair of the Division of Physics in Medicine and Biology. She emphasized the importance of the CAP as a national community for physicists and its value in supporting students and early-career researchers. R. Boudreau was unable to attend the meeting.

M. Robbins also briefly introduced himself, noting his background in graduate student advocacy and his interest in supporting student engagement within the CAP through collaboration with the Student Advisory Council.

C. Kraus confirmed her willingness to continue serving as Secretary-Treasurer and noted that work remained ongoing related to the CAP's financial and operational transition activities.

W. Whelan also reported that A. Samra (University of Victoria) would continue for a second one-year term as Councillor representing Undergraduate Student Affiliates. Recruitment for the Councillor representing Graduate Student Members remained ongoing. Members were encouraged to contact W. Whelan if interested in the role or aware of suitable candidates.

F. Ford then reviewed the online voting procedures for the Board election. Members were instructed to access the voting system through their CAP membership dashboard. Voting for the Vice-President Elect position required selection between two candidates, while the remaining positions consisted of single-candidate nominations. Voting opened during the AGM and was scheduled to close at 13h30 EDT. Members experiencing technical difficulties were encouraged to contact the CAP Office for assistance.

F. Ford also reminded divisions to complete their annual business meetings by the end of July and emphasized the importance of member participation in division elections and fee-setting discussions. Newly elected division executives are to provide updated information to the CAP Office following their meetings.

W. Whelan welcomed any newly elected Division Chairs in joining the Advisory Council and encouraged members to participate in upcoming division annual business meetings over the coming weeks.

### **3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 2025 JUNE 19 AGM**

**IT WAS MOVED** by B. Newling, seconded by M. Richardson, that the June 19, 2025, AGM minutes be approved as presented.  
All in favour.  
**Carried.**

### **4.0 ANNUAL UPDATES**

#### **4.1 Presidential Update**

M. Williams welcomed members to the AGM and reflected on the CAP's activities and progress over the previous year. He noted that the update provided an opportunity to review the organization's successes, challenges, and future priorities in support of the CAP's mission to advance physics in Canada and foster a strong national physics community.

M. Williams reported that the CAP had continued to make progress on several strategic priorities, including strengthening advocacy efforts related to research funding and science policy. Congress 2025 was highlighted as a significant success, with attendance exceeding expectations and more than 500 participants taking part. Despite operational and external challenges, the CAP maintained stable membership levels at approximately 1,600 members and established a goal of significantly increasing membership over the coming years. Operationally, the CAP continued work to improve organizational efficiency and strengthen programming. New and expanded initiatives included mentorship and networking opportunities for early-career researchers and postdoctoral fellows at Congress, as well as strengthened partnerships with universities and research institutes to support member engagement and services.

M. Williams also highlighted the development of the CAP 2025–2029 Strategic Plan and accompanying Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan was approved by the Board in May 2025, and both documents were soft-launched during Congress 2025, with a formal launch scheduled later in the AGM. The Strategic Plan establishes two overarching goals for the next five years: strengthening the CAP's role as the national voice for physics in Canada and substantially increasing membership.

As part of the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the CAP introduced new three-year committee chair positions intended to improve continuity and operational effectiveness. These included the Chair of the Congress Program

Committee and the Chair of the Recognitions Committee, both of which were previously responsibilities associated with the presidential line. M. Williams noted that the longer appointment terms would support institutional continuity and allow greater focus on these important activities.

Advocacy activities over the past year included engagement related to the proposed federal capstone research funding agency, preparation of the CAP's federal pre-budget submission, and collaboration with institutional and organizational partners across the Canadian physics community. M. Williams emphasized that these efforts were undertaken on behalf of the membership and reflected the CAP's growing role in science policy and advocacy discussions.

The CAP also remained actively involved in activities connected to the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ 2025), including participation by CAP representatives in the international launch activities held in Paris in February 2025 in collaboration with UNESCO and partner organizations.

Additional updates included the continued expansion of the Lecture Tour program, including new high school outreach activities, and progress within the CAP recognitions program. Ten new Fellows were elected during the year. M. Williams encouraged members to continue nominating deserving colleagues, particularly women and underrepresented physicists, to support broader representation within the CAP's recognitions programs.

