

**Agriculture Union  
National Executive Meeting  
February 5-6, 2006  
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**

Yves mentioned the following:

- He has not met with the new CFIA President yet. He was supposed to meet Mr. Guimont on February 7<sup>th</sup> but that meeting will be rescheduled.
- Sean Glavine, an Agriculture Union member from St. John's and a member of the NAIM network, is unable to attend this week's National Council meeting; his NAIM presentation will be rescheduled.

**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:

February 5/06:           9:00 a.m. – Noon           1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
February 6/06:           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 December 2005 National Executive minutes**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

## **6. Business Arising out of the Minutes**

### From December 2005

Item 10 - CFIA update – regarding Brooks, Alberta; workers at Tyson Foods now have a contract. However, contrary to what Bob and Howard were told, our members did not file a formal complaint. Michele Coe is currently looking in to this matter.

Item 11 – Shared Services; Yves reported that for the time being, our members are not affected by this initiative.

## **7. Financial Report**

The Executive discussed the membership report prepared by Christine; it shows that our membership now stands at 8357, an increase of 102 members since the December 2005 meeting; our number of rand members now stands at 898, which is an increase of 128.

On the investments:

- **M/S** – Willems/Forsythe – 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**

Progress report; regarding upcoming term position that must be filled, it was decided that Bob, Howard and Debbie will make up the Hiring Board that will interview the applicants.

## **9. By-Laws and Regulations Committee report**

Progress report given by Denis.

## **10. Canadian Food Inspection Agency Update**

### Classification Reviews

The Executive were given progress reports on the ongoing reviews. Regarding the PI review, Yves stated that he is looking forward to discussing this matter with the new CFIA President where he'll inform him that this review, with over 5500 grievances, has been going on for over 7 years.

### Québec Parental Insurance Plan - QPIP

Yves reported that the CFIA has agreed to reopen the contract to discuss QPIP. All other employers have already signed on with the QPIP.

### Lab Closures

Bob and the Executive discussed the Moncton and Winnipeg lab closures where 4 of our members have been affected. We were not informed that these labs were going to close.

## **11. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Update**

### Regional Structures

All four NEVP's gave progress reports. So far every region had it's first regional structure meeting and discussions on new terms of reference have begun.

## **12. Canadian Grain Commission Update**

### NUMC

Yves gave a progress report on the ICMS and on discussions for one operational work group. The next NUMC meeting is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup>, in Montreal.

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

### NUMC

Bob gave a progress report. After being brushed off twice, he finally met with the CPCS; he stated that the CPCS has no experience in dealing with Unions but it does appear to have good intentions.

### Local 70139

Yves reported on some problems going on in Local 70139. If the matter goes unresolved, an independent committee will be formed to investigate this matter.

## **14. Department of National Defence Update**

Yves gave a progress report on the local mergers. Debbie stated that she'll be meeting with DND members in Shearwater and PSC members in Halifax regarding local realignments.

## **15. Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration - PFRA**

Yves announced that the NBOD has approved the transfer of PFRA members; these members that once belonged to us will be transferred back to Agriculture Union on April 1, 2006. As this is a straightforward transfer of members, with no other assets, the Executive decided that there will be no transition period to phase in our level of dues. Yves also announced that local meetings between National Component reps, Agriculture Union reps and PFRA members will be scheduled to discuss the transfer.

**16. Policy 23 A&B Training Session**

The Executive discussed the upcoming Council session on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**17. NJC Directives**

The Executive discussed the changes in the NJC directives regarding footwear, dental, travel and healthcare. Later this week, Bob's Committee will put together information that will be sent out to our members .

**18. Committee on AU Structure**

Progress report.

**19. Communications**

Debbie gave a progress report on the anti-harassment kits and the orientation kits for new members that are currently being developed. Web site issues were discussed and then forwarded to the communications committee.

**20. Agriculture Union 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

This is a big year for us as the Union will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Executive discussed several ideas that will help mark this special occasion. The ideas were then forwarded to the communications committee.

**21. Bargaining Team Elections**

The Executive discussed the election process for Treasury Board and CFIA bargaining teams; Bob's standing committee will be responsible to come up with some wording for the National Council.

**22. E.O issues**

The Executive addressed concerns regarding the election process for EO reps. It was decided that if a member can not be in attendance, a letter of acceptance of nomination written before the election would be acceptable; however, the nomination itself must be moved and seconded by members in attendance.

**23. PSAC Convention**

- **M/S - Willems/Forsythe** - That the Union order 100 denim-like shirts with our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo.

**Carried Unanimously.**

**24. Public Service International - PSI**

The National Executive discussed the PSI's March 2006 conference that will promote trade union agendas and the fight against privatization.

Having dealt with all agenda items the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge  
Administrative Officer