

CANDO
Annual General Meeting
Draft Summary Notes
Canadian Native Friendship Centre
Edmonton, AB
Wednesday October 16th, 2002

Board Attendance:

Geri Collins, Co-President, BC
Ray Wanuch, Co-President, AB
Darrell Balkwill, SK
George Bohlender, NU
Cynthia James, NT
Dawn McEwan, NS
Vaughn Sunday, ON

Regrets: Angie Stewart, BC; Elaine Chambers, YK; Tony Scribe, MB; Alfred Loon, QC

Staff Attendance:

Ross Mayer, Executive Director
Anna Classen, Research and Policy Manager (minutes)
Lori Sokaluk,
Jeri Melting Tallow-Healy

General Attendance:

Ida-Anne Alexander
Harold Aljam
Luce Amagoalic
Stephen Ameyaw
Celine Antoine
Winnifred Arnold
Kris Billy
Marie Baptiste
Armand Barbeau
Verna Billy-Minnabarriet
Gordon Bligh
Leanne Brassard
Dina Lori Cardinal
Larry Casper
Lorraine Cook
Wayne Daniels
Kyra Fisher
Marline Fowler
Florence Gehue
Jordon George

Margaret Gorman
Christopher Googoo
Alexander Gresl
Dolores Kershaw
Cheri Kemp-Kinnear
Joseph Kochon
Fred Koe
Robert Lafferty
Leslie Loukianow
Terry Ma
Heather MacKeen
Teresa Maitland
Phillip Manick
Collette Manuel
Mary A. McDonald
Colleen McIvor
Jacquelyn McIntyre
Ernest Michel
Gordon Miles
Sherry Moreau

Lesley Morgan
Basil Morrissette
Marina Moulton
David Nevin
Wayne Nicholas
Don Parenteau
David Pasho
Lucy Pelletier
Colin Pennier
Robert Ryan
Yvonne Scotchman
Lorna Shuter
Patricia Stacey
Chelsea Stirling
Dale Tomma
Ken Tourand
Celine Weyallon
Lorraine Whitman

1.0 OPENING AND WELCOME

Elder Ernest Michel opened the meeting with a prayer and song. Ray Wanuch thanked the Elder and those who prepared the lunch, and began a round-table introduction. All members at the AGM introduced themselves and where they were from. The meeting opened at 1:10 pm.

2.0 REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

Ray Wanuch asked members to review the agenda, and voice any changes or additions. The Board of Directors asked that items 3 and 4 as listed in the agenda be reversed.

Motion 01.10.15.02

Ken Tourand/ Don Parenteau

THAT the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

3.0 2001 AGM MINUTES

Ray Wanuch gave members five minutes to review the minutes from the 2001 Annual General Meeting, and called for any changes or questions.

Motion 02.10.15.02

Larry Casper/Verna Billy Minnabarriet

THAT the 2001 AGM Minutes be accepted as presented.

Carried

4.0 ANNUAL AUDIT FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 2002

Secretary/Treasurer George Bohlender and Auditor Gordon Ferguson provided a review of the audited CANDO and National Indigenous Economic Education Fund (NIEEF) financial statements, and noted the following:

- the auditors' report noted that no items required further clarification, and that CANDO's expensing of capital asset additions is common for many not-for-profit organizations, but is not in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- 'net assets' as listed in the statements was called 'equity' in past years' statements
- Statement '2'
 - lists a negative amount of \$17,159 under Investment in Capital Assets, which is depreciation, booked against assets.
 - The internally imposed restriction of \$25,318 is restricted for education
- Under the notes to the financial statements, noted that government holdbacks on contributed funds can be problematic as they are not released until audited financial statements are submitted.
- A portion of sales from CANDO's bookstore is given to NIEEF.

George Bohlender indicated that the financial statements had been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors, submitted to Indian and Northern Affairs, and accurately reflects CANDO's financial activities over the past year. As Secretary/Treasurer, he recommended that the statements be accepted as presented.

Motion 03.10.15.02

Verna Billy Minnabarriet/Cheri Kemp-Kinnear

THAT the Annual Audit fiscal year ending March 2002 be accepted as presented.