During discussion, members briefly discussed representation within the Fellows program, membership growth objectives identified in the Strategic Plan, and ongoing discussions regarding advocacy considerations related to changes within the United States research environment.

#### **4.2 Schedule for Awards, Scholarships, Fellowship, and Medals**

In the absence of B. Frisken, F. Ford provided an update on the schedule for the CAP recognitions programs for the coming year.

F. Ford noted that additional procedural modifications are being implemented to help ensure that recognitions timelines remain on schedule following several delays experienced during the previous cycle. These delays were attributed to factors including challenges with committee composition and technical system issues.

Calls for nominations for medals, fellowships, and scholarships are expected to be issued in October 2025, with a nomination deadline of December 1, 2025. The objective is to complete the selection process and notify recipients well in advance of Congress 2026 to support travel and participation planning.

F. Ford also noted that the High School Teacher Awards follow a separate timeline aligned with the academic calendar. The call for nominations is expected to be issued in April 2026 with a nomination deadline of June 30, 2026.

Members were encouraged to monitor CAP communications and the CAP website for updates and nomination announcements.

#### **4.3 CAP 2025-2029 Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan**

P. Bénard formally launched the CAP 2025–2029 Strategic Plan and accompanying Implementation Plan on behalf of the Executive. He noted that the Strategic Plan was developed through consultation with the CAP membership, external partners, and representatives from the American Physical Society (APS), as well as through strategic planning sessions held during Congress 2024.

P. Bénard reported that the CAP's core values remained unchanged and continue to emphasize excellence, professionalism, diversity, inclusivity, collegiality, and mentorship. The updated mission and vision statements were revised to strengthen the CAP's role and visibility within the Canadian physics community.

The Strategic Plan establishes two primary goals for the next five years:

- Establish the CAP as the voice of physics in Canada
- Increase the CAP's relevance across the physics community, including a goal of substantially increasing

## membership

To support these goals, the Implementation Plan outlines a series of strategic initiatives assigned to specific committees, Executive members, or CAP leadership groups. Initiatives are organized across short-, medium-, and long-term timelines, with the first year focused on foundational activities and assessment work.

Key Year 1 initiatives include assessing the broader Canadian physics community to better understand membership gaps and opportunities for engagement across regions, sectors, and career stages. Additional priorities include the development of new programs and outreach initiatives targeting high school and CEGEP teachers, industry physicists, graduate students, and early-career researchers.

P. Bénard also highlighted plans to strengthen relationships with departmental representatives and student physics societies, expand outreach activities through the CAP Lecture Tour, and improve communication and engagement with the broader physics community.

W. Taylor clarified that while the Strategic Plan itself is fixed, the Implementation Plan is intended to remain a dynamic working document that can evolve as initiatives progress and new priorities emerge.

Members were encouraged to review the full Strategic Plan and provide ongoing feedback and suggestions to the Executive regarding implementation priorities and future initiatives.

### **4.4 Financial Update**

C. Kraus presented the financial update for the CAP, beginning with an update on the outstanding financial reviews. The audit for the 2022 fiscal year was completed and signed in May 2025 following significant delays associated with the CAP's operational transition and audit complexity. Final audited statements were expected to be posted to the CAP website once the finalized documents were received from the auditors. Work on the 2023 review will proceed next, with the 2024 review to follow.

C. Kraus reviewed the CAP's 2022 financial position, including assets, liabilities, and investment holdings. She thanked G. Drake for his continued oversight of the CAP investment portfolio. Investment performance remained stable overall, with total investments valued at slightly over \$500,000.

An interim update on the 2025 financial position was also presented. C. Kraus noted that current expenditures continued to exceed revenues and that careful budget management remained necessary. Financial pressures were attributed in part to lower-than-expected Congress revenues in 2022 and 2023, despite expenses aligning closely with projected budgets. Attendance trends have shifted toward increased student participation and reduced full-member participation, affecting registration revenue. Sponsorship and exhibitor revenues were also lower than anticipated during those years.

C. Kraus reported that preliminary results for Congress 2025 appeared more positive, noting improved revenue forecasting and strong support from the Local Organizing Committee in securing sponsorships and exhibitors.

