

# ***UWSA Daycare's Annual General Meeting***

*Minutes for April 15, 2025 at 5:45 PM*

## **In Attendance:**

Adeola Adeeko Parent  
Alliana DeVera Parent, UWSA Staff  
Sanoji Wijenayake Parent  
Tharanga Ekanayare Parent  
Adrienne Guillou Parent  
Mekala Wickramasinghe Parent  
Matthew Busilla Parent  
Nathan Laser Parent  
Esther Hillonov Parent  
Stephen Howatt Parent  
Annie Laser Parent, Daycare's MC member  
Chelsea Drane Parent, Daycare's MC member  
Paola Munoz Parent  
Vanessa Wiedeman Parent, Daycare's MC member, secretary  
Jessica Birkholz Parent  
Debbie Froese Parent  
Marcela Castro Parent, Daycare's MC member  
Ioulia Berdnikova UWSA Daycare director  
Justin Friesen Parent, Daycare's MC member, vice-chair  
Meghan Cree-Smith Parent  
Ryan Zaari Parent  
Arlene Talastas UWSA Daycare staff, team leader  
Yejin Lee UWSA Daycare Staff, staff supervisor  
Magdi Bogos UWSA Daycare staff, staff supervisor  
Tiger Pangilinan Parent  
Stephanie Parsons Parent  
Nadine Vroom Parent, Daycare's MC member  
Lauren Lee Parent  
Ted Turner UWSA staff, Manager of Special Projects Strategic Initiatives  
Kenzie Vincent Parent  
Elisa Soto Parent  
Brandon Deamer Parent, Daycare's MC member  
Tiffany Richards Parent  
Toshio Nishimura Parent  
Kim Paz Parent, Daycare's MC member, chair  
Tyler Plett Parent  
Taylor Archibald Parent  
Ana Cristina Figueredo Galvis Parent  
Fabio Alejandro Sanabria Sandoval Parent  
Rexford Owusu – Tharkor Parent  
Joshua Hofmeister Parent, Daycare's MC member, treasure  
Andrei Hillonov Parent

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## **1.0 Call Meeting to Order and Quorum Count**

- 1.1 Meeting called to order by Kim Paz at 5:49PM
- 1.2 Quorum counted and met

## **2.0 Land Acknowledgement**

Land acknowledgment read by Kim Paz

## **3.0 Introduction of the Management Committee Members and Staff**

## **4.0 Agenda and Minutes approval**

4.1 Approval of Agenda for April 15, 2025. Approved by Justin F. and seconded by Brandon D.

4.2 Reading and Approval of Minutes from April 3, 2024 AGM, approved by Justin F. and seconded by Josh H., Adopted by consensus.

## **5.0 MC chair's remarks**

## **6.0 Directors Report**

Presented by Ioulia Berdnikova

Directors Report

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to all parents and staff for taking the time to attend this year's UWSA Daycare Annual Meeting. The University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) Daycare Centre is a provincially licensed, not-for-profit childcare facility with 144 spaces for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Since its establishment on January 1, 1974, the center has been committed to providing high-quality, inclusive childcare to 32 infants/toddlers and 112 preschool children in Downtown Winnipeg. Our mandate is to serve the University of

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Winnipeg students, faculty, staff, and community members, with an allocation of 50% for students, 25% for faculty and staff, and 25% for the community.

We are committed to the families in the center by trying to accommodate all the siblings, so the families can stay together.

We always find the way to move our infants to the pre-school program. Because of it, we are running on average throughout the year 104% enrollment.

## *Milestones & Achievements*

In January 2024, we proudly celebrated the daycare's 50th anniversary. The center began as three small programs: an infant lab and preschool program run by the university and a separate preschool program operated by UWSA. In June 1995, the university closed its infant and preschool centers, and UWSA took over operations.

In 2010 daycare moved into a new building with 96 spaces (12 infants and 84 pre-school children).

In 2017 we added 3 rooms with 32 children (12 toddlers and 20 infants).

In 2023 by utilizing existing space, we added additional 16 pre-school spaces to accommodate families of essential workers who were enrolled during the pandemic.

To better meet the needs of families, we continue to offer both full-time and part-time preschool childcare services.

Last financial year we were able to complete our sensory room. It has everything to provide quality care for our children with additional support needs.

