

AGENDA

Opening Plenary

May 2009 National General Meeting

1. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

The Federation's Bylaws require that no less than one-half of the voting members of the Federation having voting rights be present in-person or by-proxy at the general meeting for business to be conducted. A roll call of the voting members will be taken to determine attendance and to confirm that a quorum of voting members is present.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROXIES

The Federation's Bylaws enable a voting member that is unable to attend all or portions of a general meeting to appoint another member to act as its proxy for all or portions of the meeting. Notification of proxy appointments received in accordance with Bylaw II, Section 5-b, will be announced at this time.

3. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER

The plenary is the formal decision-making assembly at the general meeting. In order to facilitate the decision-making process, a Plenary Speaker is appointed to chair general meeting plenary sessions.

The National Executive is recommending that Sylvia Sioufi be ratified as the Speaker for the plenary. Sylvia has a long history of involvement with the Federation, having served as an elected director and as a researcher for the Federation. Sylvia has chaired Federation national general meetings on several previous occasions.

4. WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

At this time, National Chairperson Katherine Giroux-Bougard will:

- provide welcoming remarks;
- introduce any guests who are present; and
- give an overview of and general orientation to the meeting.

5. ADOPTION OF THE PLENARY AGENDA

The plenary will consider the plenary agenda prepared by the National Executive. Any changes to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

6. ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

The plenary will consider the proposed schedule for the four days of the general meeting. Any changes to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

7. ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The plenary will consider the minutes of the previous national general meeting.

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8. OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES

a. Rules of Order and Plenary Procedures

A brief overview will be provided on Robert's Rules of Order, the system of meeting rules and procedures that the Federation employs for plenary sessions, plenary sub-committee meetings and caucus meetings, and additional rules and procedures established by standing resolution.

b. Anti-Harassment Procedures for the General Meeting

The Federation strives to create an environment at its national general meetings that is free of harassment. At each national general meeting the Federation employs an anti-harassment advisor who is available on a 24-hour basis to assist delegates.

At this time the Advisor will provide a brief orientation to the Federation's harassment policy as described in the policy manual.

c. Presentation by the Federation's Staff Relations Officer

National Treasurer Dave Molenhuis, who serves as the Federation's Staff Relations Officer, will make a brief presentation on the collective agreement between the Federation and its employees as it pertains to the rights and responsibilities of Federation employees at national general meetings.

9. PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

a. Introduction of Electoral Officers

In accordance with Bylaw 6, Section 7, the National Executive has appointed Christine Bourque and Ashkon Hashemi, Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario Fieldworker and Internal Coordinator, respectively, as Electoral Officers for the elections to be conducted at this meeting.

b. Overview of Election Schedule and Procedures

The Electoral Officers will provide an overview of the election schedule and procedures at this time.

10. ADOPTION OF STANDING PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEE AND FORUM AGENDA

As per Standing Resolution 1, Section 1, the following plenary sub-committees and forum are automatically struck:

- Budget Committee;
- Campaigns and Government Relations Forum;
- Organisational and Services Development Committee; and
- Policy Review and Development Committee.

The plenary will consider the plenary sub-committee and forum agendas prepared by the National Executive. Any changes or additions to the agendas may be proposed at this time.

11. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS SERVED WITH DUE NOTICE

The Federation's Bylaws require that all motions that seek to amend the Federation's Bylaws and Policy Manual or undertake campaigns be submitted no fewer than six weeks prior to the general meeting at which they are to be considered.

a. Motions Served with Notice by the Previous General Meeting

The following motion and the proposed amendment to it were referred to the National Executive by the May 2008 national general meeting:

2008/05:024 MOTION

Local 44/ Local 73

Whereas according to the Fourth Assessment Report (November 2007) of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): "Warming of the climate system is

unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level"; and

Whereas the impact of unsustainable human activities such as industrial manufacturing, industrial agriculture, natural resource extraction and mass transportation have exacerbated and accelerated this warming by increasing concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane; and

Whereas the most positive and pragmatic approach to addressing this emergency is for individuals, organizations and nations to become not just climate-neutral, but to move beyond being climate-neutral; and

Whereas 'beyond climate-neutral' means that individuals, organizations and nations work to reduce their impact on the climate to net-zero and, in addition, work to contribute to larger climate change solutions (i.e. they do more to solve the problems of climate change than they do cause them); therefore

Be it resolved that the National Executive consult and work with the David Suzuki Foundation, Aboriginal people experienced in sustainable indigenous ecological practices, and any other relevant experts in order to make all national meetings of the Federation and the operations of the national office beyond climate-neutral by May of 2010; and

Be it further resolved that material and informational support be provided to all locals who wish to make the transition to move beyond climate-neutral.