An update on membership trends was also provided. The CAP transitioned to calendar-year membership billing for 2025, which improved administrative processes. While overall membership remained relatively stable at approximately 1,600 members, C. Kraus noted changing membership composition, including declines in full and retired memberships alongside increased student participation. Work remains ongoing to improve membership reporting tools and data reliability.

C. Kraus also introduced preliminary discussions regarding simplification of the CAP membership category structure. The objective would be to reduce complexity, improve reporting, and make membership options easier for prospective members to navigate.

During discussion, members emphasized the importance of clearly communicating the value of CAP membership, particularly in a competitive environment where physicists may belong to multiple professional organizations. Discussion also addressed recruitment and retention challenges, the role of student membership, and the importance of improving the membership renewal experience.

C. Kraus noted that, in accordance with CAP bylaws, membership fees for 2026 will increase automatically in line

with the cost-of-living adjustment. No additional fee increase beyond the standard adjustment was recommended at this time.

**IT IS MOVED** by C. Kraus, seconded by M. D'lorio, that the Executive be authorized to appoint auditors for the upcoming financial reviews.

One abstention

**CARRIED**

## 5.0 REPORTS

### 5.1 Report on 2025 Congress

W. Whelan presented the report on Congress 2025, held at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Congress 2025 also marked the CAP's 80th anniversary, which was recognized throughout the event with commemorative activities and materials.

Congress 2025 welcomed 426 in-person registrants across a broad range of membership categories. A total of 388 abstracts were submitted through the Indico system, with the overall number of presentations exceeding 400 once symposium contributions were included. The program featured ten symposia spanning multiple CAP divisions and subject areas.

The Best Student Presentation Competition included 87 oral presentations and 31 poster presentations. W. Whelan noted that several positive changes were introduced to the competition under the leadership of W. Taylor, including revised judging rubrics and adjustments intended to improve the management and consistency of the competition process.

Congress programming included a number of special sessions, plenary presentations, medal talks, and the Herzberg Public Lecture delivered by S. Mookerjea-Leonard, which also included a public book signing event. Plenary speakers included K. Daniel, P. Zandstra, D. Whyte, and K. Karouby-Nielsen, with presentations covering topics ranging from astronomy and gene therapy to fusion energy and neutrino astronomy.

The CAP also recognized the winners of the IYQ 2025 design competition and formally honoured the 2025 CAP medalists and newly elected Fellows during Congress activities.

W. Whelan expressed appreciation to the Local Organizing Committee, led by S. Kaori and J. Jenson, noting the exceptional organization and strong sponsorship efforts that significantly exceeded initial fundraising targets. Thanks were also extended to the Congress Program Committee, student volunteers, exhibitors, sponsors, CAP staff, and all contributing partners and organizations involved in Congress planning and delivery.

A post-Congress survey was distributed to attendees, and a formal summary of survey feedback will be prepared and shared following further analysis of the responses received.

W. Whelan also acknowledged the ongoing wildfire situation affecting parts of Saskatchewan during Congress week and noted appreciation that Congress was able to proceed safely despite some early air quality concerns. The CAP extended its thoughts to all communities continuing to be affected by the wildfires.

M. Williams and F. Ford thanked W. Whelan for his leadership as inaugural Chair of the Congress Program Committee under the CAP's new committee structure, noting that his experience and leadership contributed significantly to the success of Congress 2025.

### 5.2 Report on 2025 Lecture Tour

W. Taylor presented the report on the 2024–2025 CAP Lecture Tour. She reviewed the goals of the program, which include sharing current developments in physics with undergraduate students across Canada, promoting the study of physics, strengthening collaboration between the CAP and Canadian physics departments, increasing the visibility of the CAP, and encouraging student membership and engagement.

The Lecture Tour was coordinated by G. Grinyer in collaboration with regional coordinators, with support from the CAP Office and the Vice-President Elect. Funding was provided jointly by the CAP, the CAP Foundation through a dedicated anonymous donation, and host institutions.

The primary objective for the 2024–2025 cycle was to return to a stronger in-person lecture model, with a goal of hosting two headline talks within each of the six regions while encouraging additional talks at neighbouring institutions. Efforts were also made to distribute talks more evenly throughout February and March to maximize student participation prior to examination periods.

