



HOLSTEIN CANADA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE 142nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS of Holstein Canada held in person in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Atlantic Time.

With the consent of the members and no objections noted, Gilles Côté presided as the Chair of the meeting. All present in person and virtually were welcomed and the head table was introduced as follows:

Present:	Gilles Côté	-	President, Eastern Quebec
	Karen Versloot	-	3 rd Member to the Executive, New-Brunswick/Atlantic Canada
	Willem Vanderlinde	-	Director, Alberta & N.W.T.
	Nancy Beerwort	-	Director, Eastern Ontario
	Harold Sweetnam	-	Director, Saskatchewan & Manitoba
	Nicolas Lalande	-	Director, Quebec
	Mel McLean	-	Director, Eastern Ontario
	Dennis Werry	-	Director, Northern & Central Ontario
	Brian Slaughter	-	Director, Western Ontario
	Sylvie Mahannah	-	Director, Western Quebec
	Benoît Turmel	-	Director, Quebec
	Brian Hamming	-	Director, British Columbia
Staff:	Linda Markle	-	Director, Member & Customer Support
	Kathryn Chapman	-	Controller
	Jodi Zettler	-	Bilingual Executive Assistant and Secretary to the Board of Directors
	Chris Bartels	-	Director, Innovations & Solutions
	Pascal Lemire	-	Registrar
	Mark Roberts	-	Senior Manager, Software and Technology
By Invitation:	Paul Larmer	-	Special Advisor to the Board
	Sue Robertson	-	Recording Secretary, MinuteTakers Inc.
Guests:	Bloyce Thompson	-	Association Parliamentarian
	Brian Leach	-	Co-Parliamentarian

1. **CULTURALLY RESPECTFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Jodi Zettler read the culturally respectful acknowledgement.

2. **WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed all in attendance. Brief housekeeping notes were delivered.

3. **CALL TO ORDER**

Notice of the 142nd Annual General Meeting was delivered to all registered members by electronic means in accordance with the By-Laws of the Association. The meeting was duly called to order at 9:11 a.m. Sue Robertson of MinuteTakers Inc. was appointed as the official Recording Secretary to take the Minutes of the meeting, with no objections noted in this regard.

4. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

The Chair called for a moment of silence in memory of the departed friends of the Holstein Canada family and those who are currently suffering.

5. **INTRODUCTION OF SCRUTINEERS AND PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Pascal Lemire was appointed as Head Scrutineer for the meeting, assisted by Chris Bartels, Kathryn Chapman, and Mark Roberts. Bloyce Thompson was introduced as the Association's Parliamentarian. Brian Leach was introduced as Co-Parliamentarian.

6. **INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SPECIAL GUESTS**

- (a) *Current Board* – The Chair introduced the Board of Directors.
- (b) *Former Board Members* – Warm appreciation was expressed for the efforts of the past Holstein Canada Board Presidents and Directors.
- (c) *Special Guests* – The Chair welcomed special guests from Holstein Mexico and Holstein USA, and introduced David Wiens, the president of Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC).

7. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The Chair asked for any additions or amendments to the Agenda.

There being none, On Motion by Dennis Werry and seconded by Sylvie Mahannah it was:

RESOLVED THAT the Agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

8. **MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Jodi Zettler presented highlights from the 2024 Annual General Meeting that was held in Ontario. The Chair then requested a Motion that the reading of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on April 27, 2024, be dispensed with and that same be approved.

- 8... On a Motion by Karen Versloot and seconded by Harold Sweetnam it was:
RESOLVED THAT the reading of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of Holstein Canada held on April 27, 2024, be dispensed with and that they be adopted and verified as presented. Motion carried.

9. **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

Gilles Côté delivered a report on behalf of the Association with highlights noted as follows:

- (a) *Governance* – The Board focused on evaluating the by-laws and policies this past year and strengthening the training and skills of the Board. The Chair acknowledged Paul Larmer for their support as special advisor to the Board.
- (b) *Strategic Planning* – The Board has been working on a new strategic plan. Paul Larmer will present key points later in the meeting.
- (c) *Bilingualism* – The Board is committed to embracing the bilingual nature of the Association and will review policies and processes in 2025.
- (d) *100th Anniversary of Classification* – There were over 111 herds that reached and exceeded 100 Excellent cows and were recognized as part of the 100th anniversary celebrations. The Board of Directors has approved a plan to continue this program and recognize herds that reach the 100 Excellent cows. Further details will be provided to the membership.
- (e) *Acknowledgements* – On behalf of the Board of Directors, the leadership and staff of the Association were thanked for their continued support and commitment to the membership.

10. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

Linda Markle and Chris Bartels presented a report on the Association's operations, with highlights noted as follows:

- (a) *Enhancing Member Services* – Through producer feedback, staff input and workflow reviews, several member enhancements were implemented in 2024, including web enhancements, ConneXXion App and monthly statement email message for all with email addresses rather than only electronic document users.
- (b) *Retention and Recruitment* – Retention and recruitment remain a key focus for the Association. Membership has declined by approximately 3% in most years since 2018. Staff continue to monitor this closely and have implemented initiatives aimed at stabilizing the trend by promoting the full suite of breed improvement tools, including registration, genomics, and classification. The team is also working with industry partners and hosted three Dairy Dynamics Workshops, with an average attendance of 30 participants. These workshops will continue into 2025, and the

industry partners were acknowledged for their contributions.

- (c) *Customer Service and Field Staff* – HC staff are actively contacting producers to help with their registration and working on retention with 1,824 contacts in 2024. This aided HC in reaching more producers and provided opportunities to discuss their needs.
- (d) *Producer Engagement and Collaborations* – The Westerner Dairy Showcase was dedicated as a National Show. HC supported the Young Leader Advisory Committee members to attend the 2024 Future Leaders Development Program. Industry collaboration continues and HC co-hosted Lactanet’s 2024 Dairy Cattle Industry Forum.
- (e) *Innovation and Research* – A large-scale research project was launched in 2024 with the Canadian Angus Association to develop cameras and AI tools for animal measurements. HC launched ConneXXion International in Australia. In addition, HC supported the University of Guelph, Lactanet and Semex in developing an improved genetic abnormality reporting system
- (f) *Regionalization Plan 2025* – The 2025 timeline and plan for regionalization was presented. By summer 2025 some herds, based on the region, may be regionalized as part of the testing phase. The insights gathered will aid in enhancing the program, going forward.

11. **2024 FINANCIAL REPORT**

11.1 **Audit and Finance Committee Report** – Benoît Turmel, Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee provided a report.

- (a) *Overview* – The Committee focused on a variety of initiatives over the past year, including a reserve fund review, cost study project, and investment strategy.
- (b) *Auditing Firm* – The Audit and Finance Committee recommend the re-appointment of KPMG as the Association’s auditor for the next fiscal year.

11.2 **Appointment of Auditing Firm**

On a Motion by Benoît Turmel and seconded by Willem Vanderlinde, it was:

RESOLVED THAT the firm of KPMG LLP be re-appointed as Auditor of Holstein Canada for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2025, to hold office until the close of the next Annual General Meeting. Motion carried as evidenced by a virtual show of hands.

11.3 **2024 Financial Report** – Benoît Turmel provided a report, with highlights as follows:

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- (a) *2024 Income Statement* – The Association ended the year with an operating surplus of \$400,968.
 - (b) *Revenue* – Overall there was a 9.7% increase in total revenue attributed to the strategic price increases and a change to the National membership rate.
 - (c) *Expenses* – Expenses were monitored closely. Overall, the Association was 4.8% under budget, primarily due to the lower number of staff, which resulted in payroll savings. External contract services were reduced following the completion of the ConneXXion application in early 2024. Some areas, however, experienced increased costs. For example, Board governance expenses rose as the Board met more frequently throughout the year. Additional expenses were also incurred for professional and legal services, as well as the strategic planning work.
 - (d) *10-Year Operational Results* – Holstein Canada’s financial position remains. Over the last decade the trend was expenses exceeding revenues. Going forward, the Board remains committed to reversing this trend and will lay out a strategic plan to achieve this objective.
 - (e) *Investment/Reserve Fund* – The reserve fund totals \$6.3 million with \$4 million as contingency for operations. The remainder is available for investments. The investment mix is 32.5% equities, 57% fixed income and 10.5% cash and money market securities. The 10-year investment fund balance was reviewed for information.

11.4 Audited Financial Statements

On a Motion by Benoît Turmel and seconded by Wayne Dickieson, it was:

RESOLVED THAT the Holstein Canada audited financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2024, as prepared by KPMG LLP be accepted as presented. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

Benoît Turmel opened the floor for questions or member input.

