

**Minutes of First Annual Meeting of the
Members of the Québec Genealogical eSociety (QGeS)
held Thursday 19 April 2018 at 7:00 pm (Eastern Daylight Time)
with all meeting participants connected through GoToWebinar**

Participants: Michael Baker, Maggie Blanchard (Webinar Coordinator), Sandra Blanchette, Linda Boyer, Arlene Courtney, Bruce Dawe, Mark Gallop, Johanne Gervais, Katherine Gowan, Patricia Greber, Michael Laekas (meeting chairperson), Timothy Larsen, Robert Poole.

Maggie Blanchard began the meeting by explaining how she intended to manage members' participation during the meeting. She also demonstrated how to use the participant control panel. After confirming that a quorum existed, Maggie turned the meeting over to Michael Laekas.

1) Michael welcomed the participants, and indicated that the QGeS is a Canadian Not-For-Profit organization whose operations are subject to the Federal Government's Not-For-Profit Act. He explained the meeting voting process, and noted that most resolutions at today's meeting required only a simple majority (51%) for adoption. Michael highlighted that abstentions to votes would not be included in establishing the total votes for or against any resolution. He emphasized the importance of members' voting in that the QGeS is a member-driven society that elects its Board of Directors, and adopts the By-Law and policies that guide the Board.

2) Michael proceeded to the election of the QGeS Board of Directors agenda item. He named the nominees and indicated they will serve a four-year term, if elected. The meeting proceeded to vote. Except for one abstention in each of the votes for the five nominees, all other votes were in favour of electing all Board member nominees. Effective immediately, the QGeS Board consists of Michael Baker, Bruce Dawe, Mark Gallop, Johanne Gervais, and Michael Laekas.

3a) Michael moved on to the next agenda item, adoption by members of the QGeS By-Law 1 and QGeS Policies 1 through 6 to govern QGeS operations. Preceding each vote, he provided a brief description of the document and welcomed questions.

By-Law 1: Except for one member's abstention, all other meeting members voted to adopt By-Law 1.

Policy 1 Management of QGeS Website: Except for one member's abstention, all other meeting members voted to adopt Policy 1.

Policy 2 Finance: Robert Poole raised a question regarding membership fees. Michael indicated Johanne Gervais would cover them later in the meeting. The meeting proceeded to the vote. Except for one member's abstention, all other meeting members voted to adopt Policy 2.

Policy 3 Membership: Except for one member abstention's, all other meeting members voted to adopt Policy 3.

Policy 4 Term of Directors: Except for one member's abstention, all other meeting members voted to adopt Policy 4.

Policy 5 Meetings: Mark Gallop confirmed Michael's vote preamble that, in future Annual Meetings, members would only need to vote for the QGeS By-Law and Policies, if there were changes proposed to any of these documents. Except for one member's abstention, all other meeting members voted to adopt Policy 5.

Policy 6 Document Management: Except for one member's abstention, all other meeting members voted to adopt Policy 6.

3b) Michael proceeded to the next agenda item, a proposal to change the Society's French name. Michael described the events that led to the Board recommending a change from eSociété Généalogique du Québec to Société Généalogique Virtuelle du Québec. He cited a French language miscue on his part in coming up with the name and a later threat of legal action for similarity of eSociété Généalogique du Québec with another society's name - Société de généalogie de Québec. Because the Society's proposed name change affected a fundamental element identified by the Canada Not-For-Profit Act, he said a two-thirds majority of votes was required to pass the resolution. Johanne Gervais said the consensus of francophones she met at RootsTech, including those from France, was that the lower case e intent (electronic) in front of Société would be lost on most French speaking people. Sandra Blanchette suggested that the legal threat was not sustainable, but agreed with Johanne's observation concerning eSociété. She proposed that we could

trademark our English and French names to protect ourselves from any further legal action. Michael Baker commented that it would benefit the QGeS to differentiate itself in people's minds from the other society to avoid confusion. With the discussions concluded, the meeting proceeded to vote. Bruce Dawe noted the resolution on his monitor was missing "du Québec." Maggie explained that was due to a text limitation in GoToWebinar polls. Michael said that the minutes of meeting would capture the full name.

Except for one member's abstention, all other meeting members voted in favour of changing the QGeS French name from eSociété Généalogique du Québec to Société Généalogique Virtuelle du Québec.

