

## ICC Meeting – June 24, 2015

### Attendees

1. Farhang Farid
2. Behrouz Amouzgar
3. Bijan Ahmadi
4. Soudeh Ghassemi
5. Shahram Namvarazad
6. Arshak Shojaei
7. Mitra Saffari
8. Arsalan Kahnemuipour
9. Reza Ghazi

### Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of last meeting
2. Proposal by Bahar Aminvaziri in relation to the Maryam Rashidi incident
3. Call for Members to Join Committees
4. Bill C-24 and Bill C-51
5. Advisory Group
6. E-Motion re Two-Year Operations Plan
7. Masoud Hajivand
8. Mostafa Azizi
9. Islamic Society of York Region Event

### 1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting

#### **Motion M-20150624-1**

#### *Moving board member:*

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

#### *Motion Text:*

All board members to review the minutes of the previous meeting and share comments electronically.

#### *Status:*

Motion carried unanimously.

## 2. Proposal by Ms. Aminvaziri re Maryam Rashidi incident

### **Motion M-20150624-2**

#### *Moving board member:*

Soudeh Ghasemi

#### *Motion Text:*

The ICC to support the proposed awareness raising campaign by Ms. Bahar Aminvaziri in relation to the tragic incident in Calgary involving Maryam Rashidi.

#### *Discussion:*

Ms. Bahar Aminvaziri has asked that the ICC support her campaign with respect to raising awareness on the issues that caused the tragedy involving Maryam Rashidi in Calgary.

#### *Status:*

Motion carried unanimously.

## 3. Call for Members to Join Committees

### **Motion M-20150624-3**

#### *Moving board member:*

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

#### *Motion Text:*

Provided that the electronic motion brought by Mr. Bijan Ahmadi on June 17, 2015 in relation to circulation of a call for members did not receive the requisite number of votes to be passed electronically, motion to have it discussed in person at the meeting. The text of the motion brought by Mr. Ahmadi was as follows:

- 1) A communication (email/website/facebook/media release) to be sent out within the next 7 days calling interested members to contact committee chairs for joining the standing committees.
- 2) Committee chairs to review qualifications and experience of the applicants and propose a list of their team members by July 8th, 2015 for the board's approval.
- 3) First meeting of each committee to be held a week after the committee has at least 4 members (excluding the chair person) pursuant to the ICC by-laws.
- 4) ICC members only can be a member of one standing committee unless it's approved by the board.

- 5) Committee chairs have to set team rules and a decision making process for their committees.
- 6) ICC committees have to prepare proposals and get approval from the board for all their proposed projects.

*Discussion:*

Mitra Saffari suggested removing the condition related to qualification and experiences and allowing all interested members to join the committees. Over the time, the core of the committees will be formed by those who are more interested and committed.

Concern raised by Behrouz Amouzgar and Bijan Ahmadi that absence of a limit to the number of members in a committee will take away from the efficiency of the committees.

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour stated that various committees seem to have different requirements as some committee require more technical skill sets. As an example he provided that while the culture committee may be able to effectively function with a higher number of volunteers, a committee such as the Policy Development committee may not have the same features.

Reza Ghazi added that he is against selecting the members of the committees. He stated that we should consider a first come first serve strategy and there should be no limit on the number of members that can join committees.

Soudeh Ghasemi suggested that we impose a limit to the number of members in the Policy Development Committee but not the Public Relations and the Culture Committees.

Arshak Shojaei stated that we should assess our abilities prior to making any decisions. He believes that the board should have a plan and present same to the members. He stated that there should be a limit to the number of members in every committee.

Shahram Namvarazad stated that there should be a limit to the number of members of every committee as there will otherwise be no efficiency.

Behrouz Amouzgar proposed the following amendment to the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of the motion:

- A communication (email/website/facebook/media release) to be sent out calling interested members, with qualifications set out by the chair of the committees, to join the standing committees.

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour suggested the following amendment to the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph:

- Committee chairs to determine the process for the selection of the 5 members of their respective committees and propose a list of their team members for the board's approval.

Reza Ghazi suggested that the third paragraph be removed.

The amended motion reads as follows:

- A communication (email/website/facebook/media release) to be sent out calling interested members, with qualifications set out by the chair of the committees, to join the standing committees.
- Committee chairs to determine the process for the selection of the 5 members of their respective committees and propose a list of their team members for the board's approval.
- ICC members only can be a member of one standing committee unless it's approved by the board.
- Committee chairs have to set team rules and a decision making process for their committees.
- ICC committees have to prepare proposals and get approval from the board for all their proposed projects.

Seconded:

Soudeh Ghasemi.

Status:

Motion carried with Reza Ghazi, Behrouz Amouzgar and Mitra Saffari in favour.

Opposed:

Arshak Shojaei and Shahram Namvarazad are against the motion as they believe that the board should provide the plans and projects to the committees instead of receiving proposals from the committees.

#### **4. Bill C-24 and Bill C-51**

##### **Motion M-20150624-4**

Moving board member:

Soudeh Ghasemi

Motion Text:

To have the discussion pertaining to the motion on the agenda in relation to Bill C-24 and Bill C-51 postponed to the next meeting of the board.

Seconded:

Arshak Shojaei

Status:

Motion carried unanimously.