- (a) *Acknowledgement* – Pascal Martin extended appreciation for the finance report.
- (b) *Audited Financial Statement* – Harry Vanderlinde inquired why the other income amount is different on the audited financial statements versus the number presented on the slide. **Response:** K. Chapman noted that overall, the amounts are the same and is related to internal reporting versus how KPMG presents it.
- (c) *Expenses* – Harry Vanderlinde queried whether there is a discrepancy between the audited financial statement versus the presentation related to travel, meals and accommodation. **Response:** K. Chapman explained that the figure in the audited financial statements is from the general ledger. Holstein Canada separates the on-farm services from the Board travel expenses. **Comment:** Joanne Vanderlinde

suggested that, going forward, to not have two different sets of figures between the presentation and the audited financial statements.

The Chair thanked members for their comments and feedback.

11.5 **2025 Budget** – Benoît Turmel presented the 2024 budget for member information.

(a) *2024 Budget* – Harry Vanderlinde queried how the budget compared to last year. **Response:** The 2024 results were favourable to budget primarily due to lower than anticipated payroll expenses and investment fund returns. **Comment:** Harry Vanderlinde suggested that the budget be presented with more than one year for comparison purposes.

(b) *Membership Fees* – Upon query regarding membership fees, K. Chapman explained that the fee was increased in 2024; however, it can be recognized in 2025 depending on when it was paid and booked into revenue.

The Chair acknowledged the Audit and Finance Committee for their work and diligence monitoring the financial health of the Association.

12. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

12.1 **Governance Committee** – Brian Slaughter provided a report on behalf of the Governance Committee.

(a) The Committee focused on Board orientation and training for new directors, including examining ongoing needs for Board training. The by-laws were reviewed to identify areas that need to be updated to ensure the governance framework is effective and transparent. The Committee also updated the annual Board evaluation and the Board policy manual.

12.2 **Strategic Plan Update** – Paul Larmer provided an update on strategic planning and the workplan for completion.

(a) Holstein Canada will focus on four strategic priorities: Member engagement, leadership and governance, industry partnership and research and development. Work is underway to develop the key performance indicator targets that will be presented to the Board for final approval.

13. **CENTURY OF HOLSTEIN AWARDS**

The Chair recognized the descendants of Donat Giard and expressed condolences to the family in this difficult time.

14. **2024 EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Karen Versloot announced the recipients of the 2024 Education Scholarship Awards.

15. **MESSAGES FROM INDUSTRY PARTNERS**

- 15.1 **DFC Message** – A brief overview of the role and partnership of Dairy Farmers of Canada was provided, and David Wiens, the president of DFC, was introduced and addressed the membership.
- 15.2 **Lactanet Message** – A brief overview of the role and collaborative partnership with Lactanet was provided, and Barbara Paquet, Lactanet Board Chair, presented a message on behalf of Lactanet.
- 15.3 **Semex Message** – A brief overview of the role and partnership of Semex was provided, and Matt McCready, the CEO of Semex, was welcomed to make a report.
- 15.4 **Holstein Mexico Message** – Esteban Posada, Holstein Mexico’s Board President, was welcomed and introduced and invited to address the membership.
- 15.5 **Holstein USA Message** – Lindsey Worden, Holstein USA’s CEO, was introduced and invited to present a report.

16. **100 YEARS OF CLASSIFICATION**

As part of recognizing 100 Years of Classification, Pascal Lemire reviewed the Canadian True Type Models of the past as the breed moved through evolution in classification.

At this point in the meeting, a lunch break was taken.

17. **UNVEILING OF 2024 COW OF THE YEAR**

On behalf of the Awards Committee, Dennis Werry introduced the 2024 Cow of the Year Award. The 2024 Cow of the Year was awarded to Rotaly Goldwyn Allegria; family members joined the stage to accept and celebrate the award.

