



CSLBC COMMUNIQUÉ NO: 09-01

The **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of Canada-Sri Lanka Business Council was held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 7095 Woodbine Avenue, Markham. A “hot” buffet breakfast was enjoyed by members who attended the meeting.

Acting on the powers bestowed on him by the board of directors, Executive Secretary Upali Obeyesekere conducted the meeting as per agenda circulated to all members on March 30, 2009. Members confirmed receipt of Notice of Meeting whilst Chair of the Elections Committee Krishan Suntharalingam, CA confirmed the quorum qualification that is 40% of the total membership of the Council.

By default and as per by-laws and constitution of the Canada-Sri Lanka Business Council, the Immediate Past President becomes Chairman of the Council. The honour of inducting Ms. Louise Roberge as Chairman went to incumbent president of the council, Mr. Ganesan Sugumar. Ms. Louise Roberge, it may be recalled led the council as president in 2007/2008. Under her dynamic leadership the council engaged in a diverse range of activity that enhanced its image not only in the Canadian Business Community but also in the Sri Lankan Business Community.

The Annual Report for 2008/2009 was presented by Mr. Obeyesekere who said that two special events highlighted the year’s activity. First was the grand dinner reception accorded to visiting dignitary Dr. Palitha Kohona, Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Sri Lanka in September, 2008. A large and distinguished crowd graced the occasion held in the Main Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Markham. Second was the equally impressive luncheon reception accorded on December 2nd to visiting High Commissioner for Canada in Sri Lanka, H.E. Angela Bogdan. This event was also held at the Holiday Inn Markham and was well attended. Council members also attended numerous other public events that were organized by the Federal and Provincial governments and other trade organizations. The board of directors made their annual visit to Ottawa and paid a courtesy call on the new High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Ottawa, His Excellency Daya Perera. In Ottawa, the contingent also attended meetings at the Trade Facilitation Office of Canada (TFOC) and Foreign Affairs & International Trade Canada. The CSLBC website www.cslbcbiz.com was constantly updated with current news while three informative Newsletters were also published during the year. Mr. Obeyesekere also spoke of the cooperation extended to the council by the diplomatic missions in both jurisdictions – Sri Lanka High Commission in Ottawa, Consulate General in Toronto and High Commission for Canada in Sri Lanka. Bilateral relations were further strengthened by the tremendous support given by the Sri Lanka-Canada Business Council based in Colombo. President Rajah Abeyasinghe, and Vice Presidents Ramya Perera and Sampath Liyanage excelled when it came to collaboration between the two councils and special mention should be made of these three people who provided our council with valuable tender and trade information that acted as a catalyst to trigger business activity between Canada and Sri Lanka.

Three (3) amendments to the by-laws and constitution were then presented to the general membership for two-thirds approval. The ex-officio appointment of High Commissioner H.E. Daya Perera as Patron Plenipotentiary of the Canada-Sri Lanka Business Council was approved by unanimous assent. The appointment of Consul General Mr. Bandula Jayasekara as Chair, Advisory Council of the Canada-Sri Lanka Business Council was also approved by unanimous assent. The third amendment referred to attendance at board meetings by board members that also received unanimous approval by the board. These three amendments will now be incorporated into the by-laws and constitution of the council.

Chair, Elections Committee Mr. Krishan Suntharalingam then announced the new board of directors. He said the by-laws and constitution provides for nine (9) members on the board and since there were only nine nominations, the following were elected by acclamation to serve on the board of directors for Year 2009/2010.

President:	Mr. Kula Sellathurai
Vice President:	Mr. Ganesan Sugumar
Executive Secretary:	Mr. Upali Obeyesekere
Hony. Treasurer:	Mr. Nalaka Weerasinghe
Director, Membership:	Ms. Chandrika Fernando
Directors-at-Large (04):	Mr. Mohan Perera
	Mr. Lalith Wickremasinghe
	Mr. Ranier de Lambert
	Mr. James Fernandopulle

Mr. Upali Obeyesekere proposed the name of Mr. Krishan Suntharalingam, CA of Suntharalingam & Associates for the post of Hony. Auditor. This was seconded by Mr. Ganesan Sugumar. As there were no other nominations, Mr. Suntharalingam was appointed Hony. Auditor of the Canada-Sri Lanka Business Council for Year 2009/2010.

Due to a prior commitment president-elect Mr. Kula Sellathurai and Mr. Nalaka Weerasinghe (Hony. Treasurer) were unable to attend the Annual General Meeting. In the absence of any other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.





Outgoing President
GANESAN SUGUMAR



Chairman 2010/2011
LOUISE ROBERGE



Executive Secretary 2010/2011
UPALI OBEYESEKERE



LOUISE ROBERGE, UPALI OBEYESEKERE & MOHAN PERERA



KRISHAN SUNTHARALINGAM & ALLI AMLANI



LALITH WICKREMASINGHE



CHANDRIKA FERNANDO



RANIER DE LAMBERT



JAMES FERNANDOPULLE