



**Annual General Meeting
November 1, 2023**

We will begin shortly

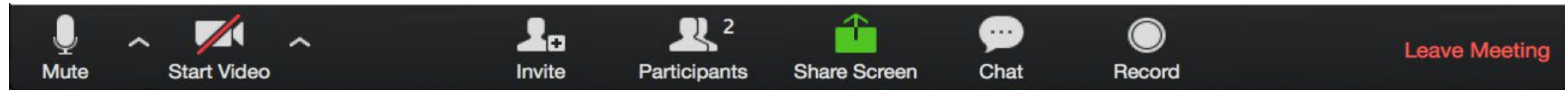


Welcome to CareNow² Ontario's AGM

CareNow Ontario is an organization supporting and representing the medical conditions of medical conditions of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia and Environmental Sensitivities/Multiple Chemical Sensitivity.



Housekeeping



Audio

- All attendees are automatically muted when joining Zoom.
- We will unmute everyone when it is time to speak.

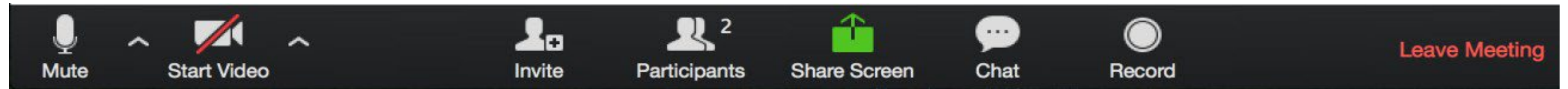
Getting on the Speakers List:

- Raise your hand using the “Reactions Button” and press “raise your hand”
- Type in the Chat that you want to speak.

Chat

- Open up the chat window to chat with other participants or ask questions

Housekeeping



Sharing Video

You can turn your camera on or off with the Start/Stop Video button.

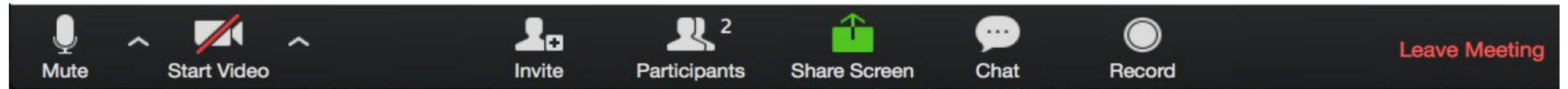
Troubleshooting

If you have issues with your Internet connection, try turning off your video. Make sure all other programs and applications that use Internet are turned off.

Joining by phone

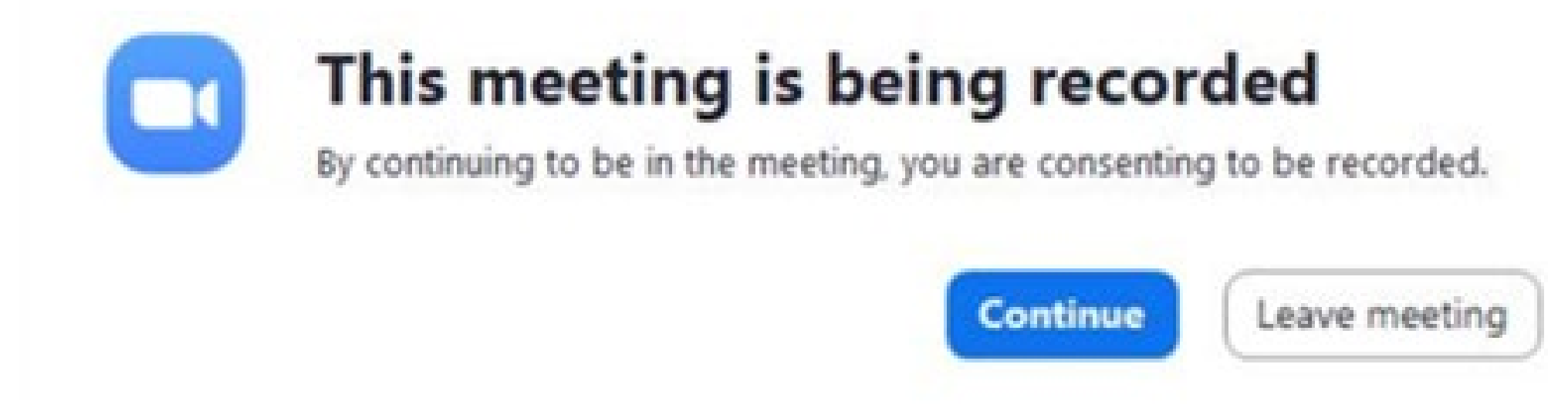
If your Internet connection is unstable, you can join by phone. Instructions on how to join by phone are available in your registration confirmation email.