18. **2025 MEMBER RESOLUTIONS**

Brian Slaughter and Sylvie Mahannah of the Holstein Canada Board of Directors, presented the non-binding 2025 Member Resolutions, with discussion highlights as follows:

18.1 **Communication – Bilingualism [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Holstein Quebec, PEI, NS/NL, and NB Branches

WHEREAS Holstein Canada is a national organization in an officially bilingual country;

WHEREAS 43% of the Association’s membership is Francophone, and their preferred primary language is French;

WHEREAS Francophone members struggle to obtain services and communication from Holstein Canada in their primary language;

WHEREAS it would be in the best interest of the National Association and all of its members to have the best representatives on its Board of Directors and its various committees, regardless of their proficiency in a second language;

On Motion by Pascal Martin and seconded by Harry Vanderlinde it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to ensure that bilingualism does not become an issue for representatives who are not proficient in a second language and that Holstein Canada be a bilingual organization that offers services and communication in both French and English. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.2 **Insurance – Branch Insurance [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by NS/NL, PEI, NB, and BC Branches

WHEREAS Directors and/or Officers of any agriculture organization should have appropriate individual and event insurance coverage;

WHEREAS the delegates at the National Joint Branch Meeting held in February 2024 were informed that Holstein Canada's insurance coverage included all the Western and Eastern Branches;

WHEREAS in August 2024, Holstein Canada abruptly cancelled all Director and Officer insurance for the Western and Eastern Branches and sub-committees, including Atlantic Holstein Promotions;

WHEREAS the three Atlantic Holstein Branches have had no Director or Officer insurance coverage since August 2024;

On Motion by Lindsay Greenough and seconded by Matthew Clarke it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada reinstate the insurance coverage and/or present options for the Eastern and Western Branches, including sub-committees and Atlantic Holstein Promotions. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.3 **National Joint Branch Meetings – Meeting Cadence [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by PEI and NS/NL Branches

WHEREAS the provincial Branches across Canada help support and share in Holstein Canada's Vision of "A healthy Canadian dairy industry for all";

WHEREAS the provincial Branches and Holstein Clubs are the direct point of contact for the membership;

WHEREAS the provincial Branches, Holstein Clubs and their Directors are at the forefront of the membership;

On Motion by Lindsay Greenough and seconded by Pascal Martin it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada reinstate the annual in-person National Joint Branch Meeting, cover all expenses of sending two delegates from each provincial Branch, and hold virtual quarterly update meetings. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.4 **Provincial Branch Annual General Meetings (AGMs) – HAC Board and Senior Management Attendance [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by PEI and NS/NL Branches

WHEREAS the provincial Branch AGMs are an integral part of the Breed Association's contact with membership;

WHEREAS the provincial Branch AGMs bring forth ideas from the Holstein Clubs and members;

WHEREAS the provincial Branch AGMs are an annual opportunity for Holstein Canada Leadership to speak to and interact with the membership;

On Motion by Daniel McKinnon and seconded by Riley Vessey it was:

RESOLVED that a member of Holstein Canada's Board Executive, Senior Management, the local National Director, and Field Services member attend each of the nine provincial Branch AGMs for the duration of each. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.5 **Herd Book Recording – For Tag Activation Reporting and Updating Active Cow List [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by NB Branch

WHEREAS all farms are required under proAction® to report all births of both male and female animals to DairyTrace;

WHEREAS registration of both females and males through Holstein Canada's Herdbook is linked to the dam and sire and also creates a Trace file that is sent to DairyTrace to report the births on the producer's behalf;

WHEREAS birth information from Single White tagged animals is not connected to Holstein Canada's Herdbook;

WHEREAS calving information is required when classifying animals. Many herds use milk recording to transfer information to Holstein Canada, such as calving dates and lactation numbers. For herds that do not milk record, calving information is not automatically available to classifiers, as it is not added to their active cow lists;

WHEREAS animals without calving reported by 36 months of age do not appear on a herd's active cow list, and so the active cow list is not able to be utilized to generate mating plans;

WHEREAS many herds that classify, use this information to inform their mating decisions;

WHEREAS many producers tend to stop classifying within 2 years of discontinuing milk recording;

On Motion by Matthew Clarke and seconded by Lorraine Allen it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada offer an option to record birth/calving information for single white tag activations so that it may be linked to the producer's active cow list. This will create an accurate digital herd file of active animals with lactation numbers and fresh dates for Classifiers, allowing for a more efficient visit. Having an accurate and up-to-date Active list will also add value to the producer, as their preferred AI service provider can easily use it to create an accurate mating plan. By adding value to the service, retention could be increased. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.6 **Pricing – Add Polled to Testing Bundle [WITHDRAWN]**

Submitted by NB Branch

WHEREAS an ever-increasing number of farmers are selecting for the polled gene;
WHEREAS testing for the polled gene currently costs an extra \$35;
WHEREAS Holstein Canada offers multiple traits in the genotyping testing bundle;

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada include polled testing in the genotyping bundle. Withdrawn.

