



## **14th CWCA/ACCR AGM**

**Canadian Writing Centres Association/association Canadienne des centres de rédaction**

**May 20, 2021**

**Via video conference**

1. **Call to order** (King)
  
2. **Adoption of the Agenda of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** of the Canadian Writing Centres Association / Association canadienne des centres de rédaction ([link to slides](#)) (King)
  - a. Attendance document ([link](#))

Moved - Bermingham

Seconded - Clow Bohan

Carried

3. **Adoption of the Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** of the Canadian Writing Centres Association / Association canadienne des centres de rédaction ([link](#)) (King)

Moved - Fitzgerald

Seconded - Huard

Carried

4. **President's Report** ([addendum link](#)) (King and Bermingham) (5 min)

King thanked the conference chairs for organizing the conference, as well as the outgoing members of the board. (see link for detailed report).

Bermingham (vice-president) thanked King for all her work on the board, dealing with the issue relating to the pandemic, cancellation of the 2020 conference.

Bermingham also thanked King for her intention in fostering relationships, Statement on Canadian Writing Centres, association strategic planning, working to make the blog part of the organization, empower the work into French writing centre, and work in anti-racism, esp. the CWCA/ACCR Statement on a Commitment to Antiracism, and bylaws changes.

5. **Treasurer's Report** ([Report](#) + [Notes](#)) (Garbati) (10 min)

a. Review of the 2020-21 fiscal year-end statements

Garbati noted a loss due to the cancelation of the 2020 conference, but is not concerned, as the balance will be made up from this year's conference. Free membership was offered in 2020. (See the Report link above for further details.)

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report

Moved - Bermingham

Seconded - Penney

Carried

b. Vote to waive requirement for audit by public accountant

Moved - Fitzgerald

Seconded - Goddard

Carried

6. **CWCR/RCCR Blog Editors' Report** ([addendum link](#)) (Bell and Hotson)

No verbal report

7. **Regional Affiliates' Reports**

- a. Atlantic Canadian Writing Centres Association (ACWCA) (no report)
- b. British Columbia Writing Centres Association (BCWCA) ([addendum link](#))

No verbal report

8. **Bylaw amendments and position statements** ([link to CWCA/ACCR bylaws](#)) - all voting is anonymous.

- a. Bylaw amendments ([addendum link](#)) (King)
  - i. Amendment to Membership Chair position description (10 min)

Fitzgerald noted a typo in the amended bullet.

Motion to accept the amendment as written in the addendum.

Moved - Garbati

Seconded - Marshall

Carried

- ii. Student Member-at-Large position to the Board of Directors (10 min)

White - White with Fitzgerald wrote this amendment. The intention is to value peer tutors and student work in writing centres and to provide a voice on the board.

Motion to accept the amendment as written in the addendum.

Moved - Salmon

Seconded - Goddard

Carried

b. Position statements

- i. CWCA/ACCR Position Statement on Writing Centres in Canada  
([link](#)) (25 min) (King and Hotson)

Hotson - Initially structured by King and Hotson. Hotson noted that the statement was an effort of the membership for the past year as an open document, with significant contribution. External vision and mission statements were examined. The purpose of the statement is to allow writing centres a document to draw inspiration from, as well as when dealing with administration issues. It is also an attempt to develop foundational principles of writing centres in Canada.

Discussion -

Marshall - Suggested - Add under the section of “practice” on pg. 3) to reflect employment-related writing, just to ensure that the more technical/non-academic realm of writing can be noted.

Taguchi - Suggested - Land acknowledgement to be revised to be inclusive on CWCA/ACCR Indigenous members

Fitzgerald - Suggested - Does not feel that “all tutoring sessions are an act of social justice.” “teaching and supporting writers, then, is also a political act; as writing centres are founded as acts of social justice, each tutoring session is an act for social justice.” I wonder if anyone could speak to the rationale for this, given that writing centres can also be set up to reinforce institutional systems

Nord - Suggested - Writing centres “have the potential to be” an act of social justice

Bialik - Suggested - Writing centres “have a duty to work toward social justice”?

Hotson - Context - Social justice as a founding statement for recent writing centre development out of the 1960’s black power movement and anti-Vietnam war.

Salmon - Suggested - Need to acknowledge multi-language learners.

Lane - Suggested - Change to land acknowledge, "this land" that makes the sentence not quite work for me. Here is a possible revision: "There are over 630 Indigenous communities with over 50 Nations and Indigenous languages in territory colonially known as Canada. The CWCA/ACCR is grateful to live and work on these Indigenous lands and acknowledges our ongoing responsibility to these Indigenous Nations"

McCaffery - Writing centres should be endorsed for all writers and not solely for those needing "help". Students should be encouraged to see writing centre engagement as an element of personal and professional development.

