

CFTN AGM Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2016

The Canadian Fair Trade Network held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 20th, 2016. It ran from 7:35 till 8:35am (*Central Standard Time – CST*) at the Hotel Fort Garry in Winnipeg (222 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0R3, in the Assiniboine B room). *AGM chaired by Zack Gross

Meeting Minutes:

7:35am – Meeting called to Order

- A quick welcome was provided

7:35am – Approval of Agenda

- All in Favour

7:36am – Review of Roberts Rules of Order and voting

- Completed by *Sean McHugh (Executive Director)*

7:37am – Motion to approve AGM Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2015

- Motion put forward by Avery Gottfried
- Seconded by Lia Walsh
- All in favour, motion carried unanimously at 7:37am

7:40am – *President's Report (Zack Gross)*

- Zack provided a recap of 2015, touching on the growth of the organization, the number people, organizations and companies that the organization is now working with. Zack highlighted our partnership agreement with the Association Québécoise du Commerce Équitable, and closed by thanking the board and staff for everything they commit to this organization.
- Report moved by Zack, seconded by Monika Firl and approved by all

7:45am – Staff Report – *Sean McHugh (Executive Director)*

- Sean provided an overview of where the organization is at, focusing on improving staff capacity. Erik Johnson now manages Fair Trade Magazine, Bryce Tarling continues to provide editing and design support, Jess has been working to support with strategic planning and resource development support, while Naomi has worked as the conference project manager since September. The CFTN met as a board in June, getting through a range of issues, the new strategic plan has come out of that. The organization received two years funding support, starting in June of 2015, which, along with staff capacity, has put the organization into the strongest position it's ever been in.

7:50am – Presentation of the Annual Report

- Sean walked through the 16-page Annual report, highlighting the volume of work that has been accomplished through 2015. Sean also ran through the metrics that were provided on the last page of the Report.
- Question about EWB partnership, Monika Firl asked where that relationship is at currently. Sean explained that funding came to an end at the end of 2014, but that the work and partnership with the staff and network hasn't changed. The partnership is strong.

7:55am – 2015 Financials – *Kaan Williams (Treasurer), and Sean McHugh*

- Kaan ran through the financials, explaining each expense and revenue line

- Question around financing gap for magazine. Sean concluded that it's currently being run at a loss and that the organization needs to figure it out.
- Question about Fee for Service work. Kaan explained that the service contract with Fairtrade Canada was part, along with things like the development of a training session for Chartwells. A question then arose around financing gaps, if things like the Chartwells training program were one offs, and if the organization has plans to full those gaps. Sean responded that there are no plans to fill those gaps at the moment
- The CFTN has also finally made the move to work with an accountant, so more formal financial reports are coming soon
- Motion to accept the unaudited financial statement was presented
 - Moved by Lia Walsh
 - Seconded by Larissa Kanhai
 - All in favour, motion carried unanimously at 8:00am

8:00am – Nominations and elections of directors (12 seats total)

- 8 of the 12 seats were up for election, as only Zack Gross (MB), Kaan Williams (BC), Avery Gottfried (BC) and Eric St Pierre (QC) were not up for election
- Of the sitting board members, Bev Toews (AB), Kyra Moshtaghi Nia (MB) and Bruce Morton (ON) were interested to run again.
 - All three candidates provided a short address as to why they would like to run again
- There was interest from three candidates: Erin Bird (AB), Mike Allan (ON) and Jim Grant (Atlantic)
 - All three candidates provided a short address as to why they would like to run.
- A call was made for nominations from the floor
 - Maria Aman (SK) provided a short address as to why she would like to join the board.
 - No further nominations were heard.
- A motion was put forward to accept the nominations as they were presented.
 - Moved by Kaan Williams
 - Seconded by Lia Walsh
 - All in favour, motion carried unanimously at 8:20am

8:20am – Special Resolution – *Avery Gottfried*

- Avery provided some back ground on why this motion, and why now. The motion was then presented.
- Be it resolved, that to best serve the interests of the fair trade movement in Canada, and producers around the world, the Canadian Fair Trade Network endorse the Fairtrade International system (Fairtrade Canada), the Small Producers' Symbol (Simbolo de Pequeños Productores SPP), the Fair Trade Federation (FTF) and the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) as the leading fair trade certifications and/or fair trade membership bodies attainable for verification of fair trade products.
- Some discussion followed. Members were supportive of the direction
- Moved by Lia Walsh
- Seconded by Kaan Williams
- All in favour, motion carried unanimously at 8:33am

8:35am – Motion to adjourn the AGM put forward.

- Moved by Eric St Pierre, seconded by Lia Walsh, All in favour at 835am