2008/05:127

MOTION TO AMEND

Local 44/Local 75

Be it resolved that Motion-2008/05:024 be amended to read:

"Be it resolved that the National Executive consult and work with the David Suzuki Foundation, Aboriginal People experienced in sustainable indigenous ecological practices and any other relevant experts in order to develop a long-term strategy towards becoming climate neutral for on-site aspects of all national general meetings of the Federation and the operations of the national office;

Be it further resolved transportation for all national general meetings of the Federation and the operations of the national office be investigated as a separate initiative that includes environmental best practices and excludes carbon trading; and

Be it further resolved that the National Executive include a section on the progress of this initiative in the National Executive Report at the November 2008 AGM, including a timeline for implementation; and

Be it further resolved that material and informational support be provided to all locals who wish to make the transition to move towards climate-neutrality."

The National Executive recommends the defeat of Motions 2008/05:024 and 2008/05:127.

The following motion was referred to the National Executive by the May 2008 national general meeting:

2008/05:036

MOTION

Local 76/Local 38

Whereas in 2001 Statistics Canada showed that there are 3,420,340 Canadians living with disabilities; and

Whereas in 2001 Statistics Canada showed that around 40% of Canadians with a disability have some form of post secondary education; and

Whereas in 2001 Statistics Canada estimated that the average income of a Canadian adult with a disability was \$22,228; and

Whereas the Federal government has chronically under funded post-secondary education accessibility programs for Canadians with permanent disabilities; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students supports the creation of publicly funded social programming instead of the programs aimed at benefiting individuals with disposable incomes such as Registered Education Savings Plans; and

Whereas the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) passed in the December 2007 Federal Budget; and

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Whereas the RDSP is intended to help parents and others to save for the long-term financial security of a child with a disability; and

Whereas any person who is: a Canadian Resident; or a parent or legal representative of a person who is resident in Canada and is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) will be able to have an RDSP; and

Whereas the RDSP will allow funds to be invested tax-deferred until withdrawal; and

Whereas RDSP contributions will be eligible for the new Canada Disability Savings Grant (CDSG) at matching rates of one hundred, two hundred or three hundred percent depending on household income, up to a yearly maximum of \$3,500 to a maximum lifetime CDSG limit of \$70,000; and

Whereas RDSP contributions will be eligible for the new Canada Disability Savings Bond (CDSB) for individuals whose household is classified as low income (\$20,883) to moderate income (\$37,178) up to \$1000 a year, maximum lifetime CDSG limit of \$20,000;

Whereas amounts withdrawn from a RDSP will not be taken into account for the purpose of calculating income tax benefits delivered through the income tax system; therefore

Be it resolved that the federal government be lobbied to increase the Canada Disability Savings Bond for individuals classified as low-income to create financial parity with savings opportunities available in the RDSP;

Be it further resolved that the federal government be lobbied to make withdrawals from the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) for the use of post-secondary education tax exempt and able to be withdrawn before the ten year "assistance holdback" period has elapsed without penalty;

Be it further resolved that the federal government be lobbied to not classify the RDSP as an asset when calculating clients' eligibility for their monthly disability assistance; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write letters to their federal Member of Parliament with the same requests as outlined above.

The National Executive recommends the adoption of Motion 2008/05:036.

b. New Motions Served with Notice

The following motions were served with notice and, therefore, may be considered at the meeting.

2009/05:N01 MOTION
Local 3/

Whereas one of the most cherished principles of the Canadian Federation of Students is that every local, regardless of size, should have an equal say in the governance of the Federation; and

Whereas practices which favour larger locals stand in direct opposition to this principle; and

Whereas the Federation currently offers a 'volume discount' to locals that print more than 7500 handbooks per year; and

Whereas many smaller locals have fewer than 7500 members, and as such cannot access this discount; therefore

Be it resolved that the practice of offering volume discounts based on an arbitrary number of books ordered be ceased, and instead offer a volume discount to locals which order enough handbooks to supply 80% or more of their membership.

