



# Monthly RVAC Meeting

Date: 19/09/2013

Location: 15 Holland Avenue

CO-Chairs: Carl Laguerre and Zelma Buckley

Minutes prepared by: Zelma Buckley (Co-Chair)

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## Present:

Carl Laguerre  
Zelma Buckley  
Paulette Barker  
Paul Abi-Mansour  
Samy Bittar  
Michael Clement  
Victor Laing  
Effie McLeod  
Debbie Thomas

## Regrets:

Marjorie Toussaint

## Guests:

Marie-Françoise Bertrand  
Ginette Thony

## Resource Person

Nairra Tariq

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**Meeting called to order at 5:55pm by Brother Carl Laguerre**

**1 – Round-table introduction:** It was Samy Bittar's first meeting as well as our Resource Person, Nairra Tariq.

**2- Adoption of the Agenda:** A motion to accept the Agenda as amended was made by **Brother Michael Clement** and seconded by **Sister Effie McLeod**. **The motion was carried**

### 3- Minutes of the July Meeting

A motion to accept the July minutes was made by **Brother Paul Abi-Mansour** and seconded by **Sister Zelma Buckley**. **The motion was carried**

### 3- 1 Business Arising from the July Minutes

- **Human Rights Conference:** There are at least five members from RVAC who will be attending the conference in November. Sister Ginette has offered to give us some names of delegates with whom we can speak in order to get some support for the resolutions
- Brother Samy asked how does one get to the conference? Brother Carl explained that registration closed a while ago.

### 4- Human Rights 101 prepared by Brother Carl

The document was prepared in the hopes of helping members to understand the concept of Human rights; it is for discussion and comments. A question was asked as to why we are we receiving this document. Although not a criticism, for the ordinary person the document is not easy to understand and go through the links.

Zelma suggested that we do a Dec 10 activity including speakers to do a presentation; the document is very good but requires guidance; Nairra will look to see if the PSAC have something that will supplement it.

Paul forgot to bring his cases (documents) so we were not able to discuss for this meeting as promised; he will bring for the next meeting. He explains, there is a problem with the judicial system

### 5- Racialized members request for help

Most times we do not have the root of the problem and we don't hear about it until they go to the PSAC/Brother Larry. A discussion developed as to what are the normal procedures when the PSAC receives a complaint from a member. The component is usually contacted.

Another discussion ensued over what RVAC has the mandate to do for racialized members. RVAC does have a Mandate; it was suggested that we go to the site and take what is there and work on it. After some deliberation the following motion was put forward:

**Formalized the process by which RVAC is mandated and recognized to be the primary contact and represent racialized members in the NCR with issues related to discrimination and harassment in the workplace in consultation with experts in the field; moved by Michael Clement and seconded by Paul Abi-Mansour.** The motion was carried  
Victor Laing and Zelma Buckley abstained!

**A motion to hold an event for Human Rights Day, December 10 to discuss 101 Human Rights and submit a Business Case in the amount of \$1000.00 to the Ottawa Area Council (OAC) was made by Sister Zelma Buckley and seconded by Sister Paulette Barker. The Motion was carried.**

#### **7- The new value of Quebec – proposed amendment to the Charter**

**This is a very sensitive issue and people have different comments such as:**

1. It is only a DRAFT right now
2. They may be ready to compromise due to the backlash that has resulted
3. By putting it out there they may be looking for a majority vote
4. They are in a minority situation, how can they do that?

There were also some suggestions of what we could do:

- a. Put letters in the newspaper like some committees have
- b. Maybe go to Quebec and protest
- c. We should touch base with CRARR
- d. Speak with Brother Larry
- e. Lawyer Julius Gray will be helping
- f. The Aboriginal Action Circle is also talking about some actions

Fo Niemi from CRARR sent a picture of a Dread Locks wearing his tam. The question is what is next? Will they be asking them to remove their tams?

#### **8- Varia**

##### **8-1 Pledge Cards**

Nairra advised that if we would like to arrange an event she can help.

Zelma will send Samy the link to register as the RVAC Delegate for the NCRC meeting on Oct 5.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

**Next monthly meeting will be held on:  
October 17, 2013 at 5:45pm**