

*The Royal Canadian College of Organists*  
*Le Collège royal canadien des organistes*

**National Council Meeting**  
**Convention Session**

**29 June 2009**

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The National Council of the Royal Canadian College of Organists met in the British Columbia Room at The Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, on Monday, 29 June 2009, with 46 members present.

**Present:**

Sharon Adamson (General Manager); Rachel Alflatt (Vancouver); Gordon Atkinson (Melbourne, Australia); James Bailey (Toronto); Sam Balden (Vancouver); John Beaver (Hamilton); Peter Bishop (Toronto/Montréal); Norma Blanchet (Saint John); Scott Bradford (Montréal); Norman Brown (Kingston); James Burchill (Halifax); David Cameron (Kingston); Nicholas Fairbank (Victoria); Ronald Fox (London); Frederick Francis (Montréal); Debbie Giesbrecht (Edmonton); Marnie Giesbrecht (Edmonton); Melva Graham (Toronto); Faye Grinberg (Hamilton); Christopher Grocholski (Montréal); David Hall (Waterloo-Wellington); Valerie Hall (Regina); Frances Harkness (Kingston); Debi Harris (Edmonton); Joanne Hart (Toronto); Chellan Hoffman (Calgary); Simon Irving (Hamilton); Gilles Leclerc (Ottawa); Frances Macdonnell (Ottawa); Gerald Manning (Waterloo-Wellington); Donald Marjerrison (Ottawa); The Rev'd Jody Medicoff (Hamilton); Rick Morgan (Winnipeg); Peter Nikiforuk (Waterloo-Wellington); Hazel Ogilvie (Toronto); David Palmer (Windsor); Deirdre Piper (Ottawa); Ruth Ann Read-Clay (Prince Edward Island); Alan Reesor (Prince Edward Island); Robin Swales (Regina); Lorne Swan (Toronto); Brian Sweetman (Windsor); Barbara Tremills (Halifax); John Tuttle (Toronto); Robin Williams (Avalon); Kerrine Wilson (Winnipeg); Douglas Wiseman (Halifax); Carl Wolff (Niagara Peninsula); William Wright (Toronto).

**Regrets:**

Michael Capon (Toronto); Walter Kemp (Halifax); Randy Mills (Northumberland); Margaret Leask (Waterloo-Wellington); Patricia Wright (Toronto).

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The National President, Valerie Hall, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. We introduced ourselves around the table.

1. William Wright moved the **adoption of the agenda**, seconded by Fred Francis, and the motion **carried**.

## **2. Approval of the minutes of the National Council Meeting on 20 & 21 March 2009**

Peter Bishop read a list of corrections submitted by e-mail from Karen Holmes. On page 2, item 4, section (i), the president's report, the name of Eileen Guenther was misspelt. In the following paragraph, the competition referred to was for a fanfare-like "piece," not "place." On page 6, item 6, section (ii), David Cameron's motion should have referred to the "Chair" of the Examinations Committee, and the "Chairman" of the Board of Examiners. On page 16, item 13, the name of Deirdre Piper was spelled incorrectly.

Rick Morgan moved the approval of the minutes of the National Council meeting on 20 & 21 March 2009, as corrected, seconded by John Tuttle, and the motion **carried**.

## **3. Business arising**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## **4. Reports of Officers**

### **(I) President**

Valerie Hall had sent a written report, to which she had nothing to add.

### **4. (ii) Registrar**

Faye Grinberg had sent a report, and also a separate document headed, "Registrar's Report to National Council," dated June 2009. She urged everyone to take a copy of the latter.

### **4. (iii) Treasurer**

A report from Brian Sweetman, headed "Schedule of Revenue and Expenses," and dated 15 May 2009, was made available at the meeting. Brian said that we finished the year with a deficit of about \$15,000, and that the trustees support our taking some money from the endowment fund to cover this, enabling us to break even.

### **4. (iv) Trustees**

Peter Nikiforuk had sent a written report. He confirmed that the trustees are willing to cover the deficit.

## **5. Reports of Standing Committees of the Board of Directors**

### **(I) By-Laws**

Lorne Swan had nothing to report.

### **5. (ii) College Development Fund**

Douglas Wiseman had sent a written report, to which he had nothing to add.

### **5. (iii) Finance and Administration**

Brian Sweetman had sent a written report, to which he had nothing to add, except to note that he is still hoping for a settlement of the Costigan estate in August.

### **5. (iv) Endowment Fund**

Gilles Leclerc had sent a written report, to which he had nothing to add.

## **6. Reports of Standing Committees of National Council**

### **(i) Competitions**

Debbie Giesbrecht had sent a written report. She said that the semi-finals went well on Saturday. The president added that we are still looking for a replacement for Debbie, to whom she offered the thanks and congratulations of the College for her work as chair of the committee. Frances Macdonnell offered to help with competitions.

### **6. (ii) Conventions**

Rick Morgan had sent a written report. He said that the subcommittee that has been organized to consider the issue of continuing to hold RCCO national conventions every year will talk face to face sometime this week. We will have to consider their report very carefully; he promised that we will hear more on this matter. A decision about the 2012 convention is of some urgency, the president pointed out. Rick referred to an initiative from the Ottawa, Montréal, and Kingston Centres, where certain members are interested in the possibility of organizing something.

