

**Agriculture Union  
National Executive Meeting  
January 28-29, 2013  
National Office**

**1. Call to Order**

National President Bob Kingston called the meeting to order; also in attendance were Fabian Murphy, Glenn Miller, Raphaël Tarasco, Larry Budge and Meraiah Krebs via conference call.

**2. Opening Remarks**

After greeting everyone to the meeting, Bob made the following opening statements: He just returned from the Manitoba, NW ON & Nunavut Regional Seminar and stated that it was the best one in years; he has a radio interview later today with Todd Veinotte (Atlantic News 95.7) to discuss latest cuts at the CGC; he will miss part of day 2 to attend the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**4. Hours of Session**

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

January 28, 2013	9:00am to 5:00pm
January 29, 2013	9:00am to completion

**5. Approval of the November 2012 National Executive minutes**

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

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

From item #6 Classification Reform: In the next couple of weeks Meraiah will go over the Terms of Reference with Marlene O'Neil. From item #6 Employment Equity: Fabian provided a progress report, stated that AAFC will be notified that Meraiah will now be the lead on this and that she will be attending future meetings. From item #11: Contrary to what Suzanne Vinet has been telling us, the word is that AAFC will have less money in it's next budget and that we could be facing more cuts. From item 17: Bob will check with PSAC later today to see if they're still open to cost sharing expenses on Political Action, re Food Safety First, CGC and Protect the Prairies. From item #24: We will need a motion/recommendation from Mike Vanson to relocate members from Local 39333.

From item #25: Herhald Mark is now Michele Jackson's Alternate for Southern Alberta. From item #26: no one was able to attend the Jack Layton memorial dinner; Fabian to find out if we can still send the \$2500 donation.

## **7. Financial Report**

### Financial Statements

The Executive reviewed the unaudited statements for the period ending on December 31, 2012. The line item for Political Action is over budget; this is in large part due to the fact that we've been running several campaigns and as mentioned earlier Bob will be checking with PSAC to see about sharing costs.

### 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; with regards to Linda Koo, she was unable to get a one month extension and therefore she has returned to the Union of National Employees; as a result Sylvia Prowse was hired for one month, her last day will be February 14<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that the Service Officers will now be called Labour Relations Officers (LRO's). With regards to the grievance process, locals need to know how important it is to properly build a case file, from the first level on up; for this reason the steward fact sheet will be distributed to all locals and Bob and Fabian will be discussing the grievance process at all regional seminars. The Executive discussed the rising cost of office rent; it was noted that this was due to renovation projects that the building must undergo.

## **9. Communication**

Progress report provided by Fabian. With regards to web site maintenance, he reported that we've been in discussion with Jim Thompson regarding changing over the website maintenance from HTML to a Content Management System (CMS); eventually this will allow us to post updates to the website ourselves. Communication between the Executive was discussed; the Union has many ongoing issues that are continuously evolving and so to help everyone stay on top of things the Executive has decided to hold weekly conference each Friday at 10:30am.

## **10. CFIA Update**

Progress report. Dealing with the CFIA is very frustrating right now; we're getting the run around and Raphaël believes they're doing it on purpose; case in point, nothing, ever, gets done with regards to the Student Employment Policy. Bob stated that from now on everything will be in writing, we have no choice. With regards to WFA and ETP, Meraiah reported issues at the CBSA that appear to be in violation of the collective agreement; Bob and Fabian are meeting with S. Baker and G. Étienne later this week and these

issues will be brought up. There is a new National Inspector Training Program and Raphaël will be attending a training session in Rigaud, QC.

**11. AAFC update**

Progress report. The UMCC framework will be renewed; we are supposed to meet 4 times a year (last year only met once). With regards to WFA, we were notified that 4 more members were given surplus notices as work is being discontinued; in Kapuskasing, all of our members have decided to leave and they hope find new jobs in town. With regards to Violence in the Workplace, it was noted that the Harassment Policy is not in line with it and so these outstanding issues will be pursued at the next NOSH meeting.

**12. CGC Update**

Bob gave a progress report; cuts to the CGC are coming and letters will be going out to our members this week; we stand to lose 250 members, 150 of which are indeterminate positions. There's a WFA meeting later this week and it will be very interesting to see how they'll decide on who gets to stay employed.

**13. CSPS/ PSC update**

Meraiah provided a progress report for the PSC; all but 2 members have decided what they are doing; the deadline to decide is March 28<sup>th</sup>. The new President issues an audit report and as a result many rumours are circulating as to what will happen. Bob and Meraiah provided progress reports for the CSPS; there are rumours that office closures, in areas similar to the PSC, are on the way.

**14. DND update**

Fabian provided a progress report. With regards to WFA, there is not much top report on our end as affected members are in other Unions. With regards to exclusions discussed in Danielle Moffet's report, Fabian is to follow up with Elaine. On March 7<sup>th</sup> there's an HRUCC and a National WFA meeting that he will attend.

**15. Negotiations update**

Raphaël provided a progress report on CFIA negotiations; the employer negotiator had no experience and clearly did not know what to do and after 2 days our team did not bother to show up for day 3; the team took the time to prepare its input for the Public Interest Commission (PIC) hearings instead. With regards to TC negotiations, Fabian stated that the PIC hearings took place and the team is now going through the report and must now decide what to do.

**16. Social Justice Fund**

Nothing new to report other than the two outstanding issues brought up by Maria-Luiza were addressed. We will start promoting the SJF at regional seminars to try and garner more requests.

**17. Political Action**

Progress report. Regarding the Community Pastures Program (CPP); initially our goal was to force the government to maintain the program and Bob noted that to some degree we've been successful since the government now plans on leasing part of the land (as opposed to selling it). That said we're not ready to stop the Save the Prairies campaign just yet; our members are still with AAFC and the government is still in negotiations with the patron groups.

**18. Agriculture Union Triennial Convention**

Progress report; Bob and Larry will be visiting the Fairmont in Winnipeg in a few weeks for a site inspection.

**19. Supplemental Pension Plan**

Progress report. Debbie Forsythe has retired and she will be the next one to receive SPP benefits.

**20. Violence in the Workplace**

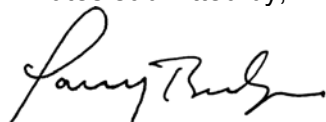
The PSAC has asked us to identify which employer has provided Violence in the Workplace training; the Executive held a round table discussion to identify employers that have provided Policy training, Awareness training and Harassment training. The discussion helped Meraiah identify issues with the EAP at CSPS. With Regards to CFIA, Bob stated that we can start complaint process with HRSDC. Fabian discussed the draft administrative investigative directive with the Executive and everyone provided feedback; he stated that he will continue to work on this with Nancy.

**21. Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 6-7, 2013, in Montréal.

Having dealt with all agenda items the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge  
Administrative Officer