

**Agriculture Union
National Executive Meeting**

**September 14-16, 2009
National Office**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Opening Remarks

Bob greeted everyone and made brief comments on some of the items that the Executive will be discussing in the next two days.

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

4. Hours of Session

The following hours of session were proposed:

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|--------------|-----------------------------|
| September 14 | 10:00 to 16:30 |
| September 15 | 10:00 to 17:00 |
| September 16 | 9:00 to 14:30 or completion |

- **M/S** – Sicard/Willems – That the hours of session be adopted as proposed.
UNANIMOUS.

5. Approval of the April 2009 National Executive minutes

- **M/S** – Forsythe/Sicard – Adoption of the April 2009 National Executive minutes.
UNANIMOUS.

6. Business Arising Out Of The Minutes

Agriculture Union Convention follow up

Fabian brought attention to two outstanding issues that he's working on. One deals on Foreign Migrant Workers (C-4); with the help of Alan Pride he will draft a letter that will be posted on our web site. The other issue is on Environmentally Responsible Protocols (D-4); he's preparing a draft that he'll present to his Committee in November.

7. Financial Report

Post audit recommendations

The auditor formulated some recommendations following his review of internal controls. Regarding instituting a Code of Ethics, many organizations have one in place, however the Executive is of the opinion that the Oath Of Office in the Bylaws covers that recommendation. Regarding a Confidentiality Letter for staff; the Executive feels this is a good recommendation; Larry will draft one and present it to the Executive.

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.
UNANIMOUS.

8. National Office

Bob provided a progress report. Regarding workload of the Service Officers, issues have been raised and both Bob and Debbie are monitoring the situation; part of the problem is that National Council members continue to deflect work up to the National Office and this, the Executive says, must stop. Regarding renovations, most of the work is now complete, the only outstanding item is the glass block wall.

9. Communication

Debbie gave a progress report; work on improving our web site is currently underway and will be launched before the next meeting. Debbie also mentioned that the revisions to the Key Info kit has been put on hold and informed the Executive that it won't be done before the November Council meeting. Regarding the National Officers Handbook, the feedback and comments were sent to the Bylaws committee.

10. CFIA Update

The Executive discussed recent good news that the CFIA has decided to implement all recommendations in the Weatherhill report, this means that 70 front line inspector positions will be created. Debbie sent an email to Bill Teeter regarding problems with return to work medicals; with no national provider to deal with them there has been an increase in complaints; Debbie is waiting for a response from Mr. Teeter. The CFIA Employment Equity plan is under review; Howard, Marianne and Nancy will work with the CFIA on the new plan.

11. AAFC update

The Executive discussed the WFA situation over at FIPD; close to 400 members are affected as positions are being transferred over to the provinces; the WFA committee has been set up and is meeting regularly; Debbie mentioned that she's been in contact with David Swol who is heading the national committee. The Department is also

reviewing the EE plan; Howard, Michele and Nancy will be working on the new plan. Regarding the Office of Conflict Resolution (OCR); at the HR update, Debbie voiced our opposition to proposed changes to OCR. Regarding the GL review, it is almost complete with about 1500 positions being reviewed; the effective date will be the same as the EG review; the department will be sending us a draft communiqué for comments. The EG review is moving along and an update was just posted on the web site a couple days ago.

12. CGC Update

Progress report given by Bob; he mentioned that we are still waiting for the One Operational Group (OOG) descriptions. He also stated that the Commission was going ahead with announced closures of Service Centres.

13. CSPS/ PSC update

CSPS

We're in the process of setting up the EE review with the School; last time they did not collaborate with us and we're hoping they won't make that mistake again we hope to address monitoring issues. Ongoing meetings are scheduled to discuss the Public Service survey results. The compensation issues that resulted with Treasury Board dropping services are being addressed. In January, there will be a new National Master Standing Offer for language training; the school will now have more of a monitoring role.

PSC

Debbie had a conference call yesterday to discuss changes at Data Management Services and provided an update for the Executive; everything will now be under one directorate and there will be no layoffs for our members. The next HR update meeting is scheduled for September 24th. The EE plan will be under review; Debbie, Meraiah and Nancy will be working on this review.

14. DND update

Progress report given by Bob; the next HR sub committee meeting is scheduled for October 7th.

15. Negotiations update

Nothing new to report as the TC table report is still pending.

16. November 2009 Council Meeting.

Denis and the Executive discussed the day long Work/Life balance training session that will take place at the next Council meeting in November. After much discussion the Executive agreed that they will continue to explore different options; a final decision on facilitators, course material and method of delivery will be taken in the next few weeks.

17. Record of Performance (ROP) Bursary

The Executive examined the applications that were sent in for the ROP bursary. With no successful applicant last year, two bursaries were available this year. The successful applicants for 2009 were Marie-Josée Cardinal (Denis Cardinal, member of Local 70067) and Brent Leonard Puchalski (Byron Puchalski, member of Local 30048); both will receive a \$1000 bursary in recognition of the ROP inspectors.

18. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 31/November 1, 2009, in Ottawa. The next one after that will be January 18-20, 2010.

Having dealt with all agenda items, a motion to recess was entertained.
The meeting adjourned at the end of PSAC convention business on May 1/09.
Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge
Administrative Officer