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**Le Travail**

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## Annual General Meeting Canadian Committee on Labour History Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, 30 May 2017

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## MINUTES / PROCÈS-VERBAL

Annual General Meeting  
Canadian Committee on Labour History  
Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, 30 May 2017

### MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Jason Russell, Dominique Clement, Joan Sangster, David Frank, Dennis Molinaro, Kirk Niergarth, Janis Thiessen, Kurt Korneski, Craig Heron, Christo Aivalis, Jim Naylor, Charles Smith, Geoffrey Ewen, Myron Momryk, Rhonda Hinthner, Andrew Parnaby, Alvin Finkel, Betsy Jameson, Mikhail Bjorge, Peter Campbell, Andrea Samoil, Ben Isitt, Dalton Campbell, Jeff Taylor, Greg Kealey, Kathy Killoh, Linda Kealey

### GUESTS:

Dalton Campbell, Archivist – labour portfolio, Library and Archives Canada

### REGRETS:

Steven Tufts, Barb Neis, Larry Savage, Kendra Coulter

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

### 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair provided a summary and asked for adoption of the Agenda.

It was moved by Greg Kealey, seconded by Jim Naylor, that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED unanimously.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, AS PUBLISHED IN LABOUR / LE TRAVAIL 78 (FALL / AUTOMNE 2016)**

It was moved by Christo Aivalis, seconded by Jeff Taylor, that the Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED unanimously.

### **4. PRESENTATION BY DALTON CAMPBELL, LABOUR ARCHIVIST, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA**

Dalton Campbell, Labour Archivist at the Library and Archives Canada (Economic, Science and Environment Section), introduced himself to CCLH members, inviting them to direct questions his way relating to reference / consultation of existing materials or acquisition of new materials.

Greg Kealey inquired about the level of resourcing for labour/working class records at the LAC.

Janis Thiessen inquired about business records at the LAC. Dalton said that business and corporate records are the responsibility of his colleague Lucy Paquin.

### **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Greg Kealey reported that there was a small operating surplus in 2016.

Revenues consisted of journal subscriptions, grants, licensing fees and other revenues.

No unusual expenditures were incurred.

Kathy Killoh provided additional information on finances for the journal including a pending new federal granting structure.

It was moved by Charles Smith, seconded by Kirk Niergarth, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

CARRIED unanimously.

### **6. COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT**

Christo Aivalis, Communications Coordinator, provided a report on CCLH communications and social media activities in the past year, including the website, listserv and social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

MOTION: It was moved by Janis Thiessen, seconded by Kirk Niergarth, that the Social Media Report be adopted.

Ben Isitt spoke in favour of the benefits of this recently created Executive

position of Communications Coordinator, to provide a focus on CCLH social media and outreach activities.

Jeff Taylor and David Frank inquired about the distribution of materials between the website and social media platforms. Christo Aivalis responded.

CARRIED unanimously.

## **7. *labour/le travail* EDITORS' REPORT**

Charles Smith, Co-Editor of *Labour/Le Travail*, reported on the status of the journal, including healthy submissions from historians and labour studies scholars, and a number of articles at various stages of the review and production processes.

Greg Kealey discussed Joan Sangster's role as incoming Co-Editor, replacing him during the summer of 2017. Greg also discussed the number of contributions of articles in the French language.

Jim Naylor provided an update as Book Review Editor, inviting members to bring new works to his attention and also to continue to review books for the journal. He also discussed the benefits of designating a CAWLS Book Review point person to ensure adequate and current coverage of Labour Studies scholarship within the journal.

Ben Isitt proposed that Charles Smith be empowered to reach out to the CAWLS community to ensure proper coverage of Labour Studies scholarship in the journal. Craig Heron asked whether this is a question that should more properly be considered by the *L/LT* Publications Board. Bryan Palmer concurred. Charles Smith indicated that this issue could be considered by the Publications Board.

Joan Sangster thanked Greg Kealey and Bryan Palmer have serving as Interim Co-Editors during the vacancy required by the resignation of the previous Editor.

Andrew Parnaby proposed greater collaboration between the Social Media Coordinator and *L/LT* Editors and staff to increase the reach of content in the journal.

