

NOTES

The Canadian South East Asia Refugee Historical Research Project:
Hearts of Freedom
Management Committee Meeting
December 3, 2019
Room 625, Dunton Tower
Videoconference access: <https://whereby.com/heartsoffreedom>

Participants:

Anne Arnott	Emily Burton	Peter Duchinsky	Charlene Elgee
Chris Trainor	Dau-Thi Huynh	Luong Le Phan	Colleen Lundy
Mike Molloy	Allan Moscovitch	Laura Sanchini	Stephanie Stobbe
Mondy Lim	Ginette Thomas		

Regrets:

Xay Bounnapha	Tri Hoang	Tuyet Lam	Vuthy Lay
Kien Le	Charlie Lim		

- Welcome, introductions (Colleen Lundy)
 - Luong LePhan announces that, due to other commitments, he is resigning from the Management Committee and that this will be his last meeting. He has someone that he will recommend as his replacement.
 - The Committee thanked him for his contributions to the project, and wished him well in the activities that he is undertaking.
- Additional Agenda items (Colleen Lundy)
 - None was proposed.
- Review minutes (Colleen Lundy)
 - Participants List: Dau-Thi's name was omitted in the Summary Notes of the October 30, 2019 Management Committee Meeting – the Notes will be corrected.
- Update of interviews to date (Ginette Thomas)
 - The teams have completed 126 interviews in the following areas: Ottawa/Gatineau, Montréal, Winnipeg, and the Toronto area including Kitchener.
 - Former Prime Minister Joe Clark has agreed to be interviewed. We are in the process of scheduling an interview in Ottawa in the new year.

- c. The budget for this year is geared to funding the interviews, and with the travel expenses to accommodate additional trips to complete interviews in Toronto and Montreal, the budget is getting very tight.
5. Additional funding: Future Funder and Canadian Heritage (Colleen Lundy)
- a. The Hearts of Freedom fundraising project on Carleton University's Future Funder site has been up for a few weeks and donations have been very slow to date. We provided the Management Committee's with an email to help get the word out to your networks. All donations, no matter the amount, are welcome. Today is Giving Tuesday and Carleton University is committed to promoting donations by offering to double contributions made on this day. So it is worth to get the word out there! For convenience, there is also a Donation link on the Hearts of Freedom website that brings you directly to Carleton's Future Funder site.
 - b. Luong LePhan indicated that he translated the email and has distributed it widely within the Vietnamese community in Ottawa.
 - c. We submitted a request to Canadian Heritage to support additional funding to conduct interviews in Alberta, Vancouver and Halifax that will allow the project to reach refugees in communities across Canada. We were advised that a decision should be forthcoming early in the new year.
6. Transcriptions and plan for analysis (Mike Molloy and Mondy Lim)
- a. There has been a change in the objective of the transcriptions, with the focus now on collecting the stories for the documentary film and the book. The purpose is to get a databank of stories about the refugee experience in the camps and in the settlement process when they arrived in Canada. The idea is get stories about the typical experience, as well as some of the exceptional experiences that marked this journey.
 - b. The stories will be grouped according to themes, and the transcription process will facilitate the capture of powerful quotes that can go into the documentary film.
 - c. Mike Molloy indicated that the goal of the documentary film is to highlight those captivating stories that represent the depth of the experiences, while the goal of the book is on the analysis of this period in Canadian history. The new online transcription process that Mondy Lim has developed allows us to focus on the content of the interview instead of the grammar, and to identify some key words that will support content analysis.

A general discussion ensued that touched on number of related topics:

- d. Stephanie Stobbe will recruit additional volunteers, maybe 2 or 3 students, to transcribe the interviews in Winnipeg. But they will need training.
- e. Mondy Lim will arrange to conduct online training webinars for all new volunteers.
- f. From his experience in the Library, Chris Trainor suggests that videos that are 2 minutes in length are most popular to capture the attention of audiences and get a message across.

- g. Dau-Thi Huynh agrees that short videos are an ideal way to share the interview stories.
 - h. Luong LePhan requests a document about the project that is a bit more substantive than the existing postcards to share at an upcoming community event in Ottawa: a one-page brochure type that can be folded into thirds to conveniently fit into a pocket. He also asks whether it would be possible to have regular timely project updates on the website, perhaps once a month, in the “news” section as a way to keep the community informed and involved. He also would like the highlights video to post on his community website.
 - i. Peter Duschinsky agrees to prepare a short document for Luong LePhan for the weekend event.
 - j. Mondy Lim can send links to videos and other resources already available on the website and can focus on Facebook to start sharing information.
 - k. Dau-Thi indicated that it could be convenient to perhaps put a date on the interviews and maybe a “click here” button on the photo.
 - l. Stephanie Stobbe indicates that once the hosting of the website is transferred to Menno Simons College, there should be more traffic. She is working with Marketing to feature articles about the project. For example, the Carleton article about Allan Moscovitch and Colleen Lundy was on the front page of her institution’s website.
 - m. On the topic of the role of the Management Committee once the project is over, the Committee needs to determine how they will address questions and decisions about the website and the use and distribution of the film, materials and exhibits. It is expected that there will be one person from each community on an on-going basis. Chris Trainor will review the role of Carleton Archives, and will share a draft agreement that should be useful to highlight key responsibilities.
7. Next meeting (Allan Moscovitch)
- a. We will get back to the Management Committee in the new year to canvass availability and schedule an appropriate date and time.