



Present: Adam Kronick, President  
Craig Perlmutter, Vice President  
Rob Carmichael, Director  
Mark Diamond, Director  
Karen Hartnett, Director  
Eric Shendelman, Director  
Mike Stewart, Director

Regrets: Jonathan Nyquist, Vice President, Leon Muszynski, Secretary/Treasurer,  
Jeff Brown, Director, Julie Gallie, Director and Stu Saunders, Director

Staff: Heather Heagle, Executive Director

**1. Welcome & Introduction**

**2. Confirmation of Agenda**

The Agenda was confirmed with no additional items.

**3. Approval of February 24, 2016, Board Meeting Minutes**

**Motion #1:** Recommend, That the February 24, 2016, Board Meeting Minutes be approved as amended.

Moved by: Rob Carmichael

Seconded by: Mike Stewart

**CARRIED**

**4. President's Report**

Adam Kronick

i. New Canadians Initiative

Mark Diamond

Adam asked Mark Diamond to report on this new OCA initiative.

Mark distributed notes from the first Refugee Summer Camp Experience meeting held on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Over 50 OCA Accredited camps are welcoming new refugees to their camps through Life Line Syria. Volunteers who have been involved with Life Line Syria are now volunteering their time on this new OCA initiative. They bring experience and contacts to this process and have provided contacts to COSTI Immigrant Services who help new immigrants adjust to Canadian life. This initiative is not just for Syrian Refugees, it is for all refugees. Canada opens its doors to thousands of people every year.

If the OCA Board agrees to this project, the objectives of this proposed committee is to have all of the processes and supports in place for next year. The first year for new refugees who have just arrived in Canada is very hard for families to be ready for a camp experience. People need a couple of years to adjust before they are ready for such new and different experiences.

The committee plans to have information on the OCA website for organizations and families regarding camp spaces, agencies they can contact, etc. There are two very different types of refugee sponsorships. There are private sponsors who illustrate that they have the funding, housing and support for a family to come to Canada. The second type is Government Assisted Refugee Sponsors (GARS); 90% of all refugees fall into this category.

This year we will not be accepting campers as the processes for applications, selection and support for both the family and the camps are not in place. Part of the plan is to initiate a partnership between the Federal Government and OCA's Government Relations Committee. Once the agencies and families have discussed the camp options for their children, they agency or family will contact the OCA office with their selection(s). The camp is contacted by the office and they will call the agencies or families directly.

Sponsorship for the campers is important and will take many forms from clothing, to sleeping bags, to equipment. Kids In Camp have been informed of this initiative and will be discussing it with their Board. OCA Board Members will also look to recruit a Title Sponsor.

Items to be completed include:

- a. Creating a small camp manual for support, listing contacts for supplies
- b. Developing a training program for camps
- c. Providing support and mentors for camps so that campers will not just attend the camp for one year but for many years.
- d. Creating a list of agencies and contact to work with the committee
- e. Developing a list of sponsors
- f. Creating website information/ press releases
- g. Creating a poster similar to the website for posting in venues where both agencies and refugee families live, work or frequent.
- h. Contact some of the clothing warehouses that are already in place

After much discussion, Mark asked the OCA Board for their approval for a long-term New Canadians Committee.

**Motion #2:** Recommend, That the Ontario Camps Association approve the formation of the New Canadians Committee as a long-term committee.

Moved by: Eric Shendelman

Seconded by: Craig Perlmutter

**CARRIED**

**Action Items:** Karen Hartnett will pursue Canadian Tire Jump Start as a sponsor. Heather will speak with Bruce Phillips who will provide this information to OCA's Preferred Vendors at their next meeting.

OCA has been in contact with the Canadian Camping Association regarding this project. They will assist with marketing this initiative across Canada.

**ii. Temporary Foreign Worker Issue + New Lobbyist Firm** Mark Diamond

a. Mark stated that camps had begun to have problems with the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). Again, staff were not being allowed to come to Canada. Jonathan Nyquist informed the committee that the Association was back where they had started with the government not allowing them to use the charitable organization category. TACTIX Government Relations and Public Affairs, a lobbying firm in Ottawa, was recommended to be contacted. The committee and CCA were called to see if they were in agreement with using another firm.

