



2014 Annual General Meeting / l'Assemblée générale annuelle  
Agenda

26 September 2014  
5:00 – 6:00 pm

Coast Inn of the North, Prince George, British Columbia

**CRRF Members Present**

Bob Annis, Bill Ashton, Sarah Breen, Ramona Cameletti, David Douglas, Ivan Emke, Tony Fuller, Bojan Fürst, Ryan Gibson, Heather Hall, Lars Hallstrom, Bruno Jean, Tom Johnson, Al Lauzon, Terri MacDonald, Sean Markey, Sarah Minnes, Bill Reimer, Laura Ryser, Chris Southcott,

**Guests**

Bruce Balson, Deb Borsos, Tim Carson, Cindy Davies, John Devlin, Joy Dornian, Marie Gallant, Eleanor Taylor, Joan Tylee,

**1. Call to Order**

Ryan thanked everyone for attending.

**2. Review and approval of agenda**

Ryan asked whether there were any additional items for the agenda. Hearing none he sought a motion to approve the agenda. Heather moved that the agenda for September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 be approved; Seconded by Chris and approved by all.

**3. Review and approval of 2013 CRRF/FCRR AGM Minutes**

Ryan asked whether there were any changes for the 2013 CRRF/FCRR AGM Minutes. Hearing none he sought a motion to approve the minutes. Bill moved that the 2013 CRRF/FCRR AGM Minutes be approved; Seconded by Sean and approved by all.

**4. Report of President**

Ryan noted that over the past twelve months the Foundation has been active in contributing to lead rural research, sharing knowledge among stakeholders, and strengthening our strategic directions and policies. We started the year with a fantastic 25th anniversary conference in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Our conference co-hosts at



Lakehead University, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, and the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation organized a tremendous event. Over the past year we have continued to be an active supporter of rural research throughout Canada. We have partnered as a collaborator on three key research initiatives and are serving as a partner on two new research endeavours. Details on these research initiatives are outlined further in the report and on our website. The Foundation also took the opportunity to review and reflect on our 2010-2015 strategic plan. Over the coming year the new board will be charged with crafting a new strategic plan and I encourage everyone to become engaged in this process.

Ryan explained that the achievements of the Foundation this past year would not have been possible without the support and dedication of our volunteers. The Foundation operates without paid staff members – a testament to the strength of our volunteers, partners, and stakeholders. He thanked each of the individuals and organizations that have contributed their time and energy to the Foundation and our activities. He also extended his gratitude to the board of directors and noted that the achievements of the Foundation are a result of their commitment to rural and regional development.

Bob thanked Ryan for this fantastic report, which helps provide a legacy for CRRF.

#### **5. Report of Treasurer**

Bill reviewed the Foundation's income and expense since the last AGM in Thunder Bay. CRRF currently has an account balance of \$20,013. Ryan thanked Bill for all his hard work as Treasurer and noted that this is one of the best financial states CRRF have ever been in.

#### **6. Approval of audited financial statement**

Al moved the motion that the 2013 audited financial statement presented by Bill Ashton be approved; Seconded by Heather and approved by all.

#### **7. Appointment of auditors for 2014-2015**

Sean moved the motion to appoint Harris Ryan as the Auditor for 2014; seconded by Al and approved by all.

#### **8. Nonprofit Incorporation Annual Report Submission**

Ryan proposed a motion for the board to submit the annual nonprofit incorporation report. Bill R. moved the motion; Seconded by Lars and approved by all.



## **9. Bylaw revision proposal**

Ryan explained that a committee of the CRRF board of directors prepared a number of revisions to the CRRF bylaws. The CRRF board unanimously endorsed the proposed revisions at the August 2014 board meeting for adoption at the 2014 Annual General Meeting in Prince George, British Columbia. All CRRF members were served notice of the proposed changes via email and through the CRRF website in accordance to the current bylaws. Ryan welcomed any questions from the floor. He noted that there are seven proposed changes including fixing inconsistencies, clarifying bylaws to reflect our current practices, changes around quorum, and revising our contact information (see letter of notice for more detail.)

Bob moved that bylaw revisions be accepted; Seconded by Sean. There were no objections and it was carried by all.

## **10. Committee reports**

### ***a. Membership***

Matt Brett indicated in his report that there are 46 paid members. This has increased from 35 and most are on a 5-year membership. The cost of membership is \$30 for 1 year or \$100 for 5 years. Matt is contacting all members where their membership has lapsed. If you sign up now or renew now you get 15-16 months.

### ***b. Communications***

Lori Gould explained in her report that the communications committee has sent 14-16 consecutive e-newsletters. The website is operating well and receiving increased traffic. Social media is also growing in popularity with people submitting information to us. The November newsletter will be student focused and we welcome any submissions.

### ***c. Policy and Advocacy***

Bob noted that this is a new committee but will have increasing traffic over the next few years. Commentary on rural policy is something we want to become more visible around. The challenges for the board if we comment on policies include whose opinion is it? Individual or the board and how do we sign off on them. Over the next 12-month we will be more active. Sean noted we are extremely well positioned coming out of the conference with a tremendous knowledge base and a lot of fire over rural policy issues. The challenge will be mobilizing to get what we know out the door. Bill R asked whether you need to be a CRRF board member or whether you can make a contribution. Bob said we are definitely looking at this and there is more complexity if we make a statement as CRRF. David asked whether advocacy relates to development issues or research on policy. Sean mentioned we haven't discerned it as an either or and it could definitely be both. Ryan talked about the broadband initiative when we



were asked by an organization to advocate to change the guidelines by CRTC to have a more rural and northern lens. We wrote a letter of support for their campaign at the CRTC. Bill R asked about implications for the charitable status. Ryan explained no more than 10% of our resources can be used for advocacy and we cannot be partisan. John asked about the implications of losing charitable status? Discussion moved to (e).

