

FICPI Canada Annual General Meeting June 9, 2009

Minutes of the FICPI Canada AGM held on June 9, 2009 in Washington D.C.

Present: Bob Storey, Alain LeClerc, Mike Stewart, John Knox, Coleen Morrison and Doug Deeth and other members. (32 members in total)

1. Welcome

Bob Storey welcomed new members and mentioned that FICPI Canada has been active in attending to CIPO requests for consultation. We have been flooded with proposals for change. Bob stressed the importance of members to participate. It was noted that FICPI is different from IPIC in that FICPI represents the profession of Patent Agents and TM agents representing a plurality of clients, not just one client as in corporate practice. IPIC has a broader mandate and its goals may not always be the same as those of FICPI.

2. Last Year

FICPI Canada was active in making submissions last year and they have been useful. CIPO has backed off in connection with the Declaration requirements in response to one of our submissions, for example.

We will continue to meet CIPO representatives and we encourage e-mail to any member of Council re: comments to CIPO. We meet once a year with CIPO and this gives us a direct line to the Commissioner and her staff.

3. Claim Drafting Clinic

Joan Van Zant organized the technical slate for the claim drafting clinic. The clinic was previously held in Kingston, but we have received requests from members to hold it in Ottawa or Toronto. Comments from members were requested.

4. Assoc. Salary Survey

The associate salary survey costs FICPI Canada about \$3000. We have incorporated questions suggested by members. Everyone is encouraged to participate to make the results meaningful.

5. Financial Statements

Mike Stewart handed out Cash Flow Comparison and Balance Sheet statements as of December 31, 2008. These statements are presented on a Cash basis not on an accrual basis.

Regarding the cash flow comparison statement, the statement shows \$25k less than last year. This is because under the claim drafting clinic expenses, 2 sets of expenses appear in the same year for 2008. See \$2k in '07 and \$42k in '08. The \$42k includes portions of expenses for two years: '07 and '08.

It should also be noted that International fees increase each year due to the increasing number of members. We had 104 members at the end of '08, and now we have 108. FICPI International fees account for most of our fees.

Regarding the Balance Sheet, we have \$132K in total assets in GIC and Bank Deposits. This healthy amount helps as with expenses like claim drafting clinic and salary survey.

The Finances have been reviewed by Sam Frost, and he has noted some minor issues to resolve. A motion was made to approve the financial statements but it was suggested that this be deferred until the auditor is happy.

It was noted that Mike Stewart will not run for re-election to FICPI council in 2009. Bob thanked Mike Stewart for his many years of service on FICPI council and as Treasurer.

6. Formalities

An indication of written proxies was solicited. (none)

7. Election

Bob indicated that FICPI Canada council elections must be held at the Congress or within 12 months of a Congress. A Nominating Committee comprised of past presidents asks for input from members. With the retirement of Mike Stewart, council has asked for a new member to join council.

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate:

Bob Storey:	President
Alain LeClerc:	Vice-President
John Knox :	Treasurer
Coleen Morrison:	Secretary
Stephen Perry:	Councillor/webmaster

Doug Deeth will continue as Past President

It was noted that serving on FICPI Canada council is an 18 year commitment.

Bob Storey continues as President with endorsement from Council after having taken over the role of President in January 2007 when Ingrid Schmidt left for a position in-house rendering her ineligible for membership in FICPI.

The new nominee is Stephen Perry.

John Knox and Coleen Morrison move up one position each with the departure of Mike Stewart.

Doug Deeth conducted the election and the slate was approved.

8. ABC Meeting

It was noted that we have ABC meetings in non-congress years. The ABC meetings are joint meetings of the CA, US and UK Associations. These associations take turns holding ABC meetings.

The 2010 ABC meeting will be hosted by the Canadian association.

Two locations for an ABC meeting have been discussed, including Niagara-on-the-lake and Barbados

Niagara-on-the-lake would be less expensive, in Canada and easy for members of all three associations to travel to. Barbados would be more expensive and more difficult for members to travel to and may not be favored by members in the present economic climate.

Sam Frost suggested Iceland as a possible location.

Council will discuss and decide and members are encouraged to email their preferences or other suggests to council members.

9. Website

FICPI International is updating its website. Ed Gale has been the FICPI Canada website master for a number of years. It is expected that Stephen Perry will take over from Ed Gale.

10. Constitution

Council has expressed interest in amending the constitution to accept proxies, to address Emeritus Status and to re-consider the Membership admission procedure.

11. National Association Meeting

Typically FICPI Canada holds a National Association meeting in a congress year. The purpose of such a meeting is to provide a forum to discuss topics such as running an office and client relations. We would like to consider the frequency of such meetings in view of the increasing membership of FICPI Canada, for example, should it be held Annually? Or once very 3 years? Or at ABC meetings. Council seeks input from members.

12. Salary Survey

Bob reiterated that we need as full participation as possible and that there appears to be a strong interest in the results of the survey as many inquiries for copies are received.

13. Educational Programs

The Claim drafting clinic usually attracts about 40 people and is useful to candidates writing the patent agent's exams. The Opinion drafting clinic also was useful to Exam candidates. It is proposed that FICPI Canada hold a clinic on TM opposition practice if there is sufficient interest in it. It would be open to FICPI Canada members and non-members. Members were encouraged to contact FICPI Canada council members regarding interest.

14. Consultations

There are several requests for comments on proposed practice changes from CIPO. These include consultation packages relating to chapters 12 and 13 of MOPOP, a practice notice on obviousness, response timelines for Trademarks, and electronic submissions on weekends and holidays, just to name a few. FICPI Canada will be

making submissions and members are encouraged to provide input to council members.

15. Questions

John Orange wanted to know whether FICPI Canada is doing anything about the new “know your client” requirements imposed by LSUC and BCLS. He indicated one informal meeting was held in Toronto and that for the first few months there was confusion. It was suggested that this would be a good topic for a members meeting

Alain Leclerc encouraged members to participate in at least helping to prepare comments relating to the new chapters 12 and 13 of MOPOP.