

**Agriculture Union  
National Executive Meeting**

**January 28-29, 2008  
Ottawa, Ontario**

**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 and Bob both talked about Bill C-39 which quickly became a very important issue for the Union; Bob's gone to press conferences to raise our concerns with politicians and we've been in contact with interest groups.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

- **M/S** – Kingston/Willems - Due to urgent nature of Bill C-39 that the CGC Employer Update (at item 13) be dealt with immediately after item 6.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
  
- **M/S** – Forsythe/Willems – That the proposed agenda be adopted, including the above noted change.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Hours of Session**

The following hours of session were proposed:

|                |                  |                         |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| January 28/08: | 9:00 a.m. – Noon | 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.     |
| January 29/29: | 8:30 a.m. – Noon | 1:30 p.m. to completion |

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

**5. Approval of the November 2007 National Executive minutes**

- **M/S** – Willems/Forsythe – Adoption of the November 2007 National Executive minutes.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **6. Business Arising Out Of The Minutes**

### **From item 6 Elections for Alternate RVP's and Directors**

Progress report was given on Brea Lewis' 3 grievances that were filed against the employer.

### **From Item 6 - Transfer of non-regulatory labs**

Progress report was given regarding our submission to the Internal Panel of Experts; the PSAC has posted a copy of the submission on it's web site.

### **From item 11 – Local 14**

The Local received a letter explaining the decision from the National Executive; the local will be holding new elections as soon as possible.

### **From item 11 – Local 70139**

Progress report; after the investigation was launched the accused member decided to resign from the local executive. The local is now in the process of setting up new elections. Meraiah and Bob are keeping a close eye on the situation.

## **13. Employer update – CGC**

Bob gave a detailed report regarding impact of Bill C-39. The Union is doing everything it can to fight this bill; staff were quick to prepare lobbying kits that will be distributed to affected locals. The PSAC immediately jumped on board as part of its push to defend public services (DQPS). Bob met with Bruce Dodds, head of Save My Canadian Wheat Board, to see if we can work together on this campaign. In a conference call last week, the National Council members approved \$50,000 in funding to fight this bill. The Executive met with lobbyist Jim Thompson of the Strategy Project; after that meeting the Executive studied the lobby group's proposal.

- **M/S - Kingston/Willems** – In effort to fight Bill C-39, the Union shall retain the services of lobby group The Strategy Project.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- **M/S – Kingston/Forsythe** – In effort to fight Bill C-39, the Union shall donate \$5000 to the Save My Canadian Wheat Board organisation.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **7. Financial Report**

### **Funding Requests**

Brenda Baergen and Fabian Murphy sent in funding requests on behalf of their members. After discussion, the Executive denied the requests stating that they should have been directed elsewhere first. Debbie will get in touch with both RVP's to explain decision.

### Financial report

The Executive examined the unaudited financial statements for the period ending on November 30/07.

### Investments

- **M/S** – Sicard/Forsythe – 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**

The Executive discussed Jerry Kovac's term and also discussed the increase in workload for Christine and Debbie.

- **M/S** – Kingston/Sicard – That Jerry Kovacs' term be extended to August 29<sup>th</sup> 2008 so that he can have time to complete the EG Review.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- **M/S** – Sicard/Willems – That the Union shall hire temporary help for Christine and Debbie in the event where the increased workload brought on by the August convention becomes unmanageable.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Executive also discussed caps to compensatory time and annual leave in Regulation 6 and Regulation 8 of our By-laws.

- **M/S** – Kingston/Forsythe – That the By-Laws committee review Regulation 6 and Regulation 8 to see if changes are required.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **9. PSAC National Conference for Racially Visible Members**

So far the PSAC has awarded us with 2 seats for the Convention; also, it was decided that Debbie would attend the convention in Yves' place.

## **10. Communication**

Debbie announced that the work/life balance document is now complete and that it will be inserted in the tool kit. The plan is that the updated tool kit will be sent out after convention. (Bernard, nos amis du Québec préfère le terme "travail – famille"). She also noted that Alan Pryde is working on a piece that will explain clear language resolutions for convention. Also, the power point presentation that was prepared a few months ago by Jan Pennington was translated and both versions are now available on demand.

### Social Justice Fund

As a follow up to the discussions that took place at the last Council meeting, the Executive met with PSAC National President John Gordon and Louise Casselman of the PSAC's Social Justice Fund to explore possible partnership with the PSAC on this matter.

### **11. Rand Campaign**

The contest is now over and the latest numbers show that 1086 members signed membership cards in the past year. This is very good and it exceeds our initial goal of 400. As for the contest, Debbie Coke, of Local 16 in London, is the grand winner.

### **12. Negotiations update**

Yves gave progress reports for Treasury Board and CFIA negotiations.

### **13. Employer updates**

#### **CFIA update**

Bob gave an update on the PI review; the regions were unable or unwilling to solve mapping grievance issues and so Cam Prince will be stuck to hear them all. The Executive discussed a document on realignment that Yves received; more information will be needed and Yves will ask to meet with Mr Boudreault. Debbie brought up leave issues that she and other elected reps are encountering in the Atlantic where managers have stopped granting leave for non-CFIA Union business; Debbie will be discussing this matter with the Atlantic reps and follow up at then next meeting.

#### **AAFC update**

The Executive discussed the EG review status update prepared by Jerry. It was noted that we're going ahead with an expedited process on acting pay/effective date grievances which was negotiated with AAFC. Jerry and Sylvie are now part of joint committee that will review documentation that will be sent in by the grievors; the review process will be time consuming but they hope to be done by the end of March. As for the work description grievances, discussions are still ongoing regarding procedure and timing of the final level hearings.

#### **CSPS/ PSC update**

Progress report.

#### **DND update**

Progress report.

### **14. Resolutions of Record**

The Executive discussed the need for an updated version of the resolutions of record document.

**15. Election for Convention Delegates**

It was noted that as per our Bylaws, local delegates have to be elected to go to convention; as such, locals will be asked to send in the names of their delegates with a copy of the minutes of the general meeting in question.

**16. Credentials for Convention**

The Executive discussed the usefulness of having credentials for convention and explored the idea of having photo identification instead.

**17. Agriculture Union Convention**

Progress report.

**18. CLC Convention – May 26 to May 30, 2008**

The Executive talked about the upcoming CLC convention in Toronto,

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



Larry Budge  
Administrative Officer