



Canadian Studies Network  
Réseau d'études canadiennes

1600 West Bank Drive, Peterborough, ON K9J 7B8

Annual General Meeting  
Minutes

14 November 2020, 1:00 pm (EST)  
AGM held online, via ZOOM

In attendance:

Raymond Blake, Claire Campbell, Dominic Hardy, Lucy Hotte, Renée Hulan, Paul Kellogg, Jane Koustas, Dan Malleck, Gemma Marr, Pamela Sing, Kevin Spooner, Tony Tremblay, Christl Verduyn, Jaime Yard

1. Adoption of agenda (moved: Jane Koustas; seconded: Lucie Hotte; approved unanimously)
2. Adoption of minutes from previous AGM: 15 November 2019 (moved: Tony Tremblay; seconded: Jaime Yard; approved unanimously)
3. President's report (Renée Hulan):
  - a. **Executive:** Renée welcomed everyone and introduced the Executive: Vice president Pamela Sing, Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Spooner, Member-at-Large Jaime Yard, and Member-at-Large Grad Student Rep Gemma Marr. She thanked this wonderful team of colleagues and expressed gratitude for how hard everyone has worked to ensure the success and sustainability of the CSN.
  - b. **Karli:** A BIG thank you was also expressed to our magnificent Administrative Assistant, Karli Whitmore, who maintains the website, posting all those calls, job ads, prize announcements that we all rely on. She is also the person who keeps us present on Twitter. We simply could not function without her technical support and diligence. Thank you, Karli! (Zoom applause) Like last year, membership numbers are down, but the website continues to see a high level of traffic: a snapshot taken by Karli showed **2936** hits on new posts last week. On November 13, for example, **2071** were following us on Twitter; we have **1625** followers.

- c. **Business arising from 2019 Minutes:** Nominations were extended to 1 Feb 2020. Pamela nominated/acclaimed VP. Plans for a one-day symposium were pursued with U of T; these discussions were sidelined by COVID and given the cancellation and postponement of conferences everywhere Exec decided on a virtual and stand-alone AGM. Nominations for Secretary-Treasurer and Members-at-Large were opened to members in good standing. Several inquiries were received, and nominations for each position. The Student Zone has been revised which Gemma Marr spoke to later in the meeting.
- d. **Prizes:** In writing the report for the ICCS each year, Renée noted that she is overwhelmed by the productivity of our membership. Members have also been very active in the network itself by providing peer review for the CSN by reading submissions and selecting a winner for each of our six prizes to Canadian Studies. These awards are important for their recognition of interdisciplinary research on Canada, in French and English. As usual we received fewer nominations for the prizes given to students than for the book prizes; however, we received a higher than usual number of nominations.
- i. We awarded 2 prizes for the Best Article published in the JCS: 2019 Catherine Khordoc, “Worlded Literature in Quebec: Wajdi Mouawad’s *Le Sang des promesses* Cycle”; 2018 Sarah E.K. Smith and Carla Taunton, “Unsettling Canadian Heritage: Decolonial Aesthetics in Canadian Video and Performance Art”
  - ii. Best undergraduate essay: Kenya Thompson (MSVU), “The Informal Economy as Political Space: Childcare as Prefigurative Activism in Canada”
  - iii. Best MA thesis: Maude Darsigny-Trépanier (UQAM) « La réappropriation comme acte politique à l’ère de la décolonisation : l’œuvre de Nadia Myre »
  - iv. Best PhD: Melanie Dennis Unrau (UMan), *Tend the Rusted Steel Like a Shepherd: Petropoetics of Oil Work in Canada*
  - v. Best Edited collection: *The Nature of Canada*, ed by Colin M. Coates and Graeme Wynn

- vi. Best Book: Wendy Wickwire's *At the Bridge*
- e. Christl Verduyn moved that Prize Jurors be identified when announcing prize winners. In discussion, it was noted that this would give additional profile to CSN REC, acknowledge the important work of Jurors, and provide transparency. The motion was seconded by Lucy Hotte and approved unanimously.
- f. **ICCS:** Nous sommes toujours membre du Conseil international d'études canadiennes, et comme d'habitude nous avons assisté à l'AGA cette année. Malheureusement, il n'y avait ni le temps ou ni les moyens de faciliter la table ronde car on s'est réuni par Zoom. [En 2018 et 2019, nous avons organisé l'après-midi avec des communications au sujet des recherches que poursuit nos collègues partout dans le monde. Ce qui n'était pas possible cette année.]
  - i. Les prix Brian Long and Pierre Savard : L'un de nos membres a remporté le prix Brian Long en 2019. Congratulations Warren Bernauer who won the ICCS's Brian Long award in 2019 for his dissertation: "Extractive Hegemony in the Arctic: Energy Resources and Political Conflict in Nunavut, 1970-2017," Human Geography, York University. Notre membre Raymond Blake, nomination d'ASCI a remporté le prix Pierre Savard. Félicitations, Raymond !
  - ii. Le soutien financier aux étudiant(e)s qui veulent présenter des recherches lors de conférences sur les études canadiennes est disponible toujours. Le fonds s'alimente des dons de nos membres. Cette année on a pas eu de demande. Merci à tous ceux qui ont contribué jusqu' à maintenant.
  - iii. We received an update on "Advancing Canada" update from ICCS president Munroe Eagles. Nik Nanos and John Graham convened a group that is lobbying government for a new support for Canadian studies and had achieved agreement at the working level.
- g. **Governance:** This summer, we began revision of our bylaws with a view to clarifying them. The impending changes to Ontario legislation (see Kevin Spooner's report) may require us to make substantive revisions, so we have prepared bylaws that have been revised and restructured to make them

easier to use and these will be updated and brought to the membership at a later date.

