



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE FRANCOPHONE CAUCUS,
HELD AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL IN
TORONTO
ON APRIL 6, 2011

1. Call to Order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Additions to point 7: Miscellaneous the following questions:

- a. 7.1 Statement of Respect
- b. 7.2 Whether or not it is necessary to hold the meeting of the Francophone Caucus so early during the Convention
- c. It has been decided to leave the agenda open and to add items to it as necessary, if there is enough time.

Moved by Benoît Dupuis, Local 470 and seconded by Yuk Sem, Local 677. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 6, 2010.

Moved by Benoît Dupuis, Local 470 and seconded by Serge Joly, Local 426. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Business Arising From the Minutes and the Report by the Chair:

4.1 Resolution: Amendment proposed to the OPSEU Constitution
Four locals 426, 470, 471 and 605, have submitted the amendment to the Constitution, as proposed by the Francophone Caucus, to OPSEU (see volume H, C-5, page 9). If the Francophone Caucus becomes the Provincial Francophone Committee in two years' time, we will need an elected member from each region to sit on the Committee during the next two years, while awaiting the elections. Article 16.16 (below) of the Constitution: Ad Hoc Committee.

ARTICLE 16.16 - The Board may appoint or elect such standing committees from among its members as it may deem necessary to assist in the supervision of the affairs of the Union. It may also appoint ad hoc committees for specific purposes and for specific periods of time. All standing and ad hoc committees shall report to the Executive Committee and then to the Board.

Therefore, we could submit this request directly to the Convention after it has been approved by the Committee. As necessary, we could also use the French-language website to recruit one representative per region in OPSEU's seven regions.

4.2 Resolution: Two Translator Positions

One of the two positions has been filled, and the successful candidate is Christiane Devaud who is with us here and who the Chair would like to introduce to the Francophone Caucus. The other position is still vacant, despite the fact that it has been posted for a number of months. The explanation that the Francophone Caucus has for this is that it is difficult to find an interested person who meets the requirements of the Translator position and who can move to Toronto if he or she comes from somewhere else, given the costs of housing, travel, etc. In addition, in light of the fact that, on the one hand, 95% of the translations requested by OPSEU are from English into French, and on the other hand that this Translator position is in addition to two other Translator positions that have already been filled, and those candidates have the skills to translate from both from English into French and from French into English, it may be a good idea to consider modifying the requirements for this position by requiring the person to be able to translate from English into French only, thereby improving the chances of filling this third Translator position. In addition, that person's place of residence could very well be in another region, such as the Ottawa region where the volume of translation is very high. This could mean requiring a written resolution to be submitted the next day or the day after that to the Convention attendees, so that this position, which is going to be posted again, will specify that the place of work will be Ottawa.

The two translators that have currently been hired are sufficient for translations from French into English. An effort should be made by the Francophone Caucus to encourage OPSEU to decentralize its services into the regions even more ...

In any event, the members agree on the fact that the priority during this Convention will be to speak to the Convention attendees to get them to support the creation of a Provincial Francophone Committee ...

4.3 Resolution: OPSEU's Website

Translation is moving forward, although it has not yet been completed.

4.4 Training and Hiring of Francophone Trainers

Paul Sharkey has taught the basic Steward 1 course twice in French. Christiane Devaud informed us that she is in the process of translating the Steward 2 Course. We will therefore have it in French in the near future.

4.5 Translation of the “Train the Trainer” Materials

Yuk Sem Won, Local 677, said that she is fully bilingual and that she has made a request to OPSEU to provide the “Train the Trainer” course in French, but that OPSEU has not responded to that request.

5. New Issues and Correspondence

5.1 A request made to OPSEU to get regional representation for the Provincial Francophone Committee has been forwarded to the Francophone Caucus executive.

5.2 The Francophone Caucus or the Provincial Francophone Committee will make representations in order to ensure that the third Translator’s position is filled as quickly as possible, taking into account the advisability of establishing that position in Ottawa.

