

# Labour/Le Travailleur



## Minutes / Procès-verbal

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# MINUTES / PROCÈS-VERBAL

## Annual Meeting Canadian Committee on Labour History St. John's, Newfoundland, 6 June 1997

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm

### ATTENDANCE (24)

Bettina Bradbury

Chris Burr

Joan Butler

Sean Cadigan

Cecilia Dansk

Alvin Finkel

Julie Guard

Craig Heron

Franca Iacovetta

Nicole Jarry

Ron Knowling

Mark Leier

Raymond Léger

Andrée Lévesque

John Manley

Kate McPherson

Jim Naylor

Bryan Palmer

Andy Parnaby

Ian Radforth

Rick Rennie

Joan Sangster

Odette Vincent

Irene Whitfield

### AGENDA

M/S/C To adopt the agenda as presented

M/S/C To adopt the minutes of the last meeting as published in *Labour/Le Travail*, 39 (Spring 1997), 369-71.

## BUSINESS ARISING

**LABOUR STAMPS PROJECT:** On behalf of David Frank, who has been pursuing this project, Greg Kealey requested CCLH endorsement for the request of Canada Post to issue a series of stamps commemorating Canadian labour.

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

KATE MCPHERSON REPORTED that CCLH has sent a letter encouraging the appropriate government agency to issue commemorative labour stamps.

She reported also on the recent debate on *Labor History* in H-Labor, in which CCLH members and members of the editorial board of *Labour/Le Travail* participated. Participants widely agreed on the need for an organization for labour history in the USA, and CCLH was held up as a model for such an organization, with CCLH members offering guidance and suggestions.

During the recent faculty strike at York University, CCLH sent a letter of support to YUFA in which the Administration was encouraged to bargain with the union to end the strike.

At the 1997 Congress of Learned Societies, CCLH is co-sponsoring two sessions in the CHA program in addition to a full-day, labour history workshop on the Monday following CHA.

CCLH members' accomplishments have been acknowledged by a number of prizes and awards. Joan Sangster was the 1995-96 winner of the Harold Innis Prize for her book, *Earning Respect: The Lives of Working Women in Small-Town Ontario, 1920-1960*, which was part of the Studies in Gender and History Series of the University of Toronto Press. The Gender and History Series editors are Franca Iacovetta and Craig Heron. Julie Guard won the 1997 Hilda Neatby Prize for her article, "Fair Pay or Fair Play? Gender Relations, Class Consciousness, and Union Solidarity in the Canadian UE," which was published in *Labour/Le Travail*, 37 (1996).

CCLH members have been productive over the past year, publishing a number of books and articles [including the CCLH president: Kathryn McPherson, *Bedside Matters: A Social History of Nursing*]

Several CCLH members have accepted faculty positions: Chris Burr at the University of Windsor, Peter McInnis at University College of Cape Breton, and Danny Samson at McGill.

## EDITOR'S/TREASURER'S REPORT

GREG KEALEY thanked Joan Butler and Irene Whitfield for their extraordinary effort in managing things despite a heavier workload this year. He also thanked Andy Parnaby, Richard Rennie, and Ron Knowling for their work organizing the

labour workshop and all the other responsibilities involved in preparing for the 1997 conference.

Subscriptions to *Labour/Le Travail* are down slightly from last year (from 950 to 900), but this decline was attributed to the combined effects of new communications technology and economic downturn. Any ideas for promoting the journal are welcomed. Members are especially encouraged to take promotional literature to any conferences they attend, and to consider buying subscriptions as gifts for their graduate students. The subscription list presently stands as follows: 378 individual, 98 student, 276 Canadian institutional, 151 foreign institutional.

Greg Kealey announced that he is stepping down as Editor of *L/LT*. [It was subsequently announced that Bryan Palmer will be stepping down as Book Reviews Editor and taking over as Editor.] Mark Leier is stepping down as editor of the Notebook to be Book Review Editor, and Richard Rennie and Andy Parnaby will jointly edit the Notebook.

Stoddart has taken over the CCLH book list, which includes the Jack Scott biography and a new book by Doug Smith, *Cold Warrior: C.S. Jackson and the United Electrical Workers*. Forthcoming is Margaret Hobbs's and Joan Sangster's documentary collection of the early labour publication, the *Woman Worker*. Their book is the first of a co-publication project between Craig Heron and Franca Iacovetta of the Ontario Workers' Art and Heritage Centre, and Greg Kealey at CCLH. Ideas for new titles are requested; the editors are particularly interested in documentary items.

Changes within SSHRCC have created a need for new fiscal arrangements. The budget henceforth will be split between CCLH and *L/LT*, and *L/LT* will be administered from within Memorial University of Newfoundland. *L/LT* will be permitted to continue to generate funds, and may retain a reserve fund equal to its operating budget, not to be subtracted from the grant.

Forsey Prize: An anonymous donor has increased the amount available to \$3,000. It was decided that the editorial board will discuss how to disburse or invest the extra money.

Commemorative Labour Stamps: CLC Annual Convention has written in support of the project, and the project has also been endorsed by the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and some Saskatchewan MPs. Articles have recently been published in support of this project in *Our Times* magazine and *L/LT*.

M/S/C: To appoint David Frank to form a committee that can be seconded to the CLC to pursue this project.

## CHARITABLE STATUS

ERIC TUCKER AND RON KNOWLING have applied to Revenue Canada for charitable status for CCLH. They suggest changes in the CCLH constitution to facilitate the process.

M/S/C To insert the following sentence into section "C" of the CCLH Constitution: Activities of the CCLH shall be carried on, according to Revenue Canada guidelines, without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions to The Committee shall be used solely to promote its objectives.

## CONFERENCES

A ONE-DAY LABOUR WORKSHOP, co-sponsored by CCLH and Socialist Studies, and focussing on research on and activity in the Newfoundland labour movement is scheduled after the CHA.

Next year, the Congress will be held in Ottawa, and suggestions are requested for individuals and organizations who would be willing to organize a day on the topic of labour.

Cecilia Dansk announced a Call for Papers for the AHA-Pacific Coast Branch conference, which will be held in San Diego during the first week of August, 1998. Proposals (and preferably panels) on topics in all fields of history will be considered. An original and four copies of a one-page synopsis of your paper, along with a vitae for each participant, should be sent by 15 July for early consideration to Leonard Dinnerstein, Judaic Studies, Franklin Bldg, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ USA 85721-0080.

## ELECTIONS

The executive was elected by acclamation:

President:	Kathryn McPherson (York University)
Vice-President:	James Naylor (Brandon University)
Secretary:	Julie Guard (York University)
Treasurer:	Gregory Kealey (Memorial University)

## OTHER BUSINESS ARISING

CRAIG HERON reminded members that Ontario Workers' Arts and Heritage Centre t-shirts are available for sale. Members are also encouraged to assist the Centre and inform themselves of its activities by subscribing to the OWAHC newsletter at PO Box 83034, Jamesville Postal Sta., Hamilton, ON L8L 1B5, phone (905) 522-3003 fax (905) 522-5424.

## ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C/ to adjourn, 1:26 pm