Carried

5.0 CANDO 2001 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Geri Collins and Ray Wanuch noted that 2001 was a very busy year for CANDO, and encouraged members to refer to CANDO's 2001/2002 Annual Report for more detailed information on its activities and accomplishments, but brought out the following:

- CANDO Board of Directors have been very active
- CANDO continues to strive to be responsive to its membership
- Many of CANDO's materials have been translated into French for our Quebec membership
- There's been an enormous increase in enrolment for the Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer Program – 80 candidates were reported at last year's AGM, and there are currently 190 candidates enrolled in the Certification Program
- The Certification Program continues to have difficulty securing long-term funding to keep the program afloat, but is committed to ensuring that the program continues.
- CANDO took direction from the membership and added a second category for the Economic Developer of the Year awards – now have two, one for Business/Community, and the other for Individual.
- Membership has increased to more than 300.

Motion 04.10.15.02

Florence Gehue/Cheri Kemp-Kinnear

THAT CANDO's 2001/2002 Annual Report on accomplishments be accepted as presented.

Carried

6.0 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Ross Mayer noted that CANDO received three auditor proposals that are listed alphabetically in the AGM meeting book (BDO Dunwoody, EPR Gordon C. Ferguson, KPMG). CANDO is seeking selection of an auditor for the next two years, and would like membership to vote through secret ballot. Ross Mayer noted KPMG's offer to reduce their fees by \$1,000 if chosen.

Questions from the floor:

- 1) In the past, BDO Dunwoody provided conference sponsorship in the amount of \$10,000. Was this sponsorship provided for this year's conference?
 - No
- 2) One of the members requested more information on each of the auditors:
 - Geri Collins noted that BDO Dunwoody had provided services in the past, but that membership had requested an Aboriginal auditor. The Board of Directors made a conscious decision not to make a recommendation, and instead ask membership to vote on their choice.
 - George Bohlender noted that there are several criteria for selecting an auditor – past service, suitability of the firm, and consideration of a new firm and reasons for choosing that.
- 3) One of the members noted that BDO Dunwoody didn't mention disbursements, where other proposals had.

- George Bohlender noted that the quote from Gordon Ferguson listed estimated disbursements of \$250, and KPMG's at \$500. It would appear that BDO Dunwoody's estimate included disbursements.
- 4) A member inquired about EPR Gordon C. Ferguson being referred to as an Aboriginal firm – does that mean that employ only Aboriginal employees?
- It was noted that Gordon Ferguson himself is of Aboriginal ancestry.

Results of Voting:

Once all votes had been submitted and tallied (by Lori Sokaluk and David Pasho), Ross Mayer reported on the results:

- **EPR Gordon C. Ferguson was selected as the auditor for the next two years** based on a total vote base of 31.
- KPMG and BDO Dunwoody followed with 8 and 5 votes respectively.

7.0 BYLAWS

Geri Collins noted that the bylaw changes included in the AGM book were not the correct changes, and that Ross Mayer distributed the correct changes as they were originally faxed to CANDO membership. Membership was provided with a few minutes to review the proposed changes.

The original bylaws did not fulfill some of Industry Canada's requirements, and the changes represent CANDO's need to revise some of these elements before they are formally registered. Two different motions will be needed to address the proposed changes – one that incorporates the Revenue Canada's compliance recommendations (articles 10.6, 10.7, deletion of 14.6, 17.3, 19.3, 25.1, 27.2), and the other that addresses the CANDO Board of Directors revision of article 16.

Ross Mayer noted that a CANDO member submitted her recommendation that the period of notice of an Annual Meeting under article 17.3 and 19.3 should be extended from seven to ten days. Membership at the meeting agreed that the article should read “within ten (10) business days of the date of mailing”

Questions from the floor:

- 1) A member inquired about the general number of meetings of the Board of Directors in a year:
 - Three face-to-face, one in conjunction with CANDO's National Conference
 - A number of conference calls as needed, all with appropriate notice given.

