

**ACTRA TORONTO
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016**

PRESENT

David Sparrow, President
Heather Allin, Past President
Art Hindle, Vice-President, External Affairs
David Gale, Vice-President, Communications
David Macniven, Treasurer (morning only)
Clara Pasioka, Vice-President, Member Services
Theresa Tova, Vice-President, Internal Affairs
Rebecca Applebaum
Maria Del Mar
Catherine Disher (morning only)
Shawn Doyle
Sedina Fiati
Dom Fiore
Barbara Gordon, alternate for Ferne Downey
Joel Keller
Grace Lynn Kung
Don Lamoreux, alternate for Shereen Airth
Jack Newman
Leah Pinsent
Julian Richings
Nicole St. Martin
Richard Young, alternate for Wendy Crewson, Vice-President, Member-at-Large
Jocelyne Zucco, alternate for Colin Mochrie

REGRETS

Angelica Lisk-Hann

COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS

Joe Doran, Chair, Apprentice Caucus
Les Williams, Chair, Additional Background Performers Caucus

OBSERVERS

Donal Hansman

ALSO PRESENT

Sue Milling, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto
Judy Barefoot, Director, Commercial Production, ACTRA Toronto
Alistair Hepburn, Director, Independent & Broadcast Production, ACTRA Toronto
Karl Pruner, Director, Communications, Education and Outreach, ACTRA Toronto
Karen Woolridge, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto
Elliot Anderson, Acting Director, Public Policy, Research & Communications, ACTRA National
Taisa Dekker, Industry Relations, ACTRA Toronto
Laura McKelvey, Senior Commercial Co-ordinator, ACTRA Toronto
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting commenced at 10:13 a.m. with President, David Sparrow, in the Chair. He welcomed everyone present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda Item 9 was moved to a future meeting.

MOTION #1

Moved by Don Lamoreux, seconded by Heather Allin:

“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of June 7, 2016, as amended, be accepted.”

CARRIED

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, the following was passed:

MOTION #2

Moved by Nicole St. Martin, seconded by Clara Pasieka:

“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of May 3, 2016, be accepted.”

CARRIED

The reading of the ACTRA Equality Statement and introduction of alternates, observers and staff followed.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

David Sparrow reported on the following items:

- Recently toured *The Expanse’s* Pinewood Studio space. The *Star Trek* series will shoot here. Although the production has booked studio space for five years, there are still seven studios available for other productions.
- ROI Annual General Meeting – ROI continues to lobby the provincial and federal governments to re-establish the incentive for labour sponsored investment funds.
- Studio visits – promoting engagement of professional performers, ACTRA Toronto’s new resources and initiatives in, for example, e-learning and video games and introducing them to voice.ACTRAonline.ca.
- Mr. Sparrow attended the Apprentice Meeting and addressed their concerns regarding the *Preference of Engagement* clause in the IPA. He clarified that the letter that was sent to agents and casting directors does not mean that production must hire Full Members only but that they should follow the rules under the IPA.
- SCAPR (Societies’ Council for the Collective Management of Performers’ Rights): ACTRA PRS hosted the general assembly during the week of May 24th to May 27th. Mr. Sparrow attended the opening night functions with Sue Milling.
- Northern Ontario Tour with Alistair Hepburn – Mr. Sparrow gave a *PowerPoint* presentation. There are approximately 150 members residing in that area. Production is attracted to the north in part due to grants available through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund.

Mr. Sparrow and Mr. Hepburn took in 15 meetings within the two days that they spent there, including meetings with industry suppliers and strategic partners.

- Items for ACTRA Toronto to follow-up: Increase member engagement in the north; look at feasibility of holding joint session with the DGC in September; participate in training symposium sponsored by the unions in September; work with Mayor McDonald on a draft motion for North Bay Council calling on the provincial government to make a commitment to ongoing growth of the industry in the north through the stability of tax credits and continued support of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund.
- Meet with John Schoales from the Minister of Culture's office re cultural strategy.
- Attended TAWC Nell Shipman Award evening – recognition and celebration of Jennifer Podemski. Thanks to the women's committee and volunteers for an outstanding evening.
- Met of the Professional Advisory Council of Sheridan College. Mr. Sparrow sits on this Council.
- David provided a brief report on the AFBS Board of Governors meeting and Annual General Meeting.
- Life members: Recommendation presented from Executive for ACTRA National to grant Life Membership to Shawn Lawrence, Tabby Johnson and Richard Hardacre.

MOTION #3

Moved by Maria Del Mar, seconded by David Macniven:

“That ACTRA Toronto recommends to the National Council that Shawn Lawrence, Tabby Johnson and Richard Hardacre receive Life Membership from the union.”

CARRIED 1 Abstention – Catherine Disher – Recorded abstained.

- Council was reminded about the upcoming Toronto National Caucus meeting, the National Councillor Lobby Training, and the ACTRA National Council meeting later this month.
- There will be no Council meeting in July. The Executive Meeting is on July 19th and the next Council meeting on August 9th.
- The annual Toronto Pride Parade is on July 3rd. The ACTRA Toronto Pride Ambassador is Gavin Crawford.
- Labour Day Parade – September 5th.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sue Milling reported.