Housekeeping



Recording

- This webinar will be recorded for minute taking purposes only.
- You will be prompted with the window below, please press CONTINUE to remain in the webinar and feel free to turn your video off.



Voting:



- For ease of process on zoom, each motion already has a recorded mover and seconder that you will see on the screen.
- We will do a roll call vote for each motion. Please note that some people are holding proxies and when they vote they will announce the number of votes including their own. ie. Yes 3 votes. Or Yes 2 No 1
- The President will not vote, except for her proxies, unless there is a tie.
-



AGM Agenda

cfs

1. Call to order: Announce Quorum
2. Approval of Agenda
3. A new Clinical Tool for People with FM, ME, POTS & MCS: Presentation by Centre for Effective Practice
4. Approval of Minutes of 2022 AGM
5. Update on Government Relations and advocacy work *A Tetley*
6. Directors' Report: *D. Magi*
8. Treasurer's Report: *A. Tetley*
 - ✓ *Motion to approve financial statements and appoint auditor*
 - ✓ *Financial Plan*
9. Nominations Report: Election of Officers: *J. Doherty*
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

MOTION: Approve ⁸ Agenda

Be it resolved that the Agenda now before this meeting, held November 1, 2023 be approved as presented.

Moved by: Keith Deviney

Seconded by: Laurie Menard



**A new clinical
tool for people
with FM, ME/CFS,
POTS & MCS**

**Presentation by: Centre for
Effective Practice**



Presenters:

Lindsay Bevan, Director, Centre for Effective Practice

Dr. Farah Tabassum, EHC Physician and Clinical Lead for project.

Guest:

Dina Bayoumy, Manager,
Knowledge Translation in Primary
Care

MOTION: Approve 2022 AGM Minutes

Be it resolved that the Minutes of CareNow Ontario Annual General Meeting of October 12, 2022 be approved as presented.

Moved by: John Doherty

Seconded by: Keith Deviney



Update on Government Relations & Advocacy

A. Tetley

1. Action Plan on Task Force Report on Environmental Health

- Despite regular and ongoing advocacy to Minister's office and the Ministry of Health there has been no response.
- May 10th, 2023 in honour of May Awareness Day, CareNow Ontario held a press conference with the support of France Gelinias, NDP Health Critic. All MPPs received a copy of the press release.

Calls to Action to Government of Ontario

1. To implement and fund the recommendations in the Business case for a Centre of Excellence in Toronto, regional MCS safe clinics and local, specifically trained primary care, submitted in 2013.
2. To immediately release **Laying the Groundwork**, an action plan developed by Dr. Brian Schwartz, former Vice President, Public Health Ontario, and submitted to the Minister of Health in July 2021.
3. To immediately fund the development of case definitions and clinical guidelines for best practices and clinical pathways; fund development of clinical curriculum and require Ontario universities to incorporate this curriculum along with research projects into medical schools and public health schools.

Action Plan Release: Freedom of Information Request

- The NDP submitted a FOI request in 2022.
- CareNow Ontario received a redacted report that only left the table of contents and the name of the people consulted.
- The NDP has gone through two levels of appeal and in September filed an appeal to the current position that the report will not be released.

Action Plan on Task Force Report on Environmental Health

Possible Next Steps:

- Question in the house by the Green Party and the NDP
- Once the Liberal leader is selected, meet with the Health Critic and continue advocacy
- Begin to look forward to the next election (June 2026) to get this issue on each political party's election platforms.

2. CEP Primary Care Tool

Each year CEP is funded by the Ministry of Health to develop tools for primary care physicians. This work is funded through the Primary Care branch.

CareNow Ontario is not clear on who in the Ministry of Health advocated that the CEP Tool for ME, FM, POTs and MCS be on the list for development in 2023-24.

Not clear if this tool is as a result of the 'unreleased' implementation plan. Currently no evidence of other work being done

CareNow Ontario has been clear with Ministry of Health and CEP, that while we cautiously support the development of this tool, it is by NO MEANS sufficient to meet the vision of the Business case for the Centre of Excellence..