5.3 The Francophone Caucus or the Provincial Francophone Committee will ensure that each of OPSEU’s regions will have Francophone representation on the Provincial Francophone Committee in the next two years.

6. Nominations and Elections

Last year, the following people were elected: Fernand Bégin - Chair, Rhéal Delaquis – Vice-Chair and Nicole Caron – Secretary.

On the other hand, since that time the Chair, Fernand Bégin, has retired. In addition, the Caucus has not been able to contact Nicole during the past year. Fernand has tried unsuccessfully to reach her a number of times. Fernand moved that that position should be filled again for the second year of the mandate, and that motion was seconded by Diane Dicaire, Local 471. The motion was carried unanimously. The Chair called for nominations. Benoît Dupuis, Local 470 moved, seconded by Mario Dicaire, Local 426, that France Fortin, Local 426, should assume the

duties of Secretary of the Francophone Caucus for the second year of the mandate. Since no other names were put forward, the Chair asked France if she accepted. France agreed to act as Secretary, and was thus elected by acclamation. The position of Vice-Chair is still held by Rhéal Delaquis, who unfortunately could not come to the meeting today, but he still wants to finish his term. As for the mandate of the Chair, even though he has retired, with the approval of the members in attendance Fernand Bégin agreed to continue carrying out his duties as the Chair of the Francophone Caucus. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Committee of the current Francophone Caucus will be responsible for the transition between the Francophone Caucus and OPSEU's Provincial Francophone Committee, if the proposed amendment to the Constitution for the creation of that Committee is approved by the majority of Convention attendees.

Some members have volunteered to help with finding militant Francophone members in each of OPSEU's seven regions:

- Diane Dicaire for regions 4 and 5
- Yuk Sem Won for regions 6 and 7
- Benoît Dupuis for regions 1, 2 & 3

The members of the executive and the volunteer members are asked to meet in Toronto in order to begin the process of identifying militant Francophone members in the seven regions.

Before finishing with this point on the agenda, Benoît Dupuis, Local 470, thanked Fernand for his involvement and for the foundation of the Francophone Caucus.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1 Statement of Respect

Fernand proposed that the last part of the second paragraph should be amended and worded as follows, and that this change should be adopted in principle, as appropriate:

"We accord respect to *all* persons, including people of colour, women, men, FIRST NATIONS men and women, MÉTIS or other ABORIGINAL PEOPLES, MEMBERS OF ETHNO-RACIAL GROUPS, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, GAYS, LESBIANS, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDERED/TRANSEXUAL PEOPLES, ~~FRANCOPHONES AND ALL PERSONS WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH~~, and all persons whose

**MOTHER TONGUE IS NEITHER ONE NOR THE OTHER OF THE TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES
in Canada.”**

Comment: this amendment would make it possible to no longer have to worry about whether the Statement of Respect is read (or written) in French or English, which requires the speaker or writer to constantly juggle with the appropriate use of the terms “Anglophones” and “Francophones.”

7.2 Whether or not it is necessary to hold the meeting of the Francophone Caucus so early during the Convention.

One member mentioned that the meeting of the Francophone Caucus was not clearly announced on the screen during the afternoon. In addition, that member added, this is the first time that the Francophone Caucus is holding its meeting on Wednesday evening, and there would have been more members in attendance if the meeting had been held on Thursday evening.

The Chair explained that he had the same concerns, but that he had spoken with OPSEU and asked for another time to hold the meeting of the Francophone Caucus. It unfortunately turned out to be impossible to change the time of that meeting because of scheduling conflicts with other meetings and with the march/demonstration that was planned for Thursday at noon. In addition, it was very important for the Francophone Caucus to hold its meeting early during the Convention in order to allow it to adopt a shared strategy for intervention with the delegates from the beginning of the Convention in order to get them to support the amendment to the Constitution that was being proposed for the creation of a Provincial Francophone Committee within OPSEU.

9. Adjournment.

The adjournment of the meeting was moved by Diane Dicaire, Local 471 and seconded by Serge Joly, Local 426.

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned.

By France Fortin, Secretary of the Francophone Caucus, Local 426