#### ***d. Strategic Networks***

Al noted this committee came out of the strategic plan and is designed to align CRRF strategically with other organizations. They have had discussions about how to do this and designed a survey for the CRRF membership to see what organizations we're currently working with. The survey was sent out through the newsletter and on social media. There is also a link on the homepage. It only has 3 or 4 questions and he encouraged everyone to fill out the survey when they have time.

#### ***e. Charitable Status and Endowment***

Ryan explained that CRRF is a registered charity but we have minor activities. In the past where we have been on the receiving end of funds because we are a charity. In the late 1990s there was an endowment building campaign and we're currently looking at potential ways to use the charitable status particularly given our limited time and resources. The impact of losing status would be losing the ability to receive funds from other sources. The next steps for this committee are convening with the original endowment building campaign members and looking at what our new realities are.

Ryan invited people to join any of the CRRF committees. They typically meet every few months for an hour or so over the phone or Skype.

### **11. Election of Board and Officers**

Ryan introduced Bob Annis, CRRF Past President, who chaired the Nominations Committee.

#### ***a. Nominations Committee Report***

Bob noted Bill A and Ryan were also involved on the committee. They came up with a list of nominees for the board. Board members are elected to a two year term and can let their name stand for a second two year term. A board member can have a maximum of 4 years before they have to leave the board. The executive consists of three positions – President, Treasurer, and Secretary – they become vacant every year at the AGM. Ryan is in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of his tenure and must retire from being President. He will however remain on the board as Past President. Bill A is treasurer and is in his 4<sup>th</sup> term and must retire; Heather Hall is secretary and in her 3<sup>rd</sup> term and is willing to stand again for secretary.



Bob moved a motion to appoint David Douglas as parliamentarian; Seconded by Bill A and approved by all.

***b. Election of board and offices***

David indicated that the nominations committee nominates Al Lauzon as President; He called on any other nominations from the floor for President. He called a second time for nominations from the floor for President. He called a third time for nominations from the floor for President. Hearing none, David declared Al Lauzon President through a unanimous vote.

David indicated that the nominations committee nominates Sean Markey as Treasurer; He called on any other nominations from the floor for Treasurer. He called a second time for nominations from the floor for Treasurer. He called a third time for nominations from the floor for Treasurer. Hearing none, David declared Sean Markey Treasurer through a unanimous vote.

David indicated that the nominations committee nominates Heather Hall as Secretary. He called on any other nominations from the floor for Secretary. He called a second time for nominations from the floor for Secretary. He called a third time for nominations from the floor for Secretary. Hearing none, David declared by acclamation Heather Hall as Secretary through a unanimous vote.

David noted that there are four vacant positions on the board. The nominations committee received three nominations and sought a fourth nomination from the floor. Terri MacDonald is at the end of her two-year term and was nominated to stand for reelection. The nominations committee also received the name of Ruth Mealy who works for the Manitoba government on rural development issues including community development. She has agreed to stand for election to the board. The nominations committee also received the name of Ramona Cameletti who has worked for the Ontario government on rural development issues including social enterprises and rural youth. She has agreed to stand for election to the board. David called for any nominations from the floor. Bill R nominated Sarah Breen who is a PhD candidate at Simon Fraser University. David called a second time for nominations from the floor for board members. He called a third time for nominations from the floor for board members. Hearing none he declared Terri MacDonald, Ruth Mealey, Ramona Cameletti, and Sarah Breen acclaimed and elected, each for a two-year term.

Ryan thanked David and Bob for their work.

**12. Announcement of New Lifetime Members**



Ryan explained that the lifetime membership policy was created in 2013 and this year we have two new inductees – David Douglas and Tony Fuller.

### **13. Reflections on the 2014 Conference**

Ryan opened the floor for comments on the 2014 conference. Bill R. noted that over the years we have always struggled with integrating some key groups and he commended Laura and the team at CDI for getting the business groups and practitioners in the room. Lars noted the presence of the planners at the conference was a great addition and appreciated having them there. He had also heard positive feedback from them about the conference. David echoed that and said this has institutional benefits as word spreads about rural Canada and its importance to Canadian planning practice. Al asked people who had never come before about their reflections and it was a very positive response. The team did a great job and he thanked them for their hard work. Bob added that many of the planners said this conference saved them \$1000s on travel. Usually they attend events in Vancouver but having credits in the North was a huge draw. Many said they are leaving with a new appreciation for what CRRF is doing. Lars stated that we need to continue to embed the private sector in different ways – maybe providing a one-year membership. He also noted that he brought two students to present and the CRRF conference is great venue for students to become familiar with presentations. Getting more students involved is a huge asset for CRRF.

### **14. Announcement of 2015 Annual Conference**

Ryan announced that the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual CRRF Conference will be held from September 17-19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Summerside PEI in partnership with the Institute of Island Studies and the North Atlantic Forum. The conference theme is building resilient communities.

Bill R recognized Ryan's tremendous contributions over the last 4 years to the board and as President.

### **15. Adjournment**

Sean moved to adjourn the meeting.