

**Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network  
Annual General Meeting  
Business Meeting  
10 June 2008  
Ottawa, Ontario**

**Draft Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Be Arsenault (Mainline Needle Exchange), Serge Bigras (le BRAS), Eric Boschetti (Fréquence VIH), Ken Buchanan (BCPWA), Maeve Chamberlaine (YouthCo AIDS Society), Ellie Colver (The Alberta Community Council on HIV), Patrick Cupido (Canadian Treatment Action Council), Theodore de Bruyn, Karen Dennis (Victoria AIDS Resource & Community Service Society), Julie Dingwell (AIDS Saint John), Laurie Edmiston (CATIE), Dionne Falconer, Sivakaran Gunaratnam (Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention), Debra Jakubec (HIV Edmonton), Francine Keough (AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador), Jessica Leech (AIDS Calgary), Nicole Lépine (COCQ-sida), Guy-Pierre Lévesque (Méta d'Àme), Blaine MacIsaac (AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton), Michael O'Connor (Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development), San Patten, Daryle Roberts (Living Positive Resource Centre Okanagan), Mike Sangster (AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia), Marcie Summers (Positive Women's Network), Kim Thomas (Canadian AIDS Society), David Thompson (Action Séro-Zéro), Lyle Watling (Kairos House), Elisse Zack (CWGHR)

**Board Present:** Jim Burns, William Booth, Le-Ann Dolan, David Eby, Rosemary Fayant, Thomas Kerr, David Olson, Ryan Peck

**Staff Present:** Sandra Chu, David Cozac, Richard Elliott, Terry Gould, Doriana Schiavi, Vajdon Sohaili, Alison Symington, Jessica Campbell-Thompson

**1. Welcome, introductions and approval of agenda**

Thomas Kerr chaired the session. He welcomed the members to the meeting. Thomas introduced the Legal Network staff that were present; noting the regrets of Richard Pearshouse and Leah Utyasheva. He introduced the summer student interns and thanked them for the many contributions that they are making to the organization. Thomas also introduced the Legal Network Board members; noting the regrets of Darlène Palmer, Robert Carr and Liesl Gerntholtz. He presented the proposed agenda to members for approval.

**Moved/Seconded by Dingwell/Buchanan: That the agenda be approved as circulated.  
CARRIED.**

## **2. Approval of Minutes of 10 June 2007 AGM**

**Moved/Seconded by MacIsaac/Lévesque: That the minutes of the 10 June 2007 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated. CARRIED.**

## **3. President's report**

Thomas Kerr gave the Board president's report; highlighting the recent appointment of Executive Director, Richard Elliott, in the past year. He made reference to Richard's remarkable transition and acknowledged the outstanding job Richard has done since taking the position, formerly held by Joanne Csete. Thomas welcomed the staff that have joined the Legal Network in the past year; Jessica Campbell-Thompson, Sandra Chu, David Cozac and Alison Symington. Thomas mentioned those staff who have left the Legal Network this past year; noting Alana Klein moved on to pursue an opportunity at McGill University and Taslim Madhani moved on to the Nations' capital. Thomas acknowledged the hard work of the staff this year. He welcomed the new Board members to the Legal Network and bid farewell to the past members Stephan Matiation and Anna-Louise Crago, who have moved on in the past year. Thomas briefly mentioned the new priorities areas that are highlighted in the strategic plan and made mention of the changes in funding and the opportunities and challenges such changes will impose. Thomas announced that honorary membership with the Legal Network has been granted to both Ralf Jürgens and Joanne Csete for their exceptional contributions to the organization and continued support of the work that the organization does.

## **4. Presentation and discussion of 2007-2008 Annual Report**

Richard Elliott presented an overview of the annual report. Richard highlighted the booklet *Now More Than Ever*, authored by consultant Ralf Jürgens and the Open Society Institute, and asked members to endorse it. Richard offered numerous examples, highlighted in the annual report, of the work that the Legal Network does. Richard noted the advocacy efforts, especially in media efforts, made by the Legal Network to support Insite, Vancouver's safe injection site. Richard also spoke about the work in the areas of prisons, compulsory testing, sex work and the UNAIDS guidance note, criminalization and women's rights in Sub-Saharan Africa. Richard discussed the advocacy efforts put in for the reform of Canada's Access to Medicines Regime and reported on the work of the Communications Unit.

