

44th ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
YOUTH SCIENCE FOUNDATION CANADA
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2005, 1:00 P.M.
PETRO-CANADA BOARDROOM – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

1. OPENING REMARKS

The president, L. Heslop welcomed everyone and had everyone introduce themselves.

L. Heslop praised the Host Committee of CWSF 2005 in Vancouver for a successful fair.

L. Heslop will chair the meeting; L. Murray will record the minutes.

2. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINEER

R. Barlow, acting as Scrutineer, tabled a report that seven (8) Members were present in person and thirty-two (32) Members were represented by proxy – a total of forty (40) voting Members. Six (6) Members joined the meeting on the telephone. He reported that this constituted the quorum necessary (15) to conduct the business of the Annual General Meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Chair asked for approval of the following motion:

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE 43rd ANNUAL MEETING OF
MEMBERS BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

SECONDED: S. Olynyk

PASSED: Unanimous

The Chair asked if there were any questions or amendments to the minutes. S. Olynyk asked about Item 8 – she would like a document outlining the strategic directions of YSF fundraising to be made available to all regions. R. Barlow will prepare this document.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

L. Heslop expressed his thanks for the work and support of the Board this year. The new life members were welcomed as they have greatly contributed to the youth science community and YSF. The organization is building stronger links with the science community, which is eager to support kids and science. He noted that considerable work has been done this year with YSF's business partner, Disruptor, both leading up to and following the CWSF, to review and strengthen strategic direction. YSF is working hard to ensure its existence with very clear positive growth and partnerships with new sponsors.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

YSF is working to expand its reach beyond science fairs to the larger youth community. Resources for youth getting started in project-based science have been available through the SMARTS peer mentoring program for almost a year. Joshua Liu has been maintaining the SMARTS area since the summer and has added a new section called "Ask an Expert". These are students from Grades 9-12 who have agreed to answer questions in their field. Science fair questions from science.ca in Vancouver are also being referred to SMARTS.

The new Vector area of the web site – an online searchable database of science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs across Canada – was launched at the STAN/STAO Conference in early November with youth science program providers excited by the opportunity.

We have been building a close link between YSF and the Canadian Secretariat for International Polar Year (IPY) in 2007/2008 as well as the Canadian and international Youth Steering Committees. YSF participated in the Canadian IPY education and outreach conference in Edmonton in September and is an active partner, along with organizations such as the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and Students on Ice, in developing educational resources for IPY.

University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) is now the exclusive university sponsor of Team Canada for 2006-2008. In addition to financial support of YSF, we will be working with them to expand the national selection process through technologies such as very high-speed Internet connections that permit interactive video conferencing with other universities for interviewing candidates. UOIT professors will also meet the team before the launch to review the projects and to provide last-minute coaching.

The national awareness program has been expanded. There are now two mailings per year – one in the fall and the other in March for Youth Science Month – to all the 11,000 schools with grades 7-12 across the country.

YSF continues to experience growth in the number of regional science fair organizations. In 2006 this number will be over 100 regions for the first time in ten years. There are three new regions this year – Mi'kma'q First Nation and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) in Nova Scotia and Aboriginal Québec Autochtone.

YSF has begun working with the Volunteer Consulting Group of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Engineering in collaboration with the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management, to develop a strategic business plan for mentorship programs. This is being facilitated by Faizal Ismail (Best in Fair at CWSF 2002) and the team's advisor is Ann Armstrong, chair of Rotman Nexus.

In the area of fundraising we are continuing to build and expand relationships, which takes time. It is not unusual for the process from proposal to cheque to take 6-9 months. Recent new sponsors include UOIT and Pfizer Canada. On November 15th, EnCana generously hosted a breakfast in Calgary for existing and potential sponsors and included three key organizers of Canada's IPY initiative. The event resulted in several promising leads and featured an engaging discussion on the challenges facing academia and industry with respect to impending shortages of "highly qualified people."

Members are encouraged to visit the website regularly. The iChannel show "@issue" focused on the environment from November 14-17 and the November 17th show included a CWSF 2005 silver medalist on the panel. iChannel has offered its services as a media sponsor and we look forward to working with them.

Although 2005 was a challenging year, YSF is making steady financial progress as a result of the collaboration with Laura William of Disruptor. The addition of Lori Murray as a part-time administrative assistant has been a tremendous help.

