

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHA HELD AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY ON 24 MAY 2009

1. **Call to order**

President Craig Heron called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

2. **Minute of silence**

Craig Heron requested a minute of silence to honour deceased members: Victor Batzel, J.M.S. Careless, John Eagle, James Huzel, Marc Lafrance, Georges Massé, Frank R. McGuire, Jacqueline Neatby, Norman Penner, James Schuler, Stephen Speisman, Edgar Wickberg and Ernest Zimmerman.

3. **Adoption of the agenda**

Proposed by Linda Kealey, seconded by Greg Kealey. Passed.

4. **Adoption of the Minutes of the AGM held on 3 June 2008**

Proposed by Ken Cruikshank, seconded by Jim Naylor. Passed.

5. **Guest presentations**

The president of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS), **Nathalie Des Rosiers**, talked about recent developments at the Federation including the lobbying it has done on behalf of humanities graduate students following the announcement that business degrees would be favoured in the grants accorded by SSHRC. The president also encouraged all its association members to offer suggestions as to how CFHSS can provide better services.

Meaghan Harris from SSHRC, gave of some of the results from this year's competition results. These can be accessed at: http://www.sshrc.ca/site/winning-recherche_subventionnee/stats-statistiques/tables-tableaux-eng.aspx

Daniel J. Caron, the new Librarian and Archivist of Canada, was unable to attend our meeting.

6. **President's Report**

Craig Heron reviewed the CHA's many activities over the past year, beginning with the office's move to a new location at 130 Albert Street, suite 501, the resignation of our administrative assistant Joanne Mineault, as well as the hiring of Michel Duquet as Executive Coordinator. He also highlighted the numerous administrative improvements that have been implemented this year: more electronic communication, the rationalisation of the printing and mailing of the *Bulletin* as well as the introduction of ads in its pages to help defray production costs, and a new focus on member services. In this regard, the CHA was chosen as one of two member associations by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences to participate in their membership management pilot project that will be launched in the fall.

The president noted that the new fee structure that was adopted at last year's meeting had produced good results in spite of the decrease in numbers of members (around 900 at this time as opposed to 1,200 at the end of September last year). This decrease can be partly attributed to the delay in posting our renewal form on our website. The association is well positioned to expand the membership base and continues to encourage "internationalists", public and francophone historians as well as any groups interested in history to become members. He pointed to the fact that four new groups have joined the CHA recently. The association continues to advocate on behalf of historians with regards to services offered at LAC, the census question, the copyright issue, research ethics, and SSRHC. Finally, Craig thanked all of the council members and the membership at large for their support during his two years as president. The President's Report is posted on our website at www.cha-shc.ca.

7. **Executive Coordinator's Report**

Michel, after having introduced himself to the members, wanted to publicly thank the hiring committee for having chosen him as the new Executive Coordinator last October. He is very grateful and happy in his new position, and optimistic about the future of the CHA and his employment with us.

Michel stated that membership services were a priority at the office and that many initiatives had been undertaken to ameliorate them. The thesis registry can now be updated electronically by the history Departments' administrative

personnel. Members were also, for the very first time, able to vote electronically. The remodeling of the website is under way to facilitate communications between members and the database of historians will finally be available to members later this year.

8. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was submitted. The by-laws of the Association specify that members shall appoint, at each Annual Meeting, an auditor to audit the accounts of the Association for the upcoming fiscal year. Could we therefore have a motion to appoint Tammy Bastarache as our auditor. Motion by Jean Martin, seconded by Craig Heron. Passed.

9. Nominating Committee's Report

Colin Coates, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the candidacy of Lyle Dick as Vice-President. He asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Since none were brought forth, Colin proposed, seconded by Marielle Campeau, that Lyle Dick be nominated as Vice-President. Passed.

10. Motion regarding the European Union's Framework Decision

Mary Lynn proposed, seconded by Alexandra Mosquin, that we submit the following resolution to the European Parliament: The General Members' Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association wishes to register its deep concern over the Council of the European Union's Framework Decision; specifically the provisions calling for criminal penalties to be imposed on those publishing works of history deemed to be racist or xenophobic by administrative tribunals in the position to initiate legal proceedings.

Historical scholarship, like all scholarship, is subject to peer review; that is, it is subject to the judgment and criticism of members of the particular scholarly community of which the researcher is a part. If another body seeks to influence its course by the threat of legal sanction the result will be the distortion of research and the intimidation of researchers.

Any limitation on freedom of research or expression, however well-intentioned, violates a fundamental principle of scholarship: that the researcher must be able to investigate any aspect of the past and to report without fear what the evidence reveals.

For these reasons, the Canadian Historical Association urges the Council of the European Union and its member states to consider the serious implications of the Framework decision for freedom of research and expression and temper the implementation of it accordingly.

Motion unanimously approved.

11. Election Results

Craig Heron also wanted to thank David Moorman, who resigned as our treasurer, for all the devotion he has shown our association the past eight years as well as Martin Pâquet, Suzanne Morton (who were present and given a CHA paperweight in appreciation) and Doug Peers whose terms end this year, for their commitment to the CHA. The new council members are: James Opp, Juanita de Barros, Aline Charles and John Lutz. Magda Fahrni and Mike Dawson were, for their part, elected to the Nominating Committee.

12. Other Business

None

13. Adjournment

Proposed by Jean Martin, seconded by Franca Iacovetta. Approved