

Seventh Meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive

Date: 26 January 2026 **Time:** 16:00 – 17:30

Venue: by Zoom

AGENDA

Present: Frank Johnson (Chair), Len Barrie, Yvon Bernier, Michael Brklacich, Anna Brownlee (student rep. Carleton U.), Dawn Conway, Mike Crowe, Ray Desjardins, Bob Jones, Mike Manore, Tom Zagon

Regrets, Shiliang (Dan) Shan, Erik Sparling, Peter Kimbell

1. Introduction

Members were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was **accepted** by consensus

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 21 October 2025

Two minor edits were reviewed and accepted. The minutes were **approved** with the changes.

4. Finance review

Mike Manore acknowledged the help of Yvon Bernier in the transfer of financial accounts to him. He reported that the Centre had a balance of \$5,405.70 at the beginning of 2025 and \$4,745.49 at the end. It currently has two sources of revenue: matching funds for science fairs; and an annual payment from CMOS National, based on \$250 plus \$5 per member of the Ottawa Centre. It also has a Guaranteed Income Certificate worth \$6,204. The Centre's total assets at the end of 2025 were thus \$10,949.49. A budget for 2026 was proposed.

In discussion, Bob Jones noted that we lose a few members each year, hence the funds from CMOS National have declined a bit. The Chair expressed concern at the limited income; Yvon Bernier clarified that we receive a share of the profits on CMOS Congresses held in Ottawa (\$18,825 from the 2010 Congress in Ottawa); but due to COVID, were unable to host the 2019 one. However, our expenditures are not excessive. A decision on whether to use or to carry over the GIC was **deferred** to a future meeting.

It was moved (Len Barrie; seconded Bob Jones) that the proposed 2026 budget be accepted. All **agreed**.

5. Past presentations

Recent talks were reviewed.

Mike Manore noted there was good attendance for the November 5 hybrid talk on *Climate Anxiety*, given by **Stefania Maggi** (around 30 attendees in-house and 27 on-line). This implied a successful partnership with Carleton University on the talk. Members discussed the value of having a speaker from outside the CMOS community. It was generally agreed that the presentation was relevant and of broad interest.

Attendance at **Igor Shkvorets** talk (January 15) on *Sail for Science* totalled 25, though in-house attendance was likely affected by poor weather. The speaker was a bit difficult to hear, but slides of his talk are now on the Centre's website. Len Barrie commented that it was clear there were gaps in knowledge that Citizen Science¹ could help fill.

6. Upcoming presentations

The talk on February 19 will be by the new MSC D-G Monitoring, Neil Carson, and will be at noon, by zoom. The title is *Meteorological Monitoring in Times of Uncertainty*.

Action: Mike Manore

7. Future presentations

¹ The involvement of the general public in data collection or other elements of scientific research.

7.1 Student presentations: Anna Brownlee will coordinate student presentations and report back.

Action: Anna Brownlee

7.2 Satellite Update/Arctic Observing: Due to developments at Eumetsat and other partners, a seminar at this time is not advised. This topic is thus removed.

7.3 Sail Drones: A talk by Scott Glen is no longer under consideration at this time.

7.4 A talk on Canada's colour-coded weather warning system will be considered for a future date.

8. Social Media Presence

Anna Brownlee has established CMOS's social media and Linked-in pages. The Ottawa CMOS Centre currently has no posts or followers. The Dept. of Geography at Carleton U will help to propagate our posts. Much of the information on CMOS's web site could be used for the social media presence; however, Anna would like the content of posts to be confirmed before going live with them. Members agreed Anna could put information on our talks/seminars on the site; Bob Jones cautioned that information is not heeded if put up too early, hence reminders may be needed.

In discussion, he wondered if information on the site should be reserved for seminars; or extended to interesting weather events. Mike Manore suggested possibly sending out a link to our web site before and after presentations. Len Barrie suggested posting the results of science fairs, when relevant to CMOS interests. Frank Johnson thought the suggestions had merit and should be tried to see how many followers were attracted. Further discussion followed on how to expand the followers. Anna Brownlee will send out an Instagram link to the CMOS web site, as students tend to follow Instagram.

Anna is working to recruit a student from Ottawa U both for membership on the Executive and for greater exposure for CMOS at Ottawa U. Bob Jones suggested the candidate be put in touch with our previous university of Ottawa representative, Erika Brummel, who could answer any questions.

Action: Anna Brownlee

9. Nominations for Executive

Dawn Conway and Bob Jones will co-operate on actions for renewal of the Ottawa CMOS Executive.

Action: Dawn Conway; Bob Jones

10. Science Fairs in 2026

Ottawa: Ward Smith will lead the judging, along with Ray Desjardins and Len Barrie. Anna Brownlee will also be involved. The Fair is at the end of March 2026. We receive a snapshot of projects a week beforehand, from which to identify CMOS-relevant projects. Prizes include awards of \$200 and \$100, and a framed certificate. We also provide a donation for general support, which enhances CMOS' visibility.

Mike Manore mentioned the need for an invoice from the Ottawa Fair.

Outaouais: Yvon Bernier reported that Serge Nadon will again assist him with judging, noting that the organizers help to pick the winners from a list of CMOS-relevant projects. The Outaouais fair is smaller than the Ottawa one, with 30-35 projects. The prize is \$200 for the winning student.

Kingston: The CMOS representative in Kingston is Shiliang (Dan) Shan. Manore indicated he has received an invoice for our contribution to this fair.

11. Other Business

The Government's Workforce Adjustment program is in progress. Tom Zagon reported that MSC is undergoing reorganization.

12. Date and Place of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive will be at noon on Monday February 23, 2026. The meeting will be held at Irene's Pub, 885 Bank St.

13. **Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 17:20.