

Education Sub-Committee Meeting

Friday May 9th, 2025

12pm

Via TEAMS

Record of Decisions

Via Teams: N. Burron (Chair), D. Hagar (Co-Chair), M. Davidovic, P. Atwere (Volunteer)

Observer: Brian McDougall

Regrets: N. Prier (President), A. Yeo (Vice-President, EC/LoP/OPBO), R. Ajmera, B. Panasyuk, G. Brabazon, M. Wylie, G. Latour, D. Theriault (Volunteer), M. Favreau (Volunteer), J. FitzGerald (Volunteer), A. Benedict (Volunteer), L. Gillis (Volunteer), J. Hutt (Senior Advisor to the President), K. Brooke (Senior Labour Relations Officer), D. Osorio (Education Officer)

Staff via Teams: J. Courty (Local Liaison Officer), A. Poliquin (Director of Representation and Education), S. Newman (Administrative Assistant)

1. Opening of the meeting
 - Meeting was officially called to order at 12:05pm. Quorum was not reached.
2. Approval of Agenda
 - The May 9th, 2025, agenda was not approved due to lack of quorum.
3. Approval of Record of Decisions from March 14th, 2025
 - The March 14th, 2025, minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.
4. Update on Panitch School collaboration
 - A productive meeting took place around 2 weeks ago with the Leo Panitch School, a political education school for socialist activists.
 - The school has its own resource base and collaborates with high-quality individuals on a range of projects.
 - The collaboration is cost-free, which is considered a significant benefit.

M. Davidovic joins the meeting.

- The project has taken shape and will include a series of educational sessions.
- There are 3 interactive sessions covering:
 1. Political developments under the Harper government.
 2. Political and economic shifts during the 1990s Liberal government.
 3. General context and lessons related to austerity and neoliberalism.
- These components are designed to be interactive, encouraging engagement and discussion.
- Two more sessions are planned as follow-ups in the fall:
 1. Austerity fightbacks by public sector unions
 - Originally part of a series conceptualized by B. McDougall.
 - Was connected to planning around a potential Conservative government, which may need rethinking.
 2. Imagining alternatives to austerity
 - Tentative title: *“A renewed public service for regular people”*.
 - Aimed at exploring progressive, forward-looking alternatives to austerity politics.
- The Panitch School will also produce a pamphlet or written analysis following the three core sessions.
- There is a need of consideration to rethink and possibly restructure the original series in light of this collaboration.
- D. Hagar mentions that the situation in the United States remains active and pressing, particularly around austerity-related struggles.

- There's value in:
 - Monitoring developments in the US.
 - Learning from their experiences and strategies.
 - Exploring potential solidarity actions that could be undertaken in response.
- B. McDougall shares that the political and economic situation remains very fluid and uncertain.
- He mentions mixed messaging from the Carney regime. At this stage, the direction of policy is unclear, and each path has distinct implications for the public service.

M. Davidovic leaves the meeting.

- N. Burrton shares the need for critical analysis of AI.
 - Suggestion to create dedicated space this summer for exploring the political economy of AI.
 - Emphasis on the importance of critical analysis, beyond just technical aspects.
- A. Poliquin updates everyone that AI is on CAPE's strategic priorities.

5. Poilievre/WFA series – refocusing remaining sessions

- The refocusing on the remaining sessions in the Poly/WFA series has been addressed in the previous agenda item.
- A summer session on austerity will be held.
- The session will include analysis of potential austerity measures from the current government.

- N. Burron will need to connect with A. Poliquin to confirm timing for the summer session.
- In the fall, the group will:
 - Reassess based on the political and economic context at that time.
 - Potentially fine-tune the remaining two sessions planned with the Panitch School.
- D. Hagar and another sub-committee member will explore how to incorporate AI into the union's political education programming.
- B. McDougall suggests organizing a special meeting, within days of the budget release, to analyze what the budget reveals about government priorities.

6. Potential collaboration with John Clarke

- B. McDougall shares a brief overview of the collaboration with John Clarke.
 - The proposal stems from a labour history discussion group held for CAPE members over four sessions, which grew out of a film series organized by the Education sub-committee.
 - At the final sessions, participants expressed interest in a follow-up study group, which led to the creation of the labour movement history group.
 - He suggests contracting John Clarke, a veteran anti-poverty activist from Toronto, who is currently active with the Panitch School.
 - The course would be designed to engage and develop potential activists.

7. Closing of meeting

- N. Burrton mentions the Maternity Leave event on May 13th, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56pm.

The above record of decisions is accepted as a true representation of the Education Sub-Committee meeting held on May 9th, 2025.