3.1 Attack on MCS: The Québec

4

- In 2022, a study was released by the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) entitled « Syndrome de sensibilité chimique multiple, une approche intégrative pour identifier les mécanismes physiopathologiques ». This report took the position that MCS was an anxiety disorder.
- Varda Burstyn, lead author and Maureen MacQuarrie, collaborator wrote a comprehensive response outlining the dangers of this approach and presented the biophysical toxicological school of thought entitled « Putting the Chemicals back in MCS »
- The Ontario Advocates for Environmental Health and CareNow Ontario distributed the responding report to Health Canada, Ontario Ministry of Health, and Ontario Health.
- For full report go to: CareNow Ontario website
- http://recognitioninclusionandequity.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/ONTADVOCATES_MCS_INSPQCRITIQUEFINAL_270622.pdf

3.2 Attack on MCS: The Binkley article

- In September 2023, Dr Farah Tabassum alerted us to an article written by Dr Binkley that was released on line in the journal of Allergy Clinical Immunology Practice
- The hard copy of the article will be published in November 2023.
- The article takes a psychological approach to the causation of MCS.
- Dr Binkley is an associate professor, dept of medicine, Division of Clinical Immunology and Allergy; and staff at St Michaels and Sunnybrook
- Binkley KE. Multiple chemical sensitivity/idiopathic environmental intolerance: A practical approach to diagnosis and management. J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract. Forthcoming 2023; S2213-2198(23)00961-3. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaip.2023.08.039>

Attack on MCS: The Binkley article

Letters to the Editors (limit 500 words) submitted

- Psychological approach is dangerous to patients
- Did not use recent research
- Outlined the biophysical toxicological school of thought.

By:

- The Environmental Health Centre physicians lead by John Molot
- CareNow Ontario and Ontario Environmental Health Advocates: big thanks to Varda and Maureen
- ASEQ and their national organization.

Attack on MCS: The Binkley article

Next Steps:

1. See if the Journal publishes the Letters to the Editor.
2. Seek process to have Dr. K Binkley's article retracted
3. Request the opportunity to submit a full article outlining the biophysical toxicological school of thought.

4. GP Focussed Practice Designation

Billing Issue

- In fall 2022, the EHC physicians, under the leadership of Dr Farah Tabussum, requested that CareNow Ontario support the EHC in their request to be designated as a GP with a Focussed Practice Designation.
- In December 2022, the Ministry was implementing a new billing process that would allow only family physicians with this Focussed Practice Designation to continue to bill for virtual visits and for longer appointments. This was vital for accessibility for patients across the province with FM, ME and MCS and to ensure EHC physicians had a means to bill for their services.
- The OMA supported the EHC physicians receiving this designation, along with Family physicians who work with trans patients.

GP Focussed Practice Designation

Billing Issue

- Dr Farah Tabassum presented this issue on CareNow Ontario May meeting.
- In spring 2023, the individual physicians at the EHC received their designation. Dr Kerr still does not have the designation as she did not reach the minimum hours to support her case.

Next Steps:

- The Ministry of Health and the OMA have begun another round of negotiations.
- Work with EHC physicians to address other related billing issues.



Director's Report

Denise Magi, President



Treasurer's Report

Adrianna Tetley, Treasurer

Financial Summary ending Dec 31 2022

4

. Revenue:

. Donations, Membership Fees, Interest \$8,191

. Expenses:

. Professional fees, office expenses,

. Personnel, insurance \$15,108

. Loss (\$ 6,917)

. Assets Dec 2021 \$11,210

. Net Dec 2022 \$ 4,292

Projected Year End - 2023

⁴		
.	Net Assets Dec 2022	\$ 4,292
.	Revenue	\$ 9,000
.	Expenses	\$ 8,500
.	Net Surplus 2023	\$ 500
.	Projected Net Assets Dec 2023	\$ 4,792

Looking Forward to 2024

4

Forecast:

- Revenues: \$9,000
- Expenses: \$8,500 (All expenses have been minimized)
- Annual Surplus \$500.

·

Sustainability for CareNow Ontario

4

- With the annual fundraising campaign sent to our data base and reaching out to the Board's network of friends and family
- And the minimized expenses,
- CareNow Ontario will continue to be sustainable into the future.
- The \$4,792 will be held in reserve to manage any unexpected expenses and to be prioritized for any advocacy work that we may need to undertake.

MOTION: Financial³⁰ Statements 2022

Be it resolved that the Financial Statements (notice to reader) of CareNow Ontario as reviewed by chartered accountant, Welch LLP and as presented for the year ended December 31, 2022 be approved.

Moved by: Adrianna Tetley

Seconded by: Keith Deviney

MOTION: Auditors for 2023

Be it resolved that Welch LLP chartered accountants be appointed auditors for financial reviews and financial matters for CareNow Ontario for the year 2023 at the appropriate remuneration as determined by the Board of Directors

Moved by: Adrianna Tetley

Seconded by: Keith Deviney



Nominations Report

John Doherty, Secretary

Election of Directors

Laurie Menard is standing for election as a Director for CareNow Ontario for a three-year term.

Election of Directors

Adrianna Tetley is standing for election as a Director for CareNow Ontario for a three-year term.

CareNow Ontario

Board of Directors – 2023-24

- Keith Deviney
- John Doherty
- Denise Magi
- Laurie Menard
- Adrianna Tetley



Other Business

Motion to Adjourn

