



**ANNUAL MEETING
2025**
The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
6:00 PM
In Person – Betel Auditorium

DRAFT MINUTES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER- Welcome and Greetings

Julie Gilbert (Meeting Chair) called the meeting to order. The Meeting Chair acknowledged that quorum was met. Board, staff, guests and Centre members were welcomed, and thanked for attending the 2025 Annual Meeting of Members.

Karry Choy, Manager Assurance, BDO Canada LLP Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants was introduced.

The Meeting Chair introduced herself as Chair of the Board of Directors. She thanked the Centre's funders and donors including Ontario Health – Central and Toronto; United Way Greater Toronto; United Jewish Appeal Federation of Greater Toronto; City of Toronto; and Ministry for Seniors' and Accessibility.

The Meeting Chair provided the Land Acknowledgement and the African Ancestral Acknowledgement and stated 38 members in attendance and 29 members submitted proxy votes.

2.0 APPROVAL OF DRAFT AGENDA TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Motion #1

T. Rosenstein moved to approve the September 17, 2024, draft Annual Meeting agenda. Seconded by B. Baker.

Carried

3.0 APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING OF MEMBERS MEETING

Motion #2

M. Zbar moved to approve the Minutes of September 17, 2024 Annual and Special Meeting of Members Meeting. Seconded by M. Staviss.

Carried

4.0 TREASURER'S REPORT- Resolutions

4.1 Presentation of 2024-2025 Audited Financial Statements

J. Gilbert introduced David Katz, Incoming Chair and Treasurer of the Finance and Audit Committee of the Bernard Betel Centre. She thanked Inna Kravitz outgoing Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee of the Bernard Betel Centre.

D. Katz, Treasurer, tabled the Financial Statements, *Notes to the Financial Statements* and *Auditor's Report* for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025, and moved the resolution to accept the said Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025. D. Katz acknowledged and thanked our Auditor, Karry Choy from BDO as well as Abey Suwande, Betel Director, Finance and HR.

Motion #3

D. Katz, Incoming Chair and Treasurer, moved the 'Resolution that the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2025, which were approved by the Finance and Audit Committee and the Bernard Betel Centre Board of Directors and submitted by Notice to the Annual Meeting be approved by the Membership.

Seconded by I. Kravitz.

Carried

4.2 Appointment of Auditors

Motion #4

D. Katz, Incoming Chair and Treasurer of the Finance and Audit Committee of the Bernard Betel Centre, moved the 'Resolution to appoint BDO Canada LLP Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants as Auditors of the Bernard Betel Centre for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2026, at a fee fixed by the Board'. Seconded by I. Kravitz.

Carried

5.0 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED SLATE OF BOARD MEMBERS 2024-2025

Jules Lewy, Chair of the Betel Governance Committee reported on the proposed slate, indicating that, according to the Corporation's By-Law #1, the two (2) Centre Members nominated by Members' Council have changed from ex-officio Directors to recommended candidates to the Governance and Nominating Committee who are then elected by the membership at large. H. Aharoni and Susan Argintaru (Members' Council) are the nominees of Members' Council. J. Lewy indicated that the following 7 Board nominees are standing for election by the membership for a 2-year term: Hava Aharoni; Julie Gilbert; Johanna Herman; Inna Kravitz; Sandi Pelly; Tina Rosenstein; Lorne Zon. He indicated that the following Board members are in the middle of their two-year term that expires at the 2026 AGM: Susan Argintaru; Amy Grief, David Katz, Anna Kissin,

Jules Lewy. Morris Zbar, Dahlia Zephrani. Marcus Staviss is part of the proposed slate as the Immediate Past- Chair.

J. Lewy took the opportunity to welcome all new and returning Board Members and thank all Board Members for their commitment and service to the Bernard Betel Centre.

Motion #5

S. Argintaru moved that the Membership approve the proposed slate as elected Directors of the Bernard Betel Centre Board of Directors for 2025-2026. Seconded by A. Kissin.

Carried

6.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

J. Gilbert enthusiastically welcomed members, Board of Directors, and visitors to the Annual Meeting. She highlighted that Betel is a place to learn, grow, be creative, volunteer, maintain friendships and most importantly be part of a warm community. She was thrilled to report that membership has grown to more than 2,000 members, on track to near where the Centre was before the pandemic.

The Centre continues to hold health clinics, concerts, social programs and community events. The list of programs and offerings continues to expand, with a renewed focus on learning, travel, fun, educational and Jewish cultural programming. The Trips and Travel Program has returned, and members are eager to travel and see the world. The Centre's work with older adults continues to be recognized as critical by funders and donors.