4) In the next agenda item, Michael described the condition whereby the QGeS would not need to hire a qualified Public Accountant but would maintain transparency of 2018 finances through a year-end audit, the results of which would be shared at the next annual members' meeting in 2019. He cautioned that to proceed in this manner would require a unanimous vote by participating members in favour of the resolution. Linda Boyer suggested some members (organizer, presenter) may not have a vote but the system is including them, thus producing an unintentional abstention. Maggie indicated that she as the Webinar organizer does not vote and is not included in the total who votes. All other meeting members are eligible to vote. Michael Baker suggested that the member abstaining might be otherwise occupied and not aware of the need to vote. Katherine Gowan said she was dialed in (phone) and was voting by computer. She wondered if the system was counting her as two participants. Maggie said Katherine was in the list of attendees only once, but that the system didn't permit her to see who was voting / not voting. Tim Larsen suggested polling the people individually if another abstention occurred. Arlene Courtney suggested a show of hands via the control panel. Maggie proposed that she would pose the question to each attendee and that they could vote verbally. The meeting agreed, and Maggie managed the process as the oral voting proceeded. The results were unanimous, all meeting members voted in favour of the resolution not to hire a Public Accountant for 2018. Maggie suggested one member being otherwise occupied and unaware caused the previous abstentions.

Michael introduced Linda Boyer as the sole nominee for auditor of the QGeS 2018 finances. Sandra Blanchette asked for information concerning Linda's ability to conduct the audit. Linda responded that for many years she had held the position of Secretary and Treasurer of a golf league. Her responsibilities included handling of membership fees and balancing the books at the end of the season. In addition, she said she had spent over 30 years in the aerospace industry in the Engineering organization. The meeting proceeded to vote. All meeting members voted in favour of appointing Linda Boyer as the auditor for the year-end audit of QGeS finances, after the close of the financial year on 31 December 2018.

5) Johanne Gervais presented the QGeS 2017 Statement of Operations. Addressing Robert Poole's earlier question concerning membership fees, Johanne explained that 2017 did not have any income because the new Society did not have any members by year-end 2017. The 2017 expenses included start-up one-time registration and development costs and recurring support costs. A long-term, no-interest loan resulted in a balanced statement for 2017. Johanne then provided a detailed breakdown of known 2018 recurring expenses, indicating some were estimates that might change. She said her goal was to cover the 2018 recurring expenses (forecast \$3913.27) with the income from membership fees, indicating that 87 members are required. With a current membership of 45 after two months since launch, Johanne said she is confident that goal is achievable by year-end. If membership exceeds 87, Johanne said the additional income would be directed towards website enhancements.

6) With the conclusion of agenda items, Michael offered members the opportunity to comment on the meeting, the Society, the tools, services.

Linda Boyer asked about advertising or promoting of the society.

Johanne responded with a list of activities completed / planned: posted on FB pages; launched at RootsTech 2018 in Feb-Mar; participated in the Gen-O-Rama Ottawa Conference last weekend; will be at Ontario Genealogy Society conference in Guelph in June; corresponded with historical societies & centres in Anglophone areas in the province of Quebec & planning visits to some; Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network magazine will feature an article on QGeS written by Mark Gallop; Internet Genealogy magazine will include an article on QGeS in upcoming edition; and the Ontario Genealogy Society featured an article in their weekly newsletter.

Patricia Greber asked if there is there a place for interaction and for questions about research.

Johanne said there are plans for a message board where people can post questions, perhaps within a couple of months.

 Patricia Greber suggested arranging an archive's day at the Quebec City Archives to help her and others who would be visiting.

Johanne indicated that there were no QGeS members yet in Quebec City area to support this, but thought it would be a good idea.

 Arlene Courtney thanked those who organized the QGeS that provides support to her and others. She mentioned the Southern California Genealogy Society Conference (Jamboree) and a French Canadian group associated with the Society. Arlene suggested contacting them.

Johanne said she has information about the conference. She said she will reach out to the French Canadian group.

 Sandra Blanchette referred back to Patricia's suggestion for an Archive's day in Quebec City and noted that the BAnQ is hosting an archives day across Quebec on Saturday June 9th. Sandra described the uniqueness of this event and said she would provide Johanne with marketing material for the QGeS Newsletter.

 Arlene Courtney suggested contacting the Maple Stars & Stripes group that do podcasts and ask them for a shoutout for the QGeS. The contact is Sandra Goodwin.

Johanne said she met Sandra or her colleagues at RootsTech, and Sandra put her on their podcast schedule.

 Michael Baker asked if there was a mechanism for submitting ideas, suggestions.

Johanne said the "Leave Us a Message" at the bottom of each page in the website was intended for that purpose.

 7) With no further questions or comments, Johanne thanked everyone for their contribution and noted that the minutes of meeting would be posted on the "About Us" main menu under the "Administrative" sub-menu. Michael thanked all for their participation, thanked Maggie for managing the Webinar, and asked Maggie to close the session of the QGeS 2018 annual members' meeting.