

**ACTRA TORONTO
EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022**

PRESENT

David Gale, President, in the Chair
Theresa Tova, Past President
Gugun Deep Singh, Treasurer
Lisa Michelle Cornelius, Vice-President
Debra McGrath, Vice-President
Louisa Zhu, Vice-President
Jocelyne Zucco, Vice-President
Dalmar Abuzeid
Fuad Ahmed
Heather Allin
Sandra Beckles
Martha Chaves
Wendy Crewson
Ruby Joy
Linda Kash
Tony Nappo
Jane-Rose Nguyen
Anand Rajaram

REGRETS

Joy Tanner, Vice-President
George Alevizos
Thom Allison
Nicola Correia-Damude
Samora Smallwood

COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS, OMBUDSPERSON

Karen Ivany, Ombudsperson
Victoria Murdoch, Chair, Apprentice Caucus

ALSO PRESENT

Alistair Hepburn, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto
Sue Milling, Advisor, ACTRA Toronto
Judy Barefoot, Director, Commercial Production, ACTRA Toronto
August Lew, Director, Finance and Administration, ACTRA Toronto
Karl Pruner, Director, Communications, ACTRA Toronto
Nicole Valentin, Director, Member Services, ACTRA Toronto
Gail Hauptert, Manager, Film, Television and Digital Media, ACTRA Toronto
Cass Enright, Media Relations, ACTRA Toronto
Maxine Bower, Special Advisor, ACTRA Toronto
Taisa Dekker, Industry Relations, ACTRA Toronto
Jenn Paul, Industry Relations Specialist, AntiBlack Racism, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, ACTRA Toronto
Karen Woolridge, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting was called to order over Zoom at 9:08 a.m. with President, David Gale, in the Chair. Mr. Gale welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance. He remembered the people of Ukraine and wished a speedy end to the destruction. Wendy Crewson said that an artist has stepped up should be an inspiration to all of us.

Mr. Gale said that this meeting is a two-item agenda – one being a follow up to the comments made by a casting director at the Winter Members Conference and the other a report on the NCA strike mandate vote.

The reading of the Land Acknowledgement by Wendy Crewson was followed by reading of the Equality Statement by Fuad Ahmed, Deb McGrath, Ruby Joy and Janet-Rose Nguyen.

CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP

Council approved the statement to accompany the video of the conference workshop. Alistair Hepburn, Jenn Paul and David Gale met with the Casting Directors Society of Canada and they have agreed to a six-step process to address the discriminatory practices in casting.

Mr. Hepburn said that the statement was made to specifically address the comments made by the casting director. It is an opportunity to shine a spotlight into those dark and dusty corners. With Ms Paul moving to ACTRA National it will help to broaden the reach.

Council approved the following statement:

ACTRA Toronto Council strongly condemns all forms of discrimination. ACTRA conferences, workplaces and events are intended to be harassment and discrimination free zones.

Although we are grateful for the time and Commercial Casting advice that Ms. Lutz shared with the ACTRA Toronto membership, there are several opinions expressed by Ms. Lutz in this conference session that do not represent the values and beliefs of ACTRA Toronto. We empathize with any members who have been negatively affected by the opinions expressed by Ms. Lutz in this conference session.

After deep consideration and discussion, we, the ACTRA Toronto Council, have made the decision to leave the unedited recording up on the ACTRA Toronto website, with added trigger warnings placed throughout. Ms. Lutz and the Casting Directors Society of Canada have been made aware of this decision and the condemnation of these opinions.

Please note the following trigger warnings: cis-sexist, ableist, and racist biases, and accent discrimination.

ACTRA Toronto recognizes the history of discriminatory biases and prejudices that have had profound negative effects on the mental and financial health of Black, Indigenous, Persons of Colour, 2SLGBTQIA+ performers, and Performers living with Disabilities. It is our goal that, with the Casting Director Society of Canada, we can use this opportunity to examine and dismantle the power dynamics that have allowed these practices to continue for so long.

NATIONAL COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT – BARGAINING UPDATE (IN CAMERA)

Sue Milling gave an update on how the NCA negotiations are progressing. The National Council is looking for a strike mandate. In the meantime, bargaining will continue over the next two weeks and the bargaining committee hopes to reach a deal with the help of the mediator.

MOTION

Moved by Heather Allin, seconded Unanimously:

“That ACTRA Toronto Council support the National Commercial Agreement Bargaining Team in moving forward with a strike mandate.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.