

**Agriculture Union
National Executive Meeting
December 6-7, 2005
Ottawa, Ontario**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Opening Remarks by the

Yves mentioned the following:

- So far the PSAC is not backing any party in the upcoming federal elections.
- That the Political Activities Policy that our members are receiving is the same policy for all employers.

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

Carried unanimously.

4. Hours of Session

The following hours of session were proposed:

December 6/05: 9:00 a.m. – Noon 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
December 7/05: 1:30 p.m. to completion

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

Carried unanimously.

5. Approval of the September 2005 National Executive minutes

- **M/S** – Kingston/Willems – Adoption of the above mentioned minutes.

Carried unanimously.

6. Business Arising from the April 2005 Minutes

No business.

7. Financial Report

The Executive examined the latest financial statements (unaudited). The membership report prepared by Christine shows that we have 8255 members, 770 of which are rands.

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

Carried Unanimously.

8. National Office Staff

On November 1, Gerry Blondin officially retired from the Agriculture Union; Larry and Yves reported that the Union, as an employer, has encountered some complications in finding a proper benefits package for retirees as per our collective agreement. Gerry and the staff union (AEU) have been very cooperative while the Union works on finding a solution. Regarding Sylvia's upcoming leave of absence of six months, a job posting will be sent out to all AEU members by the end of the this year; the Executive expects to conduct interviews in February and the successful candidate will be given a six month term starting in April 2006.

9. By-Laws and Regulations Committee report

As a follow up to this year's convention Denis reported that his committee met last weekend to update the By-Laws and Regulations; he stated that the changes will be presented at the next Council meeting for approval.

10. Canadian Food Inspection Agency Update

Brooks, Alberta

Bob and Howard gave an update on the Brooks situation where employees at Tyson Foods are negotiating their first contract. With countless people crossing the United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) picket line, a number of violent situations broke out and our members, fearing for their safety, refused to work under Part II provisions of the Canada Labour Code. The HRDC's ruling that members were not faced with danger will be challenged.

Meat Inspection Reform Committee

Howard gave a progress report and talked about a new hog plant that is slated to be built in Saskatchewan.

11. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Update

EG Review

Members in the Prairies have received updated work description last October but a number of issues have been raised and they are currently being addressed through an informal dispute resolution process with AAFC managers. Members have the right to put in a grievance (Statement of Duties or Acting Pay) if they feel their work description is inaccurate.

Shared Services

Yves gave a progress report on AAFC's on shared services; this initiative involving all departments and agencies will take between 5 and 7 years to complete. Debbie talked about the concerns she has and wants us to explore the possibility of taking part on the committee.

12. Canadian Grain Commission Update

NUMC

The next meeting is scheduled for December 16th; it will be preceded by a leadership session on Dec. 15th. On the topic of one single operational group for GL's and PI's, Yves reported that Curt Elash, Sylvia Prowse and himself will be named to the steering committee to work on that issue.

Reopen CGC Local in Québec

Yves reported on an independent committee that had to be set up in order to investigate problems over at Local 12 (Montreal). Based on the committee's report, the following MOTION **M/S** by Denis Sicard/Bob Kingston was made:

- That Local 10061 be reopened and that CGC members currently in Local 12 be transferred back in to "Local 10061 – CGC Montreal".

Carried Unanimously.

13. Public Service Commission and the Canada School of the Public Service

Progress report; Yves stated that Céline is working hard to organize her members at the CSPS; the task however is proving to be difficult as members there were never active in the past.

14. Department of National Defence Update

Yves gave a progress report on the mergers that were approved at the last meeting. Regarding talks on a proposed reorganization over at the Canadian Forces, Yves reported that the impact on our members will be minimal. It was also noted that Bob Kingston now has the DND portfolio.

15. Regional Seminars

It was reported that Denis Sicard will be attending the Atlantic regional seminar.

16. Strategy Planning Session

The Executive discussed Mike Martin's report that he prepared following the September planning session with the National Council.

17. Public Service Modernisation Act and the Public Service Employment Act

It was reported that the PSAC training sessions have been different from one region to the next with the quality of the training not being the same. Yves will discuss this matter with Jacque de Aguayo who is the Coordinator of the Representation Section.

18. Committee on AU Structure

Progress report.

19. Communications

Debbie reported that we've begun receiving feedback regarding the Tool Kits that were sent to all locals; the comments so far have been really positive. Also, in an effort to increase our visibility, the Union will be mailing out info to all our members at least twice year; the first mail out is almost ready to go and the package will contain a letter from Yves; an Agriculture Union pamphlet and also some information on Equal Opportunities.

20. Leave for Union Business

Yves reported that we're unhappy with the answers that we've received so far. He now plans to discuss this matter with Mr. Guimont, the new President of the CFIA.

21. Agriculture Union Convention 2008

So far we have received one proposal from Québec city.

22. E.O issues

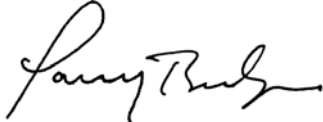
Progress report on EO given by Howard. The EO Committee members met earlier this weekend and he sat in on the meetings. He stated that the committee reviewed its Terms of Reference; updated its work plans and defined its goals for the next three years. He also noted that the committee is working on a "Back to Basics" session for the upcoming regional seminars in 2006. The Executive then discussed a proposal by Sean Glavine, member of Local 1 in St-John's who is part of the PSAC's National Aboriginal, Inuit and Métis (NAIM) network. The Executive agreed to cover his expenses on a MOTION **M/S/C** by Kingston/Sicard that will allow Sean to give a presentation to the next National Council meeting in February 2006. The presentation will be coordinated with Marianne Hladun, the EO Director.

23. PSAC Convention & Committees

Progress report.

Having dealt with all agenda items the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge
Administrative Officer