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## Annual General Meeting, Canadian Committee on Labour History, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, 31 May 2016

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# MINUTES / PROCÈS-VERBAL

Annual General Meeting  
Canadian Committee on Labour History  
University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, 31 May 2016

## **MEMBERS ATTENDING:**

Jason Russell (chair), Joan Sangster, Ben Isitt, Greg Kealey, Eryk Martin, Julia Smith, Christo Aivalis, Kathy Killoh, Jeff Taylor, Alvin Finkel, Kirk Niergarth, Craig Heron, Betsy Jameson, Peter McInnis, Jim Naylor, Rob Kristofferson, Peter McInnis, Tom Langford, Rhonda Hinther, Larry Hannant, Dominique Clement.

## **GUESTS:**

Jordan Thompson, Ron Patterson (Alberta Union of Provincial Employees).

## **REGRETS:**

David Camfield, Barbara Neis, Steven Tufts, Andy Parnaby.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:50 am with Jason Russell, First Vice-President, in the Chair.

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Craig Heron proposed that the 2017 Labour History Workshop be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Alvin Finkel, seconded by Julia Smith, that the agenda as amended be approved. Carried unanimously.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2015 ANNUAL MEETING, AS PUBLISHED IN *LABOUR/LE TRAVAIL* 76 (FALL/AUTOMNE 2015)**

It was moved by Jeff Taylor, seconded by Julia Smith, that the Minutes of the 2015 CCLH Annual General Meeting be approved. Carried unanimously.

#### 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

#### 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jason Russell provided the President's report on behalf of President Janis Thiessen, who was unable to attend the AGM. He began by thanking Kirk Niergarth for organizing the 2016 labour history workshop and concert, and advised that the CCLH had sponsored two CHA panels and a pub night with the Canadian Association of Work and Labour Studies. Jason then announced the winners of the 2016 graduate and article prizes:

The winner of Eugene Forsey Graduate Prize for 2016 is: Jeremy Milloy, "If You Want Blood: Violence at Work in the North American Auto Industry, 1960-1980," Ph.D. dissertation, Simon Fraser University, 2015.

The winner of the Eugene Forsey Undergraduate Prize for 2016 is: Thomas McGrath, "The Hillcrest Mine Disaster: Reaction and Commemoration, 1914-2014," undergraduate thesis, Mount Royal University, 2015.

The winner of the CCLH Article prize for 2016 is: Magda Fahrni, "Glimpsing Working-Class Childhood through the Laurier Palace Fire of 1927: The Ordinary, the Tragic, and the Historian's Gaze," *The Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth* 8, 3 (Fall 2015): 426-50.

Kathy Killoh advised that Andy Parnaby had volunteered to serve on the Forsey Graduate Prize Committee for 2017.

Greg Kealey discussed inviting the incumbent winner of the article prize, which for 2016 is Magda Fahrni, to serve on the CCLH Article Prize Committee.

Joan Sangster discussed inviting jury committee members beyond existing active CCLH members, for example among CAWLS members and officers.

It was moved by Jeff Taylor, seconded by Joan Sangster, that the President's report be approved. Carried unanimously.

Jason Russell then presented two recommendations on behalf of the CCLH Executive.

It was moved by Christo Aivalis, seconded by Julia Smith, that the following resolution be adopted:

##### **Executive Recommendation #1:**

- a. that CCLH provide up to \$500 to individuals from an annual pool of \$1000, according to the following criteria to be posted on the CCLH website:

b. Conference Support: Some financial support will be available for travel and accommodation, depending on need and availability of funds, with priority given to people on the CHA program or CCLH Workshop and who do not have access to other funding sources. Contributors requesting financial assistance should indicate this when submitting an abstract.

Greg Kealey advised that the CCLH was in good financial shape and that funds were therefore available to provide this travel grant.

Julia Smith advised that the objective of the proposal was to increase accessibility for scholars without access to institutional travel funds.

Dominique Clement asked who would adjudicate the travel grant.

Greg Kealey responded that a sub-committee of the executive would adjudicate, likely consisting of the treasurer, the president and one additional member.

Dominique Clement suggested that the travel grant be promoted to the CHA graduate listserv.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

It was moved by Greg Kealey, seconded by Kirk Niergarth, that the following resolution be adopted:

**Executive Recommendation #2:**

That an additional position be added to the CCLH executive for Communications (responsible for maintaining the website, twitter and facebook accounts, and the listserv).

Joan Sangster suggested that the CCLH website be enhanced to have increased audiovisual material and multi-media content similar to LAWCHA's website. She suggested that an honourarium could be provided to support this function.

Betsy Jameson said that LAWCHA's website is facilitated through a partnership with Duke University Press.

Jeff Taylor asked whether the communications coordinator would be responsible for receiving updates for the website and social media, or also actively seeking out material.

Dominique Clement proposed that CCLH explore collaboration in communications coordination with other CHA committees.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

## 6. INTERIM LABOUR / LE TRAVAIL EDITORS' REPORT

Greg Kealey gave a report on behalf of himself and Bryan Palmer as interim co-editors of *Labour/Le Travail*, having replaced Sean Cadigan as editor. A search was initiated for a permanent editor, with a sub-committee of the Editorial Board, consisting of Bryan Palmer, Kathy Killoh, Betsy Jameson, and Alvin Finkel, conducting teleconference interviews with potential editors. As a result, Charles Smith from St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan, has offered to serve as co-editor and this recommendation will be considered at the Editorial Board meeting on 1 June 2016. A search continues for a second co-editor with expertise in the social history of the working class.

