

## **World Federalist Movement - Canada**

### **Annual Meeting of Members, June 3, Toronto**

Notice of the meeting was given according to WFM-C bylaws.

Chaired by Walter Dorn.

#### **Attendance in Toronto:**

Robin Collins, Tom Simunovic, Walter Dorn, Nancy Regehr, Cameron Laing, Norbert D'Costa, Nicholas Christie, Florencia Gor, Helmut Burkhardt, John Trent, Patricia Philip, Monique Cuillerier, Fergus Watt, John Cowan, Peter Bailey, Nic Baird, Tariq Bari Shaikh

**1. Agenda Review:** A Chapters report item was added. Agenda approved.

**2. President's Remarks:** Walter welcomed members. He thanked staff and volunteers for their commitment, and also Helmut and Nik for reviving the Toronto Branch. He noted the excellent turnout for the Friday meeting the night before.

Introductions: Those present introduced themselves with a brief outline of what they were working on. Walter spoke briefly of his current work at the UN. John Trent mentioned his new book coming out in the summer, "A UN Renaissance." Helmut mentioned the revival of the Toronto Branch and his focus on "positive politics" as an antidote for the negativity that is so prevalent. Florencia spoke briefly about the COPLA campaign and mentioned a new (first paper in English) document about the transnational crime draft statute. Nicholas mentioned the Ventotene project he is working on. Cam has been writing summaries of the 53 human rights treaties for the Human Rights and Canada project. Nic mentioned that he and Norbert worked to have the Green Party of Ontario endorse the UNPA campaign.

Walter noted the contributions of members and activists. He said he believed strongly in NGO activism. His background is in chemistry and physics, and in 1982 he said in Toronto at Convocation Hall, an international satellite monitoring agency had been proposed. Scientists created Science for Peace and Walter became UN Rep for Science for Peace, and also worked on the Chemical Weapons Convention. He mentioned the permanent standing police officers hired at the UN as the beginning of permanent peacekeepers. World Federalists have been ahead on many of these fronts, including in support of UNEPS. Walter commended Fergus and Monique's work. He mentioned WFM-C's financial challenges and the partial dent offered on this front by a recent bequest from Edith Fowke. He thanked those present for keeping the organization afloat and advocating for our good ideas.

#### **3. Review of Minutes**

Proposal for adoption of minutes of August 11, 2016, was made by John Trent, Seconded by Cam. Carried.

Walter referred to the loss of Warren Allmand for WFMC. Warren acted in the Canadian Parliament as Attorney-General under Pierre Trudeau, and as an MP for many years, but he was also very active outside government for Parliamentarians for Global Action and World Federalism. Warren was active in the Montreal chapter and was a genuine advocate, very personable and down to earth. He was able to come to our AGM last year and received the video tribute that was presented to honour him. There were several tributes to him in national media. Patricia mentioned the appreciation the family felt for tributes and attendance at the memorial to him in Montreal. Nicholas mentioned the help as an elder statesman Warren provided to young activists. A moment of silence in Warren's honour was expressed by those present. He will be missed.

#### **4. Directors and Officers:**

The list of Current Directors and Officers was unchanged. Cam clarified that they require to be appointed semi-annually. Fergus moved reappointment, including Susan Bazilli, Norbert seconded. Approved.

#### **5. Financial Overview:**

A review engagement report was not available for the meeting. Fergus suggested that a committee of the Board be appointed on behalf of the GMM to review the report. Those present will be updated at that point. Fergus moved reappointment of the accounting firm Ouseley, Harvey, Chipsham, Deep for the review engagement, seconded by Tom. Approved.

Fergus explained that the shortened review of finances is approved by Revenue Canada and we have used this approach for many years. Kenda Hoffer (Toronto) does the bookkeeping. Nicholas noted that grants we may apply for have to this point only required a review engagement and not a full and more expensive full audit. Nancy said she believed a full audit is required when a certain financial threshold is reached.

We pay ~\$3,000 for each of WFM-C's and WFF's reviews. OHCD understands the organizations and how they fit together. Nancy gave a brief outline of 2016 finances, with revenue of ~\$183,000. Expenses were ~\$156,500. We ended the year with a surplus of ~\$15K.

WFF Revenue was \$171,868 (including a \$75K bequest); resulting in a small deficit.

\$120,168 are net assets of WFM-C and WFF, most of which are with WFF.

#### **6. National Office Report:**

Fergus said he would be outlining full program activity at the upcoming Board meeting, which was to follow immediately after the GMM. We have a full and rich program list and many competent staff and volunteers working on these projects. We received a large program grant recently that gives us a temporary breathing space financially. There is a planned staffing change and we are hiring a one day a week membership coordinator. Monique will focus more on the program side and Human Rights Commitments project and Women, Peace and Security project. Women and Peacekeeping is one of the four segments at the Vancouver Peacekeeping Ministerial, Walter noted. In response to comment by Tariq about global conflicts, Fergus noted that the international arm of the movement takes primary

role for international overarching programming. Tariq also noted the absence of youth in our organization and his concern about a loss of attention by youth towards many of our concerns.

## **7. Chapter Activities**

Toronto: Helmut said there were regular monthly meetings attended by about a dozen people. Invitations go out to about 80 members with email addresses. He mentioned Dieter Heinrich and earlier days from 1980s in Toronto. Walter mentioned some of the success stories locally including the productive participation of Nic Baird, for instance. Helmut said the branch may take up letter writing efforts like Montreal.

Montreal: Patricia mentioned a recent AGM which featured Scott Cooper who spoke on the topic of track three diplomacy and reconciliation at various levels of governance, from his personal experience in Northern Quebec, entitled "Intercommunity trust building for problem solving." The coffee and discussion groups take place monthly, with input on topics such as where WFM should put effort "in the time of Donald Trump", as well as the ICC, Peacekeeping, etc. Ideas are then sometimes funnelled into monthly letter-writing sessions. Briefing papers are prepared prior to the letters project as background. Ministers are identified and individual letters are then sent by those participating. In most cases federal ministers respond with fairly detailed letters. Kyle Mathews might be available on Genocide and Human Rights topic area in near future. Political prisoners, diversity promotion, human rights champions Romeo Dallaire and Irwin Cotler in conversation have been among the meeting subjects.

Vancouver Branch, Walter said, has focussed on security council reform. Ian Waddell is working on a film about engaging youth in electoral politics.

Victoria Branch, Fergus noted, with Bill Pearce have looked at potential for Uniting for Peace (relating to Syria), a way for the UN General Assembly to act when the Security Council is unable to do so.

## **8. Site of Next AMM:**

Decision will be left to the Board.

## **9. Other Business:**

Discussion of draft Toronto resolution: Helmut referred to possibility of change of wording in the national constitution. Number one priority is survival and we should follow the example of the UN, first step being accepting all member states regardless of their internal political structure; second step should be democratizing. The suggestion is to remove the word "democratic" from the phrase "democratic world institutions." Nic suggested that we have a vote on the removal of the word from the constitution at the 2018 AGM. A couple of Board members said they would oppose removal of the word "democratic." Fergus said the context of the suggestion will need to be looked at. Perhaps a supporting narrative and online discussion could take place meanwhile. The process of discussion, Walter noted, will be useful for the organization.

ACTION: Toronto branch can elaborate on the subject, inviting members to an online forum on the topic. Monique said she could add a discussion plug-in on the WFMC website.

**10. Adjournment:** 11:35.