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Annual Meeting

Canadian Committee on Labour History, Victoria BC, June 6, 2013

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MINUTES / PROCÈS-VERBAL

Annual Meeting
Canadian Committee on Labour History
Victoria BC, June 6, 2013

IN ATTENDANCE

Marcia Braundy,
Patrick Craib,
Alvin Finkel,
David Frank,
Gordon Hak,
Larry Hannant,
Craig Heron,
Betsy Jameson,
Linda Kadis,
Greg Kealey,
Linda Kealey,
Kathy Killoh,
Tom Langford,
Mark Leier,
Eryk Martin,
Jim Naylor,
Andrew Parnaby,
Richard Rajala,
Sarah Reilly,
Jeff Taylor,
Janis Thiessen.

Minutes recorded by Patrick Craib

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm, with Alvin Finkel in the chair.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Greg Kealey moved approval of the agenda as presented, Larry Hannant seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

No comments were made regarding the minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting, as published in *Labour/Le Travail*. Tom Langford moved to approve, Richard Rajala seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chair Alvin Finkel thanked Ben Isitt for organizing the annual CCLH workshop, as well as updating the CCLH website. The chair also thanked Craig Heron and Marcia Braundy who aided with the ad hoc workshops as well as those who served on the website committee. The Chair also thanked the University of Victoria Social Justice Studies program.

The Chair announced the winners of the 2012 Forsey Prize, and asked for volunteers to serve on the 2013 Forsey prize committee. A member commented that there has been a shortage of entries for the undergraduate award, and requested that CCLH members keep in mind exceptional undergraduate essays for submission.

The Chair noted the two new publications in the "Working Canadians" series, David Frank's *Provincial Solidarities: A History of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour / Solidarités provinciales: Histoire de la Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Nouveau-Brunswick* and Eric Strikwerda's *The Wages of Relief: Cities and the Unemployed in Prairie Canada, 1929–39*.

Jeff Taylor moved adoption of the President's Report, seconded by Mark Leier. Approved unanimously.

6. EDITOR'S REPORT

As Bryan Palmer was unable to attend the meeting, Greg Kealey provided the Editor's report on his behalf.

Kealey noted that the Journal continues to receive French-language papers, and remarked on the importance of bridging French and English Canadian academics. While digital subscriptions for *L/LT* are important, he noted that it is important to retain subscriptions for print copies, and suggested that the four-year subscription is affordable and graduate students should be encouraged to subscribe.

L/LT continues to seek increased graduate student submissions. As well, there will be a new section of the journal, 'Other Shores', which is to cover transnational and controversial findings. Finally, the Editor thanked

Athabasca University Press for their continuing hard work, and expressed appreciation to the Journal's editorial committee and board members.

From the floor, Craig Heron discussed his attendance at a meeting of the Canadian Association for Work and Labour studies, noting the Association's plan for a new journal, which resulted in discussion from the floor regarding its relation to *L/LT*, and reports that Stephanie Ross is the contact point for questions regarding the new journal.

Greg Kealey questioned the need for a second Canadian labour journal, with Craig Heron responding that this sentiment was expressed at the Association meeting, but that *L/LT*'s narrow focus on labour history is problematic. The Chair responded, arguing that *L/LT* is supposed to go beyond labour history, and observed that the field would be crowded with two labour journals. However, the Chair also noted that it is important for *L/LT* to remain focused on labour history. Craig Heron explained that the Association may want a Journal which focuses more on the social sciences, and suggested that CCLH members may want to join the Association.

Greg Kealey concluded the discussion by asking Craig Heron to circulate the Association's material on the matter.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Greg Kealey drew attention to the consolidation of revenues of AU Press and the CCLH, explaining the \$12,000 decline in revenues partially as a result of *L/LT* digital subscriptions. Kealey went on to remark that physical costs are also down as a result. It is reported that while there is a slight profit year-over-year and the CCLH is in good financial shape, restraint should be shown regarding expenditures while remaining open to funding projects.