- 2) A member noted that the new article removes the phrase ‘without reasonable excuse’ – does that mean that no excuse can be given?
 - Missed meetings affects the work of the board, and may have an impact on quorum. When members run for and are elected to the Board of Directors, the expectation is that they have the time and resources to actively participate in the organization. Given the importance of attendance and the fact that three consecutive meetings over the course of a year is fairly significant, a member will be asked to step down, even if the reasons for their absence are valid.

- 3) A member asked about the process to replace a member of the Board of Directors once they have missed three consecutive meetings:
 - o No formal process has been established, but the Board may choose to replace the member with someone in the region to serve out the balance of the term remaining until elections can be held.

Motion 05.10.15.02

Fred Koe/Gordon Bligh

THAT Article 16 shall be changed according to proposal outlined in the AGM By-law Amendment paper faxed to membership, and presented at the AGM.

Abstention – Verna Billy-Minnabarriet

Carried

Motion 06.10.15.02

David Nevin/Ernest Michel

THAT the proposed changes (with the exception of Article 16) as outlined in the AGM By-law Amendment paper faxed to membership and presented at the AGM be accepted with the additional change presented by the membership that would see the extension of article 17.3 and 19.3's period of notice to ten (10) business days of the date of mailing.

Carried

8.0 BOARD SEAT DISTRIBUTION

George Bohlender noted that membership at last year's Annual General Meeting asked CANDO's Board of Directors to review seat distribution options, which allows for a maximum of 15 seats. Members of the Board considered Aboriginal population distribution (according to the results of the 1996 Aboriginal Peoples' Survey), sectoral representation, and past regional participation. Each of these options and the number of seats to be distributed was considered in light of the budget.

The Board of Directors is putting forward two recommendations to the membership that we would like to ask you to vote on by secret ballot. Space for a third option is available on the ballot card should there be any proposals from the floor.

- Option 1 allows for one added seat for Atlantic Canada
- Option 2 allows for two added seats, one for Atlantic Canada (for a total of two), and one for British Columbia (for a total of 2).

Questions from the floor:

- 1) A member asked about how the two seats in Atlantic Canada would be distributed.
 - Distribution of the two seats would be up to Atlantic Canada's membership.
- 2) Since budget considerations are a valid concern, why aren't we considering just one seat for each region?
- 3) You mentioned that you considered population distribution – what are the numbers?
 - Ontario – 17.7% of the Aboriginal population in Canada
 - BC – 17.5%
 - Manitoba – 16.1%
 - Alberta – 15.4%
 - Saskatchewan – 13.9%

- 4) One member voiced a concern about the membership renewal date of March 31, 2002. As I may have purchased a membership at the time of last year's conference, I am purchasing a membership for only six months instead of a year.
- The March membership renewal date was presented and approved by the membership at last year's Annual General Meeting.

Results of Voting

Once all votes had been received and tallied, Ross Mayer reported on the results:

- Option 1 – 13
- **Option 2 - 25**

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Other business was opened to the floor, and there were a number of questions and comments from the CANDO membership:

Certification

Motion 07.10.15.02

Don Parenteau/David Nevin

THAT the CANDO membership supports CANDO in its efforts to seek additional resources to maintain and expand the Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer Program.

Carried

CANDO Online Activities

A CANDO member inquired about CANDO's online activities and what progress had been made in the past year.

Anna Classen responded that phase one of the Gateway to Learning project (a pilot distance learning initiative) that incorporates an introduction to the Certification Program, Orientation to the Occupation, and distance learning options and tools will be ready for pilot later this fall (November – December 2002). She added that CANDO's Online Community Network (OCN) and Connecting Aboriginal Economic Developers (CAED) projects that are outlined in the 2001/2002 Annual Report are part of CANDO's larger strategy of providing online resources and tools.

CANDO Website

A member asked CANDO to look at toning down its revised website as it is inaccessible to those who do not have high speed Internet.

Full Member Status

According to CANDO's membership guidelines, full members must work in the field of Aboriginal economic development and for an Aboriginal community or organization that is at least 50% Aboriginal controlled, or who works for public government in a region that has a majority of Aboriginal peoples (such as the Northwest Territories and Nunavut). A member asked whether employees of governments that may not have a majority of Aboriginal peoples, but where the individual's job is to serve Aboriginal peoples in that region can be considered for full membership.

