

National OSOMM Meeting
18 November 1989
175 Billings Avenue, Ottawa
2:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Marion Haggart, Lucie Laliberte, Catherine Patterson-Kidd, Gayle Siford, Gaila Friars, Mary Anne Jablonski, Betty Alce, Dianne Roy, Marnie Draper, Mary Ballantyne

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M., 18 November 1989.

OLD BUSINESS

1. A discussion of the newsletter ensued. Marnie explained the fate of the newsletter. She gave reasons why the most recent newsletter was not widely circulated last spring. Marnie will do up an article based on the information contained in the newsletter. She will submit the article to base newspapers across Canada. Mary Anne Jablonski will write up a new newsletter covering OSOMM activities beginning with OSOMM's meeting with Mary Collins, Associate Minister of Defense, 29 August 1989.
2. Tasks were divided. Betty Alce volunteered to help complete secretarial duties. She will type up and distribute responses to individuals who correspond with OSOMM. Mary Ballantyne agreed to distribute information upon requests that are received in Kingston. Gaila Friars will submit an article covering the details of OSOMM's meeting with Pam Forward (special assistant to Mr. McKnight) and Steve Mongrain (special assistant to Mrs. Collins) on 19 November 1989. Topic: Pensions. Mary Ballantyne and Catherine Patterson-Kidd will write an article covering the details of the OSOMM meeting with Mrs. Collins on 29 August 1989. These articles are to be forwarded to Mary Anne Jablonski so that she may include them in the next newsletter. Authors of the articles agreed that Mary Anne could edit the articles for the purpose of the the newsletter.
3. COURT CASE UPDATE: After meeting with Mrs. Collins in August, OSOMM felt that it was necessary to proceed with the court action. The new CFAO, received 17 November 1989 does not alter this fact. OSOMM will not be recognized as a national organization by the DND. Lucie Laliberte gave a brief overview explaining the two changes in QR & O 19.44. She explained how these changes affected OSOMM's pleading. Recognition of individual family associations is still based on the base commander's discretion. Gaila Friars indicated that "the DND is always interested in determining the support we have at local base levels. They want to target local groups. They know that we are easily dispersed." Lucie reiterated some of the details which took place at the 29 August meeting with Mrs. Collins. 1) Leslie Hardy (a lawyer from LEAF) could attend the 29 August meeting if she didn't speak. She transcribed notes from the meeting. 2) If an issue deals with family then it is a permissible topic for study. Base commanders determine whether or not an issue is family related.

Lucie spoke to Helena Orton from LEAF. LEAF is doing an overview of our case prior to arranging a conference call. Lucie wanted a conference call arranged for the purpose of doing an overview of our court case. Gaila interjected at this point to express her concern that OSOMM spokespersons did not always have correct and/or complete information relating to OSOMM activities. The serious communication problem between OSOMM members was acknowledged by all present. Lucie asked if OSOMM wants to start a new court action. It has been determined, most especially by Court Challenges, that the Justice Department practices stalling and stonewalling so that cases pertaining to DND are dragged on for prolonged periods of time, in the hope that funding will expire. A sum of \$25,000 was granted to LEAF by Court Challenges, to cover the cost of OSOMM's court case. Almost all of this money has been used up. Neil Whitman, the Calgary lawyer representing OSOMM, is almost handling our case on a pro bono basis. LEAF has asked Court Challenges for more money. OSOMM has amended its pleadings twice due to changes in QR & O article 19.44. Now we have an amended amended pleading which the Justice Department is refusing to accept. If Justice refuses a pleading then an application is made through the court to have the pleading accepted. Discussion on this matter ensued. Lucie Laliberte moved that OSOMM proceed with the amended amended pleading unless LEAF can make a convincing case otherwise. Gaila Friars seconded the motion. CARRIED.

Mary Anne Jablonski asked what OSOMM can gain through the court case. Lucie stated that:

1. OSOMM can ask for an apology from DND.
2. OSOMM can ask for official recognition.
3. OSOMM can ask that there be guaranteed seats on boards of the family support centres for OSOMM representatives.
4. OSOMM can ask for monetary compensation.