W. Taylor reported that more than 18 talks were delivered during the tour cycle, including several additional regional presentations beyond the headline lectures. Eight of the thirteen headline talks were also made available virtually, with some recordings prepared for posting on the CAP YouTube channel.

The CAP also successfully piloted its first CEGEP lecture through the program. Expanding outreach to CEGEP and high school physics students was identified as an important future priority.

W. Taylor highlighted the diversity of speakers and noted that the program continued to provide valuable opportunities for smaller institutions to host visiting speakers that may otherwise have been financially inaccessible.

Looking ahead, recommendations for future Lecture Tours included increasing the number of French-language talks, expanding outreach to CEGEP and high school audiences, improving promotion of virtual attendance opportunities, and strengthening communication of lecture schedules and abstracts in advance of events.

W. Taylor concluded by thanking the anonymous donor supporting the program, the regional coordinators, host institutions, speakers, the CAP Office, and G. Grinyer for her leadership as National Lecture Tour Coordinator. M. Williams also thanked W. Taylor and G. Grinyer for their work in continuing to expand and strengthen the Lecture Tour program.

### **5.3 Report from the Student Advisory Council**

As representatives of the Student Advisory Council (SAC) were unable to attend the AGM, B. Newling provided a brief update on the Council's activities. He noted that the SAC had recently experienced some leadership transitions, with M. Shiha currently serving in both the graduate and undergraduate leadership roles while recruitment continued for additional members. Despite these changes, the SAC remained active throughout the year, including continued organization of its student-focused virtual lecture series, "Physics Hour," with planning already underway for the next series cycle in Fall 2025.

### **5.4 Report from the Editor of PiC**

B. Joós presented the update on Physics in Canada (PiC), noting that the publication had now successfully transitioned to its new online format following extensive development work over the past year. Since November 2024, three post-Congress issues covering the 2021, 2022, and 2023 Congresses had been completed and published online, with the 2024 post-Congress issue currently being finalized. Work had also begun on the post-Congress issue for Congress 2025, including invitations to award-winning student presenters to contribute articles. In addition, planning was well underway for a special issue dedicated to the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ 2025), with guest editors B. Newling, J. Donohue, and J. Ross coordinating contributions.

B. Joós noted that PiC is now available across multiple online platforms and devices, with the intention of publishing at least two issues annually. He encouraged members to contribute magazine-style articles and invited interested members to participate in the editorial process. B. Joós thanked B. Frisken, F. Ford, guest editors, and contributors for their significant efforts in revitalizing the publication. M. Williams expressed appreciation for the successful relaunch of PiC and highlighted its importance as a key membership and community engagement initiative for the CAP.

### **5.5 Report from the Chair of the CAP Foundation**

K. Iliadis presented the report of the CAP Foundation (CAPF) on behalf of M. Paranjape. He highlighted ongoing work related to governance updates, investment policy development, Board renewal, and donor engagement initiatives. The CAPF continued support for a number of scholarships, outreach activities, student conferences, the CAP Lecture Tour, and teacher awards programs, including an increase in funding support for the High School and CEGEP Teacher Awards.

K. Iliadis also noted that the CAPF is developing new fundraising materials and a Strategic Advisory Council intended to support outreach to prospective donors and ambassadors for the Foundation.

During discussion, M. Morrow emphasized the importance of continued member donations to support CAPF activities and initiatives, noting that broad member participation remains important alongside larger endowment contributions. M. Williams encouraged members to support the CAPF where possible.

### **5.6 Report about the IYQ 2025 Activities**

D. Ahrensmeier presented the update on CAP activities related to the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ 2025) on behalf of the organizing committee co-chaired with O. Stelzer. She highlighted the broad national participation in the initiative, including contributions from faculty members, outreach coordinators, students, and partner organizations across Canada.

The committee organized and supported a number of outreach activities throughout the year, including participation in the international opening ceremonies in Paris, public outreach events held at universities across Canada, Science Rendezvous programming, activities at the Canada-Wide Science Fair, and Congress 2025 events and symposia. The CAP also organized a national design competition for IYQ 2025 branding materials, which received approximately 37 submissions. The winning design, created by a student at TRIUMF, was incorporated into promotional materials and merchandise distributed during Congress.

