

ICC Meeting – Jan 25, 2016

ICC Board Meeting

Attendees

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

Absent: Farhang Farid

Agenda:

1. Introductory remarks
2. Minutes of October 22, Dec 3, January 7
2. Time commitments from board members in the remaining 4 months
3. Choosing projects for the remaining 4 months

Mandatory: 2016 elections – No discussion unless time left at the end of meeting

Some options: (Board members can suggest other options – we need to decide how many and which one(s) we will take on in the next 4 months)

- Advocacy work specifically about Canada-Iran relations, consular services, sanctions, Mostafa Azizi, Saeed Malekpour. (Two petitions and one e-mail in this regard)

- Integration in Canadian society: image building, joint project with other communities, etc.

- Fundraising, in particular with the aim of hiring a part/full time employee for ICC

- Volunteer Appreciation Event (also to get more volunteers for various needs)

4. Board's Productivity and Functionality
5. Committee reports
6. Petition from Jan 24 event (forum suggestion)
7. Other business
8. Adjournment

1. Making the Board more Efficient

Concerns were raised with the volume of emails that are circulated on a weekly basis and the amount of time that board members spend on mere communications among board members.

Board members provided the number of hours they will be able to dedicate on a weekly basis to volunteer work related to the ICC and the total number for all board members was 65 hours.

2. Conduct of AGM and Elections

The following board members to form a working group to assist with organizing the AGM and the elections:

1. Behrouz Amouzgar
2. Reza Ghazi
3. Farhang Farid
4. Shahram Namvarazad
5. Soudeh Ghasemi

The above board members to provide the board with an estimate of the number of hours that the above task will take as well as a list of the proposed activities for this purpose.

3. Board's priorities in the next 4 months

The following activities were proposed for consideration as the priorities of the board in the next 4 months:

- Advocacy
- Integration in Canadian society and image building
- Fundraising
- Volunteer appreciation event

International Women's Day event: Mitra explained that Iranian Women's Organization of Ontario (IWOO) has been in touch with her to plan an event for the International Women's day. She will provide more details as the discussions continue in future meetings.

4. Letters sent to the Board of Directors

Three letters had been sent to the board of directors by a number of community members that all related to the role of the ICC in the developments surrounding the relationship between Iran and Canada.

The ICC board had previously passed a motion to encourage the Government of Canada to provide for means for the members of the Iranian-Canadian community to obtain consular services.

Behrouz Amouzgar pointed out that provided that the Government of Canada had on a number of occasions stated that they were going to resume diplomatic relations with Iran, a request for consular services could be perceived as a step backwards which will not be perceived by many as constructive. With this in mind, Behrouz Amouzgar brought a motion to reverse the previous motion approved in the last meeting. The ones in favour were Mr. Reza Ghazi, Bijan Ahmadi and Soudeh Ghasemi and as such the motion was not approved. The counterargument was that consular services is not necessarily a step below diplomatic relations. This is a need for the community which can be communicated to the Canadian government in a way that would leave it completely open with respect to which route the Canadian government wants to pursue to deliver this request as fast as possible.

Bijan Ahmadi proposed a motion to advocate with the Government of Canada to remove sanctions on Iran and re-establish diplomatic relations. The motion was seconded by Soudeh Ghasemi. The discussion around the motion was inconclusive and the motion was not put for a vote due to closure of the building.

Bijan Ahmadi provided the following report about the follow ups done regarding Mr. Mostafa Azizi's case with the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Azizi's local MP based on the motion passed on July 7, 2015 and requested the board to follow up on the case of Mr. Azizi and Mr. Malekpour moving forward. Arsalan Kahnemuyipour pointed out that no action was taken since the new government took office. Here is the report provided by Bijan Ahmadi.

On July 7, 2015 ICC approved to follow up Mr. Azizi's case with the government of Canada. Since that date ICC has requested the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Azizi's local MP to follow up on his case and to request Iran to immediately release Mr. Azizi. The following is a short report on this passed motion:

ICC PR Director, Bijan Ahmadi, has been in communication with MP Chrystia Freeland's office in several occasions via email and phone and has communicated ICC's concerns and requests about Mr. Azizi to MP Freeland's office. MP Freeland's office was unable to provide ICC with details and updates regarding this case because of confidentiality and privacy matters. Mr. Azizi's family members were updated regarding these follow ups.

ICC President, Arsalan Kahnemuyipour, wrote a letter to the former Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs and communicated ICC's concerns regarding Mostafa Azizi and requested a meeting with the Minister to further discuss this matter.

ICC PR Director, Bijan Ahmadi, followed up the President's letter with phone calls to Minister's office and discussed the case with an Iranian-Canadian Conservative activist. However, the Minister's office never responded to ICC's letter regarding this matter.

<End of report.>

Other items were tabled.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.