2009/05:N02 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS
Local 41/

Whereas the Federation wants to ensure its processes to join and leave the Federation are as fair as possible; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw 1.4, subsection e,vi be amended to read:

vi. Referendum teams shall be subject to equal spending limits.

2009/05:N03 MOTION
Local 1/

Whereas anti-oppression training is an important tool to create awareness of the systems that are in our institutions and societies that guide the way many marginalised communities are forced to exist; and

Whereas anti-oppression training is important to take positive steps forward against institutionalised form of discrimination; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students is dedicated to anti-oppression initiatives; and

Whereas systemic oppression continues to exist in our society and on our campuses; and

Whereas anti-oppression training is recommended to all community members, particularly those in leadership positions; therefore

Be it resolved that an anti-oppression education kit be developed and anti-oppression materials be provided for all member locals; and

Be it further resolved that an anti-oppression trainer contact information list be provided to all member locals.

2009/05:N04

MOTION

Local 5/

Be it resolved that an end to the cruel, inhumane and illegal blockade against Cuba be demanded; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to United State's President Barack Obama demanding an end of the blockade of Cuba.

2009/05:N05

MOTION

Local 78/

Whereas the Federation supports the right of students to partake in the decision-making processes of governing bodies at post-secondary institutions; and

Whereas student representatives, elected by fellow students, may disagree with the decisions of other members of these bodies to engage in decisions that are ultimately harmful to the interests of students, and therefore, of their respective institutions; and

Whereas such decisions may include the increasing of tuition fees; and

Whereas an increasing number of institutions have operating policy ("Codes of Conduct") that strongly discourages or prohibits student representatives from publicly taking positions contrary to the decisions of these respective boards, as well as stipulations that disallow student representatives to speak to the media; and

Whereas student representatives who act contrary to these policies may face penalties, including expulsion from their respective governing bodies; and

Whereas administrative justifications such as adhering to corporate norms do not correspond with the need for public institutions to act in an open and transparent fashion, whereby the decisions of governing boards may be held into account, thereby permitting student representatives to register their dissent in public; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation staunchly oppose operating policies of governing boards that do not permit student-elected student representatives to speak publically on decisions of governing boards that may be perceived as contrary to the interests of students and their respective institutions.

2009/05:N06

MOTION

Local 78/

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students has carried out equity campaigns regarding barriers to post-secondary education for students with disabilities; and

Whereas many students with disabilities face a multitude of barriers on their campuses, both attitudinal and physical (or structural) in nature; and

Whereas greater awareness on our campuses of disability as a social construct is required to foster greater participation and inclusion of students with disabilities; therefore

Be it resolved that a "No Ableism!" campaign be devised to assist member locals in combatting ableist actions on their campuses and beyond, with member locals provided the following materials, to be developed in consultation with the Students with Disabilities Constituency Group:

- A survey template of "best practices" for combating ableism on campuses, to be administered by member locals. The data of these surveys is to be compiled into a manual of best practices by the Students with Disabilities Constituency Group at a later date;

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- A survey template of local disability advocacy groups to be administered by member locals. The data of these surveys will be provided to the Students with Disabilities Constituency Group to aid lobbying efforts as they relate to issues that impact students with disabilities; and
- A template to outline how to run student centered focus groups on ableism;

Be it further resolved that the findings of discussions and focus groups be reported back to the Students with Disabilities Constituency Group for overall evaluation of campaign steps taken thus far, and consideration of next steps in the development of the campaign over time.

