

**NATIONAL HEALTH UNION**

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 17, 2009  
Ottawa, Ontario**

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Minutes of the National Council Meeting  
February 17, 2009

**1- Call to Order**

Chairperson Tony Tilley called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The following members of the Executive were in attendance.

P. Todd, NVP  
H. Zebedee, RVP Atlantic  
A. Bélanger, VPR Québec  
A. McKenzie, RVP NCR  
Y. Morriss, RVP Ontario  
D. Withworth, RVP Manitoba  
C. Harvey, RVP Saskatchewan  
E. Alt, RVP Alberta  
L. Thokle, RVP BC/Yukon

The Chairperson welcomed the members of the Executive Council. He then set out the procedure for the meeting.

**2- Adoption of the Agenda**

M/S/C- E. Alt, P. Todd

That the agenda be adopted with the following amendments:

- 16- Paid leave for RVP's
- 17- Tripartite Health Plan Agreement for BC
- 18- Funding for PSAC Convention

**3. Hours of Session**

M/S/C - A. McKenzie, A. Bélanger

Tuesday	Feb.17/09	9:00 am to Noon 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Wednesday	Feb. 18/09	9:00 am to Noon 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Thursday	Feb. 19/09	9:00 am to noon 1:30 pm to end of agenda

#### **4. Appointment of Committee to Approve Expense Claims**

M/S/C - P. Todd, E. Alt

That the National President with the assistance of the Office Manager be appointed to approve expense claims.

#### **5. Approval of minutes**

M/S – D. Withworth, L. Thokle

That the minutes of the National Council Conference Call of October 10, 2008 be adopted.

Recorded Vote #1- Motion Carried

M/S – P. Todd, D. Withworth

That the minutes of the National Council Conference Call of December 2, 2008 be adopted.

Recorded Vote #2 - Motion Carried

#### **6. Financial Statement**

M/S – Y. Morriss, H. Zebedee

That the unaudited financial statement for the period ended December 31, 2008 be adopted.

Recorded Vote #3 – Motion Carried – Appendix 1

#### **7. National President's Report**

P. Todd assumed the Chair.

M/S T. Tilley, C. Harvey

That the President's report be accepted as presented

Recorded Vote #4 – Motion Carried – Appendix 2

T. Tilley resumed the Chair.

## **8. Vice-President - Regional Vice-Presidents' Reports**

M/S P. Todd, E. Alt

That the report of the Vice-President be accepted as presented

Recorded Vote #5- Motion Adopted – Appendix 3

M/S H. Zebedee, P. Todd

That the report of the Atlantic RVP be accepted as presented.

Recorded Vote #6- Motion Carried – Appendix 4

M/S A. Bélanger, H. Zebedee

That the report of the Quebec RVP be accepted as presented.

Recorded Vote #7- Motion Carried – Appendix 5

M/S A. McKenzie, Y. Morriss

That the report of the NCR RVP be accepted as presented.

Recorded Vote #8- Motion Carried – Appendix 6

M/S Y. Morriss, P. Todd

That the report of the Ontario RVP be accepted as presented.

Recorded Vote #9- Motion Carried – Appendix 7

M/S D. Withworth, A. McKenzie

That the report of the Manitoba RVP be accepted as presented.

Recorded Vote #10 - Motion Carried – Appendix 8

M/S C. Harvey, D. Withworth

That the report of the Saskatchewan RVP be accepted as presented.

Recorded Vote #11 - Motion Carried – Appendix 9

M/S E. Alt, A. McKenzie

That the report of the Alberta RVP be accepted as presented.

Recorded Vote #12 - Motion Carried – Appendix 10

M/S L. Thokle, D. Withworth

That the report of the BC/Yukon RVP be accepted as presented.

Recorded Vote #13 - Motion Carried – Appendix 11

## **9. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

M/S/C – P. Todd, H. Zebedee

That the next meeting be held in Montreal with September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 being a travel day followed by meeting days on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to September 24<sup>th</sup> with the return travel day being September 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **10. Reconsideration of the Dec.02, 2008 motion for UPCE assistance**

M/S – P. Todd, D. Withworth

WHEREAS NHU agreed in December to contribute to a fund for the striking members of UPCE and;

WHEREAS since our December meeting the PSAC agreed to put money into the said strike fund;

WHEREAS the labour conflict that caused the strike has since been resolved.

BE IT RESOLVED that NHU reconsider donating \$24,000.00 to the strike fund of UPCE.

