



friendship force
OTTAWA



The Friendship Force Executive Team meeting was held on **Wednesday, December 27 2023** 9AM by Zoom. The following is a summary of the meeting notes. Present at the meeting were Anna Van Adrichem-Rochon (President); Vivien Runnels (Secretary); Colin Leech (Treasurer); Gertraude Martin (Director-at-large); Pierrette Benoit (Director-at-large); Marie-France Horton (VP membership) and Bryan Horton (managing membership data). Regrets were received from Joan Kinnie, VP Journeys.

Membership: Colin Leech reported that membership renewals for 2024 were less than expected at 61 of 103 members in 2023. We realize our membership is aging, but the decrease in members is concerning and has implications for the budget.

Directors-at-large: The new directors-at-large (Pierrette and Gertraude) were welcomed and thanked for joining us.

VP Membership :

Marie-France Horton is also a new FFO Director who will be focussing on membership. Marie-France will coordinate with Pierrette about possible new members, and will also plan to be in touch with people who haven't renewed. Some people are finding that they are too old to continue with the club, and many people are members for the social aspects. We have been the largest club in Canada.

Financial Review

The club will be conducting its financial review soon. The club's terms of reference for a review are more suited for an audit and will be revised.

Budget

Given lower membership numbers, some adjustments to the budget are needed. The Board made the decision not to give a donation to Friendship Force

International in 2024. Other suggestions were made to reduce expenditures. 70-80 members would be needed for a break-even budget.

V-P Membership

Marie-France Horton has some ideas to engage with members and recruit new ones, building on former experiences. She noted that some FFO members have been successful in recruiting new members. FFO encourages all members to be recruiters. We have some business cards that all members can use. Marie-France will also review and revise FFO application forms with the assistance of the Board, and look at explaining how Friendship Force works in a simple way. We need to ramp up our efforts to recruit members.

V-P Journeys

Anna reported on behalf of Joan Kinnie - VP Journeys. Members selected Montana and Medicine Hat, and Tanzania and Ghana for future journeys. We are waiting on updates for Costa Rica. Nord, Peru dates are being discussed too.

How journeys are applied for and selected is a complex process. In addition to the journeys we have been allocated, FFI might make suggestions about other destinations.

Website and Social media

Pierrette will review the website and present changes to the Board. She will help to update the website working with Richard Hatherill. Pierrette posts regularly to the Facebook page. Members who use Facebook need to 'like' the FFO posts. It's good for traffic and takes a few seconds only. The Board will have more discussion about websites in the future.

Meetings

The Board set the last Tuesday of the month for executive meetings. It also discussed general meeting dates for 2024. We have some good ideas for locations which will be determined. **Our next general meeting is planned for March 5th at 1 PM Amica, Westboro.** Other tentative dates are April 9th, June 11th, September 10, 2024. The Annual General Meeting will be on December 10, 2024. Locations will be confirmed.