

**MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

64th Annual General Meeting

Saturday June 6th, 2026 – 11:30am
Westin Harbour Castle Toronto
Metropolitan Centre Room
1 Harbour Square, Toronto, ON, M5J 1A6

Motion results represent the votes from voting members attending in person and virtually attending through Zoom's polling function.

Welcome – Tania Toffner

Tania Toffner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone join her in a round of applause to recognize the work of everyone in the room during a very difficult time. She then introduced the Board of Directors, Board Advisors and Staff.

She reviewed the voting rules for in person and virtual attendees and purpose for the Annual General Meeting. The rules for the Annual General Meeting are designed to facilitate the exchange of information and ensure that everyone who attends can be heard.

1. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda – Tania Toffner

- a. 64th Annual General meeting called to order at 11:40am.
- b. Approval of the Agenda.

***Motion:** Be it resolved that the agenda for the AGM on Saturday June 6th, 2026, be approved as presented.*

Motion Carried (88 For, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions)

2. Credentials Report: Tania Toffner

a. (re: status of members present)

"On to the Credentials Report: on Zoom we have 0 voting members present. And we have 88 members live in the room with us. We have 1 non-voting member, Lorna Zilic, in which the membership did not have any issues with her joining. That is a total of 88 voting members. Thank you for joining us and participating today."

3. Chair's Report: Tania Toffner

"This has been a very rewarding year for me as your Board chair. I am fortunate to work with a Board of Directors that is passionate about the lab profession. As a medical lab technologist, I have been witness to how difficult it has been to work in the profession. From being understaffed to

overworked, we always show up to our jobs. For this reason, being a part of the association and the Board of Directors means a lot to me. I am grateful for this opportunity as it has given me a much better perspective of the tremendous work being done at the MLPAO.

At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to provide a quick overview of this work.

This past year, the MLPAO showed what happens when a profession stands united, speaks with one voice, and refuses to be overlooked.

*We began with a major win: the Ontario government's **\$261.7 million expansion of the Learn and Stay Grant**, supporting future Medical Laboratory Professionals. It was a clear recognition of the essential role our profession plays in the health of this province.*

But we didn't stop there.

*We delivered **hard data and a clear message** to the Ministry of Health: Ontario still faces **350 vacancies, 37% of our workforce nearing retirement, and shortages in 68% of labs**. Turnaround times are affected, pressures remain high — and yet, with preceptor funding, **37% of labs could take students tomorrow**.*

*So we put forward a bold, targeted solution: **\$6.25 million over three years** to fund **52 full-time preceptors** and train **226 additional MLT students**, especially in rural and high-need communities.*

We backed that ask with one of the strongest media campaigns in our history. From Sudbury.com to CTV Your Morning to CBC News, we made lab shortages impossible to ignore. We shaped the provincial conversation — and people listened.

*Then we took that momentum straight to Queen's Park. We met with the Premier's Office, multiple ministries, and **15 MPPs from all parties**. We strengthened cross-party understanding of the critical role laboratory professionals play in patient care. And that advocacy opened doors — including an invitation for our CEO to attend the 2026 Budget presentation.*

*We were pleased to see the Learn and Stay Grant expanded again. We were disappointed that clinical placement funding was not included. But we are **not deterred**.*

*With **letters of support from every hospital** that would benefit from this investment, we have a united, province-wide voice calling for action. And we will continue until we get the funding our profession needs.*

At the same time, our Board of Directors continued to strengthen the foundation of who we are — a profession that values every voice.

*We advanced our commitment to **diversity, equity, and inclusion**, with a clear focus on expanding MLA/T representation. Acting on a recommendation from the MLA/T Council, we launched something new and long overdue: **our first-ever MLA/T Education Day**.*

*With support from BD Canada and Humber Polytechnic, we brought together **45 MLA/Ts** from across Ontario for a high-impact day of leadership development and career growth. The energy was incredible. Participants explored leadership pathways, heard inspiring peer stories, and learned about Humber's new MLT program — a true stepping stone for MLA/Ts ready to advance.*

This is what progress looks like: intentional, inclusive, and driven by our members.

We also elevated the pride and visibility of our profession like never before.

Medical Laboratory Week 2026 — “The Day Tests Stopped” — made one message unmistakable: *Healthcare cannot function without laboratory professionals.*

*We delivered care packages to **12,600+ lab professionals** across **171 sites**, reaching members and non-members alike. We launched a province-wide billboard campaign. And at the MaRS Building, our immersive exhibit showed the public exactly what happens when lab work stops.*

*Online, our reach was extraordinary: **428,000 people reached** and **1.09 million impressions** across social media.*

*And the recognition poured in: **12 mayors sent letters**, **9 mayors shared video messages**, and Ministers, MPPs, healthcare leaders, and MLPAO Board members joined in. Lab site visits across the province reinforced the essential role of our members.*

Medical Laboratory Week didn't just celebrate our profession — it elevated it.

Our commitment to professional excellence continued with two major events.

*In June, we hosted our **fourth annual Leadership Summit** in Kingston, bringing together more than **100 laboratory leaders** from across Ontario. With support from Roche Diagnostics — including sponsorship for five emerging leaders — we strengthened leadership capacity and shared best practices across the province.*

*The next day, more than **200 medical laboratory professionals** joined us for our annual conference, exploring emerging technologies, industry trends, and the future of the profession. Over **25 sponsors, vendors, and recruiters** filled the exhibition hall, connecting attendees with innovative solutions and industry partners.*

*We extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors: **Data Innovations, BD Life Sciences, Roche Diagnostics, belairdirect, Nova Biomedical, Stago, Werfen, Sysmex, and CellaVision**.*

So let me close with this.