TACTIX was contacted and without a contract they setup a meeting with Minister McCallum's office within two days of the call. In addition, they scheduled several other meetings for the committee. Later when Jonathan Nyquist contacted Minister McCallum's office for an update, he was informed that the government would allow camps to use the charitable category and would allow temporary foreign workers to enter Canada. Jonathan asked the Minister's office to provide this information in writing which they sent to Jonathan. A further meeting was setup for Jonathan to attend in Ottawa on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Jonathan will provide a report

on this meeting at the April Board Meeting. TACTIX has been phenomenal. They are a very competent, smaller, hands-on firm.

TACTIX was also aware of the changes to the Children's Arts and Fitness Tax Benefits. They sent a very clear comprehensive report which will be sent to all camps.

The Board agreed that TACTIX has established themselves as competent lobbyists with strong contacts. To that end, the Board would like to pay the sum of \$12,000.00 to TACTIX for their work for the past three months.

**Motion #3:** Recommend, That a cheque be cut for \$12,000.00 made payable to TACTIX for their lobbying work for the Ontario Camps Association.

Moved by: Eric Shendelman

Seconded by: Rob Carmichael

**CARRIED**

Budget considerations are always important. A meeting with CCA has been scheduled for Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> with Jill Dundas, Stephane Richard, Dave Graham, Adam Kronick, Mark Diamond and Rob Carmichael to discuss each organization's financial commitment to government lobbying.

- Action Items:
- a. Heather will prepare a cheque for TACTIX Government Relations and Public Affairs.
  - b. Heather will send an email to all Accredited Camps regarding the changes to the Fitness and Arts Tax Benefit suggesting that camps contact their accountants.
  - c. Depending on the outcome of the meeting with CCA, the OCA may have to review and revise its budget for this year.

### **iii. Early Years Regulations**

Eric Shendelman

Eric updated the Board on the provincial government's exemptions. The government is now excluding travel time from the three hour program time camps can offer to campers under four years of age. These exclusions are only available until January 17<sup>th</sup>. The Early Years committee has asked the Ministry of Education representatives to provide further explanation in writing by April 15, 2016.

### **iv. Clarification – Individual Membership**

The Board discussed when it was appropriate to ask non-members to become members. Their decision was as follows:

Committee Chairs, Standards Visitors and Mentors not affiliated with a member camp or a Preferred Vendor must become Individual Members.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Rob Carmichael

i. Rob Carmichael presented a report from the Finance Committee in Leon Muszynski's absence. The committee met Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss a budget forecast for 2016-17. With the growth of the Association, it was suggested that the office needed an additional staff. If this staff expense was included in the next budget there would be a shortfall of \$40,000.00. The OCA also needs funding for lobbying and marketing. All of these areas have considerable expenses which are not all going to add up to a balanced budget. With an inflationary raise in Membership fees there would still be a deficit.

One of the suggestions to look at as a revenue source would be to charge camps a fee of \$100.00 in the year they are being visited. If a camp was to be re-visited the fee would increase to \$150.00 for extra work for the second visit.

**Action Item:** Rob was asked to go back to the Finance Committee with the suggestions from the Board regarding slightly increasing the inflation rate and how the Visit fees would be processed.

ii. Second, Rob spoke about the actual costs for items in the budget. For example, what are the real costs of the OCA Camps Guide if you took into consideration staff time, overhead, etc. By looking at expenses through this lens we may be able to understand more clearly what we are doing. The office is working on a cost/time analysis which will take some time to complete.

iii. Heather reported that the February month-end financial report reflected that the registration fees for the Mental Health Workshop had increased the revenues over budget. Once this workshop is completed on April 16 & 17 the April report will show a break-even event. The overall budget at this time is where we should be with revenues and expenses.

**6. Executive Director's Report** Heather Heagle  
Heather reported that Sam Marinucci & Associates, OCA's Auditor, has merged with Hogg, Shain & Scheck. Sam will still be looking after OCA's audit.

**7. Next Meeting Dates:** Tuesday, April 26th  
Tuesday, May 17th  
Wednesday, September 28th  
Tuesday, October 25th  
Tuesday, November 22nd  
Thursday, December 15th  
Tuesday, January 17th AGM and Awards Dinner

**8. Adjournment:** this meeting will be followed by the Board Liaisons & Committee Chairs at 1:00 pm

**Motion to Adjourn:** Eric Shendelman at 12:30 pm

**Date the Draft Minutes are approved:** April 26/16

**Signatures:** [Signature] [Signature]  
**OCA President** **Executive Director**