

**Agriculture Union
National Executive Meeting
January 30-31, 2014
Conference call**

1. Call to Order

National President Bob Kingston called the meeting to order; in attendance were Fabian Murphy and Larry Budge in Ottawa; Glenn Miller, Rick Cormier and Milton Dyck joined in via conference call. (Rick was on/off the call throughout as he was busy giving bargaining updates in his region).

2. Opening Remarks

Bob greeted everyone and gave a special welcome to Rick and Milton who were attending their first Executive meeting. Bob then discussed ongoing Food Safety issues as well as new cutbacks of \$111 million to CFIA's Fair Labelling Program; the Executive would like to schedule a media event however with everything that's going on right now on the Hill it will be difficult to get proper media exposure (more discussion on this at items 10 and 17).

3. Adoption of Agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted unanimously.
M/S/C – Murphy / Dyck

4. Hours of Session

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

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|------------------|----------------------|
| January 30, 2014 | 9:00am to 5:00pm |
| January 31, 2014 | 9:00am to completion |

5. Approval of the November 2013 National Executive minutes

The Executive reviewed and approved the draft minutes, **M/S/C** – Miller/Murphy. Rick and Milton abstained.

6. Business Arising Out Of the Minutes

Regarding Vacancies in Union Leadership Positions: with Brother Rob MacDonald no longer in the Central Ontario region, elections are underway to elect a new RVP and Alternate RVP; in Nappan Brother Tracy Gowan is no longer there and elections will take place to elect a new local President. Brother Gus Mardli is now chairperson of the Human Rights committee and elections are underway to elect a new alternate.

7. Financial Report

Financial Statement

The Executive reviewed the unaudited financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2013. **M/S/C** – Murphy / Cormier – That the year end unaudited financial statement be adopted.

Investments

M/S/C – Miller / Cormier - That the investments coming to term between before April, 2014, be reinvested at the best possible rate on a short term basis so that funds are available for convention 2014 - carried unanimously.

8. National Office

Fabian provided a progress report. Sylvie Rochon's term at the Gatineau regional office is done and she'll be back in the Office on February 3, 2014; she will be with us for about two months but then will need time off to recover from a medical procedure; she's expected to be off about 10 weeks time. Elaine told Fabian that she's ready for a gradual return to work; she expects to be back full time by the beginning of May. The Executive decided to extend Erick Martel's term until May 30.

9. Communication

Fabian gave a progress report. The new web site is almost complete; the English version is currently being tested; once that stage is done, work will begin on setting up the French site. The Rand campaign is now over; a total of 161 rand members signed union cards; as for the contest, Bother Subir Aryal from Local 14 in Toronto won a new iPad.

10. CFIA Update

Bob stated that the Agency cancelled the NUMC meeting once more; we are trying to reschedule for sometime in March; the CFIA has been warned that if the meeting gets cancelled again we will be filing a complaint. The CFIA posted a 'Plans and Priorities' document on its web site; this is a public document and it's currently flying under the radar; as per opening remarks, the Agency is looking at reducing the number of Full Time Employees (FTE) in the Fair Labelling Program; all of this needs to be discussed with the Agency. With regards to Fish Inspection, Brother Cloutier is being told by management (in Québec) that changes that are being introduced to the Fish Sensory Activity is a national initiative; when told about this, Stephen Baker said he was unaware.

11. AAFC update

Fabian gave a progress report on the latest NUMC meeting; the meeting in January went well however there are still rumours out in the field that more cuts are coming. Bob gave a progress report on the closing of the Kapuskasing research station; it appears that the station will be completely gutted before it gets transferred over to the city. With regards to the EG review, Fabian stated that 19 grievors remain on the books. Milton

gave a progress report on the Regina and Indian Head research stations; he stated that members in Indian Head were offered extensions.

12. CGC Update

Bob gave a progress report; the local in Thunder Bay is down to 30 members, for now things have stabilized somewhat, however with the federal budget coming he's keeping his fingers crossed. Most WFA cases have been handled successfully with members being snapped up by industry which continues to grow despite cuts to federal employees.

13. CSPS/ PSC update

Progress report; the PSC's headquarters is moving over to Gatineau and other than that there isn't much new going on. The School is meeting today.

14. DND update

Progress report; the local in St-Jean is holding elections this week.

15. Negotiations update

Regarding CFIA bargaining; as per last week's PSAC update via conference call with the National Council, our members are getting ready for next week's action plan. As for the PSAC and the Regional Offices, Bob wasn't too pleased with them as they've been slow to coming through on their commitments; this morning however emails have been coming in and it looks like the PSAC have things under control. With regards to getting a fair alternation process for members at CFIA, a letter to Ronia Ambrose should be posted later today on the PSAC web site; members want 120 days like everyone else in the public service. Regarding bargaining with Treasury Board, there is nothing new to report.

16. Social Justice Fund

A progress report was provided by Fabian. The SJF funded reserve is currently at \$116,000.

17. Political Action

Fabian sits on the PSAC Political Action Committee and gave a progress report on the pledge cards campaign. With regards to Bob's opening remarks (item 2) Jim Thompson joined in on the call to discuss possible media event regarding CFIA's Plans and Priorities (published on their web site); he stated that our focus is to bring attention to these documents and keep the food safety narrative going; after discussion the Executive decided on doing two media events on February 19 (in BC) and on February 25 (in QC).

18. Agriculture Union 2014 Triennial Convention in Winnipeg

Progress report. The Convention call went out. Former RVP Sam Barlin will be chairing the Host Committee.

19. Supplemental Pension Plan

Progress report.

20. Vacancies in Union Leadership Positions

See item 6.

21. Local Reports

Only a small number of RVP's are sending in their reports on time. A reminder will be sent to everyone.

22. CLC Convention in Montréal

The Executive will be attending the CLC convention in May.

23. PSAC Awards Program

Fabian wanted to inform the Executive that he's compiling information from Council members that will be used for the PSAC Awards Program.

24. Human Rights Committee – Terms of Reference

The Human Rights Committee is proposing changes to the election procedure in Regulation 15(A). Milton will get back to Gus; the changes will require a vote by Council.

25. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 30-31, 2014

Having dealt with all agenda items the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge
Administrative Officer