

**The Canadian South East Asia Refugee Historical Research Project:
Hearts of Freedom
Management Committee Meeting
August 20, 2019
Peter Findlay Boardroom, 5th Floor, Dunton Tower
Videoconference access: <https://appear.in/heartsoffreedom>**

SUMMARY NOTES

Participants:

Allan Moscovitch
Mike Molloy
Colleen Lundy
Stephanie Stobbe
Anne Arnott
Emily Burton
Heather Leroux (for Chris Trainor)
Charlie Lim
Charlene Elgee
Dau-Thi Huynh
Tuyet Lam

Regrets: Xay Bounnapha; Tri Hoang; Vuthy Lay; Kien Le; Luong Le Phan; Laura Sanchini;

Staff: Mondy Lim – Media Coordinator; Ginette Thomas – Project Coordinator

1. Review of the Agenda and Summary notes of the May 3, 2019 meeting
 - a. There were no additions, deletions or changes.

2. Presentations and conferences (Allan Moscovitch & Mike Molloy)
 - a. We were invited to make a presentation to senior staff at *Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada* (IRCC) on 29 May, 2019. The presentation was before about 40 staff in the Ottawa office and was broadcast to other offices across the country. The estimated audience was about 80-90 people.

 - b. We had tables at two refugee-related conferences:
 - *Humanizing Migration: Rights, refuge and responsibilities* at the University of

Ottawa on June 20, 2019. We spoke with people who visited our table and gave out about 100 postcard-sized information cards on Hearts of Freedom and a link to our website. We met the Minister responsible for IRCC, the Honourable Ahmed Hussan, and provided him with documentation on the project.

<https://heartsoffreedom.org/category/news/>

- *International Metropolis Conference* held in Ottawa June 24-28, 2019. A total of 1,000 participants from across Canada and from other countries attended the 5-day conference.. We played a video which attracted people to our table where we had volunteers talk with participants about Hearts of Freedom and hand out the information card. <https://heartsoffreedom.org/metropolis/>

- c. The *Pathways to Prosperity: Canada* conference is taking place in Toronto at the end of October. The focus is on attracting and retaining immigrants. It could provide a venue to share Hearts of Freedom information with researchers.
<http://p2pcanada.ca/library/pathways-to-prosperity-2019-national-conference-registration/>

- d. The *2020 National Metropolis* will be in Winnipeg on March 19-21, 2020. It follows the very successful 2019 International Metropolis Conference which took place in Ottawa in June, and is the largest annual gathering of researchers, policy makers, and representatives from community and settlement organizations working in the field of immigration and settlement in Canada. It connects up to 1,000 people to discuss emerging issues, identify and set research priorities and inform policy regarding immigration, refugees, settlement and integration in Canada. Since the conference includes plenary panels with distinguished speakers, workshops and roundtable sessions, it could provide an excellent opportunity for Hearts of Freedom.

The deadline to submit proposals to host a workshop, roundtable or poster session is November 15, 2019. <https://metropolisconference.ca/en/event/winnipeg-metropolis-conference/#information>

- e. Members of the Management Board are reminded to keep us informed of other conferences where we could promote the project and to look for places where we could make a presentation.

3. Additional funding:

a. FutureFunder at Carleton University: (Colleen Lundy)

- Hearts of Freedom has looked into Carleton University's *FutureFunder* crowdfunding program that was established to facilitate an easy and direct connection with the people, projects and possibilities at Carleton that will make a difference in the world. Every gift made through *FutureFunder* is a charitable donation and eligible for a tax receipt. Carleton University does not charge any fees on donations, and 100% of the value of the donation goes towards the project/fund that you are supporting.
- We are submitting an application to raise \$21,000 to fund trips to Halifax, Calgary and Edmonton to schedule additional interviews. The plan is to conduct an additional 45 interviews (15 per site). We are in the final stages, and currently awaiting final approval that will set up the HOF fund and will give us access to the Donation button link on Carleton's *FutureFunder* site.
- As this is a community-based crowdfunding initiative, we will need help to get the word out there to encourage participation. We will keep the Management Committee informed of developments and we will make sure to include an easy link to *FutureFunder* on our <https://heartsoffreedom.org> website. For background information on *FutureFunder*: <https://futurefunder.carleton.ca/learn/>

b. Interviews in Winnipeg (Stephanie Stobbe)

- The project has received funding from a local businessman to proceed with additional interviews in Winnipeg. The funding is coming into Menno Simons College and will be managed by Stephanie Stobbe, and planning is already

underway to make sure that the logistics for the video equipment are in place and to recruit a community coordinator to reach out to Lao and Vietnamese communities. The goal is to schedule 15 interviews, which will also include sponsors and NGOs, in the middle of October during the College's reading week.

