

Minutes

Open Session

Special Board Meeting

DATE: April 1, 2026

ATTENDEES: Ashley Gueret; Jenny Damstrom; David Ayriss; Leisa Belanger; Pinder Cheema; Janene Erickson; Ella Huang; Tanya Momtazian; Tiffany Sayers; Wayne Tang

STAFF: Natasha Prodan-Bhalla; Louise Aerts; Natasha Dookie; Katherine Graham; Daniel Laflèche; Jacqueline Per; Sara Telfer; Arminder Sihat

With a quorum present, the Board held its first meeting under the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* (HPOA). The Board Chair shared a territorial acknowledgment.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Oath of Office

The Chief Legal Officer administered the Oath of Office to the Board, as required by section 349 of the HPOA, thereby formally constituting the Board of the BC College of Nurses and Midwives.

BCCNM HPOA General Bylaws

The Board was presented with new bylaws under the HPOA for review and approval.

WHEREAS the Board has considered the proposed BCCNM General Bylaws as set out in Appendix A to the briefing note dated March 12, 2026 and presented to the Board on April 1, 2026;

WHEREAS the Board is satisfied that the consultation process that BCCNM engaged in with respect to the proposed BCCNM General Bylaws prior to April 1, 2026 meets the intention of section 384 of the *Health Professions and Occupations Act*;

RESOLVED THAT in accordance with the *Health Professions and Occupations Act*, the Board approves the BCCNM General Bylaws, to take effect immediately upon approval, and repeals and replaces the Bylaws of the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives Consolidation No. 19 (Jan. 27, 2026).

CARRIED

Selection of Board Chair and Board Vice-Chair

The Board acclaimed Ashley Gueret as Board Chair and Jenny Damstrom as Board Vice-Chair, effective immediately.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Board moved the item, *Continuation of Board Policies*, from the consent agenda to the regular agenda.

The Board approved the remaining consent agenda as follows:

- a) **RESOLVED THAT**, effective April 1, 2026, the Board appoints Natasha Prodan-Bhalla as Registrar of the BC College of Nurses and Midwives in accordance with section 359(1) of the *Health Professions and Occupations Act*.

CARRIED

- b) **RESOLVED THAT** the Board approves the *Former Licensees on Regulatory Committees* policy, as presented in the briefing note dated March 17, 2026 and submitted to the Board on April 1, 2026.

CARRIED

Continuation of Board Policies

The Board directed an amendment to clarify the language of the resolution as drafted.

RESOLVED THAT the Board approves the continuation of the existing board-level policy, *Partnering with BCCNM (former Code of Conduct for Board and Committee Members)*, and the *BCCNM Board Meeting Guidelines*, attached respectively at Appendices B and C of the briefing note dated March 18, 2026, effective April 1, 2026, following the coming into force of the Health Professions and Occupations Act, until the policy and/or guideline is amended, repealed, or replaced by the Board.

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff be authorized to make any necessary technical, administrative, or legislative reference updates to existing board policies listed in Appendix A to the briefing note dated March 18, 2026.

CARRIED

Committee Appointments

The Board considered committee appointments arising from new statutory roles under the HPOA and transitional changes to committee names.

RESOLVED THAT the individuals listed in Appendix A to the briefing note dated March 19, 2026 who are currently appointed to the Professional Practice and Standards Committee continue as members of the Professional Standards Advisory Committee, effective April 1, 2026, for the balance of their current terms.

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individuals identified in Appendix A to the briefing note dated March 19, 2026 as the current chair and vice-chairs of the Professional Practice and Standards Committee continue as chair and vice-chairs of the Professional Standards Advisory Committee, effective April 1, 2026, for terms ending February 28, 2027.

AND FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individuals identified as Professional Standards Advisors in Appendix A to the briefing note dated March 19, 2026 be appointed as Professional Standards Advisors, effective April 1, 2026.

CARRIED

The Board completed its deferred review of Registrar Oversight Committee appointments.

RESOLVED THAT Ashley Gueret, Jenny Damstrom, and Pinder Cheema be appointed as members to the Registrar Oversight Committee, effective April 1, 2026 to February 28, 2027.

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Ashley Gueret and Jenny Damstrom be appointed as chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the Registrar Oversight Committee for terms ending February 28, 2027.

CARRIED

Staff presented an additional motion to the Board, advising that while transitional provisions existed under the HPOA, a confirming resolution would support continuity and legal clarity.

WHEREAS the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* came into force on April 1, 2026, replacing the *Health Professions Act* as the legal framework governing the BC College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM);

AND WHEREAS the Board had made committee appointments under the former *Health Professions Act*;

AND WHEREAS the Board wishes to ensure continuity, legal clarity, and uninterrupted operations by clearly grounding these appointments in the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* and the college's general bylaws;

RESOLVED THAT the individuals currently appointed by the Board to the following committees continue as committee members, effective April 1, 2026, for the balance of their current terms:

- (1) Licence Committee (formerly Registration Committee)

- (2) Investigation Committee (formerly Inquiry Committee)
- (3) Education Program Review Committee
- (4) Finance and Audit Committee
- (5) Governance Committee

CARRIED

Board Financial Context and Enablement under HPOA

The Board received a presentation on BCCNM's financial context under the HPOA.

WHEREAS the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* came into force on April 1, 2026, replacing the former *Health Professions Act* as the legal framework governing the BC College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM);

AND WHEREAS various financial decisions of the Board were validly made under the former *Health Professions Act*;

AND WHEREAS the Board wishes to ensure continuity, legal clarity, and uninterrupted operations by clearly grounding these financial decisions in the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* and the college's general bylaws;

RESOLVED THAT the Board confirms and approves the continuation of all existing board-approved financial decisions, including but not limited to external auditor appointment, funding strategy, risk and operating budgets, and board-level financial policies, that were in effect immediately prior to April 1, 2026, as decisions of the Board under the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* and the college's general bylaws, unless and until they are amended or replaced by the Board.

CARRIED

Consensus Decision Policy

The Board reviewed a new policy required by section 2-10(4) of the bylaws to support board decision-making.

RESOLVED THAT the Board approves the Consensus Decision Policy as set out in Appendix A to the briefing note dated March 13, 2026; and

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, with support from the Governance Committee and staff, the Board will review this policy before April 2027.

CARRIED

[End of open session]