LEAF is committed to taking our case right to the Supreme Court.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Canadian Pensioners Concerned wrote a letter, dated 17 November 1989, in support of OSOMM's action relating to the Federal Superannuation Act. Betty Alce will forward a copy of this correspondence to Court Challenges.

5. MEETING WITH THE DND - 17 November 1989

We are still waiting for a written response to a letter sent to the base commander at CFB Kingston. In this letter OSOMM made several specific requests for on base privileges. To date, this letter is sitting on General Fox's desk. At the August meeting, General Fox agreed to respond to our request in writing. Steve Mongrain indicated that OSOMM would not be recognized as national organization. A letter to Mrs. Collins was composed, outlining the details of the 17 November meeting held at NDHQ.

6. At the September 1988 OSOMM meeting, it was agreed that OSOMM

would incorporate nationally. Marnie Draper, Gaila Friars, and Lucie Laliberte were appointed as spokespersons for OSOMM at that time. It was further agreed that OSOMM would operate as a collective. Betty Alce will send out copies of the incorporation application to members. Consumer and Corporate Affairs have received and perused our application for national incorporation. There seems to be an undefined problem with the wording on the application. In drafting the new constitution, there is the formation of a steering committee which possibly conflicts with the original constitution which established an executive committee as a governing body. Lucie is consulting with another lawyer from Nelligan/Power about the wording. Mary Anne Jablonski was added as a spokesperson for western Canada. Further to reexamining the wording on the incorporation application, Lucie has to clarify how the assignment of portfolios will be decided. Old OSOMM members have to reapply for membership in the national organization. We have an official seal. Marnie Draper will phone Linda Taylor to ask that reincorporation papers be sent to Lucie. Clearer terms must be defined to determine who can be eligible for membership in OSOMM. Lucie will rework the definition of eligibility. The four spokespersons constitute a temporary board of directors. Spokespersons ensured that their addresses were updated.

7. Mary Anne Jablonski will submit a new grant application to Secretary of State.

8. Marnie Draper moved that OSOMM take out membership in CPC (Canadian Pensioners Concerned). Seconded by Catherine Patterson-Kidd. CARRIED.

9. Mary Anne Jablonski will look into legal ways to dispose of the monies remaining in the Calgary and Penhold accounts. The funds shall be used to cover expenses incurred at the 1) pension seminar sponsored by OSOMM in Ottawa on 18 November 1989 2) national OSOMM meeting held on 18 November 1989 also in Ottawa.

10. Payment of outstanding bills will be made from OSOMM funds remaining in Calgary and Penhold accounts. Members who incurred expenses were asked to submit their receipts. Marnie Draper will arrange to have Lynn Pighin forward the balance of money in the Calgary account to the Penhold account, via Mary Anne Jablonski. The account in Calgary will be closed. Mary Anne Jablonski and Gayle Siford will submit the final report to Secretary of State after OSOMM folds in Alberta.

11. Gaila Friars reported on the Health and Welfare Conference on Family Violence which OSOMM was invited to attend in March 1989. Five groups were represented at the conference 1) women 2) youth 3) minorities 4) disabled 5) aged. OSOMM was one of the women's groups invited to attend. Non-governmental organizations were asked to this conference to consult on the matter of family violence. Most representatives from the various groups participating indicated that their concerns relating to family violence had been presented before the government on earlier occasions. There was some question as to

what the government wanted to know from these representatives in light of their previous submissions. At the conference, Gaila gave a brief presentation describing OSOMM to her group (comprised of 15 - 20 people). When the spokesperson from Gaila's group spoke before the entire conference, she spoke of the sympathy she felt for military spouses and their oppression. There were approximately 200 delegates attending the conference. All of Gaila's travel expenses were covered by Health and Welfare Canada.

12. OSOMM has applied to Court Challenges on behalf of three women - Dianne Roy, Catherine Patterson-Kidd and Ruth Lilly. A copy of this application will be attached to these minutes. *Lucie, I didn't enclose a copy because you have one.*

13. OSOMM will apply to Secretary of State for funding to develop a comprehensive pension pamphlet, to be distributed to military spouses.

14. Mary Anne Jablonski moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Gayle Siford. CARRIED