
Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2019

Call to order

A meeting of the Iranian Canadian Congress was held in person on **November 6th, 2019**. Attendees included Pouyan Tabasinejad, Saman Tabasinejad, Sholeh Khalili, Mohsen Khaniki, Babak Tafreshi and Soudeh Ghasemi. Meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM.

Approval of minutes

- Minutes of September 17th approved (Saman T. moves, Soudeh G.. seconds)

Reports

- Next Social Event will be held Thursday November 28th, 2019

Motions

- Motion: Introduced by Soudeh G., Seconded by Pouyan T.: "Next Social Event will be held Thursday November 28th, 2019"; All in favour
- Motion: Introduced by Soudeh G., Seconded by Pouyan T.: "Next roundtable event will be held on Sunday, December 15th, 2019, pending availability of the venue"; All in favour
- Motion: Introduced by Soudeh G., Seconded by Pouyan T.: "In light of election interference by the terrorist MeK group and their attacks on community members, the ICC will work to inform elected representatives about the group and gain their commitment to not meeting with the group or their affiliates"; All in favour
- Motion: Introduced by Soudeh G., Seconded by Pouyan T.: "The ICC will increase its requests for donations, adding them to all campaign emails"; All in favour
- Motion: Introduced by Soudeh G., Seconded by Pouyan T.: "The ICC will reach out to Ontario's provincial parties to ask them to adopt the ICC's policy recommendations for addressing the plight of foreign trained professionals in Ontario"; All in favour
- Motion: Introduced by Soudeh G., Seconded by Pouyan T.: "Pouyan T and Amir M will draft a document for outlining the ICC's priorities with regards to the new federal parliament"; All in favour
- Motion: Introduced by Soudeh G., Seconded by Pouyan T.: "Saman T and Amir M will explore making a mentorship program and present their plan to the board with a view to start in January 2020"; All in favour
- Motion: Introduced by Soudeh G., Seconded by Pouyan T.: "the ICC will explore whether doing a 'Farsi dar Ontario' campaign is feasible and what form it could take, with a view to launch the campaign in Spring of 2020"; All in favour.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 9:00PM.

Meeting Minutes

February 23rd, 2020

Call to order

A meeting of the Iranian Canadian Congress was held by phone on **February 23rd, 2020**. Attendees included Pouyan Tabasinejad, Saman Tabasinejad, Sholeh Khalili, Younes Zangiabadi, Mohsen Khaniki, Babak Tafreshi, and Soudeh Ghasemi. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of November 6th, 2019 meeting approved (Saman T. moves, Mohsen K. seconds)

Reports

- Update on the Flight 752 tragedy and initiatives that the ICC has supported on helping the families affected by the tragedy and the intimidation that they have faced in Iran as well as the passing of the 40th day since the shutdown of the passenger plane by Iranian forces
 - o Board members connected through a number of emergency communications in the immediate days after the tragedy by phone and email to approve immediate decisions that were made in the aftermath of the rising tensions and the subsequent shutdown of Flight 752, including:
 - o Holding the memorial for the victims and their loved ones at the North York Civic Centre on January 9th
 - o Calling for justice, transparency, and accountability on behalf of the victims of Flight 752; specifically asking the Canadian government to advocate for these three principles in the international community
- Update on the Iranian-Canadians stranded in Iran during coronavirus outbreak, including conversations with the government and Canadian press on getting these Iranian-Canadians home.
- Update on the effect of sanctions on the Iranian response to coronavirus and the chaotic situation that exists in Iran presently in the face of the pandemic.

Motions

- Motion: Introduced by Pouyan T., Seconded by Soudeh Ghasemi.: “The ICC will continue to work to get Iranian-Canadians stranded in Iran during coronavirus home, as well as highlight how sanctions are worsening the impact of coronavirus in the country”; All in favour

Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:45PM.

