

**Canadian Network of
IRA Reading Councils**

7:00 AM on Monday, July 18, 2005
York Room, Fairmont Royal York Hotel
Toronto, Ontario

Present:

British Columbia – Ken Cooper, Shirley Choo,
Alberta - Deidre McConnell, Annette Sarginson
Saskatchewan – Sandra Quayle, Pat Selvig,
Manitoba - Arlene Kinden, Norma Jones
Ontario – Garth Brooks, Joanne Colbourne, Lorraine Giroux
International Reading Association – Susan Lenski, Sarah Womble

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Acting Secretary is Arlene Kinden

1. Welcome, introductions, & clarifications for voting – Sandra Quayle
 - Names underlined above
2. Approval of agenda - Moved by Shirley/Joanne. Carried
3. Minutes of last meeting, May 5, 2005, San Antonio
Moved by Lorraine/Deidre that the minutes of May 5, 2005 be accepted as presented. Carried
4. Financial Report
 - Financial Committee Report – Shirley spoke to explain this report. Garth had a question about the Fiscal Year and Committee Report. He wondered about the motion for \$1000 to be transferred into the Canadian Reception from the general account – it should leave a profit, not a loss. A motion was filed with the provincial coordinators. Unable to pass the financial report, as this question could not be answered.
 - Canadian Reception – Arlene distributed pledge forms for the 2006 reception. Shirley suggested that local councils be encouraged to send a greater amount for the 2007 convention.
 - Operating
5. Correspondence
6. Report on the 2005 Canadian Reception – Convener, Garth Brooks
 - Cheques were received from Random House and CSIG after the convention.
 - Coordinators please encourage local council to contribute
 - Shirley recommended that the Secretary/Treasurer sent out the invitations to Canadian Councils to donate to the Canadian reception in January. Moved by Shirley/Annette. Carried

- Arlene asked coordinators to stress to local councils that those who contribute to the reception are promoted as a sponsor.
- Garth is hoping to have more books for display for Chicago

7. Business arising from May 5, 2005 meeting

- Canadian Authors Cookbook Project, #11 – May 5 meeting
The cookbook was a BC initiative – does CNIRAC want to do a similar project? There were concerns regarding little money made from this project, questions about storage, who will look after it, labor intensive project, etc. Garth suggested an online cookbook. Lorraine suggested we not do this as a promotion. Pat wondered if each province could take responsibility for their own province and the workload. Lorraine and Deidre had concerns about the time, storage, labor intensive, etc – Is it worth the effort as a promotion? Joanne suggested we should reconsider another idea that would represent Canada and promote out Canadian authors and local councils. Pat suggested we publish a book/list of children's book award winners as voted on by children/students. Possibilities – book, pamphlet. Susan Lenski suggested IRA might publish this. Discussion item to table for the next meeting. Pat to contact IRA publisher.
- Awards Criteria & Application Form
Ken spoke – no updates. Tabled to the next meeting.

8. Regional Conferences

- Hats Off to Literacy – Calgary, Alberta, October 27-28, 2005
Deidre – Planning is going well, registration has started, planning a leaders reception.
- Celebrate Literacy – Toronto, Ontario, November 27-29, 2005
Garth – Planning is coming along. Thanks to people who reviewed proposals. There will be a reception on Sunday evening with poets, daily keynotes and lunch speakers. Registration forms available by the end of August.

9. Cross-Country Updates – Provincial Co-ordinators/Designates Report

Northwest Territories – No attendee

British Columbia – Ken spoke. Concerned with the difficulty of new councils to get started and get IRA to approve their constitution. It is frustrating to the people trying to start the council. Victoria is trying to get reactivated. Susan Lenski stated the board is aware of this problem Hoping to streamline this process within 12 months. They are trying to speed up the process.

Alberta – Wondered how to support educators in other parts of the province, as their councils are very spread out across the province. Getting excited about the conference. Alberta received an Exemplary Reading Award and a Student Membership Award.

Saskatchewan – Hoping to update their website this year. Distance is an issue with regard to meeting and contacting people. Getting more students involved. Conflict with a strong local council who wants more power than the other councils.

Manitoba – 4 current councils. Trying to revive a council. Had a good year. Sarah Womble attended leadership meeting.

Ontario – Hoping regional will rejuvenate interest. OISE is building student interest in IRA and student groups.

10. Updates for:

- CSIG newsletter deadlines / program
Get information to Dorothy by September 1 and January 1 with provincial and council updates. Coordinators should promote CSIG with local councils. Garth suggested provinces promote CSIG membership. Lorraine questioned where to get a membership form? How do you become a member? A suggestion was made to put the CSIG membership form on the CNIRAC website. The number of members determines the length of program at an IRA convention.
- Website – www.cnirac.ca
Would like links to provincial sites and IRA site. IRA can help councils develop a website – Susan Lenski or Sarah Womble will find out who councils should contact.
- 2006 IRA Annual Convention in Chicago
- Anniversary Celebrations in Canadian Councils
2006 50th for the Reading Council of Greater Winnipeg
25th for the Ontario Reading Association
2007 50th for the British Columbia Lower Mainland Council
- Status of new councils – Northwest Territories, British Columbia
How do we create interest in areas where there are no IRA members. BC is looking at satellite/buddy groups in these areas.
- Outreach to Eastern Canadian provinces
Goal of Sandra's for this year is to do outreach. There will be a program for those interested in forming a council at regional conferences.

11. Review of CNIRAC Goals. Next Steps

Review on your own. Tabled for next meeting.

12. Other items:

Global Assistance – how can we as a group provide assistance? Ex. Swaziland is hosting a Pan-African Conference and needs funding. Garth to investigate.

13. Chairperson's Closing Remarks

Next meeting – Calgary at the Transmountain conference
Meeting Adjournment