2009/05:N07

MOTION

Local 24/

Whereas the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs is considering the removal of the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) from First Nations community management control to place it under the supervision of the Canada Student Loans Agency or another third party agency; and

Whereas the removal of the PSSSP from First Nations management would be another erosion of First Nations self governance; and

Whereas the federal government continues to ignore the under-funding of First Nations' postsecondary education, despite the findings of the report of its Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, published in February 2007 "No Higher Priority: Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education In Canada," which recommended that the government make funding to increase Aboriginal involvement in post-secondary education a priority; and

Whereas, between 2001 and 2006, more than 10,500 First Nations students did not have access to post-secondary education due to lack of funding; and

Whereas the report of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development also mentions an unsteady and inadequate funding which jeopardises the future of First Nations post-secondary institutions; and

Whereas the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs continues to deny the fiduciary responsibility of the government of Canada towards First Nations to fully fund a comprehensive Post-Secondary Student Support Program and seeks to discredit First Nations peoples in regards to the management and use of presently allocated funds; and

Whereas there is a wide education gap between First Nations and the Canadian population, which the government of Canada has pledged to reduce; therefore

Be it resolved that the removal of the Post-Secondary Student Support Programme from the control of First Nations communities be opposed; and

Be it further resolved that the government of Canada be lobbied to:

- prioritise efforts to address access for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to post-secondary education; and
- confirm the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) as a permanent First Nations community-level funded program which is comprehensive and available to all Aboriginal post-secondary learners; and
- adequately fund the right to post-secondary education for First Nations by taking immediate action in following up the recommendations of its Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development contained in "No Higher Priority: Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education In Canada;" and
- lift the 2 percent cap on the PSSSP and inject enough funds to ensure the right for Aboriginal peoples to free education is made possible.

2009/05:N08

MOTION

Local 68/

Whereas there is a lack of national data on college enrolments, tuition and ancillary fees, and funding over time and by region; and

Whereas much of this data is collected regularly for the university sector; and

Whereas the college sector is equally as important to society and the economy as the university sector; and

Whereas the current source of much of the data for colleges are bodies that represents college administrations; and

Whereas an independent source of data collection is preferred to reduce bias; therefore

Be it resolved that Statistics Canada be lobbied to collect and publish data on college enrolments, tuition and ancillary fees, and funding over time and by region; and

Be it further resolved that this data be available at no charge to the public.

2009/05:N09

MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 26/

Whereas the Federation has a number of Caucuses to discuss issues which affect members of each caucus; and

Whereas multi-campus institutions deal with a number of distinct issues which single campus institutions do not face; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw 9.3 be amended to include a "Multi-Campus Institution Caucus" as one of the Designated Caucuses.

The following motions were served with notice by the National Aboriginal Caucus and shall be considered at the meeting.

2009/05:N10

MOTION

Whereas the Federation is a strong proponent of funding for Aboriginal Education for all Indigenous peoples in Canada; and

Whereas successive federal governments have grossly underfunded post-secondary education in Canada and have consistently failed to provide adequate funding to fulfill the government's fiduciary duty to provide education to Canada's indigenous population; and

Whereas the current policy to cap funding increases in the Post-Secondary Student Support Program at 2% per year constitutes a prime example of underfunding of Aboriginal Education and the possible elimination of the program would only exacerbate the funding deficit; and

Whereas full funding of Aboriginal learners in Canada would constitute a major, tangible, effort by the federal government to fulfill its responsibilities to the indigenous people of Canada with action and funding instead of just words, therefore;

Be it resolved that the Campaign for Aboriginal Education include a National Week of Action to be held in the fall of 2009 calling on the federal government to fully fund all Indigenous learners in Canada;

Be it further resolved that the week of action focus on such tactics as letter writing, petitioning, coalition work and direct calling of MP and Minister offices;

Be it further resolved that the campaign call for the lifting of the two percent cap on funding increases for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and to call on the government to increase the budget to accommodate for the increase of population, tuition fees, and also to take into consideration inflationary pressures;

Be it further resolved that the campaign promote the self-governance aspect of current funding structures and call for greater accountability within the context of current program designs; and

Be it further resolved that the campaign promote research on the social and economic benefits of fully funding all Indigenous Learners.

2009/05:N11

MOTION

Be it resolved that the Native Women's Association of Canada's "Sisters in Spirit" Vigils on October 4, 2009 be endorsed.

The following motion was served with notice by the National Executive and shall be considered at the meeting.

2009/05:N12

MOTION

Be it resolved that McLarty and Company be retained as the Federations' auditor for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

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12. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

As per Bylaw V, Section 2-f., the National Executive will present a report to the plenary detailing the work of the Federation undertaken since the previous national general meeting.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

15. RECESS