### **6. (iii) Education & Resources**

Nick Fairbank and Simon Irving had sent a written report.

### **6. (iv) Examinations**

David Cameron had sent a written report. He said that this has been a disappointing year. The preparation of candidates for diploma exams was unsatisfactory across the board. The marking has been checked and double checked. Teachers and candidates, David urged, need to be alerted as to the standard that is expected. There is a plan for a single article in *Organ Canada* discussing the disparity between our requirements and those of the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto and many university music departments. The president wondered whether examples of the required standard would be useful. Both she and David are gravely concerned. David emphasized that to lower the standard is not the answer. Peter Nikiforuk suggested that the *ORGAN CANADA* article also be available on the website as an ongoing resource. Frances Macdonnell added that the ear tests were particularly poorly done. There was an immediate improvement a few years ago when specimens of the ear tests became available. It is hard to study ear training alone, and resources to help the candidates are available. David and Frances both hope that this year has been an anomaly. They also noted that the restructuring of the examinations committee this year had been tricky.

### **6. (v) Historic Organs**

William Wright had sent a written report, to which he had nothing to add.

### **6. (vi) Honorary Awards**

Alan Reesor had sent a written report, to which he had nothing to add.

### **6. (vii) Membership**

Deirdre Piper had sent a written report, to which she had nothing to add.

### **6. (viii) Music Publications**

Michael Capon had sent a written report. Gilles mentioned the fanfare project undertaken by the Annual Festival of New Organ Music in London. One of the fanfares will be performed at the festival. The book will be a joint publication of the RCCO and the AFNOM.

**6. (ix) Nominating Committee**

David Cameron had sent a written report, to which he had nothing to add.

**6. (x) Outreach and Liaison with Religious Denominations**

Randy Mills had sent a written report. He sent his regrets that he was unable to be present.

**6. (xi) Professional Support**

Patricia Wright had sent a written report. She had sent regrets that she was unable to be present due to a small crisis involving one of the performers.

**7. Report of the Rebranding Task Force**

Melva Graham said that she had no report, at this time. The task force was formed to discuss perceptions of the organ held by people who are not members of the College. A report will be made to the next meeting of Council.

**8. Reports of Regional Directors**

**(i) Region 1 (Atlantic)**

Douglas Wiseman had sent a written report. He observed that there was representation, at this convention, from every province in the Atlantic Region.

**8. (ii) Region 2 (Ottawa-Québec)**

Christopher Grocholski had sent a written report, to which he had nothing to add.

**8. (iii) Region 3 (Central & Northern Ontario)**

Fran Harkness distributed a corrected version of the written report that had been included in the “Reports to the Annual General Meeting–2009,” as that version was the wrong one, sent from her computer in error.

**8. (iv) Region 4 (Greater Toronto)**

Joanne Hart had sent a written report, and had nothing to add to this.

**8. (v) Region 5 (Southern Ontario)**

Gerald Manning had sent a written report. He said that in the report of the nominating committee, given on p. 19 of the “Reports to the Annual General Meeting–2009,” Waterloo-Wellington should have been listed as one of the Centres in the new Region 4 (along with Niagara, Hamilton, and Brantford). David Cameron apologized for this error, and the president asked Gerry to clarify this matter at the AGM.

**8. (vi) Region 6 (Southwestern Ontario)**

Ronald Fox had sent a written report, to which he had nothing to add.

**8. (vii) Region 7 (Prairies)**

Kerrine Wilson had sent a written report, to which she had nothing to add.

**8. (viii) Region 8 (British Columbia)**

Sam Balden had sent a written report. He said that there are no problems with Region 8, and noted that both Vancouver and Victoria are represented at the convention. The president further noted that all Regional Directors were present at this meeting of Council. Nick Fairbank is the convenor for Regional Directors, and alerted them to a meeting to take place at a restaurant on Church Street.

**9. Report of Staff**

**(i) General Manager**

Sharon Adamson had sent a written report, to which she had nothing to add.

**9. (ii) Communications Editor**

Bruce Cross had sent a written report, including the **report of the website task force**, to which he had nothing to add.

**10. Report of the Archivist**

Margaret Leask had sent a written report, but was unable to be present as she was occupied in the exhibit area. The president encouraged everyone present to visit Margaret sometime this week.

**11. Correspondence**

There was none for the attention of Council.

**12. Other Business**

The president reminded us of the forthcoming Council meeting in Brantford on Saturday, 7 November 2009. The Spring meeting of Council will take place in Toronto on Friday and Saturday, 12 & 13 March 2010.

In response to a question from Carl Wolff asking what sort of media coverage the convention has received, Joanne Hart said that there has been a lot of publicity in *WholeNote*, including an interview with Gillian Weir. It was also pointed out that Mark Toews, convention chairman, was interviewed by a Toronto classical music radio station, there has been an article in the *Toronto Star*, coverage in *Choir and Organ*, and a presentation on the US radio programme, *Pipedreams*.

**13. Announcements**

Nick Fairbank reminded us of the next convention, to take place in Victoria in July 2010, and invited everyone to attend. He urged us to spread the word and encourage others to come.

**14. Adjournment**

Following a motion from Frederick Francis, the president declared the meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Bishop, Secretary

Signed,  
Valerie Hall, President