

FIHO is Established as First Global Hemp Federation

Saskatoon, November 18, 2022 - The Federation of International Hemp Organisations (FIHO) held its first Annual General Meeting and elected its founding Board of Directors. This signals the transition from interim leadership to an established official organization.

A working group of 20 global hemp organizations joined forces in 2020 and began the process of creating FIHO. An interim Board was appointed in December 2021 to establish the organization. The mandate of the new FIHO is to: unite industry leaders; consolidate market expertise; coordinate resources; and, speak with one voice on hemp issues at the global level. FIHO will identify and create opportunities, and scale up sustainable hemp production, marketing and trade to benefit the global hemp industry, consumers, and the environment

The first Annual General Meeting also provided the opportunity to announce the appointment of Mr. Frédéric Vallier as the new FIHO Director General. Frédéric is an experienced executive who served as Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions for the past 12 years. He brings strong organizational skills as well as expertise in sustainability, industry engagement, and government relations to FIHO. Mr. Vallier will hold executive functions, manage FIHO operations, and report directly to the newly elected Board.

Frédéric Vallier said “I am honoured to become the first FIHO Director General and I thank the Board for putting their trust in me.” He continued by confirming that “hemp is at the heart of the transition towards a more sustainable society. My goal, as Director General, is to build a strong international federation able to influence international policies to support the development of hemp and its derived industrial products.”

Ted Haney, newly elected Board Chair, added that “the combination of a strong membership, committed Directors, and expert management will ensure a successful launch. The formation of FIHO represents the next important milestone in the development of the global hemp industry.”

The new FIHO Board includes the following global hemp industry leaders:

Position	Elected Officers	Member Organization	Region
Board Chair	Ted Haney	CHTA	Canada
Board Vice-Chair	Daniel Kruse	EIHA	Europe
Treasurer	Patrick Atagi	NIHC	USA
Secretary	Charles Kovess	AIHA	Australia

The following committees were established to coordinate the work of the organization and are in the process of defining their roles and responsibilities, and recruiting members:

Committee	Committee Chair	Member Organization	Region
Communication and Engagement	Lorenzo Rolim da Silva	LAIHA	Brazil
Policy and Regulations	Lorenza Romanese Rick Fox ¹	EIHA	Europe USA
Research and Standards	Keanan Stone Michael Bronstein	CHTA ATACH	Canada USA
Sustainability	Hunter Buffington Terry Grajczyk ¹	NIHC	USA Canada

Other Directors that complete the Board include:

Position	Elected Directors	Member Organization	Region
Director	Joseph Hickey Sr.	KYHA	USA
Director	Kyle Bingham	TxHGA	USA
Director	Rohit Sharma	IIHA	India

FIHO has established a secretariat in Brussels, from which it will provide member services and connect with inter-governmental agencies.

FIHO has created an open platform membership structure, to include hemp organizations operating at the supranational, national, and subnational levels, hemp-focussed companies and individuals, governments, research institutes, and aligned not-for-profit organizations.

FIHO invites interested parties to consider becoming co-founding members. The organization will soon publish its official website with all relevant information. In the meantime please contact Members@fiho.org.

For more information, please contact:

Lorenzo Rolim da Silva
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Email: Lorenzo@FIHO.org

Ted Haney
Board Chair
Email: Ted@FIHO.org

¹ Non-Elected/Appointed Co-chair