

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Mennonite Historical Society of Canada

Saturday, January 16, 2016, 11:00 a.m.

Mennonite Heritage Museum

1818 Clearbrook Road,

Abbotsford, British Columbia

Present:

Richard Thiessen, Treasurer, Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia

Don Fehr, Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia

David Neufeldt, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta

Alice Unrau, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta

Dick Braun, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan

Victor Wiebe, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan

Conrad Stoesz, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

Bert Friesen, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

Barb Draper, Member-at-Large, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario

Sam Steiner, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario

Lucille Marr, President, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec

Zacharie Leclair, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec

Laureen Harder-Gissing, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Jon Isaak, Centre for MB Studies, Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

Korey Dyck, Mennonite Heritage Centre, Mennonite Church Canada

Alf Redekopp, Secretary, Mennonite Church Canada

Barry Dyck, Mennonite Heritage Village

Royden Loewen, Vice President, Chair in Mennonite Studies, University of Winnipeg

Kathy Braun, (guest) MHSS

1. **Welcome:** Lucille Marr called the meeting to order.
2. **M/S/C (Alf Redekopp/ Bert Friesen).** To accept the minutes of the board minutes of 16 January 2015 as reviewed and distributed.
3. **Business Arising**
 - a) Richard reported that the Charities Directorate has not yet approved the dissolution of the MHSC Inc. The Charities Directorate of CRA has requested additional information about the award of excellence. Richard has responded and is optimistic that the approval will be received in the near future.
One comment was made that sometimes to apply for larger grants, the organization has to be incorporated. This point was never raised in the past and it may be too late to change anything now. A question was asked about the nature of our non-compliance with Industry Canada regarding our incorporation. Response: We have not filed annually nor had the annual financial audits been done.
 - b) Korey Dyck reported that Ted Friesen (Altona) was interviewed by Conrad Stoesz and Royden Loewen.
4. **Ratification of Committees**
 - a) Canadian GAMEO editorial committee: Bert Friesen (chair), Alice Unrau (Alberta), Victor Wiebe (Saskatchewan), Alf Redekopp (Manitoba), Linda Huebert Hecht (Ontario), Richard

Thiessen (managing editor & representing British Columbia), Sam Steiner (associate managing editor), Zacharie Leclair, (Quebec).

- b) Archives Committee: Conrad Stoesz (chair), Richard Thiessen (B.C.), Alice Unrau, (Alberta), Dick Braun (Saskatchewan), Laureen Harder-Gissing (Ontario), Jon Isaak (CMBS), Korey Dyck (MHC).
- c) Mennonite Archival Image Database Management (MAID) group: Conrad Stoesz (chair), Alf Redekopp, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Alice Unrau.
- d) DVCM committee: Royden Loewen, (chair), Marlene Epp, Lucille Marr, Pam Peters-Pries, Leonard Doell, Ken Reddig.
- e) Genealogy (task force): Bert Friesen (chair), Sam Steiner, Cary Sweet.
- f) Mennonite New Comers in Canada Project: Royden Loewen (chair), Lucille Marr, Laureen Harder-Gissing , Conrad Stoesz and Zacherie Leclair.

M/S/C (Alf redekopp/Bert friesen) that these people are our committee members for 2016.

5. Response to inquiry from MCC Canada regarding a book about MCC's work in Paraguay. MHSC executive and board AGREED by CONSENSUS that a project to facilitate the translation and publishing of this work is outside our direct mandate.
6. MHSC Award of Excellence
M/S/C (Dave Neufeld / Richard Thiessen) that we present the 2016 MHSC Award of Excellence to Hugo Friesen and Ted Regehr.
Discussion about procedures and award parameters followed. The guidelines are on MHSC website.
7. Categories of Membership
M/S/C (Barry Dyck / Bert Friesen) that the executive review the constitution including the creation of an "associate institutional membership" category. It was reported that MCC Canada is supportive of our organization but it's not its policy to sit around the board table of most of the groups it supports. It was also noted that MAID has a partner that is not a MHSC member (Fresno P.U.).
8. Projects
 - a. Royden Loewen reported that MHSC has applied to Canada 150 for a \$136,000 grant for the "Mennonite, War and Newcomer" project, based on approval by MHSC Executive. The project has a number of components including oral history work in in Abbotsford, Winnipeg and Kitchener, a conference at the University of Winnipeg, and others.
 - b. M/S/C (Royden Loewen/Bert Friesen) that the "Mennonite, War and Newcomer' Project" be a project of MHSC. M/S/C (Royden Loewen/Alice Unrau) that the "Mennonite New Comers in Canada project" be renamed to "A People of Diversity project" and that its aims be broadened to include all groups within the Mennonite ethos for the years 1970- 2018, a conference and a 4th volume in the Mennonites in Canada series.
9. Richard distributed the financial statement and budget for action at the annual general meeting.
10. Richard Thiessen was invited to offer a prayer. Conrad Stoesz/Victor Wiebe moved to adjourn the board meeting.