

# CANADIAN ACOUSTICAL ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, 4:00-6:00 PM (EDT)

by zoom

### Abstract

The Canadian Acoustical Association held a virtual Assembly General Meeting (AGM) with over 70 participants, where outgoing president Umberto Berardi reported on recent activities and announced his decision to step down. The meeting covered various operational matters including financial reports from treasurer Dalila Jusi, journal updates from Jérémie, and membership trends presented by Roberto. The session concluded with board elections where 12 new members were selected, with Umberto agreeing to serve as interim president while the organization searches for new leadership positions.

### 1. Call to Order

Umberto Berardi opened the virtual AGM of the Canadian Acoustical Association, welcoming the 70+ participants and noting the high attendance compared to a previous meeting. He explained that the remote format was chosen due to the association undergoing transitions and new challenges, and mentioned that future in-person meetings would be organized soon. Umberto began the meeting by asking for any agenda modifications or approvals, but the transcript ends before any responses were recorded.

### 2. President's Report (Prof. Umberto Berardi)

Umberto, the outgoing president, reported on the Canadian Acoustical Association's recent activities and challenges. He highlighted the association's role in promoting science and connecting Canada with the global acoustics community, including Canada being selected to host Internoise 2028. Umberto announced that Acoustic Canada 2026 would not take place and that the traditional Acoustic Week of Canada would return in October 2027. He also announced his decision to step down as president, expressing hope that new volunteers and leadership would help regenerate the association.

### 3. Editor's Report (Prof. Jérémie Voix)

Jérémie presented a report on the Canadian Acoustics journal, highlighting its long history, open access policy, and benefits for academics, including its compliance with federal funding requirements. He discussed the journal's performance metrics, including submission and review statistics, and noted challenges with reviewer response times. Jérémie announced that he would not seek re-election as editor-in-chief and expressed support for Pierre Grandjean as a potential successor. Roberto provided a brief update on membership and subscription trends, noting a recent dip in overall numbers but a stable count of regular members, and emphasized the importance of maintaining strong member engagement.

### 4. Treasurer's Report (Dalila Giusti)

Dalila Giusti, the treasurer of CAA, presented the financial report highlighting the organization's financial status and proposed budget for 2026. She explained the structure of the two funds (capital and operating) and detailed the investments, revenue, and expenses for the 2024 fiscal year. Dalila Giusti noted that the organization had a surplus due to lower-than-expected expenses, particularly in journal costs, and proposed a budget for 2026 with reduced journal costs and maintaining the \$10,000 allocation for student travel.

**Next Year's Budget Review:** The meeting focused on reviewing and approving the next year's budget. Dalila presented the budget, addressing questions about conference-related expenses and membership fees. The group discussed the last membership fee increase, which was about four years ago, and decided not to raise fees at this time due to decreased journal costs. Umberto and Dalila suggested considering new initiatives, such as smaller regional meetings or online events, in place of the cancelled conference. The budget was approved without opposition. Victoria Duda then presented a report on awards and recognition from the previous year, detailing various prizes and travel grants awarded to students and highlighting future considerations for potential industry presentation awards.

## **5. Awards Coordinator's Report (Prof. Victoria Duda) and social media (Romain Dumoulin)**

The meeting covered several topics related to the CAA's awards and social media presence. Victoria Duda clarified that students can submit the same project for multiple prizes if the coordinator decides it's the best application. The group discussed adding clarification to the website about award policies. Romain presented a report on the CAA's social media activities, noting that their presence is now limited to LinkedIn with 1,125 members, and announced his departure from the role of social media editor after four years. The conversation ended with plans to move to the next chapter of the AGM, led by Jeremie.

## **6. CAA board members election**

Jérémie outlined the process for the CAA board elections, explaining that all 12 director positions are open for election, though historically the board has balanced returning and new candidates. The group discussed whether to increase the board size, with Dalila suggesting 14-15 members might be appropriate, while Roberto noted that special roles exist for non-executive members. The meeting covered the election process stages, including presenting the current board, confirming voting eligibility, and proposing the number of directors to be filled.

**Board Position Size Discussion** - The board discussed the number of board positions, with Steve Titus initially proposing to increase it to accommodate more interested candidates, but the group ultimately decided to maintain the current number of 12 positions. Dan Clayton and others argued that 12 was an appropriate size for the organization's current scope, while Anil Joshi and Ben supported keeping a lean board focused on governance with a broader volunteer base for events. The conversation ended with Jérémie Voix opening nominations for board candidates, with Umberto clarifying his role as past president would continue in a consultative capacity rather than as a formal board member.

**CAA Board Nominations and Elections** - The meeting focused on board nominations and elections for the CAA (Canadian Acoustical Association). Current board members, including Dalila Giusti, Roberto Racca, Roderick Mackenzie, Bryan Gick, Anil Joshi, Bill Gastmeier, Michael Kieffe, Victoria Duda, Peter VanDelden, presented their reasons for seeking re-election or continuing their service. New candidates, such as Pierre Grandjean, Dan Clayton, Gillian Redman, Daniel Alto (proxy), Paul Marks, Taylor Smyth, Steve Titus, and Eric De Santis, introduced themselves and shared their visions for the organization. The conversation ended with instructions for an electronic ballot to select board members, with a reminder that voters could select up to 12 candidates from the list of nominees.

**Board Election Results Announcement** - The meeting announced the results of board elections, with 12 new members elected: Victoria Duda, Roderick Mackenzie, Gillian Redman, Dan Clayton, Taylor Smith, Roberto Racca, Peter VanDelden, Eric DeSantis, Michele Kieffe, Anil Joshi, and Paul Marks. Jérémie Voix noted that while the Pierre Grandjean did not get elected on the board, he will continue in an operational role. Umberto Berardi agreed to serve as interim president and will email the community with results and schedule a board meeting for mid-April to fill all remaining positions, including president, secretary, and treasurer roles.

## **7. Varia**

None on the agenda, nor raised from the membership.