



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

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

17 November 2022, 1:00-2:30 pm (EST, Canada)
AGM held online, via ZOOM

Present: Jane Koustas, Kevin Spooner, Christl Verduyn, Andrew Holman, Manuel Sousa Oliveira, Dan Malleck, Pamela Sing, Emma Croll-Baehre, Tony Tremblay (recording secretary).

Regrets: Andrea Beverley, Renée Hulan, Paul Kellogg, Smaro Kamboureli, Dominic Hardy.

*** The meeting began after it was determined that a quorum of 10% of the membership had been reached. Thanks to Kevin Spooner for locating this organizational statute.*

1. Adoption of agenda: Moved by Christl Verduyn; seconded by Jane Koustas; approved unanimously.

2. Adoption of minutes from previous AGM, 13 November 2021. Moved by Kevin Spooner; seconded by Christl Verduyn; approved unanimously.

3. President's report (Pamela Sing):

PS began by welcoming the membership, thanking Renée Hulan for her work as Past President, and introducing members of the Executive. She repeated that nominations for the positions of Secretary-Treasurer and Member-at-Large are still open. She also made special mention of Jane Koustas' win of the 2022 Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies. There were warm congratulations expressed all around.

a. CSN-RÉC 2022 Prizes

BEST BOOK: 13 nominations initially, one removed, which will hopefully reappear on the 2023 list. The winner was David Rüks's *The Laws and the Land*. The submission of this book for the Pierre Savard Prize is in its last stage. The Honorable Mention went to *Joint Arctic Weather Stations*, by Daniel Heidt and P. Whitney Lackenbauer.

BEST EDITED COLLECTION: 16 nominations initially, one removed for being co-authored, which will hopefully reappear among the 2023 nominations for Best Book. The winner was *Unsettling the Great White North: Black Canadian History*, edited by Michele A. Johnson and Funké Aladejebi.

BEST *JCS* ARTICLE: The winner was Greg Millard of Kwantlen Polytechnic University for his article, “Ambiguously Hip: The Tragically Hip and Canadian Nationalism.”

BEST PH.D. DISSERTATION: 6 submissions, 1 of which was in French. The winner was Margaret Anne Lindsay (U Manitoba), for her thesis, “‘especially in this free Country’: Webs of Empire, Slavery and the Fur Trade.” She is currently preparing her portion of the application for the Brian Long Award.

BEST M.A. THESIS: 1 submission, but committee members unanimously found that the work was prize-worthy. The recipient was Thomas McCarthy (York U), for “Littoral Trouble: Places, Prose, and Possibilities in the Lake Ontario Watershed.”

BEST UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY: 2 submissions, both in English. The winner was Emmaleigh Dew (Trent U), for “Indigenous Dissent as Significant Threat to Canadian Security.”

b. ICCS/CIEC Update

PS reported that the AGM of 8 July 2022 was hybrid. Several members attended in person, while several others attended virtually, herself included. A highlight was the consistency with which the CSN-RÉC’s submissions for the Pierre Savard and Brian Long awards have been successful. That means that PS was reading citations and presenting prizes for a lengthy time this year.

c. Finances

PS closed by acknowledging that there are concerns regarding our finances, which TT will discuss in detail in his report. She reiterated that new membership fees and new amounts for our prizes are in order.

4. Secretary-Treasurer’s report (Tony Tremblay):

a. Membership Numbers

TT reported that membership numbers are holding steady, with this year’s numbers on par with where they were last year at the same time. He noted the Membership Year, which runs from 01 Sept to 31 Aug, means that we are in the early days (first quarter) of our renewals. That said, he also noted that our structural deficit persists. It thus continues to be important to increase membership numbers.

b. Budget/Bank Accounts

CSN-REC bank balances as of 13 October 2022 are \$12,650 in cash and \$2,071 in one GIC investment. TT noted that this year’s bank balance is below the last couple of Octobers, but said the reasons for why suggest there is no cause for alarm.

c. Review of Financial Statements

TT explained that the financial statements were again prepared by Allied Associates (Accountants in Peterborough, ON) as CSN-REC is registered with the CRA as an Ontario corporation. The review of financial statements concluded that the deficit, simplified, is (\$849) for the fiscal year ended 30 April 2022. Since this deficit has recurred for three years running, he shared the Executive’s concern that it had become structural and that remediating the problem was front of mind in their discussions.