MOTION: It was moved by Ben Isitt, seconded by Andy Parnaby, that the CCLH Communications Coordinator work with the journal editors and staff to expand the reach of materials published in the journal.

David Frank spoke to the benefits of promoting the Table of Contents of new issues of the journal through CCLH social media channels.

Charles Smith spoke to the potential of promoting photographs from *L/LT* through CCLH social media channels.

CARRIED unanimously.

## **8. LABOUR AND WORKING-CLASS HISTORY SYMPOSIUM – ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE**

The President discussed a proposal from the CCLH Executive to convene a Labour and Working-Class History conference in Saskatoon in the autumn of 2018.

Charles Smith discussed opportunities for funding from St. Thomas More College and other sources for this kind of conference.

Jim Naylor reminded members that a significant conference is being organized in Winnipeg for the centenary of the Winnipeg general strike in the spring of 1919, which has been endorsed by the CCLH.

Ben Isitt suggested that so long as the Saskatoon conference occurs at least 6 months prior to the Winnipeg conference, they should be complementary to one another.

Jim Naylor offered to work with Charles and the CCLH to ensure effective coordination between the two conferences.

## **9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President, Jason Russell, announced the winners of the CCLH Forsey and Article prizes:

### **2016 FORSEY PRIZE WINNER/ LAURÉATE DU PRIX FORSEY 2016**

DISSERTATION: Lachlan MacKinnon, "Deindustrialization on the Periphery: An Oral History of Sydney Steel, 1945-2001," Ph.D. dissertation, Concordia University, 2016.

UNDERGRADUATE: Camille Blanchard-Séguin, «La participation ouvrière dans l'Institut canadien de Montréal en 1852», thèse de premier cycle, Université d'Ottawa, 2016.

ARTICLE PRIZE/ PRIX DE L'ARTICLE: Joan Sangster and Julia Smith, "Beards and Bloomers: Flight Attendants, Grievances and Embodied Labour in the Canadian Airline Industry, 1960s–1980s," *Gender, Work & Organization* vol 23, no 2, pp. 183-199.

The President also thanked CCLH Members who had served on the jury committees for these prizes for 2017, and encouraged all members to nominate papers and articles for the 2017 CCLH prizes.

Finally, Jason provided an update on elections to the CCLH Executive, including anticipated vacancies.

It was moved by Greg Kealey, seconded by Janis Thiessen, that the President's Report be accepted.

CARRIED unanimously.

## **10. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Executive Recommendation #1: CCLH Public History Prize**

That the CCLH create the CCLH Public History Prize, to be awarded annually.

Jason Russell spoke to the rationale for the proposed Public History Prize.

It was moved by Greg Kealey, seconded by Kirk Niergarth, that the CCLH create the CCLH Public History Prize, to be awarded annually.

Joan Sangster proposed that the award be more flexible, removing the requirement that it be awarded annually. She also proposed more broad forms of recognition, including to organizations working to promote labour and working-class history.

Betsy Jamieson stated that the Western History Association has a Public History Prize, and suggested that a by-annual award may be effective.

Joan Sangster suggested that a time line may not be required, and that the prize could be awarded based on merit, as nominations are received, aiming for a prestigious prize.

REFERRAL MOTION: It was moved by Craig Heron, seconded by Bryan Palmer, that the proposed Public History Prize be referred back to the Executive, to allow further discussion and refinement, including criteria for the award. Craig Heron also suggested that the CCLH should reach out to the CHA Public History Group to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Andy Parnaby suggested that the CCLH turn its mind to the name of the proposed prize, perhaps recognizing a present or former CCLH member who had contributed to raising public awareness of labour and working-class history.

The referral motion CARRIED unanimously.

### **Executive Recommendation #2: CCLH Special Projects Funds**

That the CCLH create the CCLH Special Projects Fund, awarding up to \$2000 annually for one or more projects that demonstrate new and creative directions in the field of labour and working-class history. The grant program will be reviewed within 5 years.

Jason Russell provided the rationale for the proposed CCLH Special Projects Fund.

It was moved by Jim Naylor, seconded by Betsy Jamieson, that members adopt the Executive Resolution on the CCLH Special Projects Fund.

