

Canadian Committee on Labour History
Annual General Meeting

May 28, 2014

Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario

Members present: Alvin Finkel (President), Janis Thiesen (Vice-President), Greg Kealey (Treasurer), Ben Isitt (Secretary), Joan Sangster, Bryan Palmer, Jeremy Milloy, David Frank, Peter Campbell, Sean Cadigan, Jim Naylor, Craig Heron, Jason Russell, Kathy Killoh, Linda Kadis, Rob Kristofferson, Jeff Taylor.

1. Call to Order

Alvin Finkel called the meeting to order at 12:03pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Greg Kealey, seconded by Sean Cadigan, that the agenda be approved as presented. Joan Sangster proposed the addition of an item under New Business.

The agenda as amended was carried unanimously.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was moved by Jim Naylor, seconded by Bryan Palmer, that the Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting be approved. Carried unanimously.

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

The President, Alvin Finkel, provided an update on materials on labour history commissioned by the Canadian Labour Congress for the Year 2000. The CLC advised that the materials were prepared in an older technological format, complicating possibilities for public dissemination.

5. President's Report

The President, Alvin Finkel, thanked Tami Friedman and Larry Savage for their work organizing this year's annual labour history workshop, which was organized jointly with the Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies, Brock University Centre for Labour Studies, and Brock University Department of History, with additional support

from the Brock University Jobs and Justice Research Unit. The event featured excellent speakers and events. But in light of the moderate attendance, particularly among labour historians, the President raised the issue of the ongoing viability of holding the workshops annually.

The President announced the winners of the Forsey Prize in Labour History:

Graduate Prize: Bruno-Pierre Guillette, “ ‘Le Jour du Seigneur vendu à l’encan’: regard sur la Commission d’enquête sur l’observance du dimanche dans les industries de pâtes et papiers du Québec (1964-1966),” MA thesis, Université du Québec à Montréal, 2012.

Undergraduate Prize: Rick Duthie, “What Struck in ‘58: A Drama Representing the Culture of Mine Mill Local 598, Sudbury, Ontario, 1942-1962,” Undergraduate thesis, Mount Royal University, 2013.

The President reported on CCLH Books, including a healthy reserve fund which allowed the CCLH to pursue ongoing opportunities for new publications in labour and working-class history.

The President also reported on the redesign of the CCLH Website, thanking the secretary for overseeing the redesign. The Secretary acknowledged the work of Julia Smith coordinating the addition of content on contemporary labour issues and labour history to the “Newswire.” The Secretary invited all CCLH members to add content to the stories, including articles and multi-media content.

It was moved by Bryan Palmer, seconded by Joan Sangster, that the president’s report be received. Carried unanimously.

7. Editor’s Report

The outgoing editor of *Labour / Le Travail*, Bryan Palmer, provided a report on the status of the journal, including the number of submissions and subscriptions. The journal is in good financial shape, owing to strong electronic subscriptions and royalty payments. Print subscriptions have declined, a trend common to many scholarly journals.

Dr. Palmer announced the appointment of a new editor for the journal, Sean Cadigan.

Dr. Cadigan discussed his history with the journal, beginning with his work as an undergraduate student in the 1980s and continuing to the present.

Greg Kealey thanked Dr. Palmer for his work and thanked Dr. Cadigan for agreeing to assume the role of Editor.

Ben Isitt moved, seconded by Janis Thiessen, that the CCLH thank Bryan Palmer for his work as Editor of *Labour / Le Travail*. Carried unanimously

8. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer, Greg Kealey, provided his report, announcing that there was a surplus of revenue over expenditures in 2013.

Subscription revenue is declining as the number of subscribers declines. Dr. Kealey indicated that the current revenues from print subscriptions do not cover the cost of printing and postage, suggesting that some revision to print subscription rates may have to be considered for the first time in several years if publication of the print version is to continue.

On the positive side, electronic subscription revenues as well as copyright fees more than compensate for the decline in print subscription revenues. Changes to Access Copyright arrangements will likely diminish this positive revenue position in future years, perhaps with a decline in revenues by as much as \$10,000 in 2015.

Dr. Kealey also explained a change in accounting practices for the journal and CCLH.