- The interview team will consist of Jean Legault who will be the interviewer and Richard Dang who will be the camera operator. They have already booked their flights and accommodation from October 14 to October 21, 2019.
- Lloyd Axworthy, who served as Minister of Employment and Immigration and then as Minister of Transport in the early 1980s has expressed an interest to be interviewed and share his thoughts on the South East Asian refugee crisis at that time. Other private individuals, including a local businessman who employed refugees, have also expressed an interest to be interviewed.

c. Potential for a SSHRC grant (Stephanie Stobbe)

The project may apply for a 2020-2021 Connection Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The purpose of these grants is to support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives in the social sciences and humanities. If successful, Hearts of Freedom would use the funding to organize conferences that strengthen community connections and to support knowledge transfer activities that present the research and artifacts across Canada. [SSHRC Connection Grants](#)

4. Interview schedule and update (Allan Moscovitch and Colleen Lundy)

- a. We plan to have 110 interviews completed by the end of September. This includes 1 trip to Montreal and 2 trips to Toronto (which will include a side trip to Kitchener, Ontario). In addition, the Cambodian team is discussing conducting 1 interview in Kingston, Ontario. The interview teams are a dedicated group who have been doing excellent quality work and working together. We recognize that the pay is minimal, and we appreciate the fact that they volunteer many hours to get the job done.

- b. We are planning 15 interviews in Winnipeg for the week of October 14-21.
- c. Should we be successful in obtaining the *Future Funder* funding for interviews in Halifax, Edmonton and Calgary, these would be conducted over the winter months.

5. Transcriptions (Mike Molloy)

- a. Work slowed down a bit over the summer months, and we are a bit behind in finishing the transcriptions, however, we still have time. From our experience with the first batch of transcriptions we learned that this is a labour-intensive process. It involves watching the interview videos, which last 90 minutes on average, on one device while working on the transcribed sub-title text on another device. It usually takes about ½ day to complete one interview. The outcome, however, is worth the effort, because including markers in the sub-titles provides easier reference to issues and trends across all videos and quadruples the value of the interviews as a resource for the production of the deliverables.
- b. We have a small team of volunteers to do this work, and we are happy that one more person from the Historical Society has volunteered to join the transcription team. We need another workshop to follow up on the introductory training workshop that was held on May 30. There was a note of caution about ensuring that we follow the ethical guidelines as we share the videos with volunteers for review.
- c. Committee members were encouraged to look at the interviews. They are accessible by going through the website heartsoffreedom.org.

6. Activity and Accounting Reports (Allan Moscovitch)

- a. Under the terms of the funding agreement with Heritage Canada, we had to submit reports on our expenses and activities for the 15-month period from April 1, 2018 until June 30, 2019.
- b. The area of greatest concern was the additional report to document the in-kind contributions from individuals, organizations and institutions. Heritage Canada asks that we match 25% of the costs for the project with in-kind contributions. We have now received clearer directions and have reached out to all of you for this in-kind

information. We apologize for the short delay in providing this information, and we are extremely grateful for your quick attention to our request. We are putting administrative processes in place to record this information in a more timely fashion.

7. General Discussion

- a. Colleen Lundy suggested planning an event, when the interviews come to a close, to bring everyone together in recognition of the dedication and hard work that was required to get this done.
- b. Allan Moscovitch expressed gratitude for all the efforts to seek out additional funding. The project will recognize donors by including their logos on the partnerships page of our website.
- c. Emily Burton recommended two options for knowledge dissemination activities:
 - Create an online gallery as a digital forum to share information. The *Online Exhibitions* program at the Museum of History in Gatineau, Québec could be an option for presenting the artifacts collected during the interviews. <https://www.historymuseum.ca/#online-exhibitions>
 - The *Community Presents* program at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia is an outreach partnership program that allows cultural groups to showcase their unique traditions and culture, giving the public a better understanding of our collective and distinct cultural heritages. Exhibitions run for approximately two to three months. Emily and Stephanie Stobbe will follow up to discuss options to link and a potential application to the SSHRC *Connections Grant* and the *Community Presents* program. The deadline to apply for *Community Presents* is in October. <https://pier21.ca/community-presents>

8. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 30, 2019 from 1-3pm.