

Report on the Annual Meeting of the CAUT Defence Fund (October 2016, Montreal, QC) for NUFA General Membership Meeting (November 10, 2016)

The most significant motions from the meeting were as follows:

- Tom Booth (Manitoba) was acclaimed to serve a second term as President of the Defence Fund.
- Jeff McKeil is taking over from Chantal Sundaram as Secretary of the fund.
- A motion was carried to increase the Daily Strike/Lockout Benefit from \$84 to \$88, with a corresponding \$0.25 increase in dues (from \$5.25 to \$5.50), effective February 2017. A proposal to make future increases automatic and tied to the CPI was withdrawn by the Planning and Policy Committee in light of some reasonable concerns expressed by member unions.
- Daily Benefit requests were approved for the University Manitoba and for Concordia University College of Alberta. As well, the following member unions have had benefit requests approved and have yet to reach settlement: Cape Breton University, Mount Allison University, and Wilfred Laurier University (contract academic staff).

Much of the meeting involved presentations required by statute concerning audited financial statements, investment, and expense reports, about which there were no concerns (full documentation is available in the NUFA office). The Defence Fund is generally agreed to be in good financial condition.

There were a number of motions or amendments to motions raised from the floor which were not included in the original package distributed to trustees in advance (this, despite there being a Defence Fund policy to ensure that notices of motion are distributed in advance to enable consultation among member unions).

- A motion to formulate a policy to provide small donations to, and to use Defence Fund communications to encourage picket support for, striking unions in the university sector that are not CAUT members (e.g., staff unions, etc.) was defeated after considerable discussion.
- A motion was carried to clarify the sorts of expenses associated with arbitration and mediation that would be reimbursed by the Defence Fund: specifically, that these expenses would include food/drink, dependent care, parking, telephone/fax/copying costs, and other incidentals associated with prolonged travel for participants.

Finally, I would mention as well that the President's annual report contained a very nice thanks and congratulations to "our NUFA brothers and sisters for their principled and determined stand."