

CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS
85th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025
Cineplex Cinemas Varsity and VIP, Toronto, Ontario

Attendees arrived at the theatre at 3:00pm and gathered in the VIP lounge for refreshments before the formal AGM meeting. Guests moved into the theatre at 3:50pm after mingling and light apps/snacks. The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm by Canadian Picture Pioneers President Greg Mason, after the presentation of film trailers. Remarks and motions were as follows.

PRESIDENT'S 2025 REVIEW

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Greg Mason and I am the President of the Canadian Picture Pioneers. I'd like to welcome all of you to the annual general meeting of the Canadian Picture Pioneers. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy day to join us at Cineplex's Varsity Cinemas.

Before we get started with today's formal business, I'd like to thank and acknowledge the amazing AGM planning committee that volunteered their time and creativity to put today on. Thank you to: Valerie Henriques, Kylie Bechberger, Sara Fleming, Nicole Horak, Gurbani Marwah, Jennifer McKittrick, Amanda Mastantuono and Melissa Pressacco.

Well, 2024 was another very successful year for the CPP with record-breaking numbers, incredible events and some very key milestones along the way.

On screen here, you will see the order of today's events. So you can expect updates by various members from across our Board of Directors and the Trust Fund trustees. OK, let's roll!

Kicking off the start of 2024, the entire Board and our amazing volunteers got cracking on our many fundraising events and initiatives – all of which led us to fantastic turnouts and ultimately delivered record-breaking financial results.

In fact, this past year, due to the generosity of all of you and our incredible supporters and sponsors, we were able to provide to the CPP Trust Fund a record-breaking end of year donation of \$125,000, that's a 25% increase over 2023 and a threshold that we've never reached before as an organization. And it is the CPP Trust Fund that is then able to provide the annual student assistance awards as well as necessary financial support and assistance to those members of our community that have fallen on hard times. So, \$125,000 in one year is an outstanding accomplishment. Thank you all so very much!

Highlights from 2024 include the continuation of our CPP Internship Program, in partnership with our friends at Universal Pictures. The program was a huge success, and we have been at it again in 2025. In fact, the committee recently completed the final interviews and just yesterday extended an offer to one lucky candidate who has accepted this dream internship role. She will be spending the summer working alongside the Marketing and Sales teams at Universal Pictures.

With our Student Assistance Awards Program, we once again supported the next generation. In 2024, the Trustees voted to increase the awards level, now at \$6,000 in assistance to each of our 25 students from across Canada. All together, we have now crossed the \$1MM threshold in total student assistance awards given since the program's inception. Here you can see all the smiling faces of our 2024 Award Winners from across Canada. We look forward to kicking this process off again this summer.

Last year, we initiated a website refresh project. Based on feedback from our membership survey, the committee worked tirelessly over many months to develop a modernized and streamlined site, making it more functional and engaging. The new site includes the Pioneering Women who also have their own dedicated space.

I've been fortunate to have had a sneak peek – and well...it's fantastic! And I'm pleased to share that the wait is over. We are officially launching the new site today. Here is a quick look at our new site. So be sure to check it out. We will continue to refine it as we go forward.

I'd like to give huge thanks to the committee that pulled the new site together Thank you very much to...Adam Tameron, Andrei Ausch, Jensen Adam Logue-Lee, Margaret Burnside, Sundeep Chauhan, Kylie Bechberger and Melissa Pressacco.

Looking ahead to the remainder of this year, we are continuing to evolve and grow the CPP through a number of exciting new initiatives and projects:

- Through the assistance of our legal counsel, Anne Fitzgerald, the Trustees have been reviewing how we provide assistance to those in need, ensuring we provide good governance to the Trust Fund. We are also exploring possible new ways in which we can give and offer support.
- We also recently partnered with the Cinema Foundation in the US for a Sneak Peek Showcase featured at Cineplex, Landmark and Imagine Cinemas where the Canadian Picture Pioneers was the beneficiary of part of the proceeds.
- We continue to aim to expand our member base by investigating new opportunities to engage adjacent businesses and build new CPP partnerships.
- And finally, we are exploring opportunities to reach the next generation of Pioneers with special events that target those entering the industry.

