



RVAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: April 23, 2020

Location: Teleconference

CO-Chairs: Antoine Gomis and Joanne Robinson

Minutes prepared by: Joanne Robinson

Present:

Joanne Robinson
Antoine Gomis
Antoine Moise
Doreen Grant-Thompson
Mussa Berthe
Celeste Hicks
Stan Decayette
Liza Daniel
Wei Shao

Regrets:

Carl Laguerre

Guest:

Zelma Buckley

Resource Person

Nairra Tariq

WELCOME:

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Antoine Gomis at 5:55 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion to adopt the agenda as amended was moved by Joanne Robinson and seconded by Antoine Gomis – all were in favour (Budget was added under VARIA). **The motion was carried.**

FEEDBACK FROM CONFERENCE:

- Conference was well organized
- Workshops were good, found them inspiring
- Was pleased with the overall turnout – was very worried about the low registration prior to event
- Participation by all was very good
- Guest speakers were very good

- Enjoyed group activities
- Appreciated being able to share and listen to experiences by others

A special thank you to Nairra Tariq for all of her hard work for the conference. Nairra thanked the Steering Committee members for their assistance.

RESOLUTIONS:

At the 2019 conference 6 resolutions were passed, only 5 can move on to National. After much conversation, it was decided that we would not submit resolution two (2). During discussions many relevant points were raised as to the reasons why resolution 2 required changes – Resolutions Attached. As well, please see comments below from Stan Decayette in reference to Resolution 2.

The link below gives a description of the program relating to Permanent Residency in Canada:

[Hire a skilled worker to support their permanent residency – Overview - Canada.ca](#)

Hire a skilled worker to support their permanent residency – Overview...

Employment and Social Development Canada

Hire a skilled worker to support their permanent residency – Overview

Do we find that a group within the program is experiencing more difficulties than the others (i.e. people in the Federal Skilled Trade Program) or they are about the same? In my experience, the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP) seems to what the government favour because of the high skilled

brought by this labour force in Canada. I can't see them giving this group a hard time to immigrate to Canada, which includes Doctors and Architects.

What we probably want to do is to clarify which particular group is experiencing the most difficulties and focus on their issues. **Stan Decayette**

ELECTIONS:

The members at the meeting agreed that we should defer the elections until we can meet in person – **All in agreement**

REMAINDER OF THE YEAR:

It was agreed that we should share community events as to keep ourselves and members updated on other events.

The members agreed that we should keep meeting online.

VARIA:

Budget: Doreen informed the committee that she has not received an updated budget that we can utilize for the remainder of the year as yet. The year ending 2019 found us in a deficit. The amounts for refreshments and taxi for January 2020 is unknown at this point.

Teleworking: It was agreed that teleworking will affect the collective agreement, as well as create a change within the working environment.

Federal Black Employee Caucus (FBEC): Liza Daniel provided an overview of FBEC and advised the group as to the date of their next meeting. It was agreed that RVAC would send information to the committee and Nairra would ensure that the event is posted on the RVAC site. Their next Teleconference meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2020 at 6pm.

Nairra: Nairra informed the committee that she will be leaving as she has another job opportunity. She will still be in the building working as an ADR officer. Antoine Gomis and the committee members thanked Nairra and wished her well. We will be trying to figure out a way to have Nairra's farewell from RVAC.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will take place on Thursday May 21, 2020 at 5:30pm.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:41pm