

MINUTES LANGUAGES CANADA BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017

Participants:	Cath D'Amico (Chair) Mike Walkey Geneviève Bouchard David Matthews	Julian Inglis Veronica Cartagenova Gary Gervais Biba Fakhouri	Sharon Curl Stéphane Lemelin Anthony Stille
Regrets:	Gregory Mattei Ernest Mulvey	John Taplin	Gabriela Facchini
Staff:	Gonzalo Peralta Rachel Lindsey	Linda Auzins	Joëlle Tannous (minutes)

1. Opening Exercises

i. Welcome & Call to Order

Cath D'Amico welcomed everyone on the call, as her first official board meeting as President. She encouraged members to speak in the language of their choice and asked everyone to comply by Robert's Rules of Order, throughout the meetings. She announced some changes to the agenda: Under 'other business', the Global Partnership with ICEF was removed as it was not ready for discussion. The ICEF proposal will be submitted for an electronic review by the Board. The issue of the renewal of LC membership rules will also be addressed in a separate email.

ii. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: It was moved by Stéphane Lemelin and seconded by Mike Walkey that the agenda be approved as amended. M/S/C Unanimous

iii. Approval – February 26 and March 1, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

MOTION: It was moved by Geneviève Bouchard and seconded by Julian Inglis that the minutes of the February 26 and March 1, 2017 Board meetings be approved as distributed. M/S/C Unanimous

iv. Financial Report (report attached)

David Matthews reported for as treasurer for the first time. He noted that membership fees were close to meeting budget expectations. The conference generated a profit of \$41.5K from the 2017 conference against a budgeted \$19K. The association is on track with its budget four months into the year. The other expenses are all in line. Gonzalo confirms that there is a system for checks and balance in place and all members are encouraged to actively ask questions regarding finances. David noted that as of April 30, there were still some outstanding membership fees. Reminders have been sent out to those concerned and we should receive the outstanding payments shortly.

MOTION: It was moved by Biba Fakhouri and seconded by Sharon Curl that the financial report be approved as circulated. M/S/C Unanimous

2. Business Arising

i. Board Vacancy (Kristina Stewart resignation)

Due to Kristina Stewart's resignation, a board vacancy now exists. This will be raised with the Executive Committee in the next meeting. Recommendations regarding this position will be presented to the Board for the next meeting.

ii. Application for Assisted Membership (Canquest Academy)

Canquest Academy in North Vancouver, BC submitted an application for Assisted Membership. The Board reviewed the rationale for Assisted Membership, discussed and voted against granting assisted membership to Canquest Academy.

MOTION: It was moved by Julian Inglis and seconded by Geneviève Bouchard that the request for Assisted Membership for Canquest Academy be denied. M/S/C unanimous

3. Standing Committees

A. Quality Assurance (Report attached)

Julian introduced Veronica Cartagenova as Co-Chair of the QA committee. The changes to LC licensing standards and teacher qualifications are still in progress. The committee will also discuss distancing the association from TESL Canada to align with other associations who outline the teacher qualifications in their standard, but do not refer to a specific association. Julian Inglis will be present at the TESL Canada conference in Niagara Falls on June 8 and will be presenting about quality assurance on a panel on behalf of LC. Julian announced that this year's QALEN conference will be in New Zealand. At this year's conference, a proposal to host the 2018 meeting should be prepared as it will be Canada's turn to host the meeting. Julian L'Enfant informed the Board of his active discussions at the EAQUALS Conference and has proposed that LC become an associate member of EAQUALS.

B. Advocacy

Gonzalo introduced Gary Gervais as the Chair of the Advocacy Committee. Nathalie Samson is no longer of working for LC so Gonzalo is handling advocacy and working closely with Rachel Lindsey, LC's newest team member. Gonzalo stated that LC is keeping an eye out for issues and reacting as needed. Gary and Gonzalo have agreed to schedule an advocacy meeting in June.

Gonzalo reported on the main advocacy files. Data collection for the annual survey was completed on May 8 and the initial draft will be ready later this month. The final draft will be presented to the Board and members. Data is consistent with last year's findings: an increase in the number of students, but a decrease in the number of study weeks. Next year's data collection process will be easier as we will have better tools (CRM).

LC has confirmed World Student Day in 12 cities with more expected. The challenge has been finding appropriate venues. Ticket sales opened for Vancouver and Toronto. 500 tickets have already been sold. Gonzalo encouraged members to purchase tickets for their students rather than selling them as this is to be a celebration of international students in Canada. Invitations have been sent to political representatives and guests.

The association is in the final stages with finding a solution to the double visa issue with IRCC. IRCC is considering the option of introducing a one-year extension to the student visa while students are in the process of applying for the second one. This could be the way to creating a real pathway visa as LC strives to do. Gonzalo proposed to call it 'The Canadian Pathway Visa'. Representatives of ILAC organized a meeting with MP Hedy Fry (Vancouver Centre) who is an influential Liberal MP in parliament and other representatives of LC programs in Vancouver. The MP will then take this issue to the Liberal caucus. LC and the language education sector was portrayed in a friendly and strategic light and showed the MP that the association wants to help inform government to make appropriate policy decisions.

Julian proposed to present the new strategic plan for the double visa issue under a QA light. If LC could provide a QA justification for it, IRCC would likely accept to allow work rights for international language students. Julian argued that it would mark a real point of distinction between LC members and non-members.

