

**ACTRA TORONTO
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018**

PRESENT

Theresa Tova, President

David Sparrow, Past President
Richard Young, Treasurer
David Gale, Vice-President, Communications
Art Hindle, Vice-President, External Affairs
Clara Pasioka, Vice-President, Member Services
Shereen Airth
Heather Allin
Salvatore Antonio
Rebecca Applebaum (afternoon only)
Angela Asher
Tantoo Cardinal
Christina Collins, alternate for Wendy Crewson, VP, Member-at-Large
Lisa Michelle Cornelius
Paul de La Rosa
Maria del Mar
Catherine Disher
Grace Lynn Kung
Debra McGrath (morning only)
Leah Pinsent
Joanna Swan, alternate for Nicole St. Martin, VP, Internal Affairs
Joy Tanner
Jean Yoon

REGRETS

Shawn Doyle

COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS

Joe Doran, Chair Apprentice Caucus
Karen Ivany, Ombudsperson (afternoon only)
Jani Lauzon, Diversity Advocate (morning only)
Les Williams, Chair, Additional Background Performers Caucus

OBSERVERS

Ferne Downey, FIA President and Past President, ACTRA National

ALSO PRESENT

Sue Milling, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto
Judy Barefoot, Director, Commercial Production, ACTRA Toronto
Alistair Hepburn, Director, Film, Television and Digital Media, ACTRA Toronto
Karl Pruner, Director, Communications, Education and Outreach, ACTRA Toronto
Karen Ritson, Director, Finance and Administration, ACTRA Toronto
Victoria Shen, Special Advisor, ACTRA Toronto
Nicole Valentin, Director, Member Services, ACTRA Toronto
Karen Woolridge, Public Relations Officer
Tania Cardwell, Stunt Liaison, ACTRA Toronto
Elliott Anderson, Director, Public Policy and Communications, ACTRA National
Cathia Badiere, Director, Research, ACTRA National
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. with President Theresa Tova, in the Chair. The meeting commenced with the reading and explanation of the Land Acknowledgement and the explanation of the Dish with One Spoon Treaty by ACTRA Toronto Diversity Advocate Jani Lauzon. The reading of the ACTRA Toronto Equality Statement followed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #1

Moved by Maria del Mar, seconded by Clara Pasieka:

“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of February 6, 2018, be accepted.”

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, the following was moved:

MOTION #2

Moved by Heather Allin, seconded by Lisa Michelle Cornelius:

“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of January 4, 2018, be accepted.”

CARRIED

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Theresa Tova welcomed and introduced everyone present. She reminded the ACTRA Toronto National Councillors and alternates of the upcoming Caucus meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.

Ms Tova reported on the following:

- The meetings with members of the PAL Board of Directors. Board member Reverend John Joseph is interested in securing long-term care beds for PAL. Council members were encouraged to support PAL by joining as members.
- Sexual harassment file:
 - The Education working group of the industry roundtable plans to include production training and outreach to schools in their agenda. Ms Tova was on a panel at York University on sexual harassment. The National Theatre School is also interested in getting involved with us on training.
 - Psychologist Dr. Jesmen Mendoza, was the facilitator of the men’s safe space group that was held recently. He talked about the importance of vocabulary and the several types of training for combating harassment.
 - The National Constitution and By-Laws sub-committee has met twice.
 - Members have concerns about Telefilm continuing to provide funding to abusers. Tova and staff have met with Telefilm to help move the conversation forward in a positive manner.

- At the ACTRA Day in L.A a session was held on working in the US. Apparently, US Immigration is now tracking the time Canadian performers are spending in the US.
- The ACTRA harassment wallet card was welcomed at Prime Time in Ottawa. Reynolds Mastin opened the conference. He spoke about harassment and thanked ACTRA, specifically mentioning Theresa Tova and David Sparrow, WIDC and Women in View for their leadership.
- Joanne Vannicola chaired the first meeting of the LGBTQ+ group.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sue Milling reported. Cass Enright, our social media consultant has been sending out factoids on Twitter to raise awareness of the upcoming Conference and Awards.

Production numbers and census results will be reported at the March or April Council meeting.

Ms Milling attended ACTRA Day in LA. Ms Milling also joined National and Branch representatives in meetings with the labour relations departments for the studios. They were interested in what we are doing in regarding harassment. Many of the studios now have anonymous hotlines for harassment which goes to their Human Resources departments. All complaints are kept confidential.

