

ICC Meeting – July 7, 2015

Attendees

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

Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes of the June 24, 30 Meetings
2. Items tabled in last meeting:
 - E-mail from ... (NAME WITHHELD FOR PRIVACY)
 - Advisory Committee
 - Creation of ICC facebook group for discussion
 - Request for updated financial statement
3. Follow-up from previous meetings:
 - Mostafa Azizi
 - Masoud Hajivand
 - Maryam Rashidi
 - Committees – Recruitment Progress
 - Federal Election
 - Bill C 24 & C51
 - Supporting Tirgan Festival
 - Text to be added to all official communication as footnote
4. New items:
 - Meet and Greet (e-motion)
 - Youth Engagement Initiative
 - ICC Mailbox
 - Refugee/Human Rights/New Immigrants Committee(s)
 - Avidah Motmaenfar Letter
 - Board Member Absences
 - Toronto Weeklies/Media
 - ICC Website

- September 21st Int'l Peace Day
- Anti-harassment Policy for ICC

1. Minutes of Meetings

Motion M-20150707-1

Moving Board Member:

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

Motion Text:

All board members to review the minutes of June 24, 2015 and to provide their comments by no later than July 8, 2015 at noon.

Seconded:

Behrouz Amouzgar

Status:

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion:

Mr. Namvarazad stated that he feels neglected in this board and he believes that his presence in the board does not have any effect.

Mr. Shojaei also echoed the concern raised by Mr. Namvarazad.

Mr. Amouzgar pointed out the discussion by Mr. Namvarazad and Mr. Shojaei is not relevant to the topics of the minutes.

Mr. Shojaei stated that he still believes that we should release the audio-recordings of the board meetings.

Behrouz Amouzgar and Arsalan Kahnemuyipour pointed out that this issue was dealt with in the previous meeting of the board of directors.

2. Email from ... (NAME WITHHELD FOR PRIVACY)

Discussion:

... sent an email to Mr. Ghazi with a number of suggestions

Motion M-20150707-2

Moving Board Member:

Behrouz Amouzgar

Motion Text:

All communications from members to the board which do not require a substantial response and which solely seek information from the ICC to be forwarded to the PR Committee and the PR Committee to have the discretion to respond to them without having to discuss every response at the board level.

Seconded:

Motion seconded by Bijan Ahmadi

Proposed Amendment:

Amendment proposed by Arsalan Kahnemuyipour to also have a copy of the correspondences between PR Committee and these members to be sent to the board.

Discussion:

Mr. Ghazi believes that a protocol will first need to be set and until then all email correspondences from members should be discussed at the board level.

Mr. Shojaei stated that in the previous board, all correspondences were forwarded to the board members.

Status:

Motion with amendment carried unanimously.

3. Advisory Group

Motion M-20150630-3

Moving Board Member:

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

Motion Text:

The board to currently only focus on selection of organizations as opposed to individuals for the purposes of the Advisory Group and review the organizations on the list of suggested organizations.

Discussion:

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour pointed out that we can continue to add members to the Advisory Group in the future as the board deems appropriate.

Arshak Shojaei stated that he is not certain as to the purpose of the Advisory Group and if the Advisory Group is large it would be hard to set up meetings.

Behrouz Amouzgar stated that similar to the surveys that we conduct of members, we could conduct surveys of the Advisory Group.

Mitra Saffari suggested that we do not use the term Advisory Group and instead have a database of organizations and classify them based on themes/issues about what we want to seek their input as it seems that we are seeking advice from them. By calling them as Advisory Group, we risk excluding the large part of our community as potential advisers.

Behrouz Amozugar pointed out that the term Advisory Group is stated in the bylaws and cannot be changed and as per the bylaws also includes representatives from affiliated organizations.

Arshak Shojaei stated that selection of an Advisory Group will give rise to controversy as he will then also ask that we add the communist party as they have done good work for refugees.

Bijan Ahmadi pointed out that we have to follow the bylaws which requires that we form the Advisory Group which shall include a representative from affiliated members.

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour suggested that we first approve the affiliated organizations and deal with forming the Advisory Group in the future.

Reza Ghazi stated that it seems that some of the board members do not fully understand the meaning of the term "Advisory Board" as he believes the term is appropriate and does not have a connotation that they dictate a mandate to the board.

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour stated that we can select affiliated organizations today and immediately thereafter invite them to send a representative to the Advisory Group.

Arshak Shojaei stated that some of the proposed groups are controversial and should not be part of the Advisory Group.

Mitra Saffari stated that we should not view the bylaws as the Quran and when the application of the bylaws is not reasonable we should be flexible and ask the Policy Development Committee to look into revising the bylaws. It would be better if we spend our time on those organizations that we all agree with and avoid the controversial ones.

Bijan Ahmadi disagreed with Mitra Saffari and stated that we have to follow our bylaws word for word. He pointed out that there are 3 requirements for affiliated organizations in the bylaws and we should follow those strictly.

Mitra Saffari stated that she has not had sufficient time to review the organizations and is not comfortable with voting but at the same time does not want her vote to be recorded as abstained. She stated that voting with Yes/NO options reminds her of the referendum on the Islamic Republic. In some cases we need to use consensus building approaches rather than voting.

Arsalana Kahnemuyipour stated that there are only 3 options for voting in any meeting. One can vote in favor or against or abstain.

Soudeh Ghasemi stated that the list was shared with the board members 2 weeks ago and the group that calls itself the minority did not do its homework. She further added that board members should not associate organizations and members with the Iranian regime without any evidence as this can create liability for the board.

Bijan Ahmadi pointed out that the approach by Mr. Namvar and Mr. Shojayi is a clear example of reasons for the shortcomings of the board and the inability of the board to move forward.