This continues to be an exciting chapter for our organization, and one thing remains constant—the unwavering dedication of the Canadian Picture Pioneers. We proudly serve as the industry's community support network, creating opportunities to connect, mentor the next generation, and assist colleagues facing financial challenges. Think of the CPP as the heart and hub of the Canadian film industry.

Before I hand things over, I want to take a moment to celebrate and thank everyone who made this past year so memorable. To all who attended our events, volunteered your time, or supported the CPP in any way—your enthusiasm and generosity are what keep our community thriving. A special thank you to our incredible CPP and industry partners for your donations and sponsorships. Your contributions make a lasting impact. And to our amazing

volunteer Board and Executive Committee: it is an absolute privilege to work alongside such passionate, dedicated professionals. Thank you!

TREASURERS REPORT

Jason Fulsom, Treasurer, gave the following report.

Hello everyone — It's great to be with you this afternoon. For those I haven't had the chance to meet yet, I'm Jason Fulsom, Senior Vice President and General Manager at Universal Films Canada. I also have the honour of serving as the Treasurer of the Canadian Picture Pioneers — and I'm a proud past-President and long-time Board member.

Like many of you, the CPP has been an important part of my journey in this industry for many years. This afternoon, I'll be walking you through the financial highlights from the past year.

Before we dive in, just a quick housekeeping note: Printed copies of the 2024 audit report and last year's AGM minutes were available at the Registration Desk — and they're also posted online on the CPP website under the AGM Event section.

Here's a QR code that will take you directly to them if you'd like to follow along.

2024 was a remarkable year — both for our industry and for the CPP. We built on the success of our 2023 events, and hit some major milestones.

Following the ambitious budget of 2023 (which we knocked out of the park), we built our 2024 budget with the same enthusiasm to increase income even further, by evolving our events and looking at new ways to raise funds. We also adjusted our forecasted expenses to reflect the increase in costs across the board, knowing we would need to be mindful of rising costs, and earmarked some money to refresh our website — which Greg shared earlier.

Our total revenue was forecast at \$394,000...

And I'm happy to report that the focus and ambition paid off.

We ended 2024 with total revenue of \$471,937 —
An almost 20% increase over budget.

This success was largely thanks to our two flagship events — the golf tournament and the awards dinner — with the lion's share (over half), from the Awards Dinner. We moved it back downtown last year to great accolades and record-breaking numbers.

Of course, we remain incredibly grateful for the continued support of our many generous industry partners. Your contributions make this all possible.

And make it possible...did you ever! As Greg touched on earlier, because of your generosity, we were able to contribute a new record-breaking contribution of \$125,000 to our Trust Fund. This is how we fund our student programs and provide assistance to those in need in the industry. I think that deserves a round of applause.

Looking ahead, the Board is optimistic as we move into 2025 and plan for our highly anticipated events in the back half of the year. We've approved another bold budget — and we're confident in our ability to meet our targets, thanks to the strong momentum we've built and the support of members like you.

As always, we will work hard to find new ways to bring industry members together and continue to help as many people as we can who find themselves in financial need.

So I encourage all of you — whether you're a longtime supporter or just discovering what the CPP is all about, come out to our events this year.

Tell your colleagues, too.

Our events are fun, welcoming, and a great way to meet new people and strengthen your industry connections.

Moving on to the Business Motions for the meeting.

As I mentioned earlier, a few copies of the 2024 audit report and last year's AGM minutes were available at the Registration Desk. Or you can use the QR code on the screen to access them.

MOTION to accept the Minutes from the 2024 Annual General Meeting. Moved by Jason Fulsom; Seconded by Sara Fleming; All approved – Carried

MOTION to accept the 2024 Audit as presented. Moved by Jason Fulsom; Seconded by Kylie Bechberger; All approved – Carried

MOTION to re-appoint Brendan Pennylegion from Pennylegion, Chung LLP as our auditor for 2025. Moved by Jason Fulsom; Seconded by Quincy Kelman; All approved – Carried

TRUST FUND UPDATE

Cathy Watson, Trust Fund Chair, gave the following report.