## 5. Advisory Group

### **Motion M-20150624-5**

Moving board member:

Bijan Ahmadi

Motion Text:

- Each board member to nominate potential candidates for joining the Advisory Committee in the next board meeting
- The board member has to state his/her reasoning and provide brief background information about the nominee.
- Nomination of potential candidates to be reviewed by the board based on Article 3 and Article 15 of the ICC by-law.
- To respect privacy of nominated individuals the discussions related to the nominees in the board meeting won't be published in the public minutes.

Discussion:

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour pointed out that the bylaws provide that in addition to individual members, representatives from the Affiliate Organizations will also need to sit on the Advisory Group.

Arshak Shojaei stated that we should not contact the organizations for the Advisory Group in spite of what is stated in the bylaws and should continue the traditional mechanism of selecting individuals only.

Shahram Namvarazad stated that representatives from the organizations would be biased as they will only be focused on promoting their own organizations.

Soudeh Ghasemi stated that it is not reasonable for us to follow past practices just because they have been the ICC's tradition. She added that there is no problem if a representative from an organization raises the concerns of that organization only as it will give the board a different view and perspective.

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour suggested the following amendment to the first paragraph:

- Each board member to nominate potential candidates, consisting of individuals and representatives from organizations, for joining the Advisory Group in the next board meeting

Arshak Shojaei again disagreed with involving organizations in the Advisory Group as it could involve organizations that a sector of our community may be against.

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour pointed out that organizations with a mandate that is in contradiction with the mandate of the ICC cannot be affiliate organizations of the ICC and given that the ICC is non-partisan, organizations of a partisan nature cannot be affiliate organizations and as such their representatives cannot sit on the Advisory Group.

The revised motion text reads as follows:

- Each board member to nominate potential candidates, consisting of individuals and representatives from organizations, for joining the Advisory Committee in the next board meeting.
- The board member has to state his/her reasoning and provide brief background information about the nominee.
- Nomination of potential candidates to be reviewed by the board based on Article 3 and Article 15 of the ICC by-law.
- To respect privacy of nominated individuals the discussions related to the nominees in the board meeting won't be published in the public minutes.

Seconded:

Reza Ghazi

Status:

Motion carried with the support of Behrouz Amouzgar, Mitra Saffari, Arsalan Kahnemuyipour and Soudeh Ghasemi.

Opposed:

Arshak Shojaei and Shahram Namvarazad opposed.

## **6. E-Motion re Two-Year Operations Plan**

The board confirmed that the following electronic motion is approved as it received 8 votes in its support electronically:

Moving board member:

Bijan Ahmadi

Motion Text:

Pursuant to Article 8.2 of the ICC by-law the Department of Administration and Finance to prepare a comprehensive two-year plan for the direction of ICC operations by end of August 2015. An update to be provided to the board in the last board meeting in July about the progress on this task. The proposed plan has to be approved by the board upon its completion.

Motion Status:

Motion carried with the support of Soudeh Ghasemi, Behrouz Amouzgar, Arsalan Kahnemuyipour, Farhang Farid, Reza Ghazi, Arshak Shojaei and Mitra Safari.

## 7. Masoud Hajivand

### **Motion M-20150624-6**

Moving board member:

Reza Ghazi

Motion Text:

Provided that Mr. Hajivand has been in detention since June of 2014, a letter to be sent by the ICC to Mr. Hajivand's lawyer to ask how the ICC can help with his case.

Discussion:

Bijan Ahmadi added that the International Human Rights Program of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law has also released a report about the case of Mr. Hajivand entitled: "Voices from Inside Detention: Masoud Hajivand":

<http://ihrp.law.utoronto.ca/voices-inside-detention-masoud-hajivand>

Seconded:

Mitra Saffari

Status:

Motion carried unanimously.

## 8. Mostafa Azizi

### **Motion M-20150624-7**

Moving board member:

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

Motion Text:

Mr. Kahnemuyipour to contact immediate family members of Mr. Mostafa Azizi to determine how the ICC can assist with the case of Mr. Azizi.

Discussion:

Mr. Shojaei ... COMMENTS DELETED FOR PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY REASONS

Seconded:

Behrouz Amouzgar

Status:

Motion carried unanimously.

## 9. Islamic Society of York Region Event

### **Motion M-20150624-8**

Moving board member:

Bijan Ahmadi

Motion Text:

Pursuant to Motion M-20150610-9, the statement prepared by Mr. Ahmadi and Mr. Kahnemuyipour to be circulated among members.

Seconded:

Behrouz Amouzgar

Discussion:

Mitra Saffari stated that the language of this statement is in favor of one group and doesn't provide an appropriate response to the other side. She requested to make a change in the last paragraph in the way that reflects a compromised solution. She suggested to move ahead the date of suggested meeting from late August to late July and allocate this meeting specifically to the challenges which ICC has been facing with this issue.

She stated that by making these changes in the statement, she will be okay with releasing the statement.

Status:

Motion carried with the support of Reza Ghazi, Arsalan Kahnemuyipour and Soudeh Ghasemi.

Opposed:

Mr. Shojaei and Mr. Namvarazad opposed the release of this statement as they believe that all those who have reflected their views on this issue should have sent official communications to the ICC similar to the 90 individuals who sent their concerns to the ICC.