This year, the Centre celebrated the 60th anniversary of their founding. This important milestone anniversary was marked with celebratory events and programs for members, staff and volunteers. The Centre also celebrated the arts through a Marc Chagall exhibition in May 2024 and through Betel's brand-new Lifetime Achievement Award for Artistic Excellence. The arts will remain an important theme of Betel's work, keeping true to the fact that Betel is truly a "Centre for Creative Living".

Betel's Kosher Meals on Wheels program has grown exponentially and continues to provide meals and a lifeline for over 600 isolated seniors living in poverty in the community. Sadly, there remains hundreds more on the waitlist to receive these meals. Betel, led by the tireless work of Executive Director, Gail Gould and her staff, have secured grants and donations of more than \$1.4 million this year to fund Meals on Wheels. J. Gilbert thanked the many generous donors, funders and volunteers for their support of the program. She acknowledged Ontario Health, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and the Azrieli Foundation, who are the largest funders of this program. Betel's Meals on Wheels program requires strong and sustainable commitment from the community. The Centre is committed to those who need the Meals on Wheels program and is grateful to those donors who have continued to support the program. However, it is going to take even more support and partnerships from the community to fully meet the food security

needs of the community. The Betel Board of Directors is looking forward to working with community partners in the coming year.

This year, the Centre has continued their work as a Core partner of North York Toronto Health Partners, our Ontario Health team. The Ontario government recognizes the importance of the work being done at Betel and has encouraged the Centre to work in partnership with those that share the same goals of supporting older adults in the community. The Centre has a special bond with Jewish seniors, Russian speaking seniors, and Holocaust survivors, and continues to work hard to make these segments of our community welcome and valued.

J. Gilbert highlighted the continued work the Board has done in the past year:

In addition to working with the auditors and overseeing the Centre's budget, the Finance and Audit Committee has made sure that investments and procurement policies are up to date. They are also working hard to ensure that the Centre is prudent with the funds entrusted to Betel by funders, members, and donors. The Finance committee also continues to work on strategies that ensure that our programs are cost effective and sustainable. The DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee has continued to navigate the questions of what it means to be rooted in Jewish values while at the same time being open to everyone. The Quality and Risk Committee is working to ensure that the staff and Board have the tools to monitor and manage risk for the organization. They are also working on ways of measuring our progress, and impact on the people the Centre is serving. The four strategic directions are: Accessible Programs, Services and Opportunities; Diverse, Inclusive Community; Support for Vulnerable Seniors; and Investment in Sustainability. The Governance and Nominating Committee has worked hard to recruit outstanding Board nominees.

The Centre is also now working on a new Strategic Plan for the organization. The Strategic Planning Committee has been speaking to Members' Council, members, funders and partners in developing and formulating new strategic directions. Work will be done throughout the upcoming year, and the new strategic plan will be launched in the Fall of 2026.

J. Gilbert welcomed two new outstanding Board members, Sandi Pelly and Johanna Herman. They both come with a wealth of experience in governance, stakeholder and community engagement. They will provide invaluable contributions to the Board. She thanked departing Board members Sonia Jacobs and Irving Lefler for their valuable contributions over the years.

J. Gilbert emphasized how she is looking forward to her second year of her first term as Board Chair. The incoming Executive committee will include Lorne Zon as Vice Chair, David Katz as Treasurer, Amy Grief as Secretary and Marcus Staviss, as Immediate Past President. This highly experienced team, along with Executive Director, Gail Gould, will continue to ensure that Betel is strong, resilient, and ready to help members live their best lives today and in the future.

7.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Organizational Highlights 2024-2025

G. Gould, Executive Director, provided an overview of the organizational highlights of 2024-2025. She highlighted that the Centre has produced an Annual Report for 2024-2025, which provides details of the programs and services for 2024-2025. She highlighted that this year marked the 60th anniversary of the Betel Centre. She thanked J. Gilbert, the Board of Directors, and the Bernard Betel Centre staff for their strong commitment and dedication. She also thanked volunteers, funders and donors for their generous donations in the past year.

8.0 SPECIAL GUEST LECTURER– RAZ ROTEM

G. Gould introduced special guest speaker Raz Rotem who is an artist, storyteller and educator. He spoke to members on the topic of "Seeds of Hope – Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action". He shared with members his work, experiences and growing relationships with Indigenous communities in Ontario.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT**Motion #6**

D. Zephroni moved that the 2025 Annual Meeting be adjourned.
Seconded by H Aharoni.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

A. Grief, Secretary

June 17, 2026