Good afternoon! I'm Cathy Watson, and I am the CPP Trust Fund Chair. There are many familiar faces in the audience but for those who don't know me, I have been a part of the Canadian Picture Pioneers and the Trust Fund for many years and proud to support such a great cause.

The Canadian Picture Pioneers is one of the oldest movie industry charities and is the **ONLY** charitable organization that is dedicated to support **ALL** industry employees and their families from across Canada.

The focus of our CPP Assistance Programs is to help industry members across Canada experiencing critical financial issues. Anyone can apply for assistance but, in many cases, we hear about people needing our help through our regional branches, theatre management teams or industry colleagues.

Our General Assistance Program provides one-time, short-term or long-term assistance. While we never share names or specific stories, I can assure you that the assistance provided makes an enormous difference and has helped many get back on their feet or pay emergency expenses. I want to stress that all applicants and their information is strictly confidential, and names would never be shared beyond the Trustees.

In 2024, together with the Student Assistance Programs, we provided almost \$180,000 in assistance. A 14% increase over 2023.

Since the inception of our assistance programs, we have provided over 4.2-million dollars in assistance to industry members in need across Canada. And as Greg touched on earlier, we're able to do this because of your donations and sponsorships throughout the year. So, to our members, sponsors and everyone in this room, THANK YOU. We appreciate all of your ongoing support so that we can continue doing what we do.

On screen there are just a few examples of how we've helped those in need. From those who needed support after losing their jobs to others who required special medical equipment or services after an accident or health issues. We also help industry seniors on fixed incomes who are unable to meet expenses.

Now here's where you come in! As I mentioned, we often hear about possible assistance cases from our regional branches, theatre management teams or industry colleagues.

So please, if you hear of somebody needing support, give them our contact information or reach out to Melissa directly. We are always looking for new cases and people to help.

NOMINATIONS for next year's National Board of Directors

Hello, I'm Darren Stokes. I have been asked to present the nominations for the Canadian Picture Pioneers Not-For-Profit Corporation Board of Directors for 2025.

Our Board of Directors can have a minimum of 12 Directors to a maximum of 30 Directors. This includes up to two Directors from each Pioneer Branch from across Canada. We sit at a very robust Board at 28 directors, with representation across the industry and country.

Board members are nominated annually and asked to serve at least two years. The Board meets a number of times a year to direct the business of the corporation. I've been on the Board for a collective 11 years and it's always been an important part of how I give back to the industry.

With their names on the screen (including mine), these are your Board nominations for the year. You will note that we have had one departure – with Brooks LeBoeuf accepting an exciting job south of the boarder this year. And one addition with someone who has been a long supporter of the CPP, rolling up her sleeves to help at all our events – Silvia Murday.

Darren Stokes presented nominations for the Board of Directors as listed here:

Kylie Bechberger

Sarah Brown

Margaret Burnside

Sundeep Chauhan	Sara Fleming	John Freeborn
Jason Fulsom	Jennifer Hofley	Nicole Horak
Quincy Kelman	Jennifer Kolber	Christina Kuypers
Silvia Murday	Gurbani Marwah	Greg Mason
Joanna Miles	Sandy Power	Melissa Pressacco
Darren Stokes	Adam Tameron	Sarah Timlick
Danish Vahidy	Don Williams	Jason Wright

Our Regional Branch Presidents also nominated include:

Michelle Okeymow - B.C. Courtney Patterson - AB Ernie MacDonald - Atlantic
 Antoine Ziend - Quebec

No additional nominations were received, Darren Stokes MOTIONED and MOVED to approve the nominations as read, SECONDED by Nicole Horak; All approved – Carried.

50 YEAR AWARDS

Sarah Brown congratulated members reaching the 50-year milestone in 2025. Those in attendance came to the front for a group picture.

Each year, we are honoured to celebrate members who have achieved 50 years of service within our industry. This is an incredible milestone and a huge congratulations goes out to our members receiving this recognition in 2025.

