

REPORT

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2003

The NCR Council General meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Brother John Baglow, the Regional Executive Vice-President for the National Capital Region.

OPENING REMARKS - REVP-NCR

Brother Baglow's opening remarks are reproduced below:

This will be the last meeting of the full National Capital Region Council that I shall be chairing. As I look at the unprecedented turnout today, I can leave knowing that this Region is a growing, dynamic presence built on the firm foundation of your activism, commitment and energy. For my part in this, I feel honoured by your presence.

For those of you attending for the first time, a special welcome. The process of building our Region since 1997 has been slow but steady, and we now have in our Council a real home for PSAC activists across the NCR. Regionalization is democratization, a means, not of bringing the Union to the members, as some have put it, but of creating the essential awareness that the Union IS the members, first and foremost.

Regionalization is a process of building a greater solidarity by opening up channels to let members hear and be heard. The solidarity we want isn't created by avoiding the tough issues, controversies and debates, but by welcoming them. By so doing, we deepen our understanding of each other and of our common union project. Regionalization offers unprecedented opportunities for this, as well as greater access to the tools and resources that we hold in common as members of the PSAC. And our Regional Council has become a place where we can draw strength from each other, sharing, communicating, organizing, and acting collectively.

Today we will approve a budget for the coming year, to fund the many activities that our Committees and our Council are planning to undertake. As you will hear from our Treasurer, this budget has been prepared with input from the Committees and has been recommended by the NCRC Executive. I urge you all to examine it with care, and to encourage participation in these events and on these Committees by your Local members.

As has been the practice for some time at Council meetings, we have prepared workshops for you to discuss and debate issues of the day. Today we will be looking at three discussion papers prepared by the PSAC for wide distribution amongst the membership. This is a valuable opportunity to share your knowledge and your ideas, and I look forward to your participation.

I hope that you will find this an interesting day. More importantly, I hope that you will continue to be successful in communicating your enthusiasm to others in the Region, so that we may go on building our Union and strengthening our efforts in the future. Sisters and brothers, we are well launched and on course: and I am glad and proud that this Region is in such capable hands as yours.

AGENDA

m/s Tony Nicolas and Pat McGrath:

To adopt the agenda with the following addition:

- Term Employment Study, under New Business

MOTION CARRIED.

PRESENTATION: FIRST ONTARIO FUND

Brother Baglow noted that the AEC has agreed that the decision as to whether to endorse/sponsor the First Ontario Fund should more appropriately be made by the political structures in Ontario and the NCR. The First Ontario Fund is a labour sponsored mutual fund created in 1995, which is currently sponsored by trade unions – CPE, USWA, SEIU, PWU, BG&PW, OWCF and PSAC (Ontario Region). Brother Baglow introduced the First Ontario Fund Representatives, Erna Post and Ken Delany. Through a “Power Point” presentation, they gave an overview of the Fund’s objectives, investments and tax incentives.

The floor was opened for a question and answer period with the representatives of the First Ontario Fund. The overall feedback from the Council was positive.

m/s Christine Collins and Carol-Anne Grenier:

That the NCR Council sponsor the First Ontario Fund and purchase 50 shares at \$28.00 per share, representing a total amount of \$1,400.00, to be taken out of the Community Outreach line item.

a/m/s Jay Castonguay and Alex Sauvé:

That the NCR Council sponsor the First Ontario Fund and purchase 25 shares at \$28.00 per share, representing a total amount of \$700.00, to be taken out of the Community Outreach line item.

MOTION CARRIED, AS AMENDED.

Brother Baglow noted that there is a Québec equivalent, the *Fonds de solidarité du Québec*, and that our members in that province also have the opportunity to participate in a fund similar to the First Ontario Fund.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2002 POLICY CONVENTION REPORT

m/s Jeff Wrinn and Lorne Brady:

To receive the report of the September 7-8, 2002 Policy Convention report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

NCRC BUDGET/FINANCE

Unaudited Financial Statement

m/s Christine Collins and Jay Castonguay:

To approve the unaudited financial statement of the NCR Council for the period of January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002.

MOTION CARRIED.

Proposed Budget 2003

m/s Christine Collins and Judy Andersen:

To approve the proposed NCRC budget for 2003.

a/m/s Mark Scott and Jacques Purdy:

To amend the breakdowns of the Health & Safety Committee budget request and to increase the funding request to \$19,000. (APPENDIX "A").

MOTION CARRIED.

a/m/s Jacques Purdy and Carol-Anne Grenier:

To transfer \$2,000. from the Contingency Reserve towards the set up of the NCRC Strike Support Committee.