Overall, the CCLH is in good financial shape. This provides the opportunity for the CCLH and its members to pursue new publications through CCLH Books in partnership with AU Press.

Janis Thiessen inquired about the Editor's Stipend for 2014. The treasurer indicated that while Dr. Palmer received a modest cash stipend of \$3000, the new editor Dr. Cadigan will be compensated in the form of a course release through his institution.

Craig Heron discussed the changes to Access Copyright. Other members commented, including Kathy Killoh, Alvin Finkel, and Greg Kealey.

9. Report on CCLH Website

The secretary Ben Isitt provided an update on the new CCLH website, which includes administrative information on the work and publications of the CCLH as well as the Newswire feature. He invited CCLH members to contribute content to the Newswire, including information on labour commemoration and contemporary labour issues.

Joan Sangster suggested that Teaching Resources be included on the CCLH website.

Craig Heron flagged current labour relations issues regarding intellectual property and course syllabi, including a dispute involving UBC and the faculty association.

Sean Cadigan referred to language within the collective agreement of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty Association regarding intellectual property and

distance education, which addresses issues relating to course design and the sharing of content.

Dr. Cadigan also referenced digital content hosted by the Memorial University Library highlighting the work of labour historians, and proposed that a link be provided on the CCLH Website.

Janis Thiessen discussed ethical considerations regarding the sharing of interviews with labour historians.

David Frank referenced videos on labour history.

Jeremy Milloy suggested including material on oral history on the website.

Janis Thiessen proposed linking to oral history tools on the website of the Canadian Oral History Association.

10. CCLH Workshop 2015

The President reported that Rhonda Hinthier and Ken Clavette have offered to organize the 2015 CCLH Labour History Workshop at Congress in Ottawa.

Craig Heron discussed the importance of announcing the workshop well in advance, by January, so that Congress delegates can make their travel arrangements.

Janis Thiessen suggested sending out a “save the date” notice.

Joan Sangster said that she believes Ottawa has the capacity and interest to host a strong workshop. Dr. Sangster suggested ending the workshop with a keynote speaker hosted with another scholarly association, and perhaps followed by a party or similar social function.

Jim Naylor suggested that we review the best timing for the date in terms of the CHA and Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies (CAWLS) schedules.

Craig Heron discussed the benefits of holding the workshop on a Sunday, to coincide with the CHA Graduate Students social. He also discussed the benefits of the CCLH President working closely as liaison with the local organizing committee.

Members identified the following potential partners for the 2015 Labour History Workshop / Keynote Speaker: CHA, CAWLS, Society for Socialist Studies, Ottawa Workers Heritage Centre, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Public Service Alliance of Canada, Canadian Labour Congress.

11. Election of Officers

The President announced that he was stepping down as CCLH President after 6 years serving in the office.

The President opened nominations for president.

Greg Kealey nominated Janis Thiessen. The President asked for any additional nominations. There being none, Janis Thiessen was acclaimed as CCLH President.

Dr. Finkel announced that the office of First Vice-President was now vacant in light of Janis Thiessen's acclamation as president. He therefore called for nominations for First Vice President.

Jeff Taylor nominated Jason Russell. Dr. Finkel asked for further nominations. There being none, Jason Russell was acclaimed as First Vice President.

12. Other Discussion and Announcements

Joan Sangster proposed the formation of a CCLH Article Prize in the field of Labour, Work, and Society.

Ben Isitt moved, seconded by Janis Thiessen, that the CCLH pursue the formation of a prize for articles published in journals or books in French or English that contribute to our understanding of the history of Labour, Work and Society in Canada, broadly defined.

Committee members including Greg Kealey, Craig Heron, David Frank and Joan Sangster discussed the benefits of a Canadian, comparative, or global focus. Sean Cadigan raised the question of whether book chapters should be eligible for the prize, and the consensus was that they would be.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Ben Isitt moved, seconded by Greg Kealey, that the President work with Joan Sangster and Alvin Finkel to establish and award the Article prize. Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Craig Heron, seconded by Jim Naylor, that the CCLH thank Alvin Finkel for his service as CCLH president. Carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:26pm.