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2020

Call to order

A meeting of the Iranian Canadian Congress was held by Zoom on **May 17, 2020**. Attendees included Pouyan Tabasinejad, Saman Tabasinejad, Sholeh Khalili, Younes Zangiabadi, Mohsen Khaniki, Amir Moazami, and Soudeh Ghasemi. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of minutes

- Minutes of February 23rd meeting approved

Reports

- Sholeh Khalili: As a small token of our appreciation for front line health workers, last Friday the Iranian Canadian Congress donated 100 scrub caps that our volunteers sewed to Markham Stouffville Hospital and hosted a lunch event for nurses and doctors working at the hospital's ICU in charge of COVID-19 cases. We continue to send our solidarity and gratitude to these workers and everyone who is working to keep us safe during this epidemic.
- Pouyan Tabasinejad: presented a series of projects that the ICC could undertake in the Summer.

Motions

- Motion: Introduced by Pouyan T., Seconded by Soudeh Ghasemi.: "The ICC will undertake the following projects going into the Summer, in the following priority, time permitting: 1) Coronavirus [including sanctions, medical aid to Iran, extracting Canadians trapped in Iran due to coronavirus, aiding Iranian-Canadian businesses]", 2) No War With Iran [Trudeau standing up to Trump, Supporting UN resolutions to prevent sanctions], 3) MEK Awareness; All in favour

Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:45PM.

Action Items

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2020

Call to order

A meeting of the Iranian Canadian Congress was held by Zoom on **June 18th, 2020**. Attendees included Pouyan Tabasinejad, Saman Tabasinejad, Sholeh Khalili, Younes Zangiabadi, Mohsen Khaniki, Amir Moazzami and Soudeh Ghasemi. Babak Tafreshi sent regrets. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Approval of minutes

- Minutes of May 17th meeting approved. (Saman T. moves, Amir M. seconds)

Reports

- Soudeh G: Update on administrative help offered by the ICC to some of the families of the victims of Flight 752.
- Soudeh G: Update on court case – proposed responses on AGM; Soudeh sent the proposed response online, and board members will resolve there.
 - o Discussion on this point: the board made it clear that they were anxious to hold the AGM online (due to COVID) at the earliest date possible, and that it is the decision of the independent monitor and the elections committee that
- Mohsen K.: Hamid Esmailoon mentioned during a press conference that ICC did not help the families of Flight 752 or his association; this is despite the fact that the ICC has reached out to Mr. Esmailoon himself, as spokesperson to the Association of the Families of Flight 752, multiple times and was rejected by him¹

¹ Full discussion: The ICC reached out to Mr. Hamed Esmailoon on two occasions to offer our condolences and discuss with him the support that the ICC can offer to him and the association of victims' families. Both times Mr. Esmailoon rejected our requests to talk. We understand the extremely difficult situation the families face and will reach out once again to the association to offer our support.

The ICC's position has been clear from the beginning that we demand full and independent investigation, accountability, justice and transparency about the tragedy of flight 752. The ICC has communicated its position to the best of its ability and on several occasions to Canadian officials and will continue to do so in the future. The ICC was also the first organization that launched a campaign requesting its members and supporters to reach out to the Members of Parliament and the Prime Minister's Office demanding justice and accountability for flight 752.

At the same time, the ICC has been opposed to efforts by some partisan organizations to exploit this horrible tragedy to impose collective punishment on Iranian people and further isolate the country. We believe that the best way forward is to demand accountability, transparency and justice in accordance with international law and civil aviation regulations without further isolating and punishing Iranians inside Iran and in the diaspora.

The ICC represents the opinion of its members and supporters and it's important to note that the majority of them through their participation in the ICC elections, public consultations and surveys have mandated the ICC executive board to oppose sanctions and policies that would further isolate Iranian people and escalate tensions in the region.

For example, a recent petition made by Mr. Hamed Esmailoon has demanded commercial airlines not to use the Iranian airspace; though we understand the frustration felt by many especially the families about flight 752 tragedy, we believe that this demand is

Motions

- Motion, PASSED (Introduced by Mohsen, Seconded by Younes): Mohsen K. will reach out to the Association of the Families of Flight 752 once again clarifying some facts about the ICC's work on this file.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:30PM.

Action Items

counterproductive and only further isolates innocent Iranians at a period when they are already under maximum pressure from the Trump administration and the country has been devastated by COVID-19 pandemic and is in severe need for medication and aid.