MINUTES / PROCÈS-VERBAL

Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Committee on Labour History

17 July 2025
Convened virtually from locations across Turtle Island

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm Atlantic Time with Kassandra Luciuk in the Chair.

Attendees:Aimee Greenaway, Alvin Finkel, Ben Isitt, Benoit Marsan, Charles Smith, David Blocker, David Sobel, Ellen Ramsay, Eric Tucker, Francis Lamoureaux, Greg Kealey, Linda Kealey, Harry Smaller, James Naylor, Janis Thiessen, Joan Sangster, Kassandra Luciuk, Kathy Killoh, Ken Clavette, Kirk Niergarth, Lauren Laframboise, Lachlan MacKinnon, Michael Bjorge, Peter Campbell, and Lorraine O'Donnell.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Peter Campbell, seconded by Greg Kealey, that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

It was moved by James Naylor, seconded by Charles Smith, that the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting be adopted.

Carried unanimously.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kassandra Luciuk delivered the President's Report.

She discussed CCLH activities in the previous year, including the organization of the fall 2025 conference. Small grant awards continued to support labour and working-class history in Canada. CUPE 3903 was the recipient this year.

Regarding the Canadian Historical Association (CHA), Dr. Luciuk discussed the cancellation of Congress 2026 and the CHA decision to move to its own meeting. We are anticipating finding out more details soon.

Greg Kealey mentioned the possibility that the CHA would possibly be at UPEI next year.

In CHA 2025, CCLH sponsored a panel entitled "Rethinking Feminist History and Theory: Joan Sangster's Influence on Canadian History and Beyond."

Regarding the 2025 CCLH Best Article Prize, the award went to Jesse Robertson, "Lightkeepers on Huu-ay-aht Shores: Indigenous Labour and Knowledge in the History of Coastal Navigation," *BC Studies*, 222 (Summer 2024): 47-69.

The Forsey Graduate Prize was awarded to Chantal Mancini, "Provincial Bargaining, Provincial Union Power, and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation: A Case Study of Ontario Teacher Union Democracy in an Era of Centralized Bargaining," PhD Thesis, McMaster University, 2023.

It was moved by Kirk Niergarth, seconded by Benoit Marsan, that the President's Report be adopted.

Carried unanimously.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Greg Kealey provided the Treasurer's Report, indicating that the CCLH had another successful year with the organization in healthy financial shape.

In addition to funds in the CCLH general account, investments were held in several Guaranteed Income Certificates (GICs). Reinvestment will occur when current terms conclude. The SSHRC grant is very supportive, but we will have to be "diamond open access" in three years.

It was moved by Charles Smith, seconded by Alvin Finkel, that the Treasurer's Report be adopted.

Carried unanimously.

6. *LABOUR / LE TRAVAIL* EDITOR'S REPORT

Kirk Niergarth provided the *Labour / Le Travail* Editors' Report.

He mentioned the interest of the journal in reproducing labour documents, cultural material, discussion-based entries, etc., reflecting a diversity of interests in areas relating broadly to labour studies and the working class in Canada. Editors are busy with the SSHRC funding application but are also looking ahead to the 50th anniversary of *Labour/Le Travail* in 2026. Seven essays are being scheduled for inclusion on a range of themes with international and domestic scholars to appear in 2026.

Kirk also remarked that Sandrine Labelle was awarded the prestigious Hilda Neatby Prize for

« We Can't Find a Basis for Unity but Feel We Should » : conflits et sororité autour des conférences indochinoises qui se sont tenues au Canada en 1971 ». *Labour/Le Travail*, 93 (Printemps 2024): 79–113.

Charles Smith discussed submissions to the journal, which are healthy. High-quality work is continuously being submitted. The only concern is that we do not have extensive backlogged submissions. Editors are pro-active to keep submissions healthy. *LLT* will be applying to SSHRC again this year and will ask for the maximum amount, but SSHRC is changing some requirements around Open Access, which is becoming a significant consideration. New policies on AI are also being considered by the journal relating to material submitted involving AI.

Dr. Niergarth wanted to thank Ted McCoy for serving as book review editor. The incoming book review editor, who joins Camille Robert in that role, is Fred Burrill, Assistant Professor of History at the University of New Brunswick.

Kathy Killoh discussed how we must show a plan to be Open Access after the three-year period if we want to continue receiving SSHRC funding.

It was moved by Greg Kealey, seconded by Lorraine O'Donnell, that the Editors' Report be adopted.

Carried unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

CCLH Conference, November 2025

Kirk Niergarth discussed the plans for the CCLH Conference, scheduled for 13 to 15 November 2025 in Montreal. A robust schedule full of excellent papers has been developed. Sponsors are being sought to defray costs for the precariously employed, students, and others travelling to Montreal.

Joan Sangster mentioned the widespread response to the Call For Papers for the conference, including international interest. She expressed appreciation to Kirk Niergarth and the Montreal organizing committee, stating that it was poised to be a great 50th celebration for the journal.

Dr. Niergarth also thanked Martin Petticlerc, Benoit Marsan, Camille Robert, and Edward Dunsworth for their work contributing toward the conference.

8. ELECTIONS

Kassandra Luciuk announced that pursuant to the CCLH Bylaws the following positions was open on the Executive:

- Second Vice President.

Kirk Niergarth nominated Michael Bjorge for this position, with Greg Kealey seconding the nomination. Kassandra Luciuk called three times for further nominations. There being none, Kassandra Luciuk declared Michael Bjorge acclaimed as Second Vice President.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ben Isitt stated that he was glad to hear that others in the Vancouver Island region are now interested in the CCLH and its activities, based on attendance at the AGM, and expressed interest in collaborating on commemoration of the working-class tradition in the region.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Charles Smith, seconded by Ken Clavette, that the meeting be adjourned. Carried unanimously.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3.46 pm Atlantic Time.