The biggest achievement of the past year was opening of the fully renovated green space. It took us more than 3 years of collecting funds, design and construction of the play area. This will be our first summer fully enjoying the space.

## *Staffing & Professional Development*

Our center currently employs 39 full-time staff, with 85% of our front-line employees holding ECE II or ECE III qualifications. These individuals have at least two years of post-secondary education in childcare and child development. Notably, half of our staff have been with us for more than five years.

The UWSA and the Daycare's Management Committee strongly support ongoing education and professional development. All staff participate in workshops and training sessions to enhance the quality of childcare. Our goal is for each staff member to complete a minimum of 24 hours of professional development annually. Since our last

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AGM, four CCAs have enrolled in the ECE II program, and upon graduation, we will achieve a fully trained workforce in our classrooms.

Over the past year, we have offered practicum placements for many students. We work closely with institutions such as Red River College, MITT, Louis Riel School Division, and, more recently, Robertson College. Since the pandemic, we have built a strong relationship with the University of Winnipeg's Developmental Studies program, providing practicum placements and support for research and assignments.

One of our preschool rooms participated in the TOY BOX research project last summer, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from participating families. We look forward to continuing our partnership with this program in the future.

## *Program Highlights*

Our center follows an emergent curriculum approach, which is reflected in the displays outside our classrooms and in the Lillio (HiMama) reports. Parents are encouraged to connect with staff for more details.

We continue to offer a weekly music and yoga program for all children and remain committed to running an Indigenous education program for preschoolers. We offer free of charge professional Speech and Language support to 12 children in the center.

Throughout the year, we celebrated various holidays and events, enriching these experiences by inviting special guests, including Ti-Bert the Voyageur, African drummers, Korean dancers and Tubuki Daike. We also embrace the talents and knowledge of our staff and parents to enhance these celebrations.

On June 21, we held a vibrant and educational National Indigenous Day event. The activities were so engaging that we extended the celebrations throughout the week, leaving a lasting impact on both children and staff.

Some of our long-standing traditions include Family Fun Day, Mother's and Father's Day celebrations, the Forest School program, the Winter Gathering, and a special summer program featuring field trips and guest visitors. Last year we added two more events: Grandparents day (Elderbeary day) and Teddy Bear picnic to celebrate Care bear day (Jordan's principle day).

Over the past financial year, our children have participated in numerous field trips and have welcomed a variety of special guests into the program. We are always open to new ideas and volunteers to enhance these experiences.

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## *Fundraising*

Following parental feedback, the Management Committee decided to scale down fundraising events to focus solely on Friday's Fundraising Lunches. This decision is subject to change based on the center's needs and family interest.

## *Closing Remarks*

In conclusion, none of these achievements would have been possible without the support and involvement of parents. We deeply appreciate your time, commitment, and contributions to the UWSA Daycare community.

Thank you for being part of our journey and for helping us create a nurturing and enriching environment for our children.

## **6.0 Finance Update**

Finance update given by Josh H.

Josh reported that no audited statement, no report can be made as the management committee has not received the statements.

Our spending is in alignment with our goals and mission but we do not have the details.

## **7.0 UWSA's representative's remarks**

Ted Turner UWSA staff, Manager of Special Projects Strategic Initiatives

- Ted stated that everyone worked together in the past year to create pathways and support the day to day.
- Ted commended the excellent staff, the parents and committee.
- The highlights from the year were the 50th Anniversary party and the outdoor play space upgrade
- Everyone has taken efforts to have better conversations, hear new directions and actively listen.

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## **8.0 Governance update**

Presented by Ted Turner. Ted explained the project that UWSA is working on.

## **9.0 Elections**

New Management Committee members:

- Kim Paz(parent)
- Justin Friesen(parent)
- Vanessa Wiedeman(parent)
- Joshua Hofmeister(parent)
- Chelsea Drane(parent)
- Marcela Castro(parent)
- Nadine Vroom(parent)
- Sanoji Wijenayake(parent)
- Robyn Liddle(parent)
- Sarah Reilly(parent)
- Debbie Froese(parent)
- Andrei Hillonov(parent)
- Sanoji Wijenayake(parent)
- Nathan Laser(parent)
- Mekala Wickramasinghe(parent)
- Matthew Busilla(parent)

## **10.0 New Business**

## **11.0 Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:34PM