Bryan Palmer asked about previous grants by CCLH of this nature. Greg Kealey responded with information about recent awards, including an ad-hoc grant to support the travel of two delegates from Senegal to an international labour history conference in India. The request for support came to us from Marcel van der Linden of the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam.

Kirk Niergarth provided information on the intent behind the proposed grant, to demonstrate the relevance of the field and raise the profile of CCLH, with a view toward encouraging the offering of labour and working-class history courses.

Dominique Clement spoke in favour of the proposed Special Projects and Public Speakers' funds. He suggested removing the annual requirement for the Public Speakers' Fund.

Bryan Palmer spoke to the need for clear deadlines and publicity on the website, to ensure grants are awarded based on merit, rather than on an ad-hoc basis.

CARRIED unanimously.

### **Executive Recommendation #3: CCLH Public Speakers' Fund**

That the CCLH create the CCLH Public Speakers' Fund, to provide grants of up to \$500 for organizations seeking to host public lectures in the field of labour and working-class history, encouraging high-profile events that are open to the public. If the application originates from a post-secondary institution, a community partner is required. Total funds expended in any given year will not exceed \$1000. The grant program will be reviewed within 5 years.

Jason Russell provided the rationale for the proposed CCLH Public Speakers' Fund.

It was moved by Kirk Niergarth, seconded by Bryan Palmer, that members adopt the Executive resolution on the CCLH Public Speakers' Fund.

CARRIED unanimously.

## **11. ELECTIONS**

### **Secretary**

Jason Russel declared nominations open for the position of Secretary.  
 Greg Kealey nominated Ben Isitt.  
 Ben Isitt accepted the nomination.  
 The Chair asked three times for further nominations.  
 There being no further nominations, Ben Isitt was acclaimed at Secretary.

### **First Vice President**

Joan Sangster nominated Andrea Samoil for First Vice President.  
 Andrea Samoil accepted the nomination.  
 The Chair asked three times for further nominations.  
 There being no further nominations, Andrea Samoil was acclaimed as First Vice President.

### **Second Vice President**

Greg Kealey nominated Rhonda Hinther for Second Vice President.  
 Rhonda Hinther declined the nomination.  
 The Chair asked for further nominations.  
 Rhonda Hinther nominated Mikhail Bjorge for Second Vice President.  
 Mikhail Bjorge accepted the nomination.  
 The Chair asked three times for the further nominations.  
 There being no further nominations, Mikhail Bjorge was acclaimed as Second Vice President.

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

Craig Heron raised the issue of whether the CCLH should continue to host annual Labour History Workshops at Congress, citing the low level of participation among CCLH members.

Janis Thiessen discussed competition from weekend events at other scholarly societies.

Alvin Finkel discussed the option of not holding the Workshop annually.

Betsy Jamieson discussed the question of timing, with a daytime Sunday event requiring Congress / CHA delegates to arrive a day early. Betsy also discussed the intended audience, citing the benefits of reaching out to union activists and others beyond the CCLH membership.

Jason Russell discussed the participation of social movement activists at the 2017 Labour History workshop at Congress, including from Black Lives Matter and other organizations.



Jeff Taylor said that the annual Labour History Workshops have been strongest when a CCLH member was on the ground to organize a successful event. He said that even with CCLH members representing a minority of attendees at the workshops, the events are often highly successful and effectively engage local communities.

Bryan Palmer supported the suggestion of holding Labour History Workshops on a more ad-hoc basis, rather than as a rote annual event. For example, with three upcoming conferences in the Prairies in 2018-2019, a workshop may not be required at Congress 2018 in Regina.

David Frank pointed out that even though the Workshop has been considered to be an annual event, there are years when no workshop has occurred.

Ben Isitt supported greater flexibility, moving beyond the idea of a mandatory day-long Sunday workshop to different kinds of labour history events in proximity to Congress, to offer labour and working-class history content to labour partners and the general public.

Bryan Palmer discussed the need for coordination between long-term planning from the Executive as well as initiative on the ground.

Joan Sangster proposed that the CCLH Executive and membership take this discussion under advisement in planning for Congress 2018 and future events.

Jason Russel agreed, indicating that the Executive would take this discussion under advisement in preparing for Congress 2018 and future years.

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.