

Minutes
CBC BEC Special Conference Call
July 22, 2014

Attendees:

Annick Forest
Jo-Ann Roberts
John O'Connor
Allan Gofenko
Chantal Payant
Marc-Philippe Laurin
Michael D'Souza
Wendy Martin
Harry Mesh
Naomi Robinson
Sean Laughlin

Meeting begins 7:30 Eastern.

MPL updated the call on efforts to engage the federal political parties on the Save the CBC campaign. MPL said that Jeanne D'Arc is preparing speaking notes for local presidents and activists on the key issues. He said efforts to meet with the current board of directors have been rejected. Mesh said that the more we can make of the CBC's future as an election issue, the better.

Mesh said there has still been no clarification from management to members about a communique about participation in outside activities. MPL said Dan Oldfield is on holidays but is working on the issue. Mesh said people need to know their rights.

D'Souza urged more immediate action on the efforts to save the CBC. He said that there is a major reconstruction underway of the Corporation, and that we cannot wait for next year's election campaign. Payant suggested that the local presidents be invited to the next BEC face-to-face meeting in the fall to discuss a campaign of our own. She asked whether special funding would be available for that. MPL said he agrees with the calls for action. He said we need to figure out how to talk to people in our communities, such as labour councils, mayors and activists. Robinson said that locations need to be involved. She suggested that each location be encouraged to hold an in-house meeting in the fall, so that members can talk about what they think they can or should do in an advocacy campaign. She said that could lead up to a face-to-face meeting and day of action later in the fall. Roberts asked whether CMG staff could be tasked to come up with material for location presidents, with concrete suggestions for local campaigns.

D'Souza said people are very agitated about the cuts to the doc unit. He said what the CBC is doing is contracting out. He said the CMG should file a policy grievance. MPL said that when Dan Oldfield returns, the Guild will ask for a formal meeting with senior management about the doc unit and the digital first strategy. Mesh said he hasn't heard it mentioned that much of Canada does not have digital access. Roberts urged MPL to take a stand on the contracting out issue, because the CBC did not consult the Guild on the changes to the doc unit. MPL said the CBC did consult people - but did not talk to anyone in the doc unit. He said he will ask Dan Oldfield to set up a call with management to lay all this out. He said he is also trying to schedule a meeting on the doc unit to decide the next steps. Robinson noted there has been very little consultation overall from the CBC. She wondered whether it would send a message if each location filed a grievance about the entire process. Various people echoed the call for more consultation.

MPL said he wants to arrange a call with local presidents, but is waiting for talking points from Jeanne D'Arc. He said he wants to be able to put a plan to them to prep them for September. O'Connor noted he is planning to make contact with the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour in the fall because they have a lot of contacts. MPL said if locations have great ideas for events or campaigns, they should go ahead, and there is money available.

MPL said the BEC needs to decide whether the next face-to-face meeting will be. Mesh suggested the management committee make that decision. The group concurred.

MPL said a monthly BEC call may not be enough, with all the work of the advocacy committee.

Robinson said the 657 layoffs in Toronto has now grown to 670 jobs being eliminated. She said the location is expecting more news when details of the Rogers contract are announced.

MPL said he would ask management for details of the Rogers deal following the call.

Call adjourned at 8:57 Eastern.