

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF GRAIN AND GENERAL SERVICES UNION (ILWU CANADA) held In Person and via Video Conference September, 21, 2022

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## **Participants:**

**President** - Jim Brown  
**Vice President** - Michelle Houlden (via phone)  
**Vice President** - Sheila Tran  
**General Secretary** - Hugh Wagner

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*These minutes reflect the disposition of the Convention. It should be noted that each agenda item and matters which arose, were thoroughly discussed and often vigorously debated. In the interest of brevity, however, in most instances the final result is the only aspect recorded.*

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The meeting commenced at 11:10 a.m.

Houlden attended via phone. Brown, Tran and Wagner attended at the GSU office in Regina.

The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on matters from the August 31, 2022 meeting of the executive committee, review the draft of the general secretary's autumn 2022 report to union members, address administrative matters and conduct an interview for the general secretary position.

## **Agenda and Meeting Procedures**

The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved.

It was agreed that the meeting would be conducted on a consent basis, that is unless otherwise noted, reports and motions were approved without the formality of moving, seconding and voting.

## **Minutes**

The draft minutes of the August 31, 2022 meeting of the executive committee were reviewed and approved.

## JEC Meeting, SFL Convention and GSU 2023 Convention

The executive discussed and agreed that the 2022 semi-annual meeting of the Joint Executive Council (JEC) would be held in Regina on October 25 commencing at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting also agreed to make another attempt to hold a long overdue and pandemic-delayed retirement gathering for Dale Markling to coincide with the JEC semi-annual meeting and SFL convention.

The executive discussed planning for GSU's 2023 convention and location/venue requirements. March 30, 31 and April 1 were agreed as the convention dates.

Wagner advised that the two quotes for venues would be obtained with one of the possibilities being Temple Gardens in Moose Jaw which had been booked to host the 2020 convention before its pandemic cancellation.

It was also agreed to recommend to the JEC that delegates to the 2023 GSU convention whose spouses accompany them will be required to pay for half of their room cost.

## Union and Staff Administration

Wagner recommended that the term position to which Mason Van Luven is assigned be converted to a regular staff representative position and that he be appointed to the position subject to approval by the JEC.

The executive agreed with the recommendation to convert the 18-month term position to a regular staff representative position and appoint Mason Van Luven to the position subject to approval by the JEC and the requirements of the IUSU collective agreement.

The draft general secretary report to the autumn 2022 annual membership meetings was discussed and approved. *(Copy attached)*

Wagner recommended approval to proceed with proposal from the "Together" media organization for a social media advertising campaign directed at non-union grain company employees in Saskatchewan. *(Copy attached)*

Following a discussion of Wagner's recommendation, the "Together" social media proposal was approved as a trial project to determine effectiveness with the stipulation that any subsequent programs or proposals will be subject to further analysis and review as to local sourcing.

Wagner advised the committee that the IUSU collective agreement expires on Dec. 31, 2022 and it would be necessary to decide who would be the bargaining committee for GSU. The executive

discussed their approach to the next round of bargaining with IUSU and an employment contract with the new general secretary. It was agreed to resume the discussion of these subjects at the next meeting of the executive.

The meeting went in-camera to discuss potential bargaining issues and an unrelated staff matter.

Prior to recessing to conduct an interview with Steve Torgerson for the general secretary position, the committee discussed the pay range for the job and the job shadowing premium in the IUSU collective agreement.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

Upon reconvening the committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the JEC that Steve Torgerson be hired into the general secretary position effective April 1, 2023 with job shadowing to begin on or about January 1, 2023.

It was agreed that the terms and conditions of Torgerson's employment contract as general secretary would be negotiated with him following approval of the job offer by the JEC.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was discussed and it was agreed that GSU would recognize September 30, 2022 as a general holiday for GSU staff to commemorate truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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President

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General Secretary

### *Attachments:*

- *Draft general secretary report*
- *"Together" proposal*