TT then proceeded to detail how the deficit could be addressed:

- maintain virtual communications for AGM and other meetings. In pre-pandemic years, meeting costs and executive travel accounted for about \$2500 annually. Similarly, we should temporarily suspend student travel grants (there have been none since Covid).
- maintain Prize Money discipline. In 2021, we allowed two prizes to be shared because juries were unable to propose one winner. We tightened our language this year and stuck to only one winner per prize, allowing for ties, which will split the money, not add to it.
- reduce the value of prizes. TT shared a table showing current and reduced prize values. Reductions in prize money would save an additional \$275 or \$400 per year.
- increase membership fees in each category. Using a rather crude math, these increases would add \$1,450 annually to the CSN-REC budget. TT also noted that the Executive made 3-year memberships cheaper per year than the 1-year to incentivize longer memberships. These rate increases will be made applicable on 01 January 2023.
- in closing, he observed that the greatest opportunity for revenue growth is in increasing the number of Institutional memberships, as those bring in the largest per capita amount. Currently, we have 18. An additional 6 IMs at the increased rate (\$175 annually) would add a further \$1050 annually to the CSN-REC budget.

As anticipated, discussion ensued. Below are some of the comments and concerns expressed, which the Executive will reflect on in determining final numbers:

- Jane K felt the monetary amount didn't matter as much as the distinction of the award. She also suggested that we explore the cost of an institutional membership for similar societies. **Action item: Something for the Executive to explore further.**
- Emma C-B said the reduction in the PhD prize would harm doctoral students financially
- Christl V agreed with Jane K, adding that the other way of considering this problem was to tap corporations (banks, etc.) for prize money, and also to send letters to the Deans of prize winners ensuring that their institutions were CSN-REC members. CV wondered later if we are missing "obvious" Canadian Studies institutions/programs among our Institutional members. **Action item: Something for the Executive to explore further.**
- Dan M offered that "regular" membership numbers and fees should be increased, not institutional members' fees
- Kevin S, a former and long-serving Secretary-Treasurer of CSN-REC, agreed with the need for increasing numbers and fees in all categories

d. Budget Projections

TT cautioned that these projections are speculative ("responsible guesses") because we can never be certain of membership numbers this early in the annual membership cycle;

because we are proposing increases in membership costs and decreases in prize payouts; and because of unprecedented inflationary increases. The projection for the year ahead generated a deficit of between \$3178 and \$2269, as a worst-case scenario.

e. Remuneration of Administrative Assistant

TT asked Karli, if present virtually, to recuse herself. He explained that this overview is something that CSN-REC now does each year. He presented the StatsCan numbers for CPI for the last three years: 2019 CPI = 1.9% increase; 2020 CPI = 0.7% increase; and 2021 CPI (reported in August 2022) = 7%. The sum, less the extra 0.4% Karli received last year [3% instead of 2.6% for 2019 and 2020], would bring her increase this year up 6.6%, which will add \$641 to our annual budget.

Because of its financial implications, TT asked for a vote of the membership on this increase. It was moved by Jane Koustas that “the CSN-REC Administrative Assistant receive a 6.6% increase in line with StatsCan’s CPI numbers.” Christl Verduyn seconded; unanimously approved by the membership, with many comments about Karli Whitmore’s value to CSN-REC.

5. Graduate Student Representative report (Emma Croll-Baehre)

a. Student Spotlight Series

ECB reported that there are 6 new (2022) student research profiles featured on the CSN-REC website.

b. RIJEC/INES-Canada

She then reported that Manuel Sousa Oliveira, the spokesperson for the International Network of Emerging Scholars in Canadian Studies, invited her to join RIJEC/INES-Canada as the spokesperson for the CSN-REC. The network is committed: (1) to build a global community of emerging scholars in Canadian Studies by establishing direct connections between all students and ECRs in the field through their national and international spokespeople; (2) to foster new and innovative research in the field of Canadian Studies by emerging scholars; (3) to encourage new students and ECRs to get involved in the field of Canadian Studies by providing them with research opportunities.

She then asked Manuel Sousa Oliveira to speak about the International Network of Emerging Scholars. MSO explained that they have been conceptualizing a working group centering the research of student members of the CSN-REC, to meet monthly or bimonthly. Ideally, this working group would attract students in the field of Canadian Studies internationally. The meetings would occur virtually (over Zoom, for example), and serve as a space to present research (e.g. parts of a dissertation, a conference paper, etc.). Based on similar working groups out of the universities of Trier and Porto, each meeting would focus on one student’s work and get feedback from the other participants. The hope is for a small rotating group of facilitators, ECB included.

6. Other Business: Jane Koustas suggested that the CSN-REC AGM next year be held the week after Congress, which will be at York. Since many members will already be in Toronto for Congress, the location and timing makes sense.

7. Adjournment: Moved by Jane Koustas; seconded by Tony Tremblay; approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:21 PM EST.