



Canadian Studies Network  
Réseau d'études canadiennes  
1600 West Bank Drive, Peterborough, ON K9J 7B8

## Annual General Meeting Minutes

13 November 2021, 1:00 pm (EST)  
AGM held online, via ZOOM

**Present:** Dominic Hardy (Zoom Host), Renée Hulan, Jane Koustas, Dan Malleck, Pamela Sing, Colin Coates, Karli Whitmore, Jennifer Andrews, Andrew Holman, Adina Balint, Heather Nicol, Tony Tremblay (recording secretary).

**1. Adoption of agenda:** Moved by Jane Koustas; seconded by Dominic Hardy; approved unanimously.

**2. Adoption of minutes from previous AGM:** 14 November 2020. Moved by Dan Malleck; seconded by Renée Hulan; approved unanimously.

### **3. President's report (Pamela Sing):**

PS began by welcoming the membership and “bestowing prizes in the form of kudos to each member of this year’s Executive,” as well as a *special prize* for the “Best Administrative Assistant Ever” to Karli Whitmore. Karli is the public voice of the CSN-RÉC; the person who ensures our presence on social media; and the person who subtly but firmly keeps the Executive members on their toes, diligently maintains the CSN-RÉC website, and posts calls, employment announcements, and prize and award announcements that ensure the organization’s visibility, viability, and usefulness.

**a. Prizes:** PS acknowledged the expertise, judgement, and time of jury members. She noted that in forming juries this year, she had a particular objective in mind: “augmenter la participation de collègues francophones engagés dans le processus et aussi, par conséquent, dans le membership du CSN-RÉC.” She also stressed the need to diversify our membership by upping the number of our BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ colleagues – and asked for the help of the membership in that matter.

Two juries had difficulty naming one winner. The best *JCS* article award was divided three ways, so we upped the prize money from \$200 to \$300. Also, the best PhD dissertation award was divided two ways, so we upped the sum so that each winner

received \$200. Based on the [financial implications] of that experience, we changed the wording of prizes to place emphasis on the need to name ONE winner in each category.

The recipients of our 2021 awards are the following: **Best article in the JCS**: Shannon Brown (Queen's) for "Molly Wood's Bush: Settler Colonialism, Queer Activism, and Commemoration in Toronto"; Jade Crimson Rose Da Costa (York) for "Pride Parades in Queer Times: Disrupting Time, Norms, and Nationhood in Canada"; and Ian Liujian Tian (UToronto) for "On Rescuable and Expendable Life: Bioavailability, Surplus Time, and Queer Politics of Reproduction." **Best Undergraduate essay** (two submissions): Emily Belmonte (York) for her Honours Thesis, "Understanding Treaty One: Subsistence and Survival, 1871-1881." **Best MA thesis** (two submissions): Andrew Walker (Carleton) for "Hidden Voices: Professional Choristers in Southern Ontario." **Best PhD Dissertation** (five submissions): Katrina Dunn (UBC) for "Empty House: Real Estate and Theatricality in Vancouver's Downtown" and Marie-Charlotte Franco (UQÀM) for « La décolonisation et l'autochtonisation au Musée McCord (1992-2019) : les rapports de collaboration avec les Premiers Peuples et de l'inclusion de l'art contemporain des Premières Nations dans les expositions ». **Best Edited Collection** (twenty-five submissions): Sarah Henzi (SFU) and Linda Morra (Bishops) for *On the Other Side(s) of 150: Untold Stories and Critical Approaches to History, Literature, and Identity in Canada*. **Best Book** (nineteen submissions): Jane Griffiths (Ryerson) for *Words Have a Past: The English Language, Colonialism, and the Newspapers of Indian Boarding Schools*.

**b. ICCS**: Munroe Eagles has handed the baton of the President to **Kerstin Knorpf** of Universitaet Bremen. **Jane Koustas**, whose four years of service meant that she played the role of co-president, has stepped down as Treasurer and was replaced by John Maher from the Waterford Institute of Technology in Ireland. The ICCS's **ADVANCING CANADA COALITION** has been lobbying the Government of Canada to restore its financial support for the worldwide study of Canada. Members are encouraged to support this initiative by signing on at [www.advancingcanada.org](http://www.advancingcanada.org). The ICCS has **convened a committee** to revisit the awards program. Jennifer Andrews (UNB) accepted the CSN-RÉC's invitation to sit on this committee. The recipient of the **2020 Pierre Savard Award** (for Best Book) was the CSN-RÉC submission, Wendy Wickwire's *At the Bridge*. Heartfelt congratulations! The recipient of the **2020 Brian Long Award** (for Best Dissertation) was the CSN-RÉC's submission, Melanie Unrau's "Tend the Rusted Steel Like a Shepherd: Petropoetics of Oil Work in Canada," defended at the University of Manitoba. Warmest congratulations as well. **Claude Denis** has stepped down as the editor of the *International Journal of Canadian Studies*. Françoise LeJeune of the Université de Nantes has been appointed interim-editor. The **ICCS's new location** is the Robarts Centre of Canadian Studies at York University in Toronto.

#### **4. Secretary-Treasurer's report (Tony Tremblay):**

**a. Memberships:** Membership numbers are holding steady, with this year's numbers ahead of where they were last year at the same time. TT noted the Membership Year, which runs from 01 Sept to 31 Aug, the significance of which is that we are in the early days of our renewals. That said, he also noted that it continues to be important to increase these numbers, particularly to maintain our financial stability. Our small structural deficit persists.