Recorded Vote #14 - Motion Carried

## **11. Alternate RVP's Saskatchewan and NCR**

Tony gave an explanation of the NCR situation which is basically the status quo and nothing is required till such time as the present RVP needs to be replaced. Art was satisfied with this explanation.

In the case of Saskatchewan Tony will set an election for the Alternate RVP once he has had meetings with the members in the Saskatchewan.

## **12. NHU Policies**

### Absence of the National President from the Office Policy

M/S P. Todd, L. Thokle

That the policy relative to the absence of the National President from the national office be adopted.

Recorded Vote #15 - Motion Carried – Appendix 12

### NHU Family Care Policy

M/S P. Todd, H. Zebedee

That the policy relative to NHU Family Care be adopted.

Recorded Vote #16 - Motion Carried – Appendix 13

### NHU National Office Bilingualism Policy

M/S P. Todd, E. Alt

That the policy relative to national office bilingualism be adopted.

Recorded Vote #17 - Motion Carried – Appendix 14

## NHU National Local Presidents' Conference Policy

M/S P. Todd, L. Thokle

That the policy relative to the NHU National Local Presidents' Conference be adopted.

Recorded Vote #18- Motion Carried – Appendix 15

### **15. NHU Apparel for PSAC Convention**

It was agreed to deal with item 15 at this time as P. Todd has to return to Winnipeg at the end of the day.

P. Todd acquired samples of two different garments; the first is a jacket that would be proposed as a Council garment for use at the PSAC Convention. The second would be a fleece that is proposed as a garment for our Presidents' Conference. It is important for everyone to give Pat a size for the jacket as they will be a limited order.

### **13. NHU Committees Structure**

Tony Tilley explained that we are obliged to have three standing committees and they are: Organization and Structure; Occupational Health and Safety and Finance. All other committees such as Education, Honours and Awards would be *ad hoc*.

Tony the explained the mandates of the committees and suggested that we name members to the Organization and Structure Committee as well as the Occupational Health and Safety Committee. The Finance Committee was elected at the Convention.

Tony asked for nominations to the 3 person Organization and Structure Committee.

Helen Zebedee, Alain Bélanger and Elaine Alt were the only three names put forward so Tony named them to the Organization and Structure Committee.

The following four names were put forward to serve on the Occupational Health and Safety Committee:

Pat Todd, Art McKenzie, Crystal Harvey and Linda Thokle showed interest. The Council agreed that the OSH Committee could have 4 members so Tony named the four individuals to be the OSH Committee.

#### ***14. NHU Collective Bargaining***

Tony explained the brief history of our Component having an employee bargaining unit. The agreement between NHU and the AEU will expire at the end of April 2009 and as such we need to appoint a bargaining team. Our tradition has been to have the Component President be an active player in negotiations. Tony is aware that as President he will have to sign any agreement reached but would prefer that his involvement be limited to that role. The bargaining team will be composed of Pat Todd, Vice-President and two members elected from the Council.

Tony opened nominations. Don Withworth and Elaine Alt were the only two names put forward so they were acclaimed as members of the NHU bargaining team.

#### ***16. Paid Leave for RVP's***

Tony explained the position as he understands it. Health Canada and PHAC both understand the value of the work done by our elected officials. The position put forward to HC and PHAC was for 60 days of paid leave for Council members to do Union work that is not related to member representation or meeting where management requests or requires a Union presence. It would appear that PHAC is closer to an agreement. HC is in agreement but not willing to implement the process until the Deputy Head signs off.

#### ***17. Tripartite Health Plan for BC Region***

Linda Thokle gave an update on the little information she was able to get since her report of this initiative in November of 2008. The Union has not been approached in any fashion regarding any sort of devolution that could involve work force adjustment.

As in any circumstance where no real information is made available by management the employees tend to fill in the gaps. Rumour has it that this all could be put into effect as early as April 2009 resulting in a large number of FNIHB employees in BC being forced into work force adjustment situation since the native organization will only staff their former positions with natives.

## **18. PSAC Convention Funding**

Elaine Alt inquired if Component funds were available to send Local observers to the PSAC Convention. Tony explained the situation as it existed for us today. At the Convention it was decided to eliminate the Locals' Retraining and Development Program budget item and replace it with a more appropriate training fund that would be use to provide training to the Locals. At the Convention we also elected extra members to serve as delegates or observers to fill any delegate seats we would have over the number used by our National Council.

Locals are allowed to send observers to the PSAC Convention as long as no cost is involved for the Component. Even if the Component was to consider such a request it could only do so after it had accommodated all of the names on the list produced by the Convention floor.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.