C. Membership / Conference (report attached)

Linda reported that the former Loyalist schools have been consolidated under the Sprott Shaw brand. Also, IH Pacific Group (Vancouver and Whistler) has been purchased by Human Holdings. The group is currently undergoing the Orion transfer of ownership / accreditation process.

The 2018 LC Conference will mark the association's 10th anniversary and this will most likely take place in Toronto. A venue still needs to be finalized, but it appears the conference will be either at the Marriot Eaton Centre or the Intercontinental. Ideal dates to hold the conference are from Feb 28 to March 3rd. Something special to commemorate the 10th anniversary will be planned.

D. International Affairs (report attached)

Anthony reported that the IA committee has not met yet since the conference. Now that Rachel is Director of International Affairs and Operations, a meeting will be planned in the coming weeks. He informed the Board that GOA funding was approved in support of our fam tours and trade missions. The Committee is contemplating a possible exploratory mission to Morocco before the end of March 2018. Anthony touched briefly on the success of past trade missions and ICEF Vancouver. He also mentioned that talks had increased with the trade commissioners since the conference in February. He announced that registration was open for the upcoming trade missions to Mexico and Central Asia. The association is expecting eight to ten members participating in the Fam Tour to the Prairies. Anthony reported that Charbel is working to follow up with agents from previous trade missions to encourage them to come to the Fam tours. Anthony noted that no new progress had been made on the potential agreement with the Ministry of Defense in Colombia. He announced that the Conference of the Americas will be taking place in Montreal in October and that LC intends to participate to address the question of bridging the gap to support student mobility between Brazilian and Canadian institutions because anything related to mobility involves language.

4. Sector Interest Groups

A. French Program Special Interest Group (report attached)

Stéphane informed the Board that next meeting for the French Program Special Interest Group will be on June 8 and that there had been no new activities to report on since the conference. Gonzalo reported that private members in Quebec are still waiting on the QC government to provide a framework to give accredited private sector members the proper designation and recognition. The deadline for a response is June 1st. The QC government has been unresponsive to LC enquiries. Marie-Christine has been actively promoting the Fam tour in Quebec but there is little interest most likely due to the uncertainty in Quebec.

Stéphane voiced his disappointment in the French programs' turnout at the conference. Given that the conference was in QC, there should have been more participation from the French program members. Only half of them participated. He acknowledged LC's continued support for and investment in French programs, but he questioned the French programs' intentions as LC members.

B. Public Sector Special Interest Group

Gonzalo informed the Board of the Public Sector Special Interest Group's meeting on June 15. Ernest is handling colleges in English and Biba is handling universities in French. Together, they have proven to be a dynamic duo.

C. Private Sector Special Interest Group

No report.

5. Chapters

A. BC Chapter

Mike Walkey explained that neither the Liberals or the NDP had won a majority in the recent BC election. One or two recounts are expected to come in for either a majority government win or a coalition with the Green party. LC is in a holding pattern until the government is confirmed. A BC Chapter meeting is scheduled for June 16 in Vancouver.

B. Ontario Chapter

Ernest Mulvey agreed to co-chair the Ontario Chapter at the LC Conference. More to come following the Public Sector Interest Group meeting in June. Geneviève thanked the LC team for resolving the occupancy issue in Ontario and for their work with the Advanced Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development .

C. Langues Quebec

No report.

6. Other reports

A. Communications

Gonzalo asked Board members whether they are engaged with the LC Weekly updates, but there does not appear to be a great deal of interest. He noted that our social media presence has grown steadily despite the absence of a Communications Manager. LC now has an Instagram account intended to attract more students. The CRM development is in the final stages and should launch soon.

7. Other business

A. Agreement for Approval: Western Union

Gonzalo briefed the Board on Western Union and explained important it could be for LC to sign a partnership agreement with a global organization that handles money. LC has been using WU for 2-3 years now and can vouch for their reputability. In exchange for a commission to LC, WU would offer services to our members. The partnership and sponsorship agreement would be an added value to members as Western Union has a real understanding of the qualities and systems required in different jurisdictions. If the agreement is approved, WU's logo would go under 'sponsors' on our website and in our communications. We would communicate to members to announce WU's services.

MOTION: It was moved by Geneviève Bouchard and seconded by Mike Walkey that the agreement with Western Union be approved as presented. M/S/C Unanimous

B. Canada Course for Education Agents

Gonzalo reported that the Canada Course was created with the support of GAC (Global Affairs Canada) and ICEF. LC took the initiative to the CCIE (Canadian Consortium for International Education) CCIE and GAC was to ensure that the course was relevant and regularly updated every two years. With GAC stepping down from the ownership of the CCEA, CAPSI and LC offered to take ownership and continue offering it. The course is a great tool for agents. In terms of revenue sharing, half of the Canada Course is to be owned by ICEF and the other half jointly by CAPSI and LC. The CCEA's intellectual property is to be owned by all three parties. Gonzalo will circulate the document to the Board after the call. It would be beneficial for LC to own the CCEA because it would allow us to carry the LC name as recognition for agents and it moves us into a digital phase to connect with educational agencies around the world. Additionally, it is a source of revenue for LC and CAPSI (approximately 10-12K yearly). The CCEA will help promote Canada as an international education destination and to ensure quality assurance in agencies.

MOTION: It was moved by Sharon Curl and seconded by David Matthews that the agreement with the Canada Course for Education Agents be approved as presented. M/S/C Unanimous

8. Adjournment

MOTION: It was moved by Mike Walkey and seconded by Anthony Stille that the meeting be adjourned. M/S/C Unanimous