

**Agriculture Union
National Executive Meeting**

**April 6-7, 2008
Hilton Hotel, Québec City**

1. Call to Order

National President Yves Ducharme called the meeting to order; in attendance were Bob Kingston, Debbie Forsythe, Denis Sicard, Howard Willems and Larry Budge.

2. Opening Remarks

Yves welcomed everyone to Québec City.

3. Adoption of Agenda

- **M/S** – Sicard/Willems – That the proposed agenda be adopted.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Hours of Session

The following hours of session were proposed:

April 6/08:	6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	
April 7/29:	9:00 a.m. – Noon	1:30 p.m. to completion

- **M/S** – Kingston/Forsythe – That the hours of session be adopted as proposed.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Approval of the January 2008 National Executive minutes

- **M/S** – Forsythe/Sicard – Adoption of the January 2008 National Executive minutes.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Business Arising Out Of The Minutes

From item 6 Elections for Alternate RVP's and Directors

It was reported that Brea Lewis left the CFIA and is now following a nine week training course over at CBSA. New elections will have to take place to replace her as Alternate RVP. Bob will also notify Randy Olynik that he must replace her on the CFIA bargaining team.

From Item 6 - Transfer of non-regulatory labs

Yves noted that we're still waiting for Treasury Board's report.

From item 11 – Local 14

The local held new elections and the new executive is in place.

From item 11 – Local 70139

A new local executive is now in place and members have begun looking for training sessions.

7. Financial Report

Draft Convention Budget for 2009-2011

The Executive examined each line item of the draft convention budget that was prepared by Debbie and Larry.

- **M/S** – Sicard/Willems – As costs for JOSH meetings is responsibility of employers – That all references to 'JOSH' be removed from Regulation 13 of our Bylaws and Regulations (line item 22 of budget).
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- **M/S** – Forsythe/Willems – That the draft convention budget be adopted and that it be referred to the Finance Standing Committee.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Draft audited financial statements

The Executive examined the draft audited financial statements prepared by Ted Lupinski, CA, for the period ending on December 31/07.

- **M/S** – Sicard/Forsythe – That the draft audited statements for December 31/07 be adopted.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Funded reserve for Contingencies

The reserve has not received any new funding since 1997 and currently sits at \$288,696; this is not enough to cover a Special Convention should the Union need one.

- **M/S** – Forsythe/Kingston – That the Contingencies funded reserve be topped up to \$500,000 and that funding to do this be taken from the unappropriated surplus.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Investments

- **M/S** – Forsythe/Sicard – That the investments coming to maturity before the next Executive meeting shall be reinvested at the best possible rate of return.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. National Office

Progress report. Regarding convention work load, so far Christine and Debbie have been managing the additional work very well and there's no need for the time being to get temporary help.

9. Communication

Debbie gave a progress report; the work-life balance document was sent out and she's still working on the Social Justice Fund draft document.

10. CFIA Update

On the PI/EG review, Yves met with Omer Boudreault where he discussed the concerns we have with the lump sum increments; the Union is prepared to launch more grievances to resolve the issue but we're holding off for the time being as time limits to grieve have not started yet. Regarding the National Health and Safety Committee, Bob mentioned that management turnover on this committee is such that often times they have not received appropriate training. Regarding the NUMCC Yves mentioned that a meeting will be scheduled for June.

11. AAFC update

On the EG review, Yves noted that Sylvie and Jerry have begun meeting with members in preparation for final level presentations. Regarding the GL review, a committee will be in Ottawa to examine the proposed template and their comments will then be forwarded to the employer.

12. CGC Update

Bob gave a progress report on Bill C-39; he noted that we launched a new web site called 'Grain Action' (www.grainaction.ca), and since then MP Joe Comuzzi appears ready to meet with us, finally. Regarding One Operational Group, Yves noted that he will attend a meeting on April 17 to discuss the documentation that was prepared by the working group.

13. CSPS/ PSC update

Bob provided a progress report; both employers have set up their H&S committees and meetings are underway. On May 13 2008, there's a UMC meeting scheduled with the CSPS.

14. DND update

Bob provided a progress report; he reported that there's still a lot of uncertainty but for now we have a commitment from DND that there will be no layoffs.

15. Education – Health and Safety Training

The Executive discussed the upcoming H&S training session that will take place next week in Ottawa.

16. Agriculture Union Convention

Progress report. Yves noted that many locals have not sent in the name(s) of their delegate(s) yet; this information will be shared with the RVP and Directors at Council later this week.

17. Negotiations update

Bob gave a progress report; the latest bargaining round with CFIA was just last week where there was much discussion but unfortunately not much was resolved; the next round is scheduled for May 12-15. Regarding the Essential Services Act (ESA), Bob reported that we have one outstanding issue and it's with the PSC; we will have a meeting with them to discuss this.

18. Funding Requests For Discussion

The Executive discussed two funding requests. The first one was presented by Howard on behalf of a non profit organization that was seeking a Guaranteed Loan Agreement; the Executive agreed with the proposed project but decided that the business of guaranteeing loans was not something the Union should get into. The second request was from our former CSPS/PSC Director Céline Préfontaine; she is now working with the PSAC's JLP program and Yves mentioned that she would like to attend our Convention and set up an information booth. She's requesting that we pay her room and transportation while the PSAC would cover her salary and meals. The Executive agreed with Céline's request however Yves will make sure that her attendance would not interfere with the JLP rep in Québec.

19. National Council Meeting

The Executive discussed the up coming meeting. They decided that the Committees would meet on Wednesday (April 9) and that we would tour the hotel on Thursday (April 10).

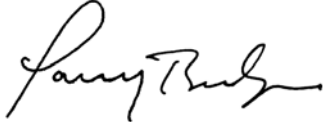
20. PSAC National Conferences

The PSAC's National Aboriginal People's Conference will take place in September. If re-elected, it was decided that Marianne Hladun would attend the conference.

21. Next meeting

The next Executive meeting is scheduled for August 9th and this will be for Convention business only. The next regular meeting was tentatively set for September 20-21, 2008.

Having dealt with all agenda items the meeting was adjourned. Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge
Administrative Officer