- Presented an update on the ACTRA Toronto Operating Plan.
- The e-learning initiative is being well received, and the audiobook workshops organized by the Voice Committee were very successful.
- Casting Central has moved into new facilities which are fully accessible. They have developed a new self-tape app and have a self-tape studio within Casting Central too.
- Mimi Wolch will be moving on from FilmOntario. Cynthia Lynch, will be the new FilmOntario Managing Director and Counsel starting June 27th.
- Taisa Dekker provided a presentation on Industry Relations work over the last year. The report to be presented also to the National Council included work done to-date on reaching out to Producers and Engagers who have not worked with ACTRA before or have been working with non-union cast, and organizing successes with films, commercials and videogames. Taisa also reported on e-learning and audio book projects.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 2015 – 2016

David Macniven reported. The *Report to the Audit Committee – Communication of audit strategy and results* and the *Consolidated Financial Statements* for the year ended February 29, 2016, were distributed and discussed.

MOTION #4

Moved by David Macniven, seconded by David Gale:

“That ACTRA Toronto Council accept the *Report of the Audit Committee* and the *Consolidated Financial Statements* for the year ended February 29, 2016, and reappoint Grant Thornton LLP as auditors.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Vice-President, Member Services – Clara Pasieka: YEAA met last week. The committee is in discussion as to the type of presence they would like to have at TIFF.

Labour Day Parade Committee: The committee will be meeting in August

Pride Parade is on Sunday, July 3rd. Gavin Crawford is our Pride Ambassador.

Member Services Committee:

- Issues raised by the ACTRA Toronto Women’s Committee about parental leave and maternity supports were raised at the AFBS AGM.
- A videos representing TAWC, AYA, YEAA and the Diversity Committee is in development for use at Full Member Training workshops, school visits, etc.; video on how to read call sheets which will be sent to agents and schools; and GIFs will be developed to convey health and safety messaging, etc. on social media
- The Full Members course has been revamped. It has been reduced to a one day workshop from a day and a half.

US COMMERCIALS

This was an in-camera session. Ms Dekker and Ms Milling presented. Mr. Sparrow provided an overview.

MOTION #5

Moved by David Gale, seconded by Nicole St. Martin:

“ACTRA Toronto Council agrees in principle with pursuing a special pilot project for US use commercials.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Vice-President, Communications – David Gale: Mr. Gale reported.

Performers Magazine will be ready to be mailed out in September before the Members Conference.

Performers On Set will be out in the next couple of weeks.

Conference Committee – Nicole St. Martin reported that the next committee meeting is on June 13th at 3:30 p.m. There is a lot of involvement from the various committees and suggested that if the committee chairs cannot attend they should send members encourage members from their committees to attend the conference.

Awards Committee – Maria del Mar reported that the committee is gearing up for the 2017 Awards.

Treasurer – David Macniven: Mr. Macniven delivered the finance reported earlier in the day.

Apprentice Caucus – Joe Doran reported that the last caucus meeting was very well attended. Referring to *Preference of Engagement* and the rumoured responses from Productions and Agents, he stated that members are very concerned about work opportunities.

Mr. Sparrow said that ACTRA Toronto is taking very seriously the queries raised regarding *Preference of Engagement*.

Sedina Fiati said that members should not be harassing other members regarding their membership status. She also pointed out that the statement about hiring any category of membership should not be indicated on the casting breakdown. This should be between ACTRA and Casting.

Additional Background Member Caucus – Les Williams reported, sharing similar concerns as above. Ms Milling noted that *Preference of Engagement* is not new; ACTRA Toronto is enforcing the collective agreement and the Constitution.

Mr. Sparrow reiterated that ACTRA Toronto will continue to improve our communication with members.

Past President – Heather Allin: Diversity – Sedina Fiati reported that the ASL (American Sign Language) workshop is on June 18th.

The *#SharetheScreen* video is almost completed. The focus of the TIFF event is *#SharetheScreen*. The Diversity Committee will be taking the lead on this. The next meeting of the Diversity Committee is June 14th at 3:00 p.m.

Alyson Court will be teaching a voiceover performance workshop for performers living with disabilities.

Women's Committee: Ms Allin reported. The next meeting of the National Women's Committee is on June 16th from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Women in the Director's Chair 20th Anniversary launch will be held at the Gladstone Hotel on June 17 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The new twitter handle for the National Women's Committee is @ACTRAWomen. Councillors were encouraged to follow them.

Vice-President, External Affairs – Art Hindle: Mr. Hindle reported.

Legacy Committee – ideas about celebrating our legacy should be forwarded to Joel Keller.

Day of Action – this will take place in October. He asked Councillors to try to get as many members as they can to lobby politicians in their neighbourhoods.

Vice-President, External Affairs – Theresa Tova: Ms Tova reported. AYA has been extremely busy. The dance movement classes were very well attended. *Auditioning for Commercials* workshop with Christina Collins is scheduled for June 13th.

Children's Committee: Christina Collins, the new Child Advocate is very busy.

Agents: Ms Tova reported that the meetings regarding the new Entertainment Industry Code are going well. The next meeting will be held in July.

TAWC: Ms St. Martin reported on the Nell Shipman Award. Jennifer Podemski was the recipient of this year's award. Rebecca Applebaum did an excellent job in organizing the event.

The maternal benefits sub-committee is working with AFBS to advocate for coverage for parental leave, etc.

The new Toolkit series is underway.

OTHER BUSINESS

Joel Keller pointed out that *Look Again* will be playing at the Kingsway Theatre from June 24th to June 30th.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:05 P.M.