



Minutes of the 2021 TAC Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 4:00 PM EDT
Hilton Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

Members of the TAC Board of Directors in Attendance:

Erik Eberhardt, President; Rick Lovat, Past President; Bruce Downing, Vice President, West (by Zoom); Steve Skelhorn, Vice President East; Michelle Richards, Treasurer (by Zoom); Andre Solecki, Secretary; Jean Habimana, Director, Quebec and Maritimes; Dan Ifrim, Director, Ontario; Jason Mann, Director, Prairies; Stephanie Robillard, Director, BC Region (by Zoom); Boro Lukajic, Director; Nichole Boulton, Director; Connor Langford, Director; Seamus Tynan, Director; Mark Diederichs, Director; Leila Sunderani, Director.

Board of Director Regrets:

Andrew Caruana, Director

1. Welcome and Introductions

The President opened the meeting at 4:10 PM EDT and welcomed all attendees to TAC's 2021 Annual General Meeting. The President introduced the Board members in attendance and participating by Zoom.

2. Acceptance of the 2020 AGM Minutes

The draft minutes of the November 6, 2020 AGM were posted on the [TAC website](#) and were referenced in the Notice of AGM included in the September 17 TAC E-newsletter sent to all active members. There was no discussion or requests for changes.

Motion: Moved by Erik Eberhardt, seconded by Andre Solecki, that the minutes of the 2020 TAC Annual General Meeting be approved – carried.

3. President's Report

3.1 TAC's Response to COVID-19

The President noted that the TAC 2020-OneToronto conference marked a return to in-person events with COVID-19 measures and safety protocols in place. The Ontario and BC chapters hope to be able to run in-person meetings in December 2021 or early 2022 with Ontario currently finalizing plans for December's Santa Barbara social. All in-person meetings will follow their province's or city's specific COVID-19 regulations.

TACym, along with the Ontario and BC chapters, continued to offer a number of webinars throughout 2021 that helped to fill the gap until such time that in-person meetings are considered safe.

3.2 Special Projects

TAC's healthy financial position provides the funds for special projects to promote the tunnelling industry to the public and the broader tunnelling community. The President reported that the TAC book, *Canadian Tunnelling: Memories and Achievements*, has been printed with delivery to active TAC members and book sponsors beginning that evening at the launch event following the AGM. The President thanked the members of the TAC Book Committee.

Another special pilot project initiated in 2021 was the launch of TAC's own magazine, *Canadian Tunnelling*, in collaboration with *Tunnelling Journal* – the first issue was recently

mailed to members and additional copies are available at the conference. TAC has signed a 2-year agreement with *Tunnelling Journal* – two of the six annual issues will include a back-to-back copy of *Canadian Tunnelling*. The pilot project will be evaluated for extension based on feedback from members and industry.

The next special project currently gearing up is the development of a web-based database of Canadian tunnels and tunnelling projects – planned, under construction and completed. The President noted that suggestions from the members for other potential special projects to be considered are welcomed.

3.3 ITA, Nordic Forum, America's Forum

TAC has helped lead a series of reforms to ITA governance, including the formation of a Governance Council tasked with conducting organizational reviews and changes to how WTC host cities are selected, and events organized.

Under these new rules, TAC is planning to submit a bid for WTC 2026 to be hosted in Montreal. Upcoming WTC locations include Copenhagen (2022), Athens (2023) and Shenzhen (2024).

The ITA continues to remain active with key initiatives like the Working Groups. TAC members are invited to get involved and should contact TAC if they are interested in being a TAC representative for a particular ITA Working Group.

3.4 Engineering Institute of Canada

TAC is a member society of the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC). The EIC is a federation of 14 technical/engineering societies.

As a member, TAC is eligible to nominate members for EIC awards and honours, such as Fellows of the EIC and the Julian C. Smith and K.Y. Lo Medals recognizing significant engineering contributions to Canada and internationally, respectively. TAC's first nominee for the FEIC honour, Rick Lovat, was selected by the EIC for 2021.

The EIC also participates in the Bacon and Eggheads breakfast talk series, which focuses on connecting our federal Parliamentarians with experts in science and engineering.

4. 2021 Membership Report and Targets for 2022

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the rate of membership decline experienced in 2020 decreased in 2021. There are 385 active TAC members on the rolls for 2021, compared to 404 reported at the 2020 AGM. This represents a drop of 19 compared to a drop of 70 last year. With the postponement of the 2020 conference to 2021, TAC did not get the usual bump in new members in 2021 arising from the added non-member conference registrants.

As of October 1, there are 385 active members – Individual 266, Corporate 67, Student 37 and Retired 15. Corporate membership continues to increase – a 15% growth over last year's number.

In 2022, the goal is to increase membership to over 450 individuals and firms, which will return the count to be close to the December 2019 active number of 474. Over 70 non-members attended the TAC 2020-One conference and will be added to the 2022 membership count. Student member numbers should increase with a return to in-person campus events and tours.

