



GSU Special National Council Meeting
Zoom Meeting – Meeting Minutes
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021

Call to Order

The virtual (Zoom) special meeting of the GSU National Council was called to order at 12:03 p.m. (Eastern time) on Monday, November 15th, 2021 with Brother Bruce Roy in the Chair, and the following participants in attendance:

Participants:

Bruce Roy	National President
Martine Babcook	National Vice-President
Kevin Hanson	National Vice-President
Kelly Bush	National Vice-President Equity
Sue Boone	Regional Vice-President, Ontario Region, excluding the National Capital Region
Steve Colterman	Regional Vice-President, National Capital Region
Shanny Doucet	Regional Vice-President, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island
Anthony Drozdowski	Regional Vice-President, Nova Scotia
Jeanette Fillion	Regional Vice-President, Royal Canadian Mint
Mélanie Hamel	Regional Vice-President, Quebec East including Quebec City
Linda Harding	Regional Vice-President, Vancouver, and Lower Mainland
Sheldon Jacobs	Regional Vice-President, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba
Michèle Parent	Regional Vice-President, Quebec West, including Montreal
Paul Paquette	Regional Vice-President, National Capital Region
Nicole Rousseau	Regional Vice-President, National Capital Region
Reni Stein	Regional Vice-President, Vancouver Island, remainder of British Columbia and the Yukon Territories
William Tait	Regional Vice-President, National Capital Region

Regrets:

Azra Jusuf	Regional Vice-President, Ontario Region, excluding the National Capital Region
Leanne Moss	Regional Vice-President, Newfoundland, and Labrador
Heather Rawlins	Regional Vice-President, Alberta, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories

Staff:

Dominique Barrette	Executive Coordinator to the National President
David Girard	Senior Union Representative
Diane Rancourt	Communication and Administration Assistant
Maria Thomas	Executive Assistant to the National President

Announcements

- Brother Roy welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the meeting on such short notice.
- Brother Roy advised National Council that simultaneous interpretation will not be provided at this meeting. However, Brother Roy will conduct the meeting in both official languages.

Purpose of the Meeting – Vaccine Mandate

- The purpose of this meeting is to discuss GSU's position on PSAC recommendations on vaccinations. Brother Roy indicated that the PSAC fully supports the federal government policy to protect the health and safety of the members and he requested feedback from the National Council.

Brother Roy updated National Council on the following:

- PSAC strongly recommends that no grievance be filed for members refusing to get the vaccine unless they have legitimate medical reasons or reasons protected by human rights. Brother Roy will consult with PSAC to have further clarification on this.
- Members refusing to get vaccinated - received an official letter on November 9 or 10, 2021. The date the members receive the letter, they then have 25 days to file a grievance.

Q&A

Q. Sister Fillion: She wanted to know if there is a list that clearly states what is NOT a legitimate reason/exemption and that these members will not be represented.

A. Brother Roy stated that only members with a duty to accommodate and members with religious exemptions would be represented. Brother Girard echoed Brother Roy's comments and advised National Council to refer to the presentation posted on the GSU website <https://gsu-ssg.com/en/resources-locals/resources/education>.

Q. Sister Harding: She inquired whether the 15 days start when members receive the letter or when the letter was sent?

A. Brother Girard informed it is always best to use the earlier date.

Q. Sister Babcook: She wanted to know how many members are on leave without pay (LWOP).

A. Brother Roy advised National Council that as of last week PSPC stated approximately 200 members. Unfortunately, this information is not broken down by Bargaining Agents.

Sister Doucet: She had been advised that if a member is currently on a duty to accommodate or unless a member has reacted to a first dose of vaccine that no letter of exemption would be given. She indicated that there is some controversy on what doctors are doing.

Brother Roy reminded National Council to refer to the presentation on the GSU website and YouTube.

Brother Colterman: He stated that contractors are not required to be vaccinated.

Sister Rousseau: She commented how can the government discipline members not vaccinated and yet allow contractors access to the buildings.

Brother Drozdowski: He stated that he seen the video and found the information useful, however, he had a couple questions:

Is there the option for members to file their own grievance without representation?

When it comes to discipline, can the members that are on LWOP receive a ROE?

A. Brother Girard indicated that members can file a grievance on their own without union representation. As far as EI, Brother Girard will follow-up and advise National Council accordingly.

Sister Harding: She advised National Council that they had been told by PSPC that they are currently working at ensuring all contracts for contractors are the same for everyone.

Brother Jacobs: He stated that contractors must fill in a form and if they do not need to enter a building, they do not need to be vaccinated.

Brother Drozdowski: He stated that they do not allow contractors' entry if they are not vaccinated.

Sister Boone: She stated that the employer wants everyone vaccinated entering the building.

Brother Roy: He stated that it is very important to support and assist the Locals in these challenging times. He reiterated that they will support PSAC on the vaccinations and if anything changes, he will consult with National Council.

Brother Roy ended the meeting and advised National Council that an NC Retreat and NC meeting will be held the week of January 24, 2022. More details to follow. Sister Barrette stated that the NC Retreat will be a face-to-face meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.