18.7 **Education – Scurs [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by NB Branch

WHEREAS scurs differ from horns;
WHEREAS scurs can only be expressed in heterozygous polled animals;

On Motion by Matthew Clarke and seconded by Lorraine Allen it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada educate farmers regarding scurs. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.8 **Classification – Consistency of Classification [DEFEATED]**

Submitted by Holstein Quebec

WHEREAS Classifiers have two discretionary points (+ or -2 points) on the score for each part of the cow once individual traits have been evaluated;
WHEREAS the evaluation of each trait should be the most objective evaluation of a cow's conformation;

On Motion by Julie Duchesne and seconded by Roberto Dufour it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to make the necessary representations to assess the possibility of decreasing the discretionary point to plus or minus 1 and/or to make any other changes to the classification to make it more consistent. Motion defeated.

18.9 **Classification – Classification of First Lactation Cows [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Holstein Quebec

WHEREAS more and more producers do not classify all cows in first lactation;
WHEREAS it is possible to ask for an estimation of the cow's score without necessarily agreeing to have her classified;
WHEREAS it is possible not to have the bottom-end cows classified and that several producers do so;
WHEREAS the Classifier can spend a considerable amount of time evaluating cows that will not be classified in the end;
WHEREAS the classification of all cows in the first lactation is essential to ensure accurate bull proofs;
WHEREAS Holstein Canada's classification service is in deficit;

On Motion by Julie Duchesne and seconded by Pascal Martin it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to assess the possibility of requiring the classification of all classifiable first lactation cows and/or to offer a classification fee based on the number of classifiable first lactation cows.

Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.10 **Classification – Classification Autonomy [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Holstein Quebec

WHEREAS our classification program has an outstanding reputation that extends far beyond our borders;

WHEREAS this good reputation is strongly linked to the experience and training of the Classifiers who assess our animals;

WHEREAS the independent judgment of these Classifiers is essential to maintaining the quality of their work;

WHEREAS the Classifiers are able to assess whether an animal is suitable for classification and do not have to be influenced by a breeder to confirm whether or not an animal is classifiable;

WHEREAS some breeders ask Classifiers to only classify animals above a certain score. For example, 83 and 85 points for first lactation cows;

WHEREAS this practice undermines the reputation of the integrity of our classification system, as well as the reliability of the data in the classification results.

On Motion by Pascal Martin and seconded by Julie Duchesne it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be requested to quickly restore all the autonomy necessary for a fair and just classification for all animals in a condition deemed suitable for classification. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.11 **Report – Components and Dollar Value per Day of Life at Anniversary Date [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Holstein Quebec

WHEREAS breeders are constantly looking for better-performing cows and ways to select the right individuals for breeding;

WHEREAS Holstein Québec and its clubs are always looking for the best awards to honour the cows for their productions;

WHEREAS Lactanet now publishes an annual report with kg of components and production and \$ per day of life on the animals' anniversary date;

On Motion by Roberto Dufour and seconded by Julie Duchesne it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be requested to work in collaboration with Lactanet to make it possible to have lists of the best cows, either in \$ per day of life, according to the anniversary date, or in kg of components per day of life, according to the anniversary date, by province and by club. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.12 **Report – Inclusion of Crampiness in Bull and Cow Genetic Proofs**
[ACCEPTED]

Submitted by Holstein Quebec

WHEREAS the crampiness issue is one that has been known for many years, particularly in the Holstein breed;

WHEREAS this problem was the subject of initial research work, but insufficient data made it impossible to present satisfactory results for breeders;

WHEREAS the lack of transparency and concrete action taken in the industry to prevent the condition from spreading have made crampiness a problem whose prevalence is neither negligible nor without economic consequences for breeders;

WHEREAS the limited data available, particularly the condition's prevalence in a sire's progeny, is relatively inaccessible, as it is presented in a format that is not easily understood by the majority of breeders;

On Motion by Julie Duchesne and seconded by Roberto Dufour it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be requested to work with Lactanet and the various partners involved to modify the display of genetic proofs by improving the transparency and accessibility of information concerning crampiness in bulls and cows. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.13 **Research – Continued Data Collection and Research on Crampiness**
[ACCEPTED]

Submitted by Holstein Quebec

WHEREAS the crampiness issue is one that has been known for many years, particularly in the Holstein breed;

WHEREAS this problem was the subject of initial research work, but insufficient data made it impossible to present satisfactory results for breeders;