Named on the screen behind me, we are acknowledging the following for their tremendous years of service.

- Steve Martorino
- John Pedersen
- Perry Persaud
- John Pringle

We are most fortunate to have two 50-year award recipients in attendance today. So, I'd like to share a little bit about them now, as we welcome them to the front for a photo with your 50-year certificate. Please hold your applause until they are both down here with Greg.

Steve Martorino: Steve began his career with Henry Weiner Ltd., which evolved into Russell A. Farrow, and later joined L.M. Clark before becoming the owner of Spectrum Customs Border Services.

Over the years, he's played a vital role in supporting studios with customs clearance and international trade for production equipment and materials.

A longtime supporter of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, Steve generously sponsors numerous events every year and formed many lifelong friendships along the way. He has always expressed deep appreciation for the work of the CPP and is proud to be part of such a meaningful and supportive community.

Perry Persaud: Perry began his career as a theatrical booker in Guyana before immigrating to Canada in 1974.

Over the decades, he brought his expertise and passion for film to major companies including United Artists, Saguenay Films, Astral Films, Paramount Pictures, and ultimately retired from Canada Cinema Distribution in 2019.

Throughout his remarkable 50-year journey, Perry has been a proud supporter of the Canadian Picture Pioneers and a respected member of the industry, known for his dedication, professionalism, and warm camaraderie.

[Greg presented Steve and Perry with frame]

Congratulations again and thank you to our 50 year-award recipients for their support of the Canadian Picture Pioneers and being a key part of our dynamic industry.

NEW MEMBERS

Quincy Kelman announced new CPP members.

Our Canadian industry is small, but strong, and new members joining the CPP only make us stronger. When you're a CPP member not only are you supporting a great cause, but you are also building lasting relationships with peers in the industry.

This year I am very pleased to see so many new members joining the CPP. In total, we have 16 new members to recognize. I will read the names in a moment, but first I want to address all the new members that are in the room today.

As new members of the CPP, it is now your responsibility to assist in fulfilling our mission statements, which are:

- To provide assistance to eligible applicants who are in financial distress and have a clear need
- To cultivate the next generation of pioneers for the Canadian motion picture industry
- To build and foster relationships and a sense of community for those involved with the Canadian motion picture industry
- To develop relationships between the public and those engaged in the motion picture industry

I'd ask the audience to please hold your applause until I read all the names. And if you're here today, please make your way to the front for a group photo.

Hiba	Ahmed
Ashna	Bharkhada
Jennifer	Eggett
Cassidy	Gwozdz
Katie	Jones
Stefan	Kern
Melissa	Lewis
Kyle	Leydier
Marissa	Mandel-Murray
Jessica	McConnell
Alannah	O'Farrell
Celeste	Raymond
Silin	Singh
Adam	Slight
Manuel	Utreras
Caley	Webster

Congratulations to you all! Let's give them a warm welcome!

And as you head back to your seats, here's a final message to our new members...make sure you get involved, come to our events, connect with other members, maybe volunteer your time? We are always looking for new ideas and an extra pair of hands to help bring our events and programs to life. Feel free to reach out to any of our CPP Board members about how you can help.

Tell your friends too! If you know someone who you think would benefit from joining or have team members back at the office, encourage them to join the Canadian Picture Pioneers. There is a link right on the CPP website making it easy for everyone to join.

PIONEERING WOMEN

Sarah Brown and Kylie Bechberger provided an update on Pioneering Women.

2024 we had some exciting screenings thanks to our incredible partners in Distribution The Fall Guy, It Ends With Us, BeetleJuice Beetlejuice and Wicked. We have been seeing people get more and more involved at these screenings like dressing up as characters etc! We love to see our community fully embracing the fun of these events.

Like every year 2024 we got to partner with the Canadian Picture Pioneers as well on some of their events like the Golf where we did paint on the green and the summer social.

This year we started off already with a bang. The PW has decided to step into a new exciting chapter and have one signature event a year. On April 8th we held our first annual PW Speaker Series and high tea event at the Windsor Arms Hotel.