## **5. Presentation of audited financial statements**

Auditor Brendon Pennylegion presented the audited financial statements for the fiscal year 2007-08 and responded to questions.

**Moved/Seconded by Eby/Fayant: That Brendon Pennylegion be appointed as the Legal Network's auditor for the fiscal year 2008-2009. CARRIED. (with 1 Abstention)**

## **6. Presentation and discussion of 2008-2009 Workplan and Budget**

Richard Elliott presented the 2007-2008 workplan and budget and responded to questions from members. Richard reported on the numerous projects that the Legal Network staff currently are and will be working on in 2008/09. Richard noted the work being done on drug policy and human rights for people who use drugs, prisoner's rights, sex work and women's rights. Richard mentioned the continued and ongoing work on Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. He discussed the time that the Legal Network staff have devoted to media efforts regarding criminalization; noting that this is something that the Legal Network would rather not focus its' efforts on in the future. Richard reported on the Legal Network's role at AIDS 2008 in Mexico City; highlighting the networking zone, held in the Global Village, and lead by Ralf Jürgens. Richard reported on the continued work of staff David Cozac on the AIDS-LEX project, formerly known as GRAIN. Richard presented the 2008/09 budget; noting some of the changes in revenue and expenses in comparison to the previous years audited statements.

## **7. Consultation with members**

Richard Elliott opened the floor for discussion on what should be the priority areas of work for the coming year(s) and what areas of work that the Legal Network is doing that is well covered by other organizations. Richard asked members to use the 2008 consultation tool (circulated) to identify the 5 priority areas that they believe the Legal Network should be working on. In discussion, members identified the following key issues, many of which are the current focus of the work done at the Legal Network:

- Criminalization
- Human rights and access to HIV/AIDS treatment and care in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Access to treatment for Aboriginal women
- Drug policy
- Prisons
- Immigration
- Testing
- Privacy issues and disclosure of HIV status
- Building the legal capacity of ASOs

Members also provided suggestions on organizations that the Legal Network should consider linking up with. Some members presented how they use Legal Network published materials and resources in their daily work; as background materials, references and to brief front-line staff working in ASOs.

## **8. By-law amendment**

Jim Burns explained the need to amend the Legal Network's by-laws pertaining to By-law No. 3.2.2 Process for Resolutions by Members.

**Moved by Falconer/Olson: That the members adopt By-law No. 3.2.1.2 of the Legal Network, stating that: “Unless otherwise specified in writing by the Board, the latest date for submission of a member’s resolution to be presented at an Annual General Meeting is that which is thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date of the said Annual General Meeting. Resolutions received after that date shall be retained by the Secretary for presentation to the membership at the Annual General Meeting in the following year unless revoked in writing by the submitting member prior to such presentation.” CARRIED.** (with 2 Abstentions; 6 Opposed; 18 In favour)

## **9. Report of the Returning Officer**

The Returning Officer, Dionne Falconer, presented the results of the election of new members to the Board of Directors, in which a postal vote was not required in accordance with the Legal Network’s by-laws, due to the fact that the number of nominees equalled the number of vacant seats. The following members were elected to 2-year terms, effective immediately: William Booth (BC), Robert Carr (Jamaica), Le-Ann Dolan (ON), Liesl Gertholtz (South Africa), Rosemary Fayant (AB), Ryan Peck (ON) and Christine Vézina (QC). The following members are now in the second year of their term: Jim Burns (AB), David Eby (BC), Thomas Kerr (BC), David Olson (ON) and Darlène Palmer (QC).

## **10. Other business**

There was no other business proposed.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

**Moved by MacIsaac: That the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED.**