



Minutes of the 91st Annual General Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, held at the head office of the Corporation on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, 7:00 p.m., in the Social Hall of the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9.

Karen Palayew, Chair of the Board, is presiding.

1. Call to Order

Karen Palayew called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

She welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the 91st Annual General Meeting (AGM).

2. Recognition

Karen acknowledged the presence of members of the board, community Rabbis, agency representatives, corporate sponsors, friends and families, and past chairs of the Federation and thanked them for attending.

3. D'var Torah

Karen invited Rabbi Idan Scher of the Congregation Machzikei Hadas, to deliver the D'var Torah, who shared words of Torah and inspiration.

4. Approval of the audited financial statements of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Karen called for a motion to approve the financial statements audited by GGFL, and the audit report thereon, for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Adam Zaret **moved, seconded** by Sarah Caspi to approve the financial statements audited by GGFL, and the audit report thereon, for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Carried.

5. Approval of Auditors

Karen called for a motion to appoint GGFL as auditors for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2026.

Ian Sherman **moved, seconded** by Liz Vered to appoint GGFL as auditors for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2026. **Carried.**

6. Approval of the minutes of the 90th Annual General Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, held June 19, 2024.

Karen called for a motion to approve the minutes from the 91st Annual General Meeting.

Gillian Presner **moved, seconded** by Sarah Beutel to approve the Minutes of the 90th Annual General Meeting held on June 19, 2024. **Carried.**

7. Approval of Acts of Officers & Directors

Karen called for a motion to approve all acts, contracts, bylaws, proceedings, appointments, elections, and payments enacted, made, done, and taken by or on behalf of the Directors and Officers of the Federation since the last Annual General Meeting on June 19, 2024 are hereby approved, ratified, and confirmed.

Dorothy Stern **moved, seconded** by Samantha Sigler to approve all acts, contracts, bylaws, proceedings, appointments, elections, and payments enacted, made, done, and taken by or on behalf of the Directors and Officers of the Federation since the last Annual General Meeting on June 19, 2024 are hereby approved, ratified, and confirmed.

8. Recognition of Annual Campaign Leadership

Leila Ages and Gary Viner were thanked for their commitment and leadership while acting as co-chairs for the 2025 Annual Campaign. It was confirmed that Leila and Gary will be resuming their roles as co-chairs of the 2026 Annual Campaign.

Karen recognized the Young Adult Division Campaign Co-chairs Jared Jenicek and Michelle Zilbergerts-Jenicek and Elyssa and Jonathon Greenberg

9. CEO's Report

Karen invited Adam to share his first Annual Report.

10. Recognition of Jewish Communal Professionals

Before he shared his personal reflections, Adam recognized Jewish professionals with work milestones. He congratulated Ellie Kamil on her twenty four years of service with the Ottawa Jewish Community School, and wished Ellie a happy retirement. He then extended thanks to Dr. Jon Mitzmacher, who is moving on from his role as Head of School at the Ottawa Jewish Community School. Adam wished Jon and his family all the best in this next chapter.

Adam recognized Federation professionals who are celebrating milestone service anniversaries:

Anne Read, Teigen Goldsmith, Leonard Kerzner, Sylvie Bordeleau, Bernadine Eckensviller, Rabbi Levy Teitlebaum, Jean Myers, and John Mullen.

11. Approval of the Nominating Committee Report

Karen invited Ian Sherman to present the Nominating Committee Report.

Ian recognized outgoing board members Kevin Barwin, Alice Retik, Tal Scher, and Marci Surkes and thanked them for their invaluable leadership, wisdom, and tremendous contributions.

Ian called for a motion to approve the Nominating Committee report as presented.

Rabbi Scher **moved, seconded** by Donna Dolansky to approve the Nominating Committee report. **Carried.**

Ian welcomed new board members: SuYun Geithner, Evan Green, Jessica Greenberg, Josh Kardish, and Elissa Lieff.

12. Freiman Family Young Leadership Award and Lawrence Greenberg Young Adult Leadership Award

Ian introduced this year's recipient of the Freiman Family Young Leadership Award recipient, Jasmine Kranat. Jasmine also received the Lawrence Greenberg Young Leadership Development Award. Jasmine was not present at the AGM but an acceptance speech was read on her behalf.

13. Rabbi Reuven Bulka Shem Tov Community Volunteer Awards

Karen introduced Rabbi Reuven Bulka Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award recipient, Esti Fogel, and presented her with the award.

Ian introduced Rabbi Reuven Bulka Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award recipients Toby and Joel Yan, and presented them with the award.

14. Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Leadership Award

Ian introduced this year's Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Leadership Award recipient, Linda Kerzner, and presented her with the award.

15. Outgoing Chair's Recognition

Ian offered special recognition to Karen and thanked her for her exemplary service as Chair of the Board of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

Ian acknowledged Karen began her term during a pivotal moment as Federation searched for a new CEO, then October 7 occurred, a moment that changed everything. The same year the community celebrated Federation's 90th anniversary. Ian thanked Karen for her empathy, grace, strength, and clarity of purpose.

16. Outgoing Chair's Address

Karen thanked Ian for his wisdom, mentorship, and friendship over the years and extended a heartfelt mazel tov to the community award winners.

Karen expressed her gratitude to the community for their contributions to the Annual Campaign, and for the opportunity to work alongside the professionals, volunteers, and lay leaders to support every aspect of Jewish life in Ottawa.

Karen highlighted the rise in antisemitism due to the ongoing war in Gaza, and Federation's ongoing work to strengthen relationships with civic allies and political leaders. Karen concluded her remarks by expressing a wish to move forward with hope and prayers for peace.

17. Incoming Chair's Address

Danya Vered expressed that she is honoured to take on the role of Chair of the Board of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, and shared the impact her father Arnie Vered z"l had on helping others through his community involvement with Federation.

Danya shared her work chairing the Strategic Planning Task Force, and stated her commitment to community building with the broader Ottawa community to ensure Jewish Ottawa is heard, protected, and respected.

18. Adjournment

Danya Vered called for a motion of adjournment.

Marina Milyavskaya **moved** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Liz Vered. **Carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.