This is a new annual tradition where we gather our vibrant community to hear from inspiring voices across Canada and I'm happy to say we were so thrilled with the response from everyone! Not only the amazing sponsors who came on board to make it all happen but the people who came out and gave such positive feedback. We are going to start working on next year soon and can't wait so please if you don't follow us on social or get our emails come see me or Sarah and we will be sure to add you!

Of course, this doesn't mean we're stepping away from the screenings that you also know us for – we'll continue partnering with our amazing friends in exhibition and distribution throughout the year to keep those going.

Next you can join us for our PW Yoga lead by Sarah Timlick at Show Canada and some exciting upcoming screening!

UPCOMING CPP EVENTS

Gurbani Marwah provided an update on the upcoming events for the year.

Building on the Pioneering Women events that Kylie just mentioned, I'm here to share some other upcoming events that you'll want to save the dates for.

- Next up is our **Summer Social on June 18** at the Collective Arts Brewery. We have the entire venue and patio to ourselves, which makes it the perfect way to kick off summer. It's also a great opportunity to meet new people in the industry and catch up with old friends. This year, the theme is 90's hip hop. There will also be basement bingo with some great prizes to be won.
- Following that is our highly anticipated **Golf Tournament and BBQ on August 21st** at Rolling Hills Golf Club. This is a Pioneer favourite when we basically take over the entire course for the day and play a (air quotes) "competitive" game of best ball. The event sold out last year, so be sure to mark the date and check your inboxes for information on reserving your foursome in the coming weeks.
- Later in the year, we have our **Annual Awards Dinner**. This is our flagship gala event where we all come together to celebrate the Pioneer of the Year and Special Spotlight award recipients. We're holding it a little earlier this year, so save the date now: **Thursday, October 30**. The committee is already in full swing to welcome you back to the Delta Hotel downtown. You won't want to miss it!
- Last but not least, in December we will host our **annual Children's Industry Holiday Party**. This will likely be on the first Saturday in December, with fun for the whole family, including a special screening, as we welcome the festive season.

These events are a great way to connect with industry peers, while also supporting a great cause. Plus, I'll be there, so you want to come. Save the dates and I hope to see you there!

If you don't already, follow us on social. This is where you'll find more information on these events and other CPP and Pioneering Women news. It's a great way to stay informed about everything we're doing.

CLOSING REMARKS

Greg Mason gave remarks to close the meeting.

Before we start Friendship – which I'm extremely excited to see – I have a few final acknowledgements to make:

First, to all of you, thank you for attending today's AGM. Welcome to all our new members and congratulations to all our 50-year milestone recipients, especially Mr. Perry Persaud and Mr. Steve Martorino, who are with us today.

Thank you to all our generous sponsors, especially Cineplex and the Varsity team led by Rafiq. Thanks to VVS for providing the film today. And thank you to the Globe and Mail, Molson Coors and Arterra Wines for sponsoring our cocktail hour.

Huge thanks to our distributor partners who kindly donated to show a trailer today, including Cineplex Pictures, Walt Disney Studios, Universal Pictures, Paramount Pictures, Sony Pictures, Mongrel Media and Blue Fox Entertainment.

Thanks also to Cineplex, Warner Brothers and Paramount Pictures for providing the fabulous raffle items...and congratulations to our winners!


Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank Melissa Pressacco, our Executive Director who does an outstanding job steering the CPP and Trust Fund 365 days a year. Thank you, Melissa.

Now, I hope you can all stay for the movie...the run time is 1 hour and 40 mins and for some of you, that's how long you'll sit in traffic if you leave right now anyway. So instead, why not stay and enjoy Friendship and some hot buttery Cineplex popcorn.

Plus, we have a few more trailers from our distributor friends to share with you right now, so you don't want to miss that either. Once again, thank you for coming today and for all your ongoing support for the Canadian Picture Pioneers. And now...please, enjoy the show!

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.

A screening of *Friendship* was shown after the meeting.



President



Recording Secretary