Membership benefits in 2022 will remain the same with the added benefit of receiving TAC's own magazine, *Canadian Tunnelling*, twice annually. With the increased annual administrative costs to provide *Tunnelling Journal / Canadian Tunnelling* to members, the TAC Board of Directors recommends an increase in membership fees for 2022:

Corporate Member:	\$700.00 per year
Individual Member:	\$100.00 per year
Retired Member:	\$ 30.00 per year
Student Member:	\$ 12.50 per year

Motion: Moved by Erik Eberhardt, seconded by Steve Skelhorn, that TAC's 2022 fees for each class of membership be set at \$700 Corporate, \$100 Individual, \$30 Retired, \$12.50 Student and \$0.00 Honorary.

It was asked if the number of individual memberships included in the Corporate Membership will change. It will remain at one, but firms will be permitted to have two employees register for events at the TAC member rate.

The motion was carried.

5. Treasurer's Report

6.1 2020 Statements and Auditor's Report

The Treasurer reported that TAC continues to have a healthy financial position allowing the association to invest in special projects.

The statements of Financial Position and Operations for 2020 were presented along with comparison information for 2019. TAC's total equity decreased at the end of fiscal 2020 to \$399.4K as the fiscal year ended with a deficit of \$14.7K. This was less than the budgeted deficit of \$25.8K for 2020. The annual audit and CRA filings were completed by Bob Adam, CPA.

6.2 Appointment of Auditor for 2021 Financials

Motion: Moved by Michelle Richards, seconded by Boro Lukajic, that Bob Adam, CPA, be appointed to audit the Tunnelling Association of Canada's 2021 financial statements – carried.

6.3 2021 Financial Forecast & 2022 Budget

TAC originally budgeted for a deficit of \$29.8K in 2021. Net conference revenues were budgeted conservatively and now are expected to be significantly higher. Offsetting that is the cost to finish the TAC book project, which is up due to an increase in the final page count and printing quantity. The projected deficit at the end of 2021 is now \$22.4K against a budgeted deficit of \$29.8K, and may be less depending on the final conference receipts.

In planning for the 2022 budget, the higher member fees offset the increased costs to provide *Canadian Tunnelling* to members. The proposed budget has assumed that 2022 will be a workshop year that normally results in a slight deficit. Should TAC run a full conference next year, the higher net revenues typically generated by a conference will reduce the planned deficit and possibly result in a surplus. The proposed 2022 budget shows a deficit at year end of \$17.5K

Motion: Moved by Michelle Richards, seconded by Erik Eberhardt, that the proposed 2022 TAC Budget be approved – carried.

6. TAC 2022 Board of Directors

Four officers (Erik Eberhardt, President; Rick Lovat, Past President; Bruce Downing, Vice President West; Steve Skelhorn, Vice President East) and four directors (Stephanie Robillard, BC Chapter Chair; Dan Ifrim, Ontario Chapter Chair; Seamus Tynan and Connor Langford) are scheduled to complete their terms on December 31, 2021. The Alberta Chapter Chair position is also vacant due to the resignation of the former chair earlier in 2021. TAC's bylaws suggest that terms be staggered, but many are ending in 2021.

TAC issued a call for Board of Director interest to the members with the respondent's information passed on to the Nominating Committee. The final nominee slate is selected by the Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors.

From the interest expressed by the current directors and TAC members, the Nominating Committee and the Board recommend the open Officer positions be filled for three-year terms ending December 31, 2024 as follows:

Bruce Downing – President
Erik Eberhardt – Past President
Jason Mann – Vice President, West
Andre Rancourt – Vice President, East

The recommended slate of Directors to fill the open positions included:
Mohammed Al-Bataineh – Director, Alberta (term ending December 31, 2022)
Glenn Mongillo – Director (term ending December 31, 2022)
Stephanie Robillard – Director, BC Chapter (term ending December 31, 2024)
Dan Ifrim – Director, Ontario Chapter (term ending December 31, 2024)
Connor Langford – Director (term ending December 31, 2024)
Seamus Tynan – Director (term ending December 31, 2024)

Motion: Moved by Erik Eberhardt, seconded by Rick Lovat, that the Tunnelling Association of Canada Officers and Directors for 2022 be approved – carried.

7. Regional Reports

The President West presented a brief report on current, upcoming and possible future tunnelling projects across Canada and indicated Thursday's plenary session will go into greater detail.

In-person chapter events across Canada were still not possible in 2021, but plans are in place to resume these by the end of 2021 or early 2022. Webinars have replaced in-person meetings and have been well-received.

8. Young Members Report

TAC student membership dropped to 37 students in 2021, as in-person student outreach events continued to be curtailed due to COVID-19. The plan is to re-engage on campus as provinces open back up and universities are back in session. The TACym group will work to promote TAC's scholarships to encourage more applications.

The number of Young Members is unknown as this information is not currently tracked in

the TAC member database.

The TAC Young Member's Webinar Series continued in 2021, often in collaboration with the Ontario and BC chapters. One of its aims is to be a platform for Young Members to present their work and research, and to learn from other presenters. The President thanked the TACym group for all they have done for webinars during COVID-19.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Next Annual General Meeting

The date of the 2022 TAC Annual General Meeting has not been set and will depend on the timing of the 2022 Workshop or Conference.

11. Adjournment

The President called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 pm.

Motion: Moved by Nichole Boulton, seconded by Steve Skelhorn, that the 2022 Tunnelling Association of Canada Annual General Meeting be adjourned – carried.