

**Agriculture Union  
National Executive Meeting  
February 10-12, 2012  
National Office**

**1. Call to Order**

National President Bob Kingston called the meeting to order; also in attendance were Fabian Murphy (via conference call on February 10<sup>th</sup>), Glenn Miller, Raphaël Tarasco, Meraiah Krebs and Larry Budge.

**2. Opening Remarks**

Bob greeted everyone to the meeting. With regards to a discipline matter that was forwarded to the NBoD, Bob stated that Board members approved our recommendation to suspend a member from Local 30 (Thunder Bay) for three years; the recommendation was based on an investigative committee's report.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

The proposed agenda was adopted unanimously.  
**M/S/C** – Tarasco/Krebs.

**4. Hours of Session**

The following hours of session were adopted unanimously.  
**M/S/C** – Miller/Krebs.

February 10, 2012	9:00am to 5:00pm
February 11, 2012	9:00am to completion

**5. Approval of the October 2011 National Executive minutes**

The Executive reviewed the draft minutes; they were then unanimously approved.  
**M/S/C** – Murphy/Miller.

**6. Business Arising Out Of The Minutes – Tracking Report**

From item 12 - CGC: A Federal Court decision found that Gerry Ritz exceeded his authority when he and Stephen Harper's Conservatives decided to abolish the Canadian Wheat Board's 'single desk' mandate for marketing wheat and barley. Bob credited our political action for this victory.

From item 19 – Human Rights Conference: Meraiah provided update – she stated that the workshop on mental health was very effective and well received. She noted that the annual meeting will now take place earlier in year once all Regional Seminars have taken place.

From item 22 – PSAC Supplemental Plan: Bob provided update stating that he and Larry met with PSAC Comptroller Pierre Chartrand. The PSAC has taken a wait and see approach as only one component – ours – has decided to join the plan, which was designed as multi-group plan. We will contact the plan’s actuary and look at all our options.

**7. Financial Report**

The Executive reviewed the un-audited financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2011. Larry stated that the year audit is scheduled for mid March.

Investments

**M/S/C** – Krebs/Miller – 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**

A progress report was provided by Bob and Fabian. They reported that Elaine returned from her leave of absence. Regarding Linda Koo’s term, an extension to June 4, 2012, was negotiated with National Component.

**9. Communication**

Progress report provided by Fabian. With regards to the website, the Executive agreed to remove all contact information for National Office Staff and make the RVP’s and Directors the primary contacts for members that visit the website; a generic email address for the National Office will be created and emails will be redirected to appropriate staff person.

**10. CFIA Update**

Progress reports. On the PI Review, Bob met with Ginette Workman and Linda Koo; the meeting went well and discussions to reach a final resolution are ongoing. Raphaël talked about language issues in the Québec region with regards to adjudication files, Bob stated that he would discuss with Edith Bramwell. Regarding AS01 grievances that are on hold, Raphaël will discuss with Marlene O’Neil to discuss next course of action. With regards to Lab Surveys, it was reported that they’ll be going ahead starting March or April; that said we will have to start getting members involved. Bob gave a progress report regarding ongoing discussions with CFIA on Violence in the Workplace. The Executive also had a general discussion regarding Article 27.06.

**11. AAFC update**

A Workforce Adjustment (WFA) committee was established and Fabian is the Union co-chair; on February 15<sup>th</sup> the committee will meet to agree on terms of reference. Meraiah gave a progress report on the Employment Equity and Inclusion (EEI) committee which meets quarterly via video conference; so far she and Sylvie are getting no collaboration;

Fabian and Bob met with Catherine Conrad via conference call to address lack of collaboration at the EEI, HRUCC and 3 Champions committees and all agreed that follow up meetings were necessary. Progress reports on the GL and EG reviews were provided by Fabian. As with the CFIA, discussions on Violence in the Workplace are ongoing.

**12. CGC Update**

Progress report provided by Bob; he stated that an input call for legislative review was sent out to all employees and our members must get involved; the Executive discussed communication strategies and agreed to repost on our website the Threatened Harvest document; we will reactivate the Grain Action once we get in lobby mode. Bob also reported that Local Development Training was given to the new Local Executive members of Local 30.

**13. CSPS/ PSC update**

Regarding the cuts to language training at the CSPS, Bob reported that 190 of our members stand to lose their jobs; that said we're working on a campaign to fight these cuts and Meraiah will be contacting Erick Martel later in the day as we need input from members to proceed. The Executive also worked on a draft press release which will be posted on our website. On February 22 we plan to meet with the employer to discuss WFA. Regarding the PSC, Anne Marie Robinson was appointed President a week ago and in her first meeting announced that she'll be taking co-chair duties. The PSC is now responsible for Publiservice, which will be integrated with PSRS under one portal: [www.jobs-emplois.gc.ca](http://www.jobs-emplois.gc.ca).

**14. DND update**

Bob provided a progress report; once the federal budget comes down the employer wants to meet with us; massive cuts are expected at DND however still not clear if any of our members will be affected.

**15. Negotiations update**

Raphaël provided progress report; he stated that CFIA negotiations are not going well and there's a great deal of frustration with regards to lack of progress; that said we need to start mobilizing members and begin discussions on possible strategic strike action. With regards to the TC team, members are ready to table their pay package that said they too are finding the process very frustrating.

**16. Social Justice Fund**

Fabian gave a progress report stating that the committee agreed to send \$2500 in funding to Habitat For Humanity. The application was sent in by Meraiah Krebs after she came back from volunteer work she did in Portugal.

**17. Local Updates from RVP's**

Progress report. A reminder will be sent out to RVP's.

**18. Political Action**

Progress report - see items #12 and #13.

**19. Triennial Convention - Follow Up**

Larry informed the Executive that the convention verbatim report has not been delivered yet and that service provider is not returning calls or emails.

**20. PSAC Convention**

Fabian and Glenn stated that they won't be able to attend this week's PSAC pre-convention committee meetings: and so Meraiah will step in and take Raphaël's place on General and Raphaël will replace Fabian on Finance. The Executive will check with the most experienced Council members to see if they're available to replace Glenn on Collective Bargaining.

**21. NDP Convention**

Meraiah is registered to attend the convention and requested that we cover her hotel, loss of salary and per diem expenses. Her request was approved unanimously.

**22. Local Complaints**

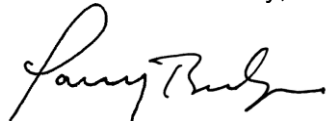
The Executive discussed complaints that are being investigated in Local 00015 in Hamilton; in Local 20060 in Vancouver (CGC); in local 50071 in Winnipeg (CGC) and in Local 10377 in St-Jean.

**23. Next meetings**

The National Executive will be meeting on: April 23-24, 2012 and on August 29-30, 2012.

Having dealt with all agenda items the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge  
Administrative Officer