D. Ahrensmeier also highlighted the development of outreach toolkits and educational resources, ongoing work toward a special IYQ 2025 issue of Physics in Canada, and plans for additional programming later in the year, including initiatives connecting science and the arts. Members were encouraged to continue participating in and contributing to IYQ activities throughout the remainder of 2025.

## **6.0 FUTURE CONGRESSES**

### **6.1 Preliminary Planning for 2026 Congress**

F. Ford provided an update on Congress 2026, which will be jointly hosted by the University of Ottawa and Carleton University from June 21–26, 2026. Most Congress activities will take place at the University of Ottawa, with selected events, including the Welcome Barbecue and Herzberg Public Lecture, planned for Carleton University. The two campuses are connected by Ottawa's light rail transit system, and organizers noted opportunities to incorporate activities across both campuses. Members also noted the accessibility of both campuses and the potential for additional programming at Carleton University related to its physics strengths.

W. Whelan additionally recognized the recipients of the Congress 2025 student presentation awards and congratulated all award winners for their contributions and presentations during Congress.

### **6.2 Call for Hosts of 2027 Congress and Beyond**

F. Ford noted that hosts for 2027 through to 2029 are in the process of being confirmed, and will be announced in the next 6 months.

**7.0 NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Call for Nominees for New 3-Year Chair Positions for the i) Congress Program Committee, ii) Nominating Committee, and the iii) Recognitions Committee**

W. Whelan announced that upcoming calls for volunteers and expressions of interest would be issued for several new three-year leadership positions established under the CAP’s revised governance structure. These include the Chair of the Congress Program Committee and the Chair of the Recognitions Committee, both intended to improve continuity and long-term planning. A call for a new National Lecture Tour Coordinator will also be issued following the completion of G. Grinyer’s term.

**8.0 RESULTS OF THE BOARD ELECTION**

F. Ford announced the results of the 2025 Board election. C. Höehr was elected Vice-President Elect. All other positions on the proposed slate were elected by acclamation, with a small number of abstentions recorded. M. Williams congratulated all incoming and returning members of the Board and welcomed C. Höehr to the Board and Executive Committee.

Title	Candidate	Yea	Nay/Do not support any of the nominees	Abstain
Vice-President Elect	Cornelia Hoehr	43	1	2
	Richard Boudreault	15		
Director of Communications (completion of current term, to June 2027)	Barbara Frisken	61	0	0
Director of Private Sector Relations (3-year position)	Ian D’Souza	58	0	3
Director of Student Affairs (3-year position)	Matthew Robbins	60	0	1
Secretary-Treasurer (3-year position)	Christine Kraus	60	0	1

**9.0 NOTES OF THANKS AND CHANGE OF CHAIR**

M. Williams thanked the members, Executive, and CAP Office staff for their support and contributions during his term as President, noting that it had been a privilege to serve the CAP. He then formally passed the chair to incoming President P. Bénard.

On behalf of the Executive, P. Bénard thanked M. Williams for his leadership and service as President. He also thanked W. Whelan for his years of service on the Executive and contributions to the CAP, particularly in relation to Congress organization and planning.

**10.0 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was announced that the next Annual General Meeting of the CAP will be held virtually on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 12h00 ET.

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

M. Williams adjourned the meeting at approx. 14h12

Minutes were prepared by E. Molloy-Parent, Association Manager

**Appendix A: Attendance as recorded in Zoom chat (EMP note: not all attendees noted their names)**

Daria Ahrensmeier  
Ania Harlick  
Bela Joós  
Ben Newling  
Blair Jamieson  
Brian Wilson  
Bruce Rout  
Calvin Kalman  
Chitra Rangan  
Coral Hillel  
Cornelia Höehr  
Daryl Haggard  
Giovanni Fanchini  
James Fraser  
Ken Iliadis  
Ken Ragan  
Kevin Graham  
Maria Kilfoil  
Mark Richardson  
Matthew Robbins  
Melanie Campbell  
Michael Morrow  
Nigel Smith  
Oliver Stelzer  
Patricia Mitchler  
Pauline Barmby  
Pierre Bénard  
Randall McArthur  
Robert Fedosejevs  
Simaya Rosenbloom  
Stephen Pistorius  
Taha Aboshanab  
Tobias Junginger  
William Whelan  
Zisis Papandreou