



friendship force
OTTAWA



Summary highlights of FFO Board Meeting MINUTES on February 8th 2023 (submitted by Vivien Runnels)

President Anna Van Adrichem Rochon welcomed Board members, Joan Grégoire, Colin Leech, Linda Miller-Nesbitt, Shirley McVey, Joan Kinnie and Vivien Runnels (Secretary) to the meeting. Anna extended thanks and much appreciation to all members for their notes and condolences on the passing of her mother. The Board agreed that the Secretary would continue to summarize the meeting minutes for members. Full meeting minutes will be available on request. In summary, the highlights of the February meeting are as follows: -

- The Board will be looking into our by-laws to clarify roles, responsibilities and terms of officers in order to ensure continuity in the future. (For members interested in our by-laws, see our website under More: Resources: More: Policies and records).
- Our website is ably administered by Richard Hatherill. Board member Linda Miller-Nesbitt offered to be the Board liaison with Richard to ensure the website is up to date.
- The VP Journeys - Joan Grégoire - reported that planning for upcoming inbound (Perth Australia (Mary Jane Kelleher and Janet Wilkinson); Northern Colorado (Anna van Adrichem Rochon and Joan Grégoire) and outbound journeys (Cottbus, Germany (Julie Breeze) and Indonesia) is going well.
- Recently, a members' survey was sent out to 100 members with 50 responses. The survey showed that there were adequate numbers for journey volunteers, more volunteers are required to take on coordinator roles.
- Some requests made for journeys in and out of Canada, are for places that no longer have clubs (e.g. Sweden).
- There was some discussion about maintaining FFO's positive relationship with FARCC (Force de l'amitié de la région de la capitale canadienne FARCC/Friendship Force of the Canadian capital region). Some of us have travelled with FARCC journeys, and there have also been exchanges of information and support.
- There was some discussion about venues for FFO meetings, and the Board agreed that enabling opportunities for socialization is a high priority in selecting venues.
- One member opened a discussion about membership categories. Several points were raised and discussed. The Board decided that all members of FFO would continue to be full members and able to participate in all FFO-associated activities with the only

exception of prospective members who can attend two or three times before they make a decision to join.

- Our Treasurer, Colin Leech provided a thorough report of our finances. The balance in our bank account should cover our budgeted costs for the year, although we are all encouraged to find savings as there is little manoeuvring available for non-budgeted expenses.
- The Board was very supportive in encouraging club-associated activities outside of FF journeys, but also agreed that costs of these were up to those individuals who participate. We are very grateful to those that coordinate these activities as they help to maintain friendships and club continuity.
- In addition to renewals there are some new members, and updating of email addresses is required. We are always keen to get new members and this is something that the membership coordinator works towards.
- FFO hiking, bridge, and art appreciation are ongoing. Monday chats have been discontinued.
- FFO Canadian Book club – the January 25th on-line meeting was interesting and there was much discussion. An edited book, Reconciliation and the Way Forward will be scheduled sometime in the Spring. Everyone is invited to participate.
- Everyone likes getting the newsletter. Newsletter contributions should be sent to Shirley McVey by the end of February for the March edition.
- Some research into updating our banking practices while ensuring security will be carried out.
- The Board is aiming for a general meeting to be held in person in the Spring, while noting that Zoom is helpful for those who are travelling or unable to attend for other reasons. More information will be forthcoming.
- The Next FFO Board Meeting will be held on March 22, 2023