The CMPA presented their Profile Report at Prime Time for the period April 2016 to March 2017. It shows an increase of 24 per cent in production volume. Children's and youth programming is down which is attributed to the CRTC's decision to reduce CanCon in daytime. Ms Milling reviewed some of the other highlights in the report. The full report is available on the CMPA website.

DIVERSITY ADVOCATE REPORT – JANI LAUZON

Jani Lauzon presented a PowerPoint report, outlining the history of the Diversity Committee since 1982. Ms Lauzon talked about the outreach of the Diversity Advocate and the support ACTRA Toronto provides to emerging diverse filmmakers through film festival partnerships. Ms Lauzon requested that Council members not only attend the film festivals but also get involved with the panel sessions and workshops which are opportunities to introduce filmmakers to ACTRA and discuss how Producers can access professional ACTRA talent for their productions.

After ACTRA Toronto's advocacy, the ODSP has finally acknowledged if disabled artists are grant recipients this should not affect their disability payments. The Council expressed their thanks and appreciation to Ms Lauzon for this work and important change in the ODSP.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ADVOCATES

Committee Chairs

TAWC: Co-Chairs – Freya Ravensbergen and Joanna Swan

Diversity: Co-Chairs – Lisa Michelle Cornelius and Samora Smallwood

AYA: Jennifer Higgin – recommendation for a new Chair to come at a later meeting.

Legacy and Archives: Joy Tanner

Voice: Co-Chairs – Linda Ballantyne and Shauna MacDonald

YEAA: Co-Chairs – Clara Pasioka, Ayla Lukic-Roman and Kristina Esposito

Advocates

Child: Christina Collins

Ombudsperson: Karen Ivany

Diversity: Jani Lauzon

Council approved the appointment of the above Committee Chairs and Advocates for a two-year period.

Background Advocate: Discussion ensued regarding the appointment of a Background Advocate. The term of this position will be two years.

MOTION #3

Moved by Shereen Airth, seconded by Joy Tanner:

“That ACTRA Toronto Council create the position of Background Advocate.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Conflict of Interest: The ACTRA Toronto Council Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement – Rev 01/03/18 was presented to Council. Following a lengthy discussion, the document was approved with a minor correction.

MOTION #4

Moved by Clara Pasioka, seconded by David Gale:

“That the ACTRA Toronto Council Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement be approved.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Code of Ethics: The Code of Ethics for ACTRA Toronto Council – rev. 01/03/18 was presented to Council.

MOTION #5

Moved by Leah Pinsent, seconded by Angela Asher:

“That ACTRA Toronto Council approve the Code of Ethics for ACTRA Toronto Council.”

DISCUSSION

After a lengthy discussion Council agreed to defer this conversation to a future meeting. The draft will go back for review and revision.

TABLED

MOTION #6

Moved by Jean Yoon, seconded by Paul de La Rosa:

“That Motion #5 regarding the Code of Ethics for ACTRA Toronto Council be deferred to a future meeting.”

CARRIED

FINAL OPERATING PLAN AND BUDGET 2018 – 2019

The final version of the Operating Plan 2018/19 was distributed to Council. Richard Young and Karen Ritson presented the draft budget for the year ending February 2019.

MOTION #7

Moved by Salvatore Antonio and Grace Lynn Kung:

“That the ACTRA Toronto Operating Plan 2018/19 and the draft budget for the year ending February 2019 be accepted.”

CARRIED

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Vice-President, Communications – David Gale: Awards: Maria del Mar reported on how the plans for celebrating ACTRA’s 75th Anniversary at the ACTRA Awards in Toronto on Saturday, February 24th were coming along.

Magazine: Joy Tanner reported that the magazine was going to press soon.

Website: David Gale said that we are in the process of revamping the website.

AYA: Mr. Gale reported that a new chair will be appointed soon.

Communications Committee: A meeting is being scheduled for March.

Vice-President, External Affairs – Art Hindle: Mr. Hindle reported on Prime Time in Ottawa. 50% of the speakers were women. \$86,000 was raised for the AFC. Sessions were recorded and can be viewed from the CMPA website.

Vice-President, Member Services – Clara Pasioka: Ms Pasioka reported that she is interested in doing more tutorials on member developed projects. She would also like to find a way to ensure all members are strongly encouraged to complete the anti-harassment training.

Vice-President, Member-at-Large – Wendy Crewson: Industry Relations – Theresa Tova reported. The non-union production breakdowns consistently offer rates far below NCA and IPA minimums.

Taisa Dekker continues to meet with producers and filmmakers and do presentations at schools and colleges promoting ACTRA.

Diversity: Lisa Michelle Cornelius had nothing to report. Out-going Co-Chairs, Sedina Fiati and Farah Merani thanked everyone for their support over the last few years.