Geri Collins noted that she would be pleased to chair the Constitution and Bylaw committee to address this question.

Fred Koe, past member of CANDO's Constitution and Bylaw committee indicated that that individual would likely qualify for full membership.

CANDO's 3-Year Work plan

A member inquired about CANDO's 3-year work plan, and copies were distributed to membership. Ross Mayer further noted that the work plan can be accessed from CANDO's website.

Youth Seat

A member asked whether CANDO had considered developing a youth seat on the Board.

Geri Collins noted that this appeared to be an excellent idea, and encouraged youth to become active in investigating that option. Ross Mayer agreed to find a room for youth to meet in at the conference at the Westin.

10.0 CEDP REVIEW

Two representatives from the New Economy Development Group out of Ottawa Ontario made a presentation on the Evaluation of the Community Economic Development Program (CEDP) activities that they have been asked to undertake on behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs.

History:

In 1989, the Government of Canada initiated the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS) to address the economic disparities between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians. CAEDS was a partnership between INAC, Industry Canada, and HRDC.

Part of INAC's work under CAEDS was the development of the Community Economic Development Program, the objective of which is to support First Nation and Indian and Inuit communities to achieve economic growth and self-reliance and to close the economic and employment gaps between First Nation and Indian and Inuit communities and other Canadians.

Current Activity:

Indian and Northern Affairs has asked the New Economy Development Group to conduct a review of the CEDP program. Between now and March, 2003, focus groups, information workshops, document review, and individual interviews will be conducted. A first draft of the findings will be developed for mid January, with a final report to be completed and presented to INAC by April 2003.

CANDO's conference marks an opportunity for delegates to provide their feedback, and for the New Economy Development Group to pilot its focus group and individual interviews process. A room has been set aside at the Westin Hotel for this purpose.

Questions from the floor:

- 1) The CEDP objectives outlined appear to exclude Metis. Is this correct?
 - The larger CAEDS (Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy) initiative included all Aboriginal peoples, where CEDP as a Indian Affairs program is exclusive to First Nations, Indian, and Inuit peoples.
- 2) Can you just give us the questionnaires, or do you need to go through them with us face-to-face?
 - Questionnaires can be completed alone, but as this will be the first time piloting the questionnaires, we would like to go through them with you.
- 3) How long is the Treasury Board's authority on this initiative?
 - The last set of evaluations was done in 1994/95. All government programs must be evaluated by March 2005
- 4) What is the purpose of the evaluation?
 - This is an evaluation, not a program review. We are asked to look at the effectiveness of the program, and its successes and shortcomings. As this is run with government monies, they want us to be accountable, and all programs must therefore be evaluated.

11.0 CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

Geri Collins asked membership to recognize the work and commitment of three Board members who will not be seeking re-election – Darrell Balkwill of Saskatchewan, George Bohlender of Nunavut, and Dawn McEwan of Nova Scotia.

- George Bohlender thanked members of the Board for their support over the past years, as well as CANDO staff and CANDO's membership. He is pleased with the growth he has seen since he's been with organization, and is happy to see that it is stronger, more accountable, and delivers relevant programming.
- Darrell Balkwill noted that he had been with CANDO since it started in 1990, and that he received far more from the organization than he was ever able to give. He looks forward to continue to be active in the organization as a CANDO member.
- Dawn McEwan thanked everyone for their support; especially those who made it possible for her to hold the seat, and to members of the Board of Directors for making her feel welcome.

Geri Collins indicated that three board members were unable to attend today's meeting – Angie Stewart of BC, Elaine Chambers of Yukon, and Alfred Loon of Quebec.

Geri Collins noted that next year's conference will be in Whitehorse, YT, and Leanne Brassard (on conference committee for next year's conference) invited everyone to join us in Whitehorse.

Geri Collins thanked members of the Board of Directors and those of all CANDO Committees.

Ernest Michel closed the meeting with a prayer.

Motion 08.10.15.02

THAT CANDO's Annual General Meeting be adjourned

Carried

Ken Tourand