WHEREAS the lack of transparency and concrete action taken in the industry to prevent the condition from spreading have made crampiness a problem whose prevalence is neither negligible nor without economic consequences for breeders;

On Motion by Pascal Martin and seconded by Roberto Dufour it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be requested to make the necessary representations to Lactanet and various industry partners to continue the data collection and research effort on crampiness, including (but not limited to) the use of trained personnel to visit farms and collect more detailed information on affected animals, phenotype specificities observed in these animals, and additional pedigree study and data collection related to the pathophysiology of the condition in different affected animals. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

- (a) *Crampiness and Paresis* – Wayne Dickieson noted their support for the resolution and recommended that more data be collected on crampiness and paresis. It was further requested that the Classification Committee look into the scoring of these two

items, as the animal automatically drops 4 points if either of them are identified by the classifier. **Comment:** Brian Van Dormal noted that this resolution was also presented at Lactanet and there are plans to work with industry partners to collect data on both crampiness and paresis as a priority project.

18.14 **Master Breeder – Changes to the Calculation of Master Breeder Points [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Holstein Quebec

WHEREAS the Holstein breed is constantly evolving;

WHEREAS over a period of 20 years, the number of VG first-calf cows has more than doubled. 2004 = 4,437 cows vs 2024 = 9,371 cows;

WHEREAS over the same period, the same evolution can be seen in VG cows with two calves and more. 2004 = 23,482 cows vs 2024 = 47,183 cows;

On Motion by Pascal Martin and seconded by Julie Duchesne it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be requested to revise the scoring system for the Master Breeder Award in order to take into account the evolution of conformation in the calculation of points, as was done on the production side.

Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.15 **Shows – Inclusion of Calving Information in Judging Catalogues [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Holstein Quebec

WHEREAS Judges rely on the dates and number of calvings during judging to assist them in deciding between certain animals;

WHEREAS the information must be accurate and transparent to be fair to all animals in the class;

On Motion by Roberto Dufour and seconded by Julie Duchesne it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be requested to record the dates and number of calvings in judging catalogues. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.16 **Shows – Overbagging [DEFEATED]**

Submitted by Holstein Quebec

WHEREAS in general, too many cows show signs of overbagging in animal judgings;

WHEREAS a negative public image is associated with overbagging;

WHEREAS this practice goes against animal welfare rules;

On Motion by Pascal Martin and seconded by Roberto Dufour it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be requested to work towards resolving the problem of overbagging at dairy shows. Motion defeated.

18.17 **Pedigree – Addition of an Abbreviation to Quickly Identify Superior Productions [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by Holstein Quebec

WHEREAS the addition of an abbreviation would make it possible to quickly highlight superior production just below the animal's name in the pedigree header, in the same way as classification;

WHEREAS this method is already used in other breeds and promotes better visibility of performances;

WHEREAS for bulls, abbreviations such as "ST", "SP" and "EXTRA" already exist and make it possible to identify bulls that stand out positively in the breed;

WHEREAS this designation would allow quick comparison between individuals and highlight Superior Production;

On Motion by Julie Duchesne and seconded by Pascal Martin it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be asked to add an abbreviation in the pedigree header to quickly highlight cows with superior production. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.18 **Board of Directors – Eligibility Requirements for Directors on the Holstein Canada Board of Directors [DEFEATED]**

Submitted by Holstein Quebec

WHEREAS members of the Board of Directors are called upon to make decisions for the good of the breed associations' members;

WHEREAS members of the Board of Directors act as the voice of Holstein members on various issues;

On Motion by Roberto Dufour and seconded by Pascal Martin it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada be requested to ensure that the members of their Board of Directors hold a milk quota. Members who do not, should not be eligible to sit on present and future Boards of Directors. Motion defeated.

18.19 **Awards – 100 Excellent (EX) Cows [WITHDRAWN]**

Submitted by NS/NL Branch

WHEREAS Holstein Canada recently recognized herds that have classified over 100 excellent cows from their prefix during the last 100 years;

WHEREAS this is a remarkable achievement, a testament to herd longevity and the breeder's passion;

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada continue to recognize herds/prefixes with 100 Excellent cows classified and routinely publish their names in the *infoHolstein* for these major milestones (100EX, 200EX, etc.). Motion withdrawn.