Kealey remarked that despite the *L/LT* profits through Access Copyright, this revenue stream is in potential danger due to conflict raised by Canadian universities over the scheme's costs. As such, Kealey suspects revenues from this stream will decline, but overall digital revenues will remain high. Kealey finished his report by noting that the healthy relationship with AU Press continues, and that the CCLH as a result is capable of producing a much higher standard of publishing than in the past.

Andrew Parnaby asked for clarification regarding the Access Copyright issue, to which Kealey responded at length, summarizing the economics of the conflict and the impact on authors and universities regarding the rise in prices, with particular reference to a lawsuit involving York University.

A concern from the floor was raised about whether or not the SSHRC grant is currently stable, and inquiring about a bump in funding. Kealey responded that the grant is in year two, but speculated that SSHRC's decision to fund

either print or digital may soon be replaced by a funding structure exclusively for digital. Kathy Killoh noted that the next competition has a June 1st, 2014 deadline. The Chair noted that the SSHRC funding is safe, and Linda Kadis suggested that the bump was due to uneven royalty schedules.

Greg Kealey observed that a trend is starting for journals to move away from SSHRC as a major source of funding. David Frank remarked that in order for the CCLH to pursue bigger funding it is necessary to formulate larger group projects, such as the previously mentioned CCLH website, but urged caution noting that grants should be used in conjunction with other organizations. Frank went on to suggest that the CCLH website should host a large amount of content, as well as a bank of linked websites to be kept up. Frank suggested content such as the Wayne Roberts labour history collection, currently belonging to the Canadian Labour Congress, could be hosted on the CCLH website. The Chair responded that he will talk to the CLC about the matter.

Finally, Frank asked about the Winnipeg General Strike exhibit at Canadian Museum of Civilization, which Craig Heron noted was recently shut down.

Marcia Braundy remarked that as the recent CCLH workshop was being taped and transcribed, the CCLH website should consider hosting it, and that she was particularly impressed by Jim Sinclair's speech. The Chair discussed the option of the content being provided on a third party site, such as YouTube.

There being no more discussion on the Treasurer's report, Jim Naylor moved that the report be received, seconded by Janis Thiessen. The motion carried unanimously.

8. REPORT ON THE CCLH WEBSITE

The Chair noted that while Ben Isitt is not present, the website was discussed at the CCLH workshop, and that a note will be sent out informing the membership when the redesign is finished. David Frank noted that a "beta" version of the site is up right now, located at <http://cclh.theorem.ca>, which can serve to facilitate discussion and suggestions.

9. LABOUR HISTORY WORKSHOP

It was noted that Larry Savage and Carmela Patrias will be asked to take on responsibility for the workshop next year. Craig Heron requested that the information be released a lot earlier; the entire plan should be set out in January beforehand.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Janis Thiessen was re-elected by acclamation to the office of Vice President.

Julia Smith was re-elected by acclamation to the office of Second Vice President.

Ben Isitt was re-elected by acclamation to the office of Secretary.

Greg Kealey was re-elected by acclamation to the office of Treasurer.

11. OTHER DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was reported that the incoming English language book review editor, Jim Naylor, asks for suggestions of books to review for *Labour/Le Travail*.

Marcia Braundy drew attention to the Kootenay Feminism digital archive, located at <http://kootenayfeminism.com>.

Craig Heron noted again that the Canadian Museum of Civilization's Winnipeg General Strike exhibit is closed, and that it is the only exhibit that has so far been closed. David Frank observed that while the CLC should have been quick to pounce, they have been quiet on this matter. The discussion then moved to the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. Concern was expressed from Greg Kealey about the Government's intentions regarding the version of Canadian history to be promoted. Kealey mentioned that the list of witnesses that the CHPC are consulting is online, and that CCLH members should evaluate it.

Craig Heron noted that as a result of a letter to the CHPC from the Canadian Historical Association, they are now represented on the committee.

A question from the floor requested input into possible action the CCLH can take against exclusion of labour from the scope of the CHPC's investigation, and suggested that the Winnipeg General Strike's 100th anniversary is approaching. Linda Kealey noted that Margaret Conrad is looking for suggestions regarding events to commemorate, and that CCLH members should put forth ideas.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mark Leier moved that the meeting adjourn, seconded by Larry Hannant. The motion carried unanimously at 5:54 pm.