Mitra Saffari suggested that Community Building studies teach us that we need to shift from problems to possibilities and focus on our common grounds not our differences. There are always alternative solutions which we can and should explore.

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour pointed out the approach suggested by Mitra Saffari does not work when some board members only oppose for no good reason. He pointed out that we also need to worry about the right of those organizations who are left out simply because of some unfounded labels.

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour raised a question as to whether student organizations are registered as non-profits.

Behrouz Amouzgar pointed out that the bylaws state that non-profit organizations must be registered and as such the board should provide its interpretation of the term registered to advise if it can be interpreted broadly to also include registration with university as a student group.

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour suggested that once the organizations are approved, their qualifications to be verified by the board and if they are not registered non-profits, they be placed in a separate group.

Mitra Saffari asked a question with respect to IC Youth Organization. Behrouz Amouzgar provided information about the activities of IC Youth Organization.

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour asked a questions with respect to Shabeh Jomeh. Behrouz Amouzgar provided information about the activities of Shabeh Jomeh.

Arshak Shojaei accused XXX (NAME WITHHELD FOR PRIVACY) and XXX (NAME WITHHELD FOR PRIVACY) of being affiliated with the Iranian regime.

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour provided that we are a community group and should not be making such judgments about community members or organizations.

Reza Ghazi stated that an opportunity was provided to all members of the board to suggest organizations for the Advisory Group and the same opportunity was also provided to Mr. Shojaei and Mr. Namvarazad, but they unfortunately did not use it.

Seconded:

Motion seconded by Behrouz Amouzgar

Status:

Motion carried with the approval of the following:

1. Bijan Ahmadi
2. Reza Ghazi
3. Soudeh Ghasemi
4. Farhang Farid

Motion opposed by Arshak Shojaei and Shahram Namvarazad. Shahram Namvarazad and Arshak Shojaei left the meeting stating that some of the organizations suggested are affiliated with the Iranian regime.

Mitra Saffari did not vote to form the advisory group as she believes that having a classified database of our resources would help us develop our community in the better way.

No objections were voiced to approaching the following organizations as affiliated organizations, should they meet the required criteria as per the bylaws:

NAMES OF ORGANIZATIONS WITHHELD FROM PUBLIC UNTIL FINALIZED, THE ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTED AND CONFIRMED.

Motion M-20150630-4

Moving Board Member:

Behrouz Amouzgar

Motion Text:

The above list to be checked by the board to ensure that they all meet the required qualifications criteria and a letter requesting affiliation to be sent to them and only those who accept the affiliation request to be publicized as our affiliates.

Seconded:

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

Proposed Amendment:

Mitra Saffari suggested an addition to the motion to the effect that we do not publicize the list of the affiliates until it becomes a diverse list including the refugee, groups and marginalized communities. She also suggested that it would be better to ask our members for their suggestion since many organizations are missing from the list.

Seconded:

Reza Gjhazi

Status:

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Facebook Group for Members

Motion M-20150630-5

Moving Board Member:

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

Motion Text:

A new facebook page to be created, independently of Let's Talk, to act as a forum for the members of the ICC to discuss matters related to the ICC.

Discussion:

Bijan Ahmadi raised a concern with respect to the multiplicity of the facebook groups about ICC which overwhelm the members.

Soudeh Ghasemi raised a concern with respect to lack of resources within the board to administer a new group.

Proposed Amendment:

Bijan Ahmadi suggested that this motion be amended so that it be tabled for the time when the organization has sufficient resources for this purposes.

Seconded:

Soudeh Ghasemi

Status:

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Interim Financial Report

Motion M-20150630-6

Moving Board Member:

Mitra Saffari

Motion Text:

An interim financial report to be provided by Mr. Ghazi reflecting how many of our members have paid their membership fees.

Discussion:

Mr. Ghazi provided that we have not had much activity since the AGM but that he would be happy to provide an interim financial report.

Seconded:

Reza Ghazi

Status:

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Mostafa Azizi

Motion M-20150630-7

Moving Board Member:

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

Motion Text:

The ICC to take the following actions in relation to this issue:

1. request that the members to contact their MPs and MPPs about the case of Mr. Azizi;
2. contact the MPs and MPPs directly;
3. contact the media.

Discussion:

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour provided that Arash Azizi has asked that the ICC assist with his father's arrest by reflecting same to the media and by suggesting the above.

Proposed Amendment:

Reza Ghazi suggested that the letter prepared within the old board be prepared and sent to MPs and MPPs.

Further Proposed Amendment

Behrouz Amouzgar suggested that the recipients of the letter to be selected by the PR Committee.

Seconded:

Amended motion seconded by Soudeh Ghasemi.

Status:

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Masoud Hajivand

Report:

Soudeh Ghasemi has contacted their lawyer is waiting to hear back .

8. Maryam Rashidi

Report:

Soudeh Ghasemi advised that XXX (NAME WITHHELD FOR PRIVACY) is currently busy and cannot assist. Ms. Ghasemi has also spoken with XXX (NAMES WITHHELD FOR PRIVACY) and is going to follow up with them.

They have already contacted Injured Workers Canada in relation to this issue.

Mitra Saffari suggested that a letter be prepared by the ICC and be sent to the Ministry of Labor and copy to all critics, MP's, MMP in relation to this issue.

Behrouz Amouzgar and Bijan Ahmadi agreed. Behrouz Amouzgar requested that Ms. Saffari assist with the preparation of the letter. She advised that the draft can be prepared based on XXX's letter and be reviewed and finalized by a lawyer. She noted that this is outside her expertise and there are lawyers in the community who can assist us with this issue.

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour stated that he will try to prepare the draft letter based on Bahar's letter.

9. Adjournment

Moving Board Member:

Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

Motion Text:

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Status:

Motion approved unanimously.