

**SATYA SANATAN DHARMA CULTURAL SABHA OF CANADA CORPORATION (SSDCSC)**

**DEVI MANDIR**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**2590 BROCK ROAD, PICKERING, ON, L1V 2P8**

**HELD ON SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025, AT 1:00 PM**

The Annual General Meeting of the Satya Sanatan Dharma Cultural Sabha of Canada Corporation (SSDCSC) Devi Mandir was held at 2590 Brock Road, Pickering, ON, L1V 2P8 on Sunday, June 25, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

**OPENING OF MEETING AND WELCOME**

- 1.1 Opening prayer was conducted by Pt Jag Gossai.
- 1.2 Introduction – Shiva Mahadeo introduced himself as the Meeting Officer (MO) and introduced/appointed Ramela Rampersad Manager at CRA as the recording secretary for the meeting.
- 1.3 Declaration of Service – Meeting Officer read the Declaration of Service statement provided by Secretary of the Board of Directors (BOD) Samantha Rampersad

**Quorum:**

MO welcomed the members to the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Satya Sanatan Dharma Cultural Sabha of Canada (SSDCSC)Devi Mandir. MO outlined guidelines the way the session will be conducted. It was reported that 51 members and 13 proxy holders were in attendance which was 2 less than the 66 required to establish quorum. A decision was made to allow for 30 minutes buffer as per by laws to achieve quorum. In the interim, items which do not require any motions/voting will be presented.

**NOTE: Quorum was achieved within the 30 minutes buffer with 53 members and 13 proxy holders in attendance for a total of 66 members in attendance.**

**Presentation of Board of Directors' Annual Report:**

Sharon Heerasingh, Chair of Board of Directors, presented the Board of Directors Annual Report.

MO thanked her for her presentation.

**Presentation of Audited 2022 & 2023 Financial statements**

Janak Persaud started his presentation to the members with the 2022, 2023 and 2024 financial updates. (During this presentation it was announced that quorum was achieved). The presentation would be continued later the meeting as MO wanted to ensure the meeting to follow the published agenda.

MO thanked Janack for his presentation.

**Review of Presentations and Adoption of the Agenda**

On a MOTION made by Krishna Dolsingh and seconded by Vishnu Sookar, it was RESOLVED to move and approve the agenda as presented.

**Motion carried.**

#### **Adoption and approval of 2022 AGM minutes**

On a MOTION made by Sharon Heerasingh and seconded by Nisha Prasad-Sharma, it was RESOLVED to move and approve the meeting minutes of the Last AGM in 2022.

**Motion carried**

#### **Matters Adjourned from 2023 AGM:**

##### **Presentation of 3 eligible candidates appointed in 2024:**

Quorum was not achieved in 2024 and 3 people were acclaimed to positions on the board.

Khemraj Koonjbeharry, Sharon Heerasingh and Krishna Dolsingh were appointed as directors to the board in 2024.

##### **Ratification of the proposed by-law amendments:**

Sharon Heerasingh outlined the objectives and thanked the members of the Special Byelaw Committee (SBC)

Nisha Prasad-Sharma provided context and details including clarifications to members questions on the proposed changes. She provided instructions to members on the completion of the ballots.

Krishna Dolsingh asked if someone wants to continue to serve on the board after completion of their term on the board, how would that work? Nisha responded that the person would have to be re-elected.

Mani Rampersaud asked who will be reviewing the performance of directors and Nisha responded that both boards would establish a review committee to develop and implement a policy in accordance with the by law.

Khemraj Kunjbeharry expressed a concern that there may be a hostile takeover if anyone with only 2 years of annual membership is eligible to run for a directors' position. Nisha responded that a hostile takeover cannot happen with a staggered approach and that there is a rigorous approval process in place to prevent that.

Vishnu Sookarr asked if someone has two years of consecutive membership and gets elected, what will make him stay active (paid fee) for the third year? Nisha responded that issue is taken care of in another section under "qualification of directors".

MO asked if someone is acting without integrity who is not willing to resign, what's the next step? Nisha responded that the by laws will be written using legislative language which will state that the director shall resign. In addition, there will be a disciplinary section as well to support the decisions of the board of trustees.

Krishna Singh recommended that a police report should be obtained as part of the application process. Nisha responded that this was considered but there were barriers already for getting nominations and

this would make it even harder. However, a self-declaration will be in place to address the issue of any criminal background. She also mentioned that the inclusion of a police report will be re-visited in the future.

Mani Rampersaud stated that the self declaration is not enough, he recommended that there should be a written form where applicants acknowledge that they have met the stipulations of the position. Secondly, he added that if there's a hostile takeover, the two years is good enough. Nisha responded that self declaration is required on the nomination form, which is in writing.

#### **Adoption and approval of 2022 and 2023 Financial statements:**

Janack Persaud continued his presentation and provided details and recap of the audited financial statement for 2022 and 2023

On a MOTION made by Cecil Ramnauth and seconded by Krishna Singh, it was RESOLVED to move and approve the financial statements. [SEE ATTACHED]

#### **Motion Carried**

#### **Adoption and appointment of auditor:**

On a MOTION made by Jack Chan and seconded by Rohan Persaud, it was RESOLVED to move and appoint the auditor for 2024 – ANEAL R. THANSINGH

The motion was carried.

