

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHA

Virtual

14 June

MINUTES

**1. Call to order**

13 :00

**2. Minute of silence to honour deceased historians since our last AGM**

John Bellamy, John Bosher, David Gagan, Kenneth Pryke, John Taylor, David Torrance, Peter Waite.

**3. Adoption of agenda**

Motion by Matthew Hayday, seconded by Lara Campbell. Passed.

**4. Adoption of minutes of 2020 meeting**

Motion by Lisa Chilton, seconded by Nancy Janocivek. Passed.

**5. President's Report**

Penny Bryden mentioned that the last two years have been unsettled, to say the least, but in the sudden need to do everything differently we have had an important opportunity to begin the work of rethinking our practices.

Some things have remained the same. Historians at home and around the world have been denied access to materials through archival closures, have had their work used without attribution, have been charged with libel as a result of their publications; universities have flouted agreements and closed whole history departments; history has been sidelined in elementary and secondary education. The CHA has actively intervened in all these cases and more.

The CHA has continued to work with partners in archives, museums and public history organizations, to navigate the immediate disruptions of the pandemic, plan for a more accessible future, and provide material support for those students and marginalized scholars most severely impacted by restrictions.

There is much that has changed, however, in the last year. The webinar series Engage, which began pre-pandemic with panels on teaching Indigenous North America, provided a useful platform for a deep, extensive conversation about precarity that resulted in a comprehensive report and a series of proposals for both understanding and supporting the work that precarious workers do in and beyond the academy. Council has passed all the recommendations of the report and is moving forward on that basis. A future webinar series on race, racialization, decolonization and the discipline, again culminating in a report and proposals for action, is being organized for the fall. This will build on the work undertaken by the Equity, diversity, inclusion and de-colonization committee of Council to understand the contours of inequity and

craft guidelines and policies to address it in our practices. The 2020 best scholarly and Ferguson book prizes panels will also occur using the Zoom webinar platform later this summer. While there are obviously shortcomings to Zoom, it has definitely allowed us to engage in more frequent and more fulsome discussions – pedagogical, political and intellectual – across the year.

When the CHA withdrew from Congress this year in an effort to host a conference at which all members felt welcome, and at which it might be possible to actively engage with issues of Colonialism, Anti-Black racism and Equity, Zoom again came to the rescue. It allowed us to host a conference in 2021 that, while considerably smaller than conferences in the past, has so far included papers on exciting new topics, by scholars at the beginning of their career and beyond, and engaged in deep discussions of racism, Indigenous histories and inclusion. The conference is not yet over, and I look forward to the second half – four days in July organized loosely around themes of Health and Wellness, Inclusion and Exclusion, Science and Infrastructure, and Diplomacy, Colonialism and the Law.

Going forward, Council has established a committee to assess the ways in which the annual conference has been organized and held in the past, and recommend ways to structure a real in-person conference that still embraces what it can of the benefits of on-line participation.

There is a great deal that has become clear this past year, even as the absence of real contact between our members has given a two-dimensional quality to our encounters. Addressing issues of systemic racism and inequity within our profession is paramount and necessitates a rethinking of not only how we organize ourselves, but also how we understand and interpret the past. To this end, the CHA has established a fund to support an ongoing series of annual lectures on Rethinking History in Canada that will emphasize issues of decolonization and diversity.

In a year and more that has been far from business as usual, I want to thank Shannon Stunden Bower, James Muir and the 2021 program committee, Council members Mathieu Arsenault, Lisa Chilton, Karine Duhamel, Matthew Hayday, Letitia Johnson, Allyson Stevenson, Barrington Walker as well as the outgoing Council members Nancy Janovicek, John Lutz and Shannon McSheffrey, Treasurer Jo McCutcheon, assistant Treasurer Marielle Campeau and past-secretaries Matthew Bellamy and Marie-Michelle Doucet and vice-president, almost-president Steven High for all their work, counsel, good humour, sage advice, and inspiring commitment. Keeping it all afloat with as even a temper as I think I have ever seen has been executive director Michel Duquet. I thank them all.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Jo McCutcheon mentioned that the CHA 2020 Revenues, including Grants and Contributions add up to \$96,665. This is what we have received from SHHRC for the journal, Richard Allen's bequest of \$60,000 and the \$10,000 we do not have to repay the Canadian government on the \$40,000 loan we undertook.

### **2020 Expenses**

The only thing that jumps out is the \$22,025 on the Printing line. This is the expenses we incurred for the publication of *Employing History* – translation, formatting and \$1,000 honoraria. Publication costs are all compiled on under that line item.

We ended up with a \$56,753 surplus which would have been a \$13,247 deficit without Richard Allen's gift and the \$10,000 forgivable loan from the government.

We have an accumulated surplus of around \$291,000 will help with supporting the work of the CHA and its members in the coming years.

**7. The By-laws of the Association specify that members shall appoint, at each Annual Meeting, an auditor to audit the accounts of the Association for the upcoming fiscal year. Could we therefore have a motion to appoint Andrea Poole as our auditor.**

Motion by Jo McCutcheon, seconded by Catherine Carstairs. Passed.

## **8. 2021 Election Results**

Penny wanted to thank this year's committee for finding excellent candidates for Council and the Nominating Committee this year – Funké Aladejebi, Isabelle Bouchard, Shannon Stunden Bower, and Josh MacFayden.

Here are the candidates who were elected this year., in alphabetical order:

### Executive

Jo McCutcheon – Treasurer

Alexandre Dubé – French Language Secretary

Amanda Ricci – English Language Secretary

### Vice-President

Don Wright's nomination for 2022 was announced this year since it is a CHA tradition to publicise the candidate for Vice-President a year before they are to be on the election ballot.

### The new Council members are:

Claudine Bonner

Daniel Sims

David Webster

Penny thanked the outgoing Council members whose mandate ends today – Nancy Janovicek, John Lutz and Shannon McSheffrey.

### The new Nominating Committee members are:

Brian Gettler

Ian Mosby

Penny thanked the two outgoing members of the Nominating Committee whose mandate ends today – Isabelle Bouchard and Joshua MacFayden.

## **9. Other Business**

### a) CHA Precarity Report

Steven High mentioned that a 3-member committee, including at least one part-time or occasional instructor (who would receive an honorarium), will prepare a document identifying best-practices for department chairs on issues of precarity. Once approved by the CHA Council, this will be combined with the latest data from our survey and form the basis of an orientation package and webinar for department chairs. The training of incoming department chairs needs to go beyond lists, they need to be oriented to

these issues and hear the voices of precarious historians. The CHA orientation package might include a short digital story centred on the experiences of precarious workers themselves (with their permission and collaboration of course). The precarity report is posted on the [CHA website](#).

#### **10. Adjournment**

13:45, Motion by Godefroy Desrosiers-Lauzon, seconded by Matthew Hayday. Passed.