MOTION CARRIED.

a/m/s Jay Castonguay and Jacques Purdy:

To transfer \$2,000. from the Contingency Reserve towards the 2003 Separate Employers Conference, thus increasing the funding to a total of \$5,000.

MOTION CARRIED.

Brother Richard Ransom raised his concerns about the low level of funding allocated to the Separate Employers Conference. Brother Baglow indicated that, should there be a need for additional funds, the NCRC Executive have the authority to approve up to \$2,000.00 on any unbudgeted expense.

MOTION TO ADOPT NCRC BUDGET FOR 2003 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, AS AMENDED. (APPENDIX "B")

Appointment of Auditor

m/s Christine Collins and Monty Montgomery:

To appoint the accounting firm of McCay, Duff & Company to audit the NCR Council's 2002 expenses.

MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions presented at this meeting.

PREPARING FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Sister Céline Préfontaine spoke on preparing for the 2003 round of negotiations for Treasury Board units. The input call for Bargaining Demands will be sent to Components in early February. Regional Bargaining Conferences will take place in May, and the National Bargaining Conference will be held in July. The revised Regulation 15 booklet, which directs the PSAC internal process for collective bargaining, was distributed at this meeting for information.

Sister Geri McCormick asked if the names of the Employer's representatives on the Negotiating Teams could be communicated to the membership, as well as the meeting schedules, when Employer representatives do not show up at meetings, etc.

Brother Baglow noted that, as the information on negotiations is received, we will do our best to distribute it widely to the membership.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING REPORTS

Brother John Baglow introduced Sister Evelyn Beckert, SSO Local President in the NCR and the NCR representative on the Field Interviewers negotiation team. The Statistics Canada Field Interviewers have been negotiating their first collective agreement for over a year and are now at the conciliation process. On January 27th from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15, there will be an information picket line at Tunney's Coats Building while their team is meeting with the employer team and the conciliator. Sister Beckert urged Council members to spread the word and come show their support on their first picket line.

It was noted that this action will be given wide circulation and will be posted on the NCRC Web site.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

With the exception of the Health and Safety Committee, all NCRC committees provided written activity reports for 2002 at this meeting for review by the members of the Council.

Communications Committee

Sister Jay Castonguay indicated that the Communications Committee is now comprised of 3 sub-committees. Sister Castonguay chairs the Local Tools sub-committee, Brother Rick Cloutier chairs the Web site sub-committee and Sister Helen Friel chairs the Newsletter sub-committee. The groups have been quite active. Support is needed to get the NCRC newsletter up and running and input from talented writers is welcome. The next meeting is being held on January 22nd.

Members with Disabilities Action Committee (MDAC)

Brother Byron Bolick, Chair of MDAC, noted that Brother Arthur Carkner is currently working with the committee on a disability kit. The committee is hoping to have the kit produced and out to locals in the spring.

Ottawa Regional Women's Committee (ORWC)

Sister Carol-Anne Grenier reported as Chair of the ORWC. This committee's premier project in 2003 will be the Columbia Project to bring in a refugee family from Columbia which has been persecuted because of union affiliation or union activities. Sister Jay Castonguay read an excerpt of ORWC's proposal to the NCRC on the Columbia Project that was prepared in December 2002. It was noted that there will be a

call-out for furnishings and assistance in helping to settle the family when they arrive in the Country. Members who are interested in getting involved are asked to contact Sister Madeleine Bachand at the Hull Regional Office, who is very actively involved in the project.

m/s Jay Castonguay and Christine Collins:

That the NCRC help the Sisters for Colombia by distributing their material, promoting their project to all locals in the region, and supporting their fund raising events.

MOTION CARRIED.

Sister Grenier pointed out that the ORWC is supporting the World March for Women's campaign to fight the privatization of Medicare. She noted that Medicare postcards were available at this meeting and encouraged members to fill out the cards.

Ottawa-Gatineau Area Council (OGAC)

Sister Carol-Anne Grenier reported that the OGAC met on January 15th, at which time she was reelected as Chairperson as well as delegate to the PSAC Triennial Convention. Sisters Christine Collins, Jay Castonguay, Brothers Gordon McAllister and Ed Cashman were elected as members of the Executive.

m/s Carol-Anne Grenier and Jay Castonguay:

To allocate \$2,700. from the Contingency Reserve to cover cost of bus to allow members to attend one day at the Triennial Convention as observers.

m/s Jacques Purdy and Dorothy Boulin:

That the previous question be now put.

MOTION CARRIED.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED.

The Council broke for lunch at 12:10 p.m. and agreed to reconvene at 1:10 p.m.

