

**Agriculture Union  
National Executive Meeting**

**November 16-17, 2007  
Ottawa, Ontario**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Opening Remarks**

After calling the meeting to order Yves explained that Denis would not be attending this week's Executive and Council meetings.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

Addition:

17. Collection of Fines

- **M/S** – Willems/Forsythe – That the proposed agenda be adopted, including the above noted addition.

**Carried unanimously.**

**4. Hours of Session**

The following hours of session were proposed:

November 16/07:	9:00 a.m. – Noon	1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
November 17/07:	8:30 a.m. – Noon	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 2007 National Executive minutes**

- **M/S** – Forsythe/Willems – Adoption of the September 2007 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 newly elected Alt RVP for Southern Alberta, Brea Lewis, was denied leave to attend the Council meeting; the employer also denied her leave to attend phase 2 of the Leadership Training. As a result, she's filed 3 grievances and we'll be pursuing the matter with Labour Relations

### **From item 6 - Life Membership for André Bonin**

Since the last meeting M. Bonin provided Yves with more info and the matter was referred to the By-Laws Committee.

### **From item 9 – Rands**

Debbie provided progress report; so far 820 members have signed up since January 2007. Unfortunately we still have over 1200 Rand members but the good news is that we've gained 2 more delegate seats to the PSAC convention.

### **From Item 11 - Transfer of non-regulatory labs**

Originally we planned to meet and discuss with the Internal Panel of Experts (IPE) to submit input on this matter. However, appearing in front of the IPE was by invitation only and so we sent a written submission instead.

## **7. Financial Report**

### **Social Justice Fund**

Debbie provided updated stating that she received feedback from only 3 people. Regarding funding, should this initiative ever go ahead, the National Executive wants the Union to have complete control over funding of projects; whether this is possible is not yet clear.

### **Financial report and Investments:**

Debbie and Larry provided a progress report on the Union's financial situation.

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

**Carried Unanimously.**

### **ROP Bursary**

We received one application; Larry is to request proof of enrolment from applicant.

## **8. National Office**

As per last meeting, new computers and office equipment have been ordered; everything should be installed by mid-December. It was reported that earlier this month, Christine and Larry received 20 and 15 year service pins respectively.

## 9. PSAC National Women's Conference in Toronto

The Executive discussed delegate allotment for the upcoming conference; Debbie will be attending as member of the NBoD in Yves' place.

## 10. Communications

Debbie gave a progress report – both Sylvie and her are currently working on updating the Info Key document and she hopes to add an item on work-life balance issues. Regarding the year in review letter from Yves, the Executive decided that it should be posted on our web site.

## 11. Complaints

### Local 14

Earlier this month Bob and Debbie investigated a complaint regarding recent elections at Local 14. In light of their findings they presented the Executive with the following motion:

- **M/S** – Kingston/Forsythe – That the November 1/07, elections at Local 14 be declared null and void.

**Carried Unanimously.**

Yves and or Bob will discuss impact of this decision with John Langs later this week during Council meetings. The Local will have to hold new elections.

### Letter to PSAC President, John Gordon.

We were informed by John Gordon's office that a member lodged a complaint against the Component stating that we did not provide proper services. In response, Bob wrote back to Brother Gordon stating, in detail, that the level of service that was provided in that matter was beyond reproach.

### Local 70139

As a result of a complaint, it was reported that the Union has launched an investigation implicating an executive of Local 70139.

## 12. Negotiations update

Bob gave progress reports for Treasury Board and CFIA negotiations.

### **13. Employer updates**

#### **CFIA update**

PI Review – We received more grievances following the recent web site update and the Executive discussed actions that must be taken in order to clarify certain misconceptions that have come about.

Inspection Roles and Responsibilities – The Executive discussed Patti Bordeleau's letter of October 5/07, regarding a working group that was tasked with clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the groups performing inspection work at CFIA; Yves and Bob will meet with her to discuss this matter.

Hazardous non-food chemicals – The Executive discussed chemicals that are being used in Hog and Poultry plants in BC and NS. The issue will be dealt at the NOSH.

#### **AAFC update**

Transfer of non-regulatory labs – As explained in the opening remarks, a written submission was sent to the Internal Panel of Experts. Our submission will be translated and then posted on the PSAC web site; a link from our web site will also be posted.

#### **CGC update**

One Operational Group – Yves gave a progress report stating that a final report is expected soon.

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

Bob gave progress report on the NUMC meeting that took place with the CSPS. As for the PSC, it's looking at rearranging duties that could have an impact on job classification of our members.

#### **DND update**

Progress report – The NOSH meetings have been suspended until further notice.

### **14. National Council meeting**

In preparation for upcoming Council meeting, the Executive discussed the items that were on the agenda.

### **15. EO Committee annual meeting**

Progress report – the committee is currently holding its annual meeting and Marianne Hladun will be providing an update at Council.

**16. Agriculture Union Convention**

Progress report – Discussed promotional items to be included in convention kits.

**17. Collection of fines**

The Executive had a discussion regarding an Ontario Supreme Court ruling that will have an impact on collections of fines.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Budge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Larry Budge  
Administrative Officer