

Draft Minutes - January 13, 2015
BEC Monthly call

Michael D'Souza
Gaynette Spafford
Harry Mesh
Dominique Delisle
Wil Fundal
Marc-Philippe Laurin
Michael Robert
Sean Laughlin
John O'Connor
Jonathan Spence
Naomi Robinson
Wendy Martin

Regrets: Chantal Payant, Annick Forest, David Croft, Allan Gofenko

Call to order 7:34 Eastern

MOTION: to approve the agenda, with the addition of Kam Rao as guest.
Harry Mesh requests that a branch by-election be added under new business.
M/S D'Souza/Robert CARRIED

MOTION: to adopt the minutes from the December 9, 2014 call.
M/S O'Connor/Delisle CARRIED (Fundal abstains)

President's Remarks:

MPL said 2015 will be a very busy year for the branch. He noted that the Minister of Labour has approved the CBC's request for a waiver on the requirement to provide 16 weeks notice in a major layoff. He said the CMG has told senior management that the request is inappropriate, and that government has always turned it down in the past. Laurin said he plans further discussion with the CBC about this. On the union front, he noted that the NEC has decided to cut two CMG staff positions in Toronto. He noted that one staff rep is currently off on sick leave, and Glenn Gray has offered to step in if there's a serious issue, or if local presidents need help. He said there are discussions ongoing about what to do with the senior staff rep's position, following his retirement in December.

CBC Campaign - Update

Kam Rao said she emailed out a package that outlines opportunities for member participation in the campaign - she hopes people will take it forward to their members. She said it highlights a number of areas for involvement, including CLC training, shareable and public media, local and national champions, support materials and dates to look for. She urged people to send her feedback. Wil Fundal asked whether there is money for people to attend the CLC training. Rao

said the Guild might consider developing a course for CMG activists to travel to locations to train people on political activism. Jonathan Spence said he would take this to the national education committee. There was discussion about whether upcoming days of action should be national, and include other CBC unions. Rao said they were great ideas, but locations need to decide what will work for them. Rao will attend the next BEC face-to-face to provide more information. Rao left the call at 8:14pm.

President's Remarks (continued)

MPL noted he is working on queries from Sean Laughlin about the upcoming president's council. He noted that the current budget statement does not include a number of releases, and the BEC may not be that far under budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

Laurin provided an update on the broadcast technology committee. He said one meeting has been held so far. He also said the committee has reached out to a new member. He said the JE committee has recently lost a member, who felt they had too many other responsibilities. He said someone is needed from Toronto. Harry Mesh suggested the BEC put out a call for people. Gaynette Spafford suggested we put out a call for other committees who need members at the same time, i.e. Health and Safety and PMSD.

MPL gave an update on the steering committee meeting with senior management in mid-December. He said the CMG expressed its frustration with the 2020 plan. He said Hubert Lacroix seemed surprised, and thought the plan was being well communicated. MPL says the two sides also talked about training needed for employees as jobs change, and about issues surrounding harassment. Michael D'Souza said the Guild also expressed concern at the meeting about the lack of access to digital service in remote areas of the country, such as the North. MPL indicated he is working on a response to the 2020 plan and hopes to have it by our face-to-face meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

John O'Connor said there is a new position called Super-Numerique. He's been told it is a pilot project. The person does it all - shoot, edit, put together entire story and put it on the web. MPL will try to get more info.

Wil Fundal asked what the Guild's commitment is to equity issues, given cuts at the national office. MPL said talks will have to be held with the CMGEU. D'Souza wants assurances a staff rep will still be assigned to equity issues.

Jonathan Spence indicated he had sent an email to everyone about a potential information package dealing with sexual harassment. He said it's a good way to help people identify harassment, and what to do about it, how to report it, etc. He asked for feedback. He hopes it will be approved by the branch, and rolled out to the CMG at large. It will be on our face-to-face agenda.

MOTION: To call for nominations for a new BC Director.

M/S Robert/Fundal CARRIED

Fundal offers to attend the next Health and Safety meeting, if needed.

Spafford asked that the committee lists be circulated, so we can see what positions need to be filled. MPL indicated he would do that.

MOTION: to adjourn.

M/S Robinson/O'Connor CARRIED

Meeting adjourns 9:16pm.