Lorne noted that the Board has moved to a more strategic policy governance model and has delegated responsibility for YSF operations to the executive director who is now responsible for all areas and committees. Lorne believes that with alumni returning to assist YSF, the excellent work of Disruptor, and the addition of an administrative assistant, management of YSF is very good.

S. Olynyk asked whether regions are no longer defined as a geographic region. Reni noted that since 2001 a region can be defined either geographically or as an identified population.

S. Olynyk asked whether there is a policy in place to make sure that a student can only enter one regional fair. E. Irwin responded that the policy permits a student to enter more than one regional fair, but he/she is only eligible for selection to the CWSF at the first one he/she participates in.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

T. Lee (Secretary-Treasurer) presented the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2005, which were approved by the Board. He noted that the board received a report from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP indicating that the statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of YSF in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. He drew Members' attention to the notes to the financial statements, which are important and provide detail on specific aspects of YSF's financial position.

For fiscal 2005, YSF showed a deficiency of revenue over expenses of approximately \$103,000. Approximately \$40,000 of this amount is the present value of a liability for a pension allowance incurred as part of the employment

contract with R. Barlow. This is a non-cash item in the current year and will not be paid until 2014.

Although the audited statements include a going concern note referring to YSF's need to ensure that sufficient funds are in place to balance its budget, including its operating deficit of \$63,594, Thomas indicated that this should not be a surprise to anyone, especially in the nonprofit sector. In general, he is encouraged by the fundraising activities to date for FY06 and the overall strategic direction of the organization.

T. Lee made the following motion:

THAT THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005 BE ACCEPTED.

SECONDED: E. Irwin
PASSED - UNANIMOUS

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

L. Heslop noted for the people on the telephone that B. Graham of PricewaterhouseCoopers had left the room for the following discussion. T. Lee noted that PwC has been YSF Canada's auditors for three years and that the board has been pleased with their work and the quality of the financial statements prepared. He further noted that they are a cutting-edge accounting firm and that he has no reservations about appointing PwC as the auditors for 2006. Lorne stated that the Board had an excellent discussion about the possibility of changing auditors to reduce costs and had agreed to recommend PwC for appointment in 2006.

T. Lee made the following motion:

THAT THE FIRM OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP BE APPOINTED AS AUDITOR FOR THE 2006 FISCAL YEAR.

SECONDED: F. Seif
PASSED - UNANIMOUS

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Communication

S. Olynyk (Bay Area RSF) stated that there is not enough communication from YSF to the regions. She specifically requested that meeting dates, agendas and minutes of committee meetings be made available to regions so that items can be added to the agendas and actions can be followed. F. Head responded that a summary of each National Science Fair Committee (NSFC) meeting is sent to the regional contact by their elected zone representative and that these NSFC

members also solicit and receive input from their regions. He added that the NSFC agenda for the year is largely driven by the motions passed by regional delegates each year at the CWSF. He further noted that NSFC meeting minutes are available by written request to the zone reps.

S. Olynyk also requested clarification on the mechanism for regional input to YSF policy outside the realm of science fairs. It was indicated that these items may be referred to the zone representative, who will ensure that it is directed to the appropriate committee, or they may be referred directly to the committee itself or the executive director.

YSF will work to make committee activities more readily available to regions through the web site and as part of the executive director's reports to the AGM and SGM.

Relationship Between YSF and Regions

S. Olynyk (Bay Area RSF) requested information on policy, beyond what is contained in the Affiliation Agreement, that defines the relationship between regional organizations and YSF, including the "sovereign rights" of a region related to areas such as fundraising and ISEF affiliation. She indicated that regions should be valued partners, but that sometimes they feel that YSF simply tells them what they're going to do.

F. Head and R. Barlow indicated that the only policy document governing the relationship between YSF and regions is reflected in the Affiliation Agreement.

L. Heslop indicated that this issue is best addressed in the broader forum of the CWSF, where input from many regions can be heard.

R. Kranyak thanked the board, on behalf of BASEF, for taking the time to hold the meeting and for listening to their region's concerns.

9. ADJOURNMENT

S. Olynyk made the following motion:

THAT THE 44th ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS BE ADJOURNED.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.