Health and Safety Committee

Brother Mark Scott reported for the Health and Safety Committee. He noted that at the September Policy Convention, the members of the Council had approved a motion to expend up to \$2,000. for the purchase of WHSC Right to Refuse cards for distribution to locals in the region. Brother Scott further noted that there are severe logistical problems involved in assuring the distribution of over 30,000 cards. The members of the committee have therefore chosen to purchase a few thousand cards for use at H&S Conferences, etc. Brother Scott indicated that the Regional Health and

Safety Conference will take place in November 2003. The theme has not as yet been determined. Brother Dominic Lavoie at the Hull Regional Office is currently working on creating a database of H&S activists in the region and H&S committees in the locals in order to determine local needs. The Health and Safety Committee also plans on developing an H&S kit for activists, hopefully in time for the Regional Conference.

Education Committee

Sister Jay Castonguay reported as co-chair of the Education Committee. There have been two very successful Union Schools in 2002 and another one is scheduled to take place this Spring. The Alliance Facilitator Training French and English sessions will be offered in February and in March. Sister Castonguay noted that Brother Bob Allen, regional representative at the Ottawa R.O. has been very active on the term study and is looking for people to support his efforts providing information to different groups. Interested members are asked to contact Brother Allen at 560-2565.

Lesbian and Gay Support Group (LGSG)

A written report was submitted by this committee and there were no questions or clarification on the report requested at this meeting.

Racially Visible Action Committee (RVAC)

Sister Dorothy Boulin pointed out that the RVAC held a very successful retirement party in December for Dr. Perera, a long time activist in the Canadian Human Rights movement. Sister Boulin also noted that the RVAC requires cash to cover taxi costs and food at meetings. Brother Baglow suggested that a cheque be issued to Sister Boulin for those purposes and that the expenses will need to be accounted for.

Aboriginal Action Committee (AAC)

Brother Tony Nicolas is the new contact for this group. He can be reached at 994-4873, brutal@rogers.com. Brother Baglow noted that according to the NCRC By-Laws, when the Aboriginal Action Committee is up and running, the required terms of reference will need to be established for approval by the NCRC Executive. The committee will then automatically have a seat on the NCRC Executive.

Youth Committee

Brother Mark Stevens is the new youth representative for this group of members under 30 years of age. He can be reached at 993-6905*.

Strike Support Committee

* Subsequent to this meeting, Brother Stevens stepped down. Youth enquiries should be forwarded to the assigned RO staff representative, Sister Angèle Cadieux.

Sister Geri McCormick is the contact for this committee. This committee plans to develop an e-mail group of partners outside the PSAC. The committee members have met and have worked on the Terms of Reference. Interested members are welcome to join the group.

Sister Wilma Findlay suggested that all NCRC committees that are seeking increased membership participation should consider using other formats to conduct their meetings, such as teleconferences.

Separate Employers

In the absence of the two Separate Employers representatives on the NCRC Executive, there was no report for the Separate Employers at this meeting. Brother Baglow noted that the Separate Employers Conference is scheduled to take place in 2003.

Sister Helen Friel noted that the Communications Newsletter sub-committee invites all NCRC committees to provide their respective key points by e-mail at helenfriel@rogers.com.

Comité régional des femmes de l'Outaouais québécois (CRFOQ)

A written report was submitted by this committee and there were no questions or clarification on the report requested at this meeting.

WORKSHOPS : PSAC DISCUSSION PAPERS

Brother Alex Sauvé noted that at the April 27 & 28, 2002 Annual General Meeting, the members of the Council had the opportunity to discuss 3 of the 6 Discussion Papers prepared by the PSAC to provoke discussion and involvement. The workshop at this meeting will focus on the three remaining Papers.

The delegates and observers broke into four groups, with a planned return to plenary at 3:15 p.m.

GROUP	THEME
1	Globalization (English)
2	Collective Bargaining (English)
3	Collective Bargaining (French)
4	Security in Government (English)

The meeting reconvened at 3:15 p.m. as planned.

WORKSHOP REPORTS

Each group reported on the discussion held with their workshop. The reports are attached as Appendix "C".

NEW BUSINESS

a) Term Employment Study

Sister Wilma Findlay raised concerns on the Term Employment Study. We do not receive any information on how the Term Employment Policy is being implemented by the different departments. It was suggested that all locals should provide relevant information to be posted on the Term Web site. It was also proposed that locals gather the information and share it among other locals in the region.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Peoples Summit on Health Care that will be held on February 7-10, 2003 at the Ottawa Congress Centre. Registration forms are available on the PSAC Web site.

Brother Ed Cashman asked the members of the Council to join him in a warm round of applause to thank Brother John Baglow for his good work in our union since 1979.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.