



The CHCS Newsletter

THE CANADIAN HIGHLAND CATTLE SOCIETY

LA SOCIETE CANADIENNE DES ELEVEURS DE BOVINS HIGHLAND

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all,

Here we are again preparing an annual general meeting, this year in Calgary, Alberta. I am excited to visit this part of the country and meeting in person members of the board that I have worked with over the phone and video meetings.

This is just the first communication you will get concerning the AGM as we have a new set of bylaws to present to all members. You will soon receive, if there is no postal strike, a paper copy of the new bylaws by the end of May; if there is a postal strike, the text of the bylaws will be sent by email and available to consult on www.chc.ca - "Members Only" section. Reminder: the password to enter is "kyloebblack". The paper copy will still be sent out prior to the strike but may not be received until later.



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I would like to have all members concentrate on the responsibilities of a pure-bred cattle breeder. As our breed's popularity grows, more transactions and new people open the door to transactions that don't meet the Canadian Animal Pedigree Act standards. We must be vigilant that our cattle are well identified and correctly transferred; it sorrows me every time the pedigree committee receives a new case and that eventually some of these cases result in striking out animals from the herd book.

Looking forward to meeting many members from out west and hoping to see you in numbers at the AGM!

I don't know if my kilt will mix in with all those cowboy hats!

Paul Thibodeau, President

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Winter has been a long and difficult one. Like many places, we have had the many challenges of heavy snowfalls; for my part the back-to-back melting and freezing temperatures created ice dams, followed by more snow and melting, causing a leaky roof on warm days, and the cherry on top was a collapsed barn roof where my animals were lodged. I am thankful that all are fine but will be more than happy to be on our way into summer!

As I write this, I have been back to work full time after a one year maternity leave. You'll notice that an email was sent out to our membership at the end of March stating the 2025 AGM dates and location as well as another message mentioning that I am resigning my position as editor for the Society. With the return to my real job combined with life at home and Society work, I find that I cannot fully enjoy any time off with my family or even have the time to manage my own animals. I must let something go and reduce my workload.

If you are creative and have interest in becoming the editor of the CHCS's publications (Kyloe Cry magazines and Newsletters), please send a message to highland@chcs.ca.

In this Newsletter you'll also find messages from the bylaws committee who have been actively working on a new bylaws draft to present to the membership for the next 2025 AGM. You will also find along with the newsletter, the Notice of AGM and registration forms. Hope to see you in number in Calgary, AB this September 27th!

Happy summer to all,

Natasha Beliveau, Secretary

2025 Year-to-Date (April 30th) Statistics

260 members

221 registrations

294 transfers

2024 Comparative Statistics

256 members

154 registrations

171 transfers



BYLAWS COMMITTEE NOTICE

Over the past year the bylaw sub-committee of the Board of Directors has been diligently re-writing the Canadian Highland Cattle Society bylaws, to modernize them and maintain the integrity of our herdbook.

Feedback from members, the board of directors and the Pedigree committee indicated that the current bylaws are difficult to understand, lengthy, easy to misinterpret, and some parts are outdated. We have simplified the language from legal jargon to everyday terms, making sections concise and easier to find, read, understand and act upon.

As technology evolved our bylaws didn't keep pace. One of the most impactful changes is allowing virtual participation at AGMs. Recognizing the expense of travel, virtual attendance we hope will increase participation.

The integrity of the herdbook is of upmost importance. Our current bylaws only require the sire to have DNA on file and every 75th registration is required to complete a proof of parentage DNA test. The Pedigree committee has seen a significant number of 75th tests fail with disqualified sires, disqualified dams – sometimes both. We have then seen issues with animals not being tattooed or incorrectly tattooed to what was reported on the registration certificate. While many failed 75th tests have been resolved, some have resulted in the animal(s) and entire herds being removed from the herdbook. To address this, our new bylaws, effective January 1, 2026, will require all animals born on or after this date to have DNA submitted and be DNA parentage verified to the sire. The animal must also be DNA parentage verified to the dam, if the dam has a DNA profile on file. The 75th test has been changed to every 25th registration, to ensure accurate registration of animals without a dam on file.

With Highland cattle reaching record high prices, it is crucial that buyers can trust the accuracy of our herdbook including pedigrees, tattoos, and colour. Although these changes add an extra step for breeders, we are confident they will uphold the reputation of CHCS and our members.

A copy of the new bylaws will be mailed to all members 120 days prior to the AGM for review. We welcome any feedback or questions you may have by emailing CHCS at highland@chcs.ca. It is important that as many members as possible attend the AGM, where we will motion to adopt the new bylaws. The AGM is being held on September 27th in Calgary, AB.

The Bylaws Committee of CHCS

Alice Dixon, Jaylyn Ettinger, Adele Dunning and Andrea McCoy

PROPOSED BYLAWS

You can find a copy of the new proposed bylaws at:

WWW.CHCS.CA - MEMBERS ONLY - PROPOSED BYLAWS 2025

REMINDER

Password for the Members Only section is “kyloebblack”

**Questions, comments and feedback to be sent to highland@chcs.ca
with a deadline of 50 days after mailing.**

AGM 2025

The CHCS is pleased to announce the 2025 AGM, hosted in Calgary, Alberta at the Best Western Premier Freeport Calgary Airport on the weekend of September 27-28th 2025.

This year, we decided to do things a bit differently. First, we wanted to choose a location that is surrounded by members/breeders in



order to increase attendance at the AGM (meeting). Second, the Society has normally organized the event on the August long weekend but have voted on changing it to end of September for this time to allow for the new Bylaws to be drafted and presented to the membership; in hopes to again increase attendance.

You will find a copy of the AGM Notice and Registration forms along with this newsletter as well as a paper copy mailed with the new Bylaws draft. If you have any questions about registering for the AGM, please feel free to contact me at highland@chcs.ca. Hope to see you in Calgary in numbers!

Natasha Beliveau, Secretary

**MESSAGE FROM THE
QUEBEC HIGHLAND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**



It is with pleasure that I will welcome the members of the AQEBH again this year for our Annual General Meeting. In order to draw a portrait of the activities held by the association over the past year, the AGM will be held on May 26, 2025 in Ste-Anne-de-Larochelle, QC. Those interested in joining the Board of Directors will be able to consult the details on our website and Facebook page. An invitation has been sent to all our members by email. An activity on breeding management and record keeping is planned in the afternoon following the AGM.

Breeders who are not members of the AQEBH and who would like to become members will be able to join at the AGM. You can also contact me at the following email address to receive the application form: info.aqebh@gmail.com.

As for the next edition of the Expo Boeuf, we will let you know as soon as we have it.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Nathalie Poisson, AQEBH Secretary