Penney - and the right to one's own English goes back to 1976 and the Cs statement.

Lane: I like that suggestion Mary McCaffery, which connects with what Jeff Preston was saying about humans having needs and stopping the trend of separating these into "special" and "normal" needs

Watt: "that students' languages and voices are respected and encouraged..."???

Hotson - Context - This is intended to be an aspirational document from which other position statements can develop.

King - Context - This document is a living document.

Natarajan - Suggested - The statement be a commitment to anti-racism and "anti-oppression pedagogy and frameworks" in general, so that this document as a foundational statement, and not only in a separate document.

Hotson - Context - Amendments to statements can be made once moved and carried.

Hotson - Acknowledges all suggestions and changes.

Motion - Natarajan

Secunder - Goldrick Jones

Carried

- ii. CWCA/ACCR Statement on a Commitment to Antiracism ([link](#)) (25 min)  
(Statement Committee)

[Clare Bermingham assumed chairship of the meeting for the purpose of the CWCA/ACCR Statement on a Commitment to Antiracism presentation]

Bermingham - Introduction - Invitation to Penney to introduce the Statement and then the breakout to discussion (an app Padlet was used to generate discussion). Bermingham noted that racialized speakers would be invited first to comment after the breakout.

Penney - Introduction - On behalf of the Statement working group, thanked all those who participated in the authoring of the document. Acknowledged and recognize the tension inherent in asking racialized people to speak to a working group that is white.

Lane - Context - The statement came out of the work of the BCWCA own anti-racism statement ([BCWCA Statement of Commitment to Antiracism](#)). The statement was brought forward to CWCA/ACCR board that then led to a decision to undertake a similar statement nationally. The BCWCA statement then became a starting point for the CWCA/ACCR Statement on a Commitment to Antiracism. An invitation was sent to members to engage with the document, which included providing commentary in an open google document, as well as three Zoom forums for open input.

Goddard - Context - The parallel document to the statement is a working, living document that can capture the iterative process of writing. The parallel document stands alongside the statement as an invitation to participate in a process that exemplifies transformative justice.

[The attendees moved to breakout rooms.]

Discussion -

Zhang - starting to see people as people regardless of their background is hard work that we need to start doing. Really like this statement as a first step. Enjoy seeing statements that lead into visions and future visions.

Natarajan - Notes of disagreement in the padlet [breakout room notation application]. This is an act of courage and solidarity on CWCA/ACCR's part. Many of the people who drafted this were white, but I participated in this through all the feedback sought. It's always a hard place to be an ally, and what I want to express is appreciation that this first step has been taken. It's not an uncommon thing for BIPOC people to be invited to do something but not feel ready. Came up in the closed session that many of us have been called upon this past year to stand for identities and that's meant a lot of labour. So I would really appreciate CWCA/ACCR opening this document like the other one. Enrich BIPOC participation by giving everyone more time with the document. The welcoming of global englishes cannot be unilateral or along one track because there is the empowering effect that knowing standard English can provide to multilingual writers or speakers.

Hotson: I want to thank this committee for putting together this excellent document, for speaking out and saying what is on their heart as well as on their mind. This is an important document for this org and also for the work we do with students every day, how we have affect when we write policies and meet with administrators, speak with students and at conferences. Having been with the association a long time; this is our coming of age. I see the discussion that's happened and for too long we've been too polite with each other, and I'm glad to see that people are speaking their minds. Thank again Vidya for speaking up the way she did. This takes our organization forward. This is only the beginning. It's a statement that leads to other work and a vision. Thanks to Matt [Zhang]. Proud of us for doing this.

Motion - BIRT CWCA/ACCR accept the statement as a commitment to antiracism.

Motion - King

Secunder - Fitzgerald

Carried

[King resumed chairship of the AGM from Bermingham]

King - Note - the working group is to create a meeting for further discussion of the statement for the membership.

9. **Elections** ([addendum link](#)) (King) (35 min) - all voting is anonymous.

Nominees' biographies ([addendum link](#))

- Vice-President - Stephanie Bell, Acclaimed
- Secretary - Jenna Goddard, Acclaimed
- Membership Chair - Nadine Fladd, Acclaimed
- Digital Media Chair - Lenore Latta, Voted for 2-year term
- Francophone representative - Tessa Troughton, Acclaimed
- Member-at-Large (x2) - Majid Nikouee; Sheila Batacharya
- Student member-at-large (if approved) - Julie Tran, Voted in for a 1-year term

10. **Open forum for members** (King) (10 min)

[no time available]

11. **Adjournment** (King)

Motion to adjourn - Marshall

Second - Fitzgerald

Meeting adjourned

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**Next AGM, May 2022**

Location, TBA