EST. 2018

THE POUNDS PROJECT

2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2025
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Location: 393 George St – Natsoolyis Cultural Centre
Chair: Mariah Curry

I. Territory acknowledgement and Gratitude to Soonats'ooneh Health Society

II. Moment of silence for those we have lost

III. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order by the ED at 1:11 PM.

IV. Welcome and Introductions

- Current Board Members: Torie Beram, Mariah Curry, Nathan Findlay, Vivian Josewski, Sarah de Leeuw; Michelle Stewart and Jordan Stewart as non-voting members.
- Current ED: Mackenzie Stewart. Current FD: Ruth Byra

V. Announcement of Quorum

- ED confirmed quorum at 41 members of 63.
- Motion to approve quorum Mariah Curry.
- Nathan Findlay seconded.
  i. The motion passed.

VI. 2025 AGM agenda for approval

- Lynnell Halikowski motioned to approve the 2025 AGM agenda as presented.
- Whitney Vickers seconded the motion.
- None opposed to approving the 2025 AGM agenda.
  i. The motion passed.

VII. 2024 AGM minutes for approval

- Nathan Findlay motioned to approve the 2024 AGM minutes as presented.
- Mariah Curry seconded the motion.
- None opposed to approve the 2024 AGM minutes.
  i. The motion passed.

VIII. Chair Report – 1:16 pm

- Presented by Mariah Curry
  i. Biggest focus: staying open. Prior to hiring peeps, living on a prayer. Terrifying political climate for future of harm reduction.
  ii. Ruth secured funding
  iii. Next biggest hurdle was hiring people to allow expansion for service availability
  iv. We lost a lot of people this year. Acknowledging it's pretty shitty
  v. Got safe inhalation site up and running

vi. The progress was a huge feat and Board is very thankful

IX. ED Report – 1:20 pm

- Presented by Mackenzie Stewart

i. Since 2024 AGM Nov 16, 2024 continued our relationship with main funders, and signed a contract for 18 months with Health Canada on July 12, 2025 for 1.6m as part of a time limited project that we're using to expand. FNHA money is for OPS operations, NH is funding smoke site and dc, and the HC money is filling in the gaps and helping expand the support services.

ii. Expanded hours: Tues-Sat 8am-1pm and Tues-Fri 5pm-9pm, with dc from 12-4pm Tues-Sat. Continued to grow staff team and with extra staff and expanded hours, ip to Oct 30th of this year, we have served 8485 people. April 2025: 585. October 2025: 2145.

iii. Inhalation Site has been a large part of visit expansion. Oct 81% of visits to OPS were inhalation. Sept 78%. Aug 58%. July 53%. June 65%. May 31%. April 48%.

iv. Added an additional Support Services staff and have scaled up support work with 166 clients served up to Sept 30th.

v. Once again looking at the rest of our contracts with a potential for scaling up OPS hours as well as an additional Support Service staff member for their client base.

vi. Scaling up community partnerships, as well as strengthening relationships with other peer led organizations to increase our knowledge and work to establish longevity.

vii. Volunteer program slowly starting up again.

X. Financial Report – 1:28 pm

- presented by Ruth Byra

i. Reminder of F25 (Apr1,24-Mar31,25) and F26 timelines (Apr1,25-Mar31,26).

1. Contracts with FNHA fund Drop-In (Two Doors Down), Injection Site and Support Services.

2. NHA contracts fund Drug Checking and Inhalation Site.

ii. In Apr 2024 (last year), we renewed our FNHA contracts for Drop-In, Injection site and Support services for $332,000 ($120,000 more than previous contract); renewed our NHA Drug Checking contract at $104,000 (same as previous contract) and added Inhalation site contract at $220,000. In addition, we continued our contract with PG CAT for peer employment with $14,000 remaining.

iii. We later applied for the NHA Peer employment grant for $8,000 to continue peer employment after PG CAT funds ran out, then used some of the previous year surplus and applied for and received the COPG Community Grant for another $8,000.

iv. Between Apr 2024 and Mar 2025 we overspent on 2 budget items: wages for the Drop-In/Injection site by almost $34,000 which was balanced by underspending on fixed costs, and the installation of the Inhalation site by $15,000 balanced in part by underspending in wages for this and the Drug Checking contracts.

v. By the end of Mar 2025 and with all sources of income we received just over $850,000 and spent approx.. $820,000.

vi. At the end of Mar 2025 we prepared for contract renewals, the potential of closing permanently in the start of F26 (Apr 2025) and filling out more applications from other funding sources.

vii. FNHA was unable to guarantee funding so in response, we added a potential permanent closure plan intended for essentially 2 weeks of wages to close hours of operation, deal with our assets and close the doors + 2 more weeks for closing admin work (government reporting and remittances). This was presented to our funders as part of our expenses (of last year) and was accepted. It is also the reason for the proposed Bylaw changes given that we have no guarantees of renewal for the contracts that cover our fixed costs the most important being rent.

    1. In response to this challenge, FNHA gave us a 1 time Whine-Down contract for $150,000 before the end of Mar 2025 with the plan to continue operating for 2 more months in hopes to buy time until we could renew our annual recurring contract.

viii. NHA contracts renewed early.

ix. We applied for funding from Health Canada for 1.4M as an alternative: our application was initially revoked, then accepted, then paused during elections and finally re-accepted at the end of June.

    1. This contract allowed (amongst what ED and Chair already mentioned) to include an operational costs budget (safety, cleaning, and food & beverage supplies) which last year was reliant on fundraising from our Board and donations.

x. Between Apr 2025 and now, we increased our staff team and continue to have a benefits program for any staff working a minimum of 20 hours/week. To date we have spent just over $392,000 which is just over $120,00 more than we spent by this time last year.

xi. At the end of Oct 2025 we received our first reimbursement from Health Canada for just over $500,000 which came in higher than the expenses incurred in the first quarter of the contract.

xii. By the end of this fiscal year we will have received an estimated amount of $1.5M which is $650,000 more than the all sources of funding received last fiscal.

XI. Announcement of new (Acclaimed) Board members – 1:39 pm

- After reviewing and evaluating Board applications we are excited to acclaim all accepted applications.
- Acclaimed Board members: Mandy Cormier, Alexandria McKnight and Amy Blanding.
- Re-elected Board Members: Torie Beram, Sarah de Leeuw and Viviane Josewski
- Mariah Curry and Nathan Findlay will remain on the Board making it a total of 8 Board members.

XII. Voting for proposed Bylaw changes – 1:41

- None opposed to approving the Addition of a new Bylaw (9) for *Society Closure and Dissolution* as presented.
- Ariel Hayward motioned to approve the Bylaw 9 addition as presented.
- Noah Marquette seconded.
- The motion passed.

XIII. Open floor for Member comments / Parking Lot 1:44PM

- The E.D. did not receive any resolutions before the 2025 AGM.

- Open floor, membership shares thoughts and experiences.
    - Noah has been at POUNDS for 6 months, feels thankful and expressed overall positivity.
    - Shout out to Dani Willier for the cultural Outreach program, plans on continuing and expanding into cultural groups.

XIV. 2026 AGM

- The goal is to host the AGM next fall. Date TBA.
- Motion to adjourn
  i. Motion forward by Ariel Hayward
  ii. Seconded Noah Marquette
    1. Outcome: passed.

XV. Adjournment – 1:50 pm PST

- The Chair adjourned the 2025 AGM.