Ram Rampersad asked about the status of the fees that the temple had paid on behalf of Basil Punit. Response by Bal Rampersad that the board decided to collect the money from Basil.

MO asked if Mr. Basil Punit was present in the meeting as natural justice requires him to be able to respond. He was not present.

Bal Rampersad added that the Board of Directors has been authorised to write a letter to Mr. Punit and gave him a specific period to repay the money.

Ram Rampersad suggested that Mr. Punit should be suspended immediately. Nisha responded that the organization must follow legislation which allows 30 days for Mr. Punit to provide his side of the case and to repay the money.

Sintra Ramnarace asked how this was allowed to happen by the temple. Janack responded that there were no financial statements by Basil in 2021. Sam Persaud came on board and started creating financial statements. Bal Rampersad added that Basil wrote petit cash cheques to himself and then used these funds to pay the arbitrator for some of his legal fees. The arbitrator ruled that each person must pay their own expense and declared the board illegitimate; a new board was then created.

Sintra asked about the two signatures required for the cheques that Basil issued to the arbitrator and what action will be taken to prevent this in the future. Nisha responded that internal control procedure required a requisition for reimbursement. Basil completed the requisition and signed the cheques. Nisha further added that there is a rigorous procedure in place to ensure oversight is provided by the Board of Trustees. This procedure has been in place for 2023/2024 and currently, for 2025. Vishnu Sookar responded Basil Punit and Randy Singh would have been signatories.

MO was presented with an electronic record of correspondence on this issue. It was read to the membership. [electronic recording attached]

Bal Rampersad asked the members what they would like the board to do.

Ram Rampersad moved a motion to revoke Basil Punit membership if he does not repay the funds within 30 days.

Kaylash Maharaj seconded the motion.

Meeting Officer acknowledged that with a motion on the floor, the need for a vote and asked for a count by show of hands: 63 FOR (Including proxy holders) 2 AGAINST and 1 ABSTAINED.

**Motion Carried.**

Mahin Sukhnandan said that he thinks that Basil's membership should be suspended immediately. MO responded that the motion has already been passed, and this point is moot.

Manny Rampersaud said that due process should be followed and encouraged an empathetic approach to the issue. Nisha clarified that the 30 days is intended to provide Mr. Basil with the opportunity to respond and after that time has passed, then a decision will be made based on the motion taken.

Dave Parsan asked if there was any consideration for this issue to be referred to the police for embezzlement. Boards to consider same.

**Results of Voting for Ratification of bye laws**

MO stated that based on the info received from Nisha Sharma the vote has been tallied, and 48 members have voted in favour of the amendments to the by-laws. 2/3 majority was required. (44 of the 66 members in session)

Number 8 of the amendments allows for the increase of the board of directors to 9.

A Motion to acclaim three new directors was moved by Sharon Heerasingh

Seconded by Dave Parsan.

**Motion Carried.**

MO requested the three new directors (Rajendra Ramkissoon, Om Srivastava, Preeya Persaud) to come to the front of the room to be presented to the membership and their BIOS were read. Include BIOS as addendum

**Members' Business**

Cecil Ramnauth said that he is concerned that the Devi Mandir will hold a separate event to celebrate Ganesh Visarjan and he would like to ask the board to reconsider the decision and join the Hindu Federation celebration.

MO asked if this matter was properly brought before the AGM meeting in accordance with by-laws. It was confirmed it was not. MO decided to allow the discussion to proceed.

Sharon responded that the Board made the decision based on feedback from the members. She further stated that the Devi Mandir is still a part of the Hindu Federation and members can participate in both events.

Sintra Ramnarase asked about what actions will be taken against the second person who signed the cheques. Vishnu Sookar responded that the entire procedure will be reviewed and then a recommendation will be made, adding that the board wanted to deal with the main issue first.

Manny Rampersaud said that if the mandir will be doing a separate event for Ganesh Visarjan, then the members are saying that they do not want to be a part of the federation. MO responded that the Chair of BOD had already addressed that issue.

Reggie Heeralal asked if the by-law committee is still needed and Nisha responded that the committee will be disbanded.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

MO Acknowledged special mention was made of Sam Persaud late chair of the BOD during the meeting. He thanked the membership, recording Secretary, both Boards for their attendance and participation in the meeting and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION moved by Nisha Sharma, seconded by Krishna Dolsingh, it was resolved to conclude the meeting at 3:20 p.m. as there was no further business to conduct.

**Motion Carried.**

**Closing prayer by Pandit Ravi Sharma**

***These minutes were approved by the Board of Trustees on July 31, 2025, and now constitutes the official Minutes of the 2025 AGM held on June 29, 2025***

Sincerely,

TRUSTEES

Bal Rampersad, Pravine Balkaran, Vishnu Sookar, Rosalind Binda [Trustees]