We have made real progress. We have built momentum. We have strengthened our voice. And we have shown this province exactly who we are.

But we are not finished.

We will not stop until Ontario funds the preceptors we need. We will not stop until every student has a placement. We will not stop until every lab has the staff required to deliver timely, safe patient care.

The MLPAO is moving forward — boldly, confidently, and together. And we are just getting started.

Thank you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email mhoad@mlpao.org or chair@mlpao.org.”

4. Minutes of the 63rd Annual General Meeting – Tania Toffner

“Our 63rd AGM was on Saturday June 14th, 2025 – 11:35 AM at the Holiday Inn Kingston Waterfront – virtual and live. Distributed electronically to members and available on the MLPAO website as of July 3rd, 2025.”

5. Business Arising from the Minutes – Tania Toffner

“There were no questions or business that required follow up from the past AGM.”

I would like to introduce our Vice Chair and Treasurer, Dana Vajcovec.

6. Auditor’s Report for 2025 – Dana Vajcovec

“The auditor’s report and a condensed version of the financial statements are published in the MLPAO 2025 Annual Report provided to members electronically through our website or by request.

A full detailed financial report is available from the MLPAO office upon request.

Are there any questions regarding the report? There were no questions.

Motion: *Be it resolved that the Auditor’s Report for 2025 be accepted as presented.*

Motion Carried (88 For, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions)

7. 2025 Annual Report – Tania Toffner

"The Annual Report was provided to members electronically as outlined in our by-laws. The 2025 Annual Report highlighted our key milestones from the past year. I encourage you all to take a moment to review the publication at your convenience – there is a link on our "Governance" page.

Are there any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Annual Report?"

There were no questions.

8. Report from the Nominating Committee – Sandra Marshall

"There are 12 positions on the MLPAO Board of Directors. The following Directors will begin the second year of their two-year terms at the date of this AGM:

*Director at Large – Sue Milburn
Director at Large MLAT – Terri Boynton-Payne
Director – District 1 – Jennifer Sanna-White
Director- District 3 - Dana Vajcovec
Director, District 5– John Soltys
Director, District 7 – Joe Perri*

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to this great board.

Open Positions - Director at Large

*The term of office for **two open board** positions for Director at Large concluded at this AGM.*

The nominations received by the deadline were:

- *Tracy Carrier*
- *Manon Chennette*
- *Arbour MacLachlan*
- *Brenda Voth*

There were 2843 electors; 713 votes returned. (includes 2 paper ballots and 5 abstentions)

The winners are Tracy Carrier and Brenda Voth! Congratulations ladies!

Open Position - District 6.

The term of office for the open position of Director District 6 concluded at this AGM.

The nominations received by the deadline were:

*Tracy Carrier
Cammera Yuill-Robar*

There were 546 electors; 147 votes returned. (includes 1 paper ballot)

The winner was Tracy Carrier. As Tracy was also elected to the Director at Large position as well, she chose to take that position.

Which makes Camerra Yuill Robar the winner, as she came in second place. Congratulations!

The remaining board positions were won based on acclamation. Please join me in welcoming the following board members:

Winners based on acclamation:

- *Rachel Desjardins - District 2*
- *Natalie Goodman - District 4*
- *Deb Croteau - District 8*

All of these positions are for a two-year term and will expire at 2028 AGM.

Welcome to our new and returning board members. That concludes the report of the Nominating Committee”.

Tania:

“Thank you, Sandra. Congratulations to all the incoming Board members. You won’t have any regrets joining this team. If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors, please visit the website for more information on the positions that will be available for 2027. I would also encourage you to speak to any of our board members to ask them about being on the board and their experience.”

Motion: *Be it resolved that the Report of the Nominating Committee be accepted as presented.*

Motion Carried (88 For, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions)

“Also, we have several retired members that do not have email addresses and as per our bylaws they are provided paper ballots. We collect and include these ballots as part of the voting process. Therefore, we have a motion to destroy these paper ballots.”

Motion: *Be it resolved that all paper ballots used for the open board positions for 2026 be destroyed.*

Motion Carried (88 For, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions)

9. Appointment of the Auditor for 2026 – Tania Toffner

“Each year we select an auditor for the upcoming year. The Board of Directors recommends HGK Partners and Chartered Professional Accountants. This auditor conducted our audit over the past several years and we were very pleased with the thorough process. We have elected to use them again for 2026.

Are there any questions?"

Motion: *Be it resolved that the accounting firm of HGK Partners and Chartered Professional Accountants be appointed as auditors for the MLPAO for the 2026 fiscal year.*

Motion Carried (88 For, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions)

10. Update to Articles – Tania Toffner

"Our lawyers have drafted a recommendation to update our articles as outlined in the documentation provided to members which was attached to the Agenda. The Board has approved the recommendations. And we require the membership to approve them as well. Are there any questions?"

Motion: *Be it resolved that Amendment to Articles drafted by SimpsonWigle Law LPP as a follow up to Ontario Not For Profit Corporations Act be approved as presented.*

Motion Carried (88 For, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions)

11. New Business – Tania Toffner

There was no new business arising from the agenda.

12. Adjournment – Tania Toffner

As there is no further business this meeting is adjourned at 12:01pm.