

**National Executive Board Meeting #312**  
**December 1, 2020**  
**Videoconference**



## MINUTES

### In Attendance

**National Officers:** *Larry Brown, President*  
*Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer*

**Vice-Presidents & Board Members:** *Stephanie Smith, BCGEU*  
*Paul Finch, BCGEU*  
*Kari Michaels, BCGEU*  
*Val Avery, HSABC*  
*Mike Parker, HSAA*  
*Trudy Thomson, HSAA*  
*Tracey Sauer, SGEU*  
*Michelle Gawronsky, MGEU*  
*Charlotte McWilliams, MGEU*  
*Warren (Smokey) Thomas, OPSEU*  
*Sara Labelle, OPSEU*  
*Susie Proulx-Daigle, NBU*  
*Jason MacLean, NSGEU*  
*Sandra Mullen, NSGEU*  
*Karen Jackson, PEI UPSE*  
*Arlene Sedlickas, NAPE*

**Absent:** *Roseann Strelezki, SGEU*  
*Gaurav Sharma, CUBGW, Comp. 325*  
*Jerry Earle, NAPE*

**Observers:** *Danielle Marchand, BCGEU*  
*Miriam Sobrino, HSABC*  
*Jerry Toews, HSAA*  
*Jean-Guy Bourgeois, MGEU*  
*Leigh Sprague, NBU*  
*Trevor King, NAPE*

**Staff:** *Len Bush*  
*Brenda Hildahl*  
*Deb Sonogo*



## 1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brother Larry Brown opened the meeting with a land acknowledgment for the national office.

He also thanked the members of the National Executive Board for their stepping forward to assist HSAA in their membership outreach campaign in response to Bill 32, *Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act*. He praised HSAA for their staff's efforts in organizing this response to the blatant attack on unions and democracy, and for having to do so during a pandemic.

National Representative Deborah Duffy will be the main contact for National Union Components, and she will be providing coordination and support for those involved. National Representative Nadia Ibrahim will also be helping with the first round of calls, which will involve listening to the concerns of members.

Brother Parker also thanked the members of the National Executive Board for their assistance, noting that many Presidents have volunteered to be callers, which challenged him to be directly involved as well.

## 2. CLC CONVENTION

Brother Brown informed the National Executive Board that the CLC Executive Committee met on November 26, 2020, with the main subject being the CLC Convention.

At the CLC Executive Committee meeting, a through discussion took place as to whether to hold a virtual or in-person convention to replace the 2020 regular convention that was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of the CLC's Executive Committee agreed that an in-person convention would not be possible in June 2021 due to the logistics involved. Even delaying it to the fall presents a significant gamble, as there is no guarantee that large gatherings will be allowed. There is also the possibility of large financial losses should the convention be rescheduled and then canceled again.

Brother Brown stated that it is anticipated that the CLC Executive Committee will officially decide at the upcoming December 11, 2020, meeting that the convention will be virtual. The date being considered is the week of June 14, 2020, and he asked that if Components have potential immovable conflicts with that week, to let him know.

Brother Brown indicated that 3 of the CLC Officers have agreed to extend their terms of office. President Hassan Yussuff has not firmly committed to continuing and has stated that he may leave office prior to the convention.

Brother Brown and the members of the National Executive Board discussed the logistical problems presented by holding a virtual convention of potentially 4,000 delegates.

While there is not yet a fixed agenda for the convention, it appears that there will be a limited amount of time for general resolutions or debates about policy. This issue is partly arising from the constraints imposed by multiple time zones and that the election of Officers and Constitutional Resolutions deliberations must take place. The CLC has also indicated that they will introduce 4 policy papers.

Brother Brown informed the members of the Board that President Yussuff has stated that the current convention rules of the CLC Constitution will prevail. Further, that the delegate registration fee would be based on the cost of running a virtual convention, which is likely to be substantially lower than that of an in-person convention.

When the CLC 2020 Convention was postponed by the pandemic, the resolutions' cut-off date had already passed. Given the time limitations, it is being discussed whether to reopen the acceptance of resolutions. It is a possible that a decision could be made to accept only those resolutions based on the issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. If there is a decision to accept more resolutions, then March 15, 2021, will be the new cut-off date.

Finally, the timing for the CLC Convention following the one in 2021 is also being discussed. This has implications for the term of office for the newly elected Officers. A number of affiliates plan their major events around the existing 3-year cycle for CLC Conventions. In many ways, the most pragmatic solution would be to keep to the existing cycle and limit the term of the new CLC Officers to 2 years.

A larger Canadian Council meeting will be held in January 2021 to consider and finalize the decisions of the Executive Committee at their December 11, 2020, meeting.

There was a discussion as to whether to reconvene the working committee under Brother Brown's leadership on how to accomplish our goals for this convention and to include our allies.

Brother Brown asked that Board members who have other concerns regarding the CLC Convention get in touch with him prior to December 11, 2020. He ended the meeting by informing the Board that a NUPGE CLC Convention website will be up and running in January.

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Larry Brown  
President

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Bert Blundon  
Secretary-Treasurer