Council will recommend Sedina Fiati as Co-Chair of the National Diversity Committee.

Treasurer – Richard Young: Apprentice Caucus: Joe Doran reported that the Caucus held its final meeting for the year. Elections are upcoming.

Education: There will be an anti-harassment training for Councillors after the Executive Reports. Richard Young said that, once the on-line Apprentice course is launched, it will be mandatory for Apprentice members to attend a session or complete the course on-line. The course is two hours long if done in person or five hours long if done online. The launch date is end February or early March.

AABP Caucus: Les Williams had nothing to report.

Full Member Background Committee: The ACTRA FMBG's last meeting was Wednesday, December 2017.

FMBG Video Project – At the December meeting, the committee's video project was discussed. The concept is to produce short, entertaining and informative sequences that will be effective on their own, as well as viewed together. The videos will be shared with the DGC, and the project is still awaiting funding approval. The committee's video group has met with cinematographer Gayle Ye and viewed encouraging concepts from her team.

As an action item resulting from the meeting, it was also decided to pitch an increase in the FMBG Committee's budget, separate from the video project.

There was discussion of events hosted at upcoming conferences involving interaction with BG Casting Directors, as well as the suggestion of skill-building workshops.

The FMBG Committee plans to form a working group to focus on the background community's collective interest in the terms of the upcoming IPA.

Voice Committee

Catherine Disher reported that the Voice Committee Co-Chairs feel strongly that there should be two voice awards – one for female and one for male.

Vice-President, Internal Affairs – Nicole St. Martin: *Conference:* The cast from *Workin’ Moms* will be leading off our Winter 2018 Conference at the Breakfast With...

We will be holding social media and PR strategy sessions as well as Green Card and visa session with D’Alessio Law.

A scene study Masterclass with Sudz Sutherland and another Masterclass with Adrienne Mitchell (past Nell Shipman Award recipient).

The session pertaining to harassment will be held during the AGM.

As Ms St. Martin will be performing in *Do This In Memory of Me*, Rebecca Applebaum will be on the ground over the two days to help coordinate.

TAWC: Joanna Swan reported.

- Communications sub-committee is getting a good plan of action together focus on all things communication, including social media, branding, outreach, as well as collecting past TAWC information to record our legacy so that new members can see all that has been achieved thus far, and celebrate the work that our sisters are doing. We are also looking to have a portion of some of our meetings geared specifically to welcome new TAWC members and bring them up to speed on what we do.
- Nell Shipman Awards nominations will be opening soon, and voting will be in March.
- Our January Content Development Session was a huge success – we are extremely grateful for Gail and Tasso giving us their time.
- Short Film Creation Lab team is forging ahead and aiming to go to camera mid March. WFW has extended the partnership further in committing to provide lighting, grip AND a camera package for the team, and we are currently working out a possible partnership with Urban Post to help guide and support the team for post production. The team will be coming to our February meeting to do a Q&A with the committee, as we are really working to get more inspiration for and involvement from our TAWC members.
- The film festival sub-committee is re-visiting last years idea about an avenue to screen female driven productions, potentially in a festival type setting. Looking to research, numbers and potential partnerships at the moment.

Child Advocate: Christina Collins reported. She was on Set last month as Oslo/Child Advocate for *Handmaid’s Tale*. Closed set with two women. Making sure they were safe and aware of what was expected of them in the scene.

Ms Collins would like to offer to teach a course for our young actors, mainly in the teenage range. One of the things she covers is harassment in the workplace. Explaining the Canadian charter of rights detailing what constitutes harassment of any kind in the workplace. Ways to identify the type of harassment and offer problem solving techniques for resolution.

She is planning to take the ACTRA initiation course that is offered to new members, in order to experience first-hand what ACTRA already covers.

In the planning stages for the next Stage Parents' survival Seminar with an industry tax accountant, Child agent, grown up child actor and cyber safety police person.

NATIONAL REPORT

David Sparrow reported on the recent meeting of the Canadian Labour Congress.

He also reported on ACTRA Day in LA, CMPA Prime Time in Ottawa. The Heritage Minister invited ACTRA to attend a meeting with the Chinese Consulate. Mr. Sparrow and Elliott Anderson represented ACTRA at this meeting.

National Council will be meeting over the upcoming weekend. The Vice-President and Treasurer will be elected at this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Toronto National Council Caucus meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ANTI-HARASSMENT TRAINING

Victoria Shen, Richard Young and Karen Ivany led the Anti-harassment training for Council.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:45 P.M.