18.20 **Communication – All-Canadian Contest [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by NS/NL Branch

WHEREAS Holstein Canada now coordinates the “All-Canadian” competition, having taken over responsibilities from the Holstein Journal;

On Motion by Lindsay Greenough and seconded by Harry Vanderlinde it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada print the All-Canadian results in the “Info Holstein”, with one class per page, which includes the animal’s picture, Breeder, Owner and Show Placings. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.21 **Animal Care Assessments – Tie Stalls [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by NS/NL Branch

WHEREAS a high proportion of Holstein Canada members farm in tie-stall barns;
WHEREAS Holstein Canada and Dairy Farmers of Canada have a close working relationship;

WHEREAS Animal Care in tie-stall barns can be positive, as proven by data collected by Animal Care Cattle Assessments for proAction;

WHEREAS drastic changes to existing tie-stall barns may be costly or impractical or unnecessary given each individual farm’s unique situation;

On Motion by Anne Crowe and seconded by Lindsay Greenough it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada stand up against regulations banning the existence or alteration of tie-stall facilities as a whole, including the discouragement of building new tie-stalls that may be put forth by Dairy Farmers of Canada. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.22 **HAC Financials – Detailed Financial Statement [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by ON Branch

WHEREAS Holstein Canada is funded by its members;

WHEREAS financial transparency is vital to maintaining confidence with the membership;

WHEREAS financial transparency is important for accountability;

On Motion by Kyle MacLeod and seconded by Ron Bumstead it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada commit to presenting a detailed financial statement and a detailed budget at its Annual Meeting. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.23 **Awards – Cow of the Year [ACCEPTED]**

Submitted by AB Branch

WHEREAS we as breeders and producers have access to large fields of data;

WHEREAS the focus of milk components (fat, protein) needs to be included as a significant requirement for this exceptional award. Producers are paid on this

information, so this data is relevant;

WHEREAS other awards have been created to recognize outstanding production achievements, these awards should be used in conjunction with show results. Not every breeder or producer shows, which would allow for a larger scope of cattle to be included;

WHEREAS the proposed resolution could create a point system and eliminate the need for national voting;

On Motion by Fred Hofstra and seconded by Randy Slomp it was:

RESOLVED that Holstein Canada create an unbiased formula to determine a more modern and balanced Cow of the Year award. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

18.24 Awards – New Cow of the Year [ACCEPTED]

Submitted by BC Branch

WHEREAS Holstein Canada already recognizes several important achievements individually for a single cow;

WHEREAS combining three such outstanding achievements would create an even more elite award;

On Motion by Thomas Cuthbert and seconded by Brian Hamming it was:

RESOLVED that the base levels of 100,000 kg lifetime milk production, an excellent score, and at least one brood star be combined to create a new inspiring award. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

19. MEMBERS' INPUT SESSION

Brian Slaughter, Chair of the Governance Committee opened the floor for questions or member input.

- (a) *Acknowledgement* – Pascal Martin acknowledged and thanked the organizing committee for the successful convention and extended congratulations to the Master Breeders.
- (b) *Data* – Pascal Martin commented that more and more data is lost and can no longer be used for genetic proofs. Classification and milk recording data is important and it was suggested to discuss this with AI centres, other breeds, etc. to attempt to find a solution.
- (c) *Message from Young Leaders* – On behalf of the young leaders, Sam Sharpe extended appreciation for the opportunity to attend the conference. There were 39 young leaders from across the country in attendance.
- (d) *Classification* – Wayne Dickieson noted a reminder to the Classification Committee to look into the deduction of 4 points, as this is too drastic for crampy condition.
- (e) *Acknowledgement to the Board of Directors* – Logan Leyenhorst extended

congratulations to the Board of Directors acknowledging that there have been challenges this past year and were addressed effectively.

- (f) *Convention Organizing Committee* – Harry and Joanne Vanderlinde acknowledged and thanked the convention organizing committee and sponsors.

20. **2026 CONVENTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, the members were invited to the 2026 Convention in British Columbia being held on April 14-18, 2026.

21. **CLOSING REMARKS**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and acknowledged the convention sponsors and interpreters.

22. **CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

There being no further business brought before the meeting, the Chair requested a Motion to conclude the meeting.

On a Motion by Dennis Werry:

RESOLVED THAT the 142nd Annual General Meeting of Holstein Canada be concluded. Motion carried as evidenced by a show of hands.

The meeting was concluded at 2:37 p.m. Atlantic time.

23. **SIGNATURES**

Date: _____

Date: _____