

# ICC Board of Directors Meeting

**Date:** April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**Attendees:** Ahmad Ehsandar, Moslem Noori, Mohsen Khaniki, Amir H. GhasemiNejad, Reza Namdari, Younes Zangiabadi, Kayhan Razavi, and Arezo Khadir

Meeting Agenda:

1. Updates from board members and work progress in Committees.

The meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) was called to order at 8:12 pm eastern time by Ahmad Ehsandar.

- Minutes of this meeting were taken by Ahmad Ehsandar.

## Updates from all committees and departments:

### Administrative and Finance Department:

(Secretary: Ahmad Ehsandar)

- Ahmad Ehsandar mentioned that currently ICC has more than 37000 contacts on Nation builder database, and he has focused on cutting unsensitive data from Nation Builder to reduce the monthly cost.
- He further explained that enough more work needs to be done on our database since there are several issues such as duplicate contacts, incomplete profiles etc.
- Ahmad Ehsandar also mentioned that he has made some changes to membership and registration pages in our website so that people know who they should contact for membership purposes.

(Treasurer: Mohsen Khaniki)

- Preparation of the financial report for the last quarter of 2020.

(President: Moslem Noori)

- Moslem mentioned that he has asked two volunteers to work on the website. And they will start with some modification on the menus and a few pages to make the navigation easier for end users.
- He also updated the board that he has contacted the Relief International regarding help import medicine for EB disease for children.
- He also has taken care of the organization IT tasks, including how to migrate from Google service to Microsoft and how to transfer files and emails safely.

- He also worked on organizing the meeting with members as well as sending fundraising emails.
- Moslem also worked with Ahmad and Mohsen to prepare the financial report for the last quarter of 2020.

## Policy Development Department

(Chair: Amir H. GhasemiNejad)

- Amirhassan updated the board that he has sent the last email for the participation in the survey and soon the survey will be closed. He explained that we have over 1000 opening the survey so far and he will prepare the result in a few weeks.
- Regarding the Forum Modification, he explained that policies in place are not enforced completely. He suggested that we need to dedicate resources to implement and enforce the policies in the Forum.
- The importance of ICC actions regarding integration Iranian immigrants and Iranian Canadian Professionals was emphasized.
- Policy department will discuss methods of implementing the community priorities as identified in the survey and will conduct follow up surveys as well.
- Amirhassan feels the use of paid proprietary software such as Nation Builder should be limited to the minimum necessary levels

## Organizational Structure & Content Development Committees

(Chair: Kayhan Razavi)

- Kayhan informed the board about the challenges he is facing in preparing the newsletter - first and the most important one is the delays on receiving content and second the revisions people ask to be done after the layout is designed. He explained that all work is done by volunteers, and he cannot push them to more than they already spent.
- He also mentioned that the third issue is underway and will be published soon.
- Kayhan also informed the board of the few sessions that he held for organization structure committee. He informed that several ideas have been proposed and all are being discussed between committee members.
- He emphasized that the best way forward is to transform the ICC into an organization with a focus on services for the community so all Iranian Canadian community can benefit from it.

## Culture Committee

(Chair: Saman TabasiNejad, +Arezou Khadir)

- Arezou Khadir updated the board about the continuation of their work on Beginning project. She also informed the board about the legislation in Quebec that makes the immigration process harder for students and workers. She suggested that the ICC should take action on this matter since it is directly in the interest of our community.
- She also informed that she is planning to hold workshops and sessions for health committee.

## Research Committee

(Chair: Younes Zangiabadi)

- Younes Zangiabadi informed the board that he has acquired insurance for the organization. He also mentioned that he is exploring the possibility of conditions where members can pursue their complain through a more constructive process rather than suing the organization. One idea was to look around what other communities has developed for this matter and learn from them.
- He also updated the board about the inquiries ICC has requested from RBC bank regarding the closing of accounts of many Iranians.
- Younes mentioned that he has send the applications for summer internship to Ontario government and we are now hoping that we can get them.
- He also has this suggestion that we can collect statistics of Farsi speaking population in different ridings and once the result of our survey is ready, we can approach MPs to discuss the priorities of our community with them.

## Services Committees

(Chair: Mohsen Khaniki)

- Mohsen Khaniki suggested that we might be able to help Iranian Canadian who are in line to get their vaccination with the registration process.

At 9:015 pm the updates of board members were finished, and the meeting was entered into discussion time.

- Moslem pointed out that after Mehrnoush resignation, according to the bylaws, we should invite the next person with the highest vote in the election to join the board. Thus, it was decided that Mr. Reza Namdari will be approached and invited to join the board.

- Another topic was to assign a chair to the health committee. Arezou Khadir was suggested by Moslem Noori for this committee based on her expertise and experience in medical field.
  - A motion was moved by Moslem Noori to assign Arezou as the chair of the Health Committee. The motion was seconded by Kayhan Razavi.
    - *Attending: 7, in favor: 6,*
    - *abstention: Amir Hasan GhasemiNejad*
    - *Against: --*
- The third topic was again raised by Moslem Noori to review the membership fees. Moslem argued that the membership fee has not been changed for a long time and although the idea to increase it was first introduced in 2016 but never actually implemented.
  - Mohsen Khaniki explained that because of the lawsuit, organization was not able to change this fee for the past two years. He continued that we need to be careful since any increase in the membership fee would have direct impact on the number of members but \$20.00 is a reasonable fee.
  - Moslem suggested that we can run a survey and ask our members about changes in the membership fee.
  - Ahmad Ehsandar said that \$20 is too much and it can have negative effect on the number of members. Besides, the survey might provide a feedback to us but does not necessarily avoid the negative impact of this increase.
  - Arezou Khadir mentioned that she supports \$15 option, and she suggested we can change the membership to have three different types for students (\$10), regular (\$15) and supporters (\$50).
  - Mohsen Khaniki answered that the board cannot decide on the type of membership, and it needs to be decided in the AGM.
  - The topic was left for more discussion in the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 10.33 PM ET.