

**Agriculture Union  
National Executive Meeting**

**August 31 & September 1, 2015  
National Office**

**1. Call to Order**

National President Bob Kingston called the meeting to order; in attendance were Fabian Murphy, Rick Cormier, Milton Dyck, Barb Kristjansson and Larry Budge.

**2. Opening Remarks**

Bob greeted everyone to the meeting. He talked about upcoming elections; he's knocking on doors for NDP candidate Paul Dewar. For his part Fabian mentioned that he worked on PSAC's Jeannie Baldwin's successful NDP nomination.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

The proposed agenda was adopted unanimously.

**M/S/C** – Cormier / Dyck

**4. Hours of Session**

The following hours of session were adopted unanimously.

**M/S/C** – Murphy / Cormier

August 31, 2015	9:00am to noon; 1:30pm to 5:00pm
September 1, 2015	9:00am to 11:30am
September 1, 2015	11:30am to noon: CFIA conference call – Fabian
September 1, 2015	1:30pm to completion

**5. Approval of the April 2015 National Executive minutes**

The Executive discussed the draft minutes; a motion to approve them was then carried unanimously.

**M/S/C** – Kristjansson / Dyck

**6. Business Arising Out Of the Minutes**

There was no business arising from previous minutes.

## **7. Financial Report**

### **Financial Statements**

The Executive reviewed the unaudited financial statements for the period ending on August 31, 2015.

## **8. National Office**

Fabian gave a progress report. Regarding the 3 month term LRO anticipatory staffing poster that was sent out last May, unfortunately no candidates were available to come in during the summer months. We contacted Sylvia Prowse to see if she was willing to come back to help us out; she agreed to work 3 days a week from late May to late August. Nancy's medical leave was extended, this time for 3 months, and she's expected back in October. It appears that Elaine will require medical leave as well; we will find out how long later this month. Pat St-Georges was able to get leave from AAFC and so we've re-hired him for one year; his term will end July 22, 2016. Should Nancy not return in October, the Executive decided that we will put out another poster to backfill an LRO position; the term will be for 12 months.

## **9. Communication**

Fabian provided a progress report. The Executive discussed this summer's press releases; Bob noted that we received good coverage in Manitoba regarding our release on the shortage of meat inspectors; Fabian noted that information from all of the events were posted to our website. Regarding the website, information for all our locals is now up to date. We're preparing a web article that will deal with issues still outstanding from the previous round of CFIA bargaining, our members have yet to receive their copy of the collective agreement. On the issue of Health and Safety, Rick would like for us to post an article on Violence in the Work Place with the focus on Competent Persons. Regarding news items (print and media) that relate to Agriculture Union and our members will be sent to the National Council, Alternates and Locals; items are to be sent to Fabian and Larry for redistribution.

## **10. CFIA Update**

It was noted that the NUMC meeting has been postponed until after the election. Rick provided an update of ongoing issues in the Atlantic; on July 6<sup>th</sup>, a conference call took place on wash up time; a follow up meeting will take place but a date hasn't been set yet. With regards to Harrassment training, Sue-Ann is scheduled to co-facilitate but she hasn't received the appropriate training yet; the issue will be added to the NUMC and NOSH agendas for discussion. With regards to OSH in the Western Area, Barb stated that no progress has been made and the stalemate continues and a formal complaint was lodged with Employment & Social Development Canada. Regarding Violence in the Workplace, Bob stated that a conference call will be scheduled in order to address our concerns. Fabian gave a progress report on the ATIP requests that we requested; the results will be distributed to the National Executive.

**11. AAFC update**

Milt and Barb talked about Harper's ongoing war on science; the federal science library in Lethbridge is literally being destroyed and no effort is being made to preserve anything; this came as a complete surprise to us; a letter will be sent to the Deputy Minister to express our great disappointment that we were not informed that research records and historical records were going to be thrown away. Milt gave a progress report on the Community Pastures Program and the Shelterbelt Centre; the forestry research has all been sent to Indian Head research station. A working group has been set up to address pay issues with the Miramichi pay centre. Credit checks are now in place for new hires; the PSAC will challenge this and so for now the direction we're giving is obey now and grieve later. The OSH program was audited and Milt gave a progress report on the process; the National Executive question the legality of the audit; that said, the auditor seemed to be knowledgeable and we look forward to the results.

**12. CGC Update**

Bob gave a progress report; the Commission is having hard time finding francophone inspectors in Quebec City. Regarding H&S, fall arrest training is required. Unlike CFIA, all meetings are face to face (no video conferencing).

**13. CSPS**

Fabian gave a progress report; they will be developing more online learning modules. With regards to Employment Equity everything is on track. Regarding members affected by the Deficit Reduction Action Plan, Fabian noted that everyone has been looked after.

**14 PSC update**

Fabian gave a progress report; Local 70155 here in Ottawa are receiving training and elections will take place on September 16<sup>th</sup> to elect local officers, Phil Lillies will attend Regional UMC and NUMC meetings.

**15. DND update**

Fabian provided a progress report; the review of the Violence in the Workplace policy is done; results will be sent to the National Executive for comments, then they will go to the Policy Committee. There are work descriptions grievances in play in St-Jean that we hope to resolve without going the formal route; Fabian spoke with Major General Tremblay to express concerns we have on these files.

**16. Negotiations update**

CFIA update: we might have a meeting in late September to exchange demands.  
Treasury Board: everything is on hold until after the federal elections.

**17. Social Justice Fund**

Fabian gave a progress report.

**18. Political Action**

For upcoming elections, we're getting T-Shirts made that will state 'Friends Don't Let Friends Vote for Harper'; the t-shirts will be sent to National Council members. The Executive discussed the Food Safety First email campaign; messages will be sent to all candidates. Regarding the National Farmers Union (NFU), they are once again looking for our support. A motion was made to donate \$1000 to the NFU; **M/S/C** – Cormier / Kristjansson. Milt will attend the NFU conference on November 26. The Executive discussed making a donation to the Wheat Board Alliance; a motion was made to donate \$5000, **M/S/C** – Murphy / Kristjansson.

**19. Supplemental Pension Plan (SPP)**

Fabian gave a progress report.

**20. Internal investigation Committee**

Progress report; the National Executive discussed ongoing investigations; discipline as per the Committee's report will be forwarded to the National Board of Directors for action.

**21. Violence in the Workplace – St-John's NL**

The Executive discussed an ongoing situation in St-John's; misleading information was circulated and Sarah Leonard will have to contact the complainant and find out if we are to pursue.

**22. National OSH minutes not being signed**

This will be addressed at the next meeting.

**23. Next meeting**

The next two meetings are scheduled for:

- December 9 & 10, 2015
- May 30, 31, 2016 (tentative)

**24. RVP Elections**

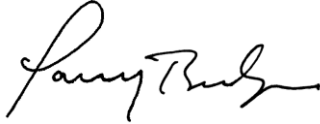
Pat St-Georges is now working at the National Office and Erick Martel has resigned; a call out for nominations will be sent out in the NCR. We also need an Alternate in in Alberta.

**25. ROP Bursary**

We received one bursary application; a motion was made to approve funding of \$1000 upon proof of enrollment; **M/S/C** – Kristjansson / Cormier

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 written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Larry Budge  
Administrative Officer