

Annual Meeting: Canadian Committee on Labour History, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 3 June 2008

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MINUTES / PROCÈS-VERBAL

Annual Meeting

Canadian Committee on Labour History

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 3 June 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by David Frank, CCLH president,
at 12:30 p.m.

Present:

Greg Kealey
Jeff Taylor
Bryan Palmer
Mark Leier
Jim Naylor
Dominique Clément
Andrée Lévesque
Ben Isitt
Tom Langford
Alan Finkel
Brian Thorn
Tom Mitchell
Gordon Hak
Susana Miranda
David Goutor
Larry Hannant
Rhonda Hinthner
Donica Belisle
Linda Kadis
Kathy Killoh
Betsy Jameson
Carol Ferguson
David Frank

Regrets: Joanne Burgess, Janis Thiessen. In the absence of the secretary,
Carol Ferguson agreed to take the minutes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/S/C (Greg Kealey, Jeff Taylor):

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

MINUTES OF 2007 MEETING

M/S/C (Jim Naylor, Bryan Palmer):

That the minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting, as published in *Labour/Le Travail*, 60 (Fall/automne 2007), 351-7, be approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Frank thanked Greg Kealey for chairing last year's annual meeting in his absence. As instructed by that meeting, a letter thanking Memorial University for their generous support of *Labour/Le Travail* for more than 25 years was sent to the university's Dean of Arts. A reply from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board to CCLH's letter of 1 July 2007 raising concerns about the Board's limited recognition of labour history and workers was received. The Board advises that Parks Canada will develop a framework study on labour history. Much of the executive's activity throughout the past year was devoted to the logistical issues of the move to Athabasca University. David Frank welcomed Kathy Killoh and Linda Kadis of AU Press to the meeting and expressed his appreciation for their efforts during the transition.

EUGENE FORSEY PRIZES

David Frank reported that the Forsey Prizes are announced in Vol. 61 of *Labour/Le Travail* and will also be announced by the Canadian Historical Association later today. He thanked past members for their service and circulated a sign-up sheet inviting members to serve on the committees. A discussion on the format and deadline for submissions followed. It was agreed to establish a slightly later deadline than 1 June but also seek to continue to reach decisions by Labour Day. On the question of moving to electronic rather than paper submissions to minimize photocopying and shipping costs, concerns were expressed that this would download additional work to jury members, several of whom stated they would prefer to read submissions, especially theses, in a paper format. It was agreed to accept submissions in either format.

Bryan Palmer read from a letter from Joan Sangster regarding ongoing work to put the Forsey Prizes on a more permanent financial footing. Joan

reported progress on the matter and expects to announce a final resolution at the next meeting through the creation of an endowed fund.

David Frank thanked Nicole Lang for updating the French text for the Prize notices, which are published in the journal and on the CCLH website.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

M/S/C (David Frank, Alvin Finkel):

To amend the CCLH Constitution, Article VI, b, to read as follows:

“Vice-Presidents: Two Vice-Presidents shall assist the President in her/his duties and substitute for the President if she/he is unable to perform the duties of the presidency”.

The rationale for the amendment was to strengthen regional and language representation and to add an additional member to share executive responsibilities. A Notice of Motion had been duly given and published as part of the minutes in *Labour/Le Travail*, 60 Fall/automne (2007).

EDITOR'S REPORT

Bryan Palmer reported that the move of *Labour/Le Travail* from Memorial University to Athabasca University was almost complete, publication of the journal had been kept on schedule and things were working fine. The move has taken three years with considerable effort devoted to protecting the security of former staff at Memorial, ensuring unionized printing and managing the transition to online access of the journal. He expressed thanks to everyone at Athabasca University for making the move a successful one, especially AU Press staff Kathy Killoh and Linda Kadis. AU Press has prepared flyers to promote the journal. Submissions have increased in number, notably from younger scholars, and online hits to the journal are very high. The editor encouraged members to subscribe, reminding them of the very favourable rates available to graduate students. He thanked those who had read or submitted manuscripts.

Of significant concern for the future of the journal is the funding shift of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) from a formula based on number of pages to number of articles published (\$850.00 per article). This is problematic for publishing long and substantive articles as *Labour/Le Travail* does. Of additional concern is the definition of article; SSHRC will need to be persuaded that notes, reviews, etc, should be funded. The anticipated funding for next year is \$27,000.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Greg Kealey presented the Treasurer's Report showing a good financial year despite the costs of moving to Athabasca University. The report was accepted by members present.

CCLH is considering two manuscripts, having published *Confrontation, Struggle and Transformation: Organized Labour in the St. Catharines Area* by Carmela Patrias and Larry Savage in 2007 and *The Struggle against Wage Controls: The Saint John Story, 1975–1976* by George Vair the year before. Greg Kealey announced that the RCMP Security Bulletins are to be digitized by the UNB Electronic Text Centre and will be available online in a searchable format.

Question: Where is the existing stock of the CCLH books?

Answer: It has been moved to Athabasca University.

REPORT ON CCLH WEBSITE

Jeff Taylor reported that the CCLH website had been updated in the move from the server at Memorial University to the server at Athabasca University. One notable change to the website is that the new portal for Canadian labour and working-class history has become the link to further labour history resources. This portal (<http://www.workinghistories.ca>) was developed as part of the "Work and Society in Historical Perspective" research cluster initiative, which was funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Jeff encouraged members to continue to alert him to labour history resources that should be identified on the site. Bryan Palmer expressed thanks to Donica Belisle for managing the CCLH LISTSERV.

CCLH WORKSHOP 2009

There was CCLH workshop this year because of the Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA) meeting in Vancouver 6-8 June 2008 hosted in cooperation with the Pacific-North West Labour History Association.

Rhonda Hinthier extended an invitation on behalf of the Workers' Heritage Committee of the Ottawa and District Labour Council to host the CCLH Workshop in 2009, which will mark the 90th anniversary of the labour revolt of 1919. Among the proposed activities is a tour of the new Workers' Heritage Centre Museum to be located in a working-class home dating from 1870 in Vanier, which they are developing in conjunction with the City of Ottawa. More information on the Ottawa Workers Heritage Museum can be found at: http://whc-cpo.ca/index_e.html.

M/s/c (Greg Kealey/Jim Naylor) to accept the invitation. Rhonda Hinthor volunteered to act as the liaison person for the workshop.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

David Frank opened the floor for nominations for the positions of President (term expired) and Vice-President (newly created position).

President:

Alvin Finkel M/S/C (Tom Mitchell/Betsey Jameson).

Vice-President:

Rhonda Hinthér M/S/C (Greg Kealey/Larry Hannant).

OTHER DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Betsy Jameson encouraged members to send submissions to the CHA Bulletin. Alvin Finkel reminded members of the special AU Press launch later in the afternoon.

Bryan Palmer thanked outgoing president David Frank for his leadership during his term of office and the retiring president responded with thanks to the members of the CCLH for their support during his term.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C (Ben Isitt, Bryan Palmer) to adjourn.

David Frank adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.