

Canadian Studies Network, Annual General Meeting, Minutes
Réseau d'études canadiennes, Assemblée générale annuelle, Procès-verbal

11 October 2024

Present: Chantal Richard, Raymond Blake, Marcel Martel, Satwinder Bains, Karli Whitmore, Siobhan O'Flynn, Colin Coates, Laura Bisailon, Christl Verduyn

Regrets: Pamela Sing, Jean-Michel Montsion, Jenni Makahnouk

Guest: Antoinetta Holierhoek

The meeting started at 1 pm EST by President Chantal Richard. Welcome to the 2024 AGM of the Canadian Studies Network / Réseau d'études canadiennes. I would like to acknowledge that I work and live on the unceded and unsundered territory of the Wolastokiyik.

1. Approval of agenda adopted by consensus.
2. Approval of the 2023 AGM Minutes as presented: Colin moves to adopt, seconded by Satwinder, carried
3. Round of introductions
4. President's report

A. News from International Council of Canadian Studies (ICCS)

I sat on the Governor-General's International Award committee again this past year and was thrilled to see the award for 2024 go to one of our own esteemed members, Colin Coates. A hearty congratulations to Colin for this prestigious and well-deserved award.

I attended the AGM virtually in June 2024 where I submitted a report of activities on behalf of CSN-RÉC. I want to thank Karli for preparing this report.

I also facilitated a session at the ICCS Summer School last June and want to congratulate the organizers of this very successful event: Jane Koustas, Marcel Martel and Jean-Michel Montsion.

Prizes

Best book:

Winner: Anne Trépanier, *De l'hydre au castor. Imaginaire et représentations de la Confédération dans la presse de l'Amérique du Nord britannique, 1844-1867*. Septentrion, 2024.

Best edited collection:

Winner: *Canada as a Settler Colony on the Question of Palestine*, Jeremy Wildeman and M. Muhannad Ayyash, editors, University of Alberta Press.

Honorable mention: *Around the Kitchen Table: Métis Aunties' Scholarship*, Laura Forsythe and Jennifer Markides, editors, University of Manitoba Press.

Best PhD dissertation:

Winner: Nadha Hassen's *Park Perceptions and Racialized Realities: Visualizing Social and Health Equity in Public Urban Greenspaces*.

Honorable mention: Cody Groat's *'Always a Part of the Land': Settler Colonialism, Indigenous Histories, and the Commemoration of National Historic Sites, 1919-2019*.

Best article, *Journal of Canadian Studies*:

Winner: Darren Reid, *'Compound Dispossession' in Southern Ontario: Converging Trajectories of Colonial Dispossession and Inter-Indigenous Conflict, 1886-1900*.

Best MA thesis:

Winner: Mary Baxter, *The 1900s Southwestern Ontario Sand Sucker Panic*, Western University.

B. Proposed changes to prizes

- Remove prize monies for Best Book, Best Edited Collection (150\$ each), Best Article (75\$)
- Increase student prizes by 50\$ each to 200\$ for Best PhD and 150\$ for Best MA
- Add language categories to Best Book & Best Edited Collection
 1. Rationale: for the 2024 prizes, we had 23 submissions for best book and 28 for best edited collection which is a lot of reading for committee members. Creating a French-language prize is also a way to recognize the importance of work *en français* in recognition of the fact that francophones may not have the same institutional support and infrastructures for publication.

Motion to make the changes to prizes as specified: Moved by Colin and seconded by Laura. Carried by consensus.

With some of the savings, I would like to reinstate the student support program for travel to international conferences, though with a more modest contribution of 500\$ for one student. In the past, we provided 1000\$ annually, to be split between two students (if there were more than two applicants, a ranking was used to award it to two). We are saving 275\$ on prize money, so the increased cost to CSN is only 225\$.

This proposed change was tabled for another time due to CSN's current financial constraints.

C. Proposed addition of Truth and Reconciliation Commission statement and recognition/distinction of works contributing to TRC

- I would like to strike a special committee, which I am willing to Chair. If you are interested in participating, please send me your name after the AGM. I would like this committee to begin meeting in January 2025. If I do receive names, I will call a meeting of the Board in the new year to finalize the work.

Laura Bisailon offered to support the committee work. Colin suggested that we get in touch with Cody Groat.

D. Proposed change to bylaws

- add "at least" to 2.01 j) "j) The Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Corporation plus **at least** two members-at-large, one of whom shall be a graduate student."

Vote: Chantal made the motion to change the bylaws, Raymond seconded. All in favour: carried.

- Finally, I want to share another small change which was proposed by Karli and adopted by the Board at our last meeting. She suggested we ask for a small fee to "feature" certain posts on our website and social media. Currently, we are sharing posts at no cost, and we will continue to do so as it is an important service to our members. However, if an organization wishes to have their post featured or highlighted, they can do so for the small fee of 75\$. This is in keeping with what other similar websites are doing and may help us increase our revenue slightly. I don't think we need a vote on this, but if anyone has any comments or questions, I welcome them.

Discussion ensued: postings would appear on the home page and on top of weekly email lists for maybe 3-5 weeks. CSN is across different platforms and starting to engage more on Bluesky. Email list and the website would feature these ads for now. Some research has gone into this proposal and there is a willing audience it seems, and the possibility looks good.

5. Treasurer/Secretary presented the financial statements for 2023/24 (attached)

6. Changes to the Board of Directors

- Treasurer/Secretary: Satwinder is retiring from the University of the Fraser Valley. Her position is open for appointment at the end of March. CSN has put out a call seeking to fill the vacancy.
- Graduate student representative: Jenni Makahnouk is pursuing an MA at McGill. She replaces Emma Crowbar. We welcome her to our midst.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 2:06 pm.