**b. Budget:** Our bank balances as of the AGM are \$16,399.69 in cash and \$2,057.21 in GIC investments. Together, those amounts are about \$1000 more than last year's, largely owing to fewer expenses because of COVID (no AGM costs; no executive travel; no student travel awards). Budget projections are attached below. They indicate an anticipated deficit of \$1315, that partly due to greater prize costs this year and to TT's "worst-case-scenario" projections. Again, this points to a need to increase regular and institutional memberships.

**c. Review of Financial Statements:** The financial statements were again prepared by Allied Associates (our Accountants in Peterborough, ON) and were circulated in the AGM package. TT began by noting that what they prepared is not an audit but simply a review of financial statements gathered from monthly bank records. The review shows a small net gain in 2021 [+\$2067], which reverses losses of \$1,543 and \$2,149 in 2020 and 2019. Website administration and maintenance continue to be our highest costs. Motion to approve the financial statements, as prepared by Allied Associates: moved by Dominic Hardy; seconded by Colin Coates; approved unanimously.

**d. Budget Projections:** TT noted that these projections are speculative (at best, "responsible guesses") because we can never be certain of membership numbers this early in the annual membership cycle. He also noted a few changes he made from how these projections were done by previous S-Ts, specifically that he focused on "operating revenues" and not "banking reserves," which can't easily regenerate. In other words, he focused solely on revenue that comes from memberships and grants. The projection for the year ahead generated a deficit of (\$1315).

**Discussion "a - d":** The translation budget line was discussed, some wondering if prize juries should bear more responsibility for translating their "blurbs." Consensus emerged that we should keep the expenditure to ensure the most competent and consistent translation. Colin Coates suggested that the \$1200-\$1450 we pay out annually to prize winners could be shared with other Canadian Studies centres, who might "adopt" a prize.

After some discussion, Pamela Sing agreed, on behalf of the Executive, to study this further. Dan Malleck wondered why Grad Student membership numbers dropped in 2019-20 and have never fully rebounded. Many reasons and solutions followed: that changes in directorships of Cdn. Studies centres took CSN off the radar, which depressed numbers; that we should do more to announce prizes for students (grad and undergrad) at higher admin levels; that the (perhaps-born-again) ICCS newsletter might circulate information more effectively; that smaller Cdn. Studies units within universities could increase the number and revenues from IM. Dominic Hardy offered his lab as an example. Discussion closed with agreement that increasing memberships in the interest of erasing the deficit should be on everyone's radar.

**e. Remuneration of Administrative Assistant:** Karli recused herself. TT explained that this sort of overview is something that CSN does every second year or so, and was last done at the November 2019 AGM. TT checked StatsCan for the "official" Canadian Price Index numbers, upon which Cost-of-Living adjustments are made. Based on that, and earlier discussion with Renée Hulan and Pamela Sing, he proposed a 3% increase for our Admin. Assistant and that, because of the current inflation levels, this review should take place every year instead of every second year. Motion to approve the Admin. Assistant's 3% increase and accelerated annual review: moved by Jane Koustas; seconded by Renée Hulan; passed unanimously. (Pamela Sing asked TT to take responsibility for ensuring this annual review. He agreed.)

**5. Graduate Student Representative report (Emma Croll-Baehre):** Tabled for later because of Emma's absence.

**6. Vacancy on the Executive:** Pamela Sing reported that there is one vacancy (for Vice-President) and that there has been one nomination so far. Nominations are open until 01 February 2022. Pamela also advised the membership that Renée Hulan is stepping down as Past President, but has agreed to sit on CSN's Advisory Board. Wide and enthusiastic thanks for Renée's service followed.

**7. AGM 2022:** Pamela Sing shared Kevin Spooner's offer of co-hosting the next AGM at Wilfrid Laurier's new Centre for the Study of Canada. There was widespread consensus that such linking with other events or centres had worked well in the past – and cautious hope that pandemic conditions would subside to allow for such linkages again soon.

**8. Other Business:** Pamela raised one jury's suggestion that special issues of journals be included in the Edited Collection Prize competition. Much discussion followed, the upshot of which was that special issue of journals and edited collections are two very different things. Dominic Hardy acknowledged this and offered the suggestion that

another prize be created for special issues of journals. Karli Whitmore qualified by saying that all prizes pay for themselves in membership costs. Andrew Holman asked us to consider what CSN intends to gain from this, and whether “the payoff” is worth the “dog’s breakfast” that would be the new prize category. Pamela Sing noted the challenge of finding juries. The discussion concluded with the Executive agreeing to take the matter under more deliberate consideration.

Andrew Holman extended greetings from the Association of Canadian Studies in the US, inviting applications for the March 2022 conference in Washington, DC.

Colin Coates asked the membership not to lose sight of the possibility of CSN joining the CFHSS. Also, that Congress will be held at York in 2023. Karli Whitmore offered to share the cost-benefit analysis she did a few years ago on the implications of CSN joining CFHSS. The cost is substantial so such analysis was welcomed.

Heather Nicol extended greetings from the Frost Centre at Trent, sharing her hope of increasing the Centre’s role in CSN.

**9. Adjournment:** Moved by Dominic Hardy; seconded by Renée Hulan; approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM EST.