- h. Finally, Renée congratulated and pledged her support to incoming president, Pamela Sing, before closing with : C'était un grand honneur de servir le réseau!

4. Secretary and Treasurer's report (Kevin Spooner):

- a. **Memberships:** Membership numbers are down, particularly with respect to regular memberships (80). By comparison, we had 103 regular memberships in 2020. We also have 17 institutional memberships at the moment, compared to 22 in 2020. Particularly with respect to institutional memberships, we expect that gap to close; partly, it seems to be the result of delays in processing at institutions, related to COVID. It will be important to increase these numbers, particularly to maintain our financial stability. We've been hoping that we could increase numbers to address a small structural deficit, so a decrease in numbers is concerning.
- b. **Financial Statements:** The financial statements have been prepared by Allied Associates and were circulated in the AGM package. They show a small net loss in 2020: \$1,543, slightly lower than our \$2,149 deficit in 2019. This is indicative of the structural deficit just noted. Motion to approve the financial statements, as prepared by Allied Associates: moved by Jane Koustas; seconded by Christl Verduyn; approved unanimously.
- c. **Budget:** Our bank balances as of the AGM are \$15,545.69 in cash and \$2,031.59 in GIC investments. Budget projections are attached below. They indicate an anticipated deficit of \$290. Though our revenues are expected to decline because of lower memberships, there will be fewer expenses because of COVID (no AGM costs; no executive travel; no student travel awards).
- d. **Governance:** Implementation of Ontario legislation relating to not-for-profits has been delayed because of the government's focus on COVID. Consequently, we can postpone changes to our bylaws, for now. Eventually, we will have to review all bylaws and ensure they align with changes in the provincial legislation. Legislative changes could work to our advantage by no longer requiring our financial statements to be prepared by Allied

Associates (about \$900/year). We will need to engage a lawyer to ensure compliance of our revised bylaws with provincial legislation, but this will be a one-time fee (about \$1,500 to \$2,000) that will be offset by no longer having to use an accountant for our financial statements in all subsequent years.

5. Graduate Student Representative Report (Gemma Marr)
  - a. Gemma noted that there have been new opportunities for Graduate Student Members in the last 10 months, primarily emerging from the survey that she conducted of our Graduate Student members. The survey results noted the value of Karli's services (call for papers, employment opportunities, website generally). Students did request more networking opportunities. The new Graduate Student spotlights online provide a valuable chance for students to feature their research in the Student Zone of the CSN-REC website. Gemma thanked the Executive for being part of the organization.
6. New Executive
  - a. From nominations for available Executive positions, a number of positions have been acclaimed. Pamela Sing moves from Vice-President to President. Renée Hulan will become Past President. Tony Tremblay becomes Secretary-Treasurer. Dominic Hardy is the new Member-at-Large and Emma Croll-Baehre is the new Graduate Student Representative.
7. AGM 2021
  - a. There was wide discussion on the subject of next year's AGM. Christl noted that many associations are playing it by ear. Would it be possible to associate the AGM once again with an event? Dan Malleck suggested that it might be possible to do the AGM at the next Two Days conference at Brock University, perhaps in a blended environment. This will be a conference on the theme of sports, coinciding with games to be held in the Niagara region. Paul Kellogg suggested holding the AGM virtually again, but to coincide with the Two Days conference – conceive of it as a hybrid event. We have certainly done scaled-down versions of this in the past, with Executive members joining the AGM via SKYPE.
8. Any other business: none.

9. Adjournment: Moved by Paul Kellogg; seconded by Jaime Yard; approved unanimously.

## **Budget Projections 2020-2021**

Prepared by Kevin Spooner, Secretary-Treasurer

### **Revenue**

Grants	-
Donations	400
Memberships	10,660
Interest	50
<i>Total Revenue</i>	11,110

### **General Expenses**

Fees, dues and registrations	-
Interest and service charges	75
Meeting costs	50
Contribution to host of AGM	-
Executive travel: AGM and ICCS	-
Teleconference fees	50
Office supplies	-
Prizes	1,200
Book Prize	250
Edited Book Prize	250
PhD Prize	250
JCS Article Prize	200
MA Prize	150
Undergraduate Essay Prize	100
Professional fees	875
Travel (Student Travel Award)	-
Website and Administration	
Administrative / Membership Coordinator	8,400
Website Development and Maintenance	800
<i>Total Expenses</i>	11,400

**2020-2021 anticipated deficit/surplus** **(290)**