Issue 77 (Spring 2016) of the journal has been published and Issue 78 (Fall 2016) is well underway with production ahead of schedule. Articles are being held over for Issue 79 (Spring 2017).

In the past year, *Labour/Le Travail* has received approximately 30 submissions, of which 1/3 were rejected, and the remaining two-thirds were at various stages of review, publication, or revision and resubmission. More French language submissions have been received and published than at any previous time in the history of the journal.

Subscriptions are back toward the level from 2012 – approximately 500-600 print subscriptions. By print journal standards, this is a healthy number. Digital and electronic subscriptions, facilitated by AU Press, are very healthy, resulting in substantial revenues.

Jim Naylor said that the Book Review and Review Essay sections of the journal were less healthy, due largely to a reluctance of scholars to provide reviews. Jim suggested that graduate students be encouraged to submit reviews to the journal.

It was moved by Jim Naylor, seconded by Kirk Niergarth, that the Editor's Report be received. Carried unanimously.

## 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Greg Kealey gave the Treasurer's Report, stating that revenues in 2015 exceeded expenditures. Revenue came in the form of print subscriptions for the journal, electronic sales, royalty payments, back-copy sales, book revenue, and a SSHRC grant. Expenditures consisted primarily of payment to Athabasca University Press for printing and design fees, as well as shipping costs, payment for release time for the previous editor, and miscellaneous expenditures. The Treasurer provided a summary of journal article downloads by country and Canadian institution, demonstrating impressive growth in the breadth of LLT readership.

It was moved by Craig Heron, seconded by Alvin Finkel, that the Treasurer's Report be received. Carried unanimously.

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Greg Kealey assumed the Chair to conduct the elections for officers of CCLH.

As per the Constitution and the executive motion approved above, the following Offices were up for election in 2016: (a) President; (b) First Vice President; (c) Communications Coordinator.

### **a. President**

Greg Kealey called for nominations for the office of President.

Janis Thiessen nominated Jason Russell via written correspondence to serve as President.

Greg Kealey asked for further nominations. There being no further nominations, Jason Russell was acclaimed as President.

### **b. First Vice-President**

Greg Kealey called for nominations for the office of First Vice-President.

Jason Russell nominated Janis Thiessen to serve as First Vice-President.

Julia Smith nominated Kirk Niergarth for the office of First Vice-President.

Upon an election being conducted, Kirk Niergarth was elected as First Vice-President.

### **c. Communications Coordinator**

Greg Kealey called for nominations for the office of Communications Coordinator.

Julia Smith nominated Christo Aivalis for the office of Communications Coordinator.

Greg Kealey asked for further nominations. There being no further nominations, Christo Aivalis was acclaimed as Communications Coordinator.

It was moved by Jim Naylor, seconded by Betsy Jameson, that Janis Thiessen be thanked for her service as CCLH President. Carried unanimously.

## **9. 2017 LABOUR HISTORY WORKSHOP**

Craig Heron reported that the newly formed Toronto Labour History Group has volunteered to organize the 2017 Labour History Workshop at Congress at Ryerson University.

Craig Heron also announced that a working-class history conference will be taking place in 2017 coinciding with his retirement from York University, possibly in conjunction with Congress.

## **10. OTHER DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jim Naylor announced that the centenary of the Winnipeg General Strike is approaching in 2019, with planning underway for a working-class activist conference to mark the occasion, applying themes from the 1919 strike to contemporary labour and working-class issues.

It was moved by Jim Naylor, seconded by Ben Isitt, that the CCLH co-sponsor the 2019 Winnipeg General Strike conference.

Betsy Jameson asked what CCLH sponsorship would entail.

Jim Naylor advised that the conference will likely have access to sufficient financial resources from other sponsors, so CCLH sponsorship would likely be non-monetary in nature, lending organizational support and assisting with publicity.

Betsy Jameson proposed that conference organizers reach out to the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association as a potential co-sponsor as well.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

It was moved by Greg Kealey, seconded by Julia Smith, that CCLH express its appreciation to Kirk Niergarth and Alvin Finkel for organizing the 2016 Labour History Workshop and Packingtown Concert with Maria Dunn. Carried unanimously.

Joan Sangster announced that the 2017 LAWCHA conference is taking place in Seattle in June 2017, with strong interest among conference organizers for trans-national panels.

Greg Kealey reported that he intends to bring a motion for CCLH executive approval supporting the travel costs of a delegate from Senegal to attend a labour history conference in India in 2017, affiliated with the International Labour History Association.

Julia Smith invited Jordan Thompson from the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees to provide a brief presentation.

Jordan Thompson and Ron Patterson from the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees provided a brief presentation on a celebration planned for 2019 to commemorate the founding of the precursor organization to AUPE as well as the Winnipeg General Strike, and invited CCLH members to participate in video interviews to assist AUPE in educating members about labour history.

Kirk Niergarth announced that a labour history walking tour in Downtown

Calgary is taking place later that day, sponsored by the Society for Socialist Studies.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Betsy Jameson, seconded by Alvin Finkel, that the meeting adjourn. Carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.