

The Canadian South East Asia Refugee Historical Research Project: Hearts of Freedom

Management Committee Meeting

December 5, 2018

Carleton University, Dunton Tower 5th floor boardroom

***Participants:**

Colleen Lundy

Allan Moscovitch

Chris Trainor (Carleton University Archives)

Ginette Thomas (Project Coordinator – note taker)

Stephanie Stobbe

Emily Burton

Kien Le

Xay Bounnapha

Charlie Lim

Charlene Elgee

**Note: Some who joined by phone were unable able to connect for the full meeting due to technical difficulties*

Updates: Allan Moscovitch and Colleen Lundy

1. Highlights of October 20-12 Training Workshop:

- a. Successful 2-day workshop provided background on the Canadian government's initiatives during the 1975-1985 South-east Asia refugee crisis from Mike Molloy and Peter Duschinski, authors of the book *"Running on Empty – Canada and the Indochinese Refugees – 1975-1980"*.
- b. Stéphane Martelly, Centre for Oral History and Digital StoryTelling at Concordia University, presented background information on the importance of supporting a strong narrative during oral interviews. *(copy of powerpoint presentation attached)* She discussed the concept of sharing authority and of thinking of the interview process as a "co-constructed project" between the interviewer and the interviewee.
- c. Karl Roeder, Cinematographer and Sheila Petzold, Videographer, conducted a hands-on workshop on the artistic and technical components of recording oral interviews, including lighting and sound requirements and setting a comfortable environment for the interviews.
- d. Highlights of November 14 Community Coordinators' Meeting:

- i. Colleen Lundy conducted an in-depth review and discussion about the proposed documentation for the interviews, including the invitation letters, consent forms and interview questions.
 - ii. Mondy Lim (Media Coordinator) discussed the importance of a protocol to ensure the transfer of the raw digital video of the interviews to digital storage , and the need for a digital shared calendar that would allow all coordinators and interview teams to participate in the scheduling of interviews.
- e. Update on hiring: staff have been recruited for all 11 positions to support the project, including: 3 Community Coordinators; 3 Community Interviewers; 3 Camera Operators; 1 Media Coordinator; and 1 Project Coordinator.
- f. Progress on ethics approval: Colleen Lundy indicated that the project is awaiting final clearance at the Ethics Review Board meeting, expected to take place before Christmas. She noted that interviews cannot start until the project has received clearance from the Carleton University Ethics Review Board.

2. **Archives:** Chris Trainor, Department Head, Archives and Research Collections, Carleton University

- a. The Archives and Research Collections in the Carleton University Library is seeking to acquire archival documents related to the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian refugees participating in the Hearts of Freedom oral history project. These documents will also enhance the Canadian Immigration Historical Society collections, also housed in Archives and Research Collections.
- b. Chris Trainor provided an initial list of items of interest to the Archives Department (*copy attached*), and invited everyone to get in touch with him with their ideas for items of interest to this research project.
- c. A lively discussion followed about collecting all the materials donated by interviewees for a temporary exhibit for Refuge Canada at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, or perhaps having a cross-Canada travelling exhibit for south east Asian refugees, or even perhaps a curated show from Carleton Archives. These suggestions would require a further discussion at a later stage.

3. **Funding:** Peter Duschinski

- a. Since the final amount being funded by Heritage Canada for this project is less than had been anticipated, the Research Team is proceeding with a three-pronged approach: reducing administrative costs; adjusting the number of interviews that can be conducted in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto area; and, actively pursuing other sources of funding which would allow the project to fund additional interviews in the western provinces.

- b. Management Committee members are encouraged to submit suggestions and recommendations of potential funding sources that would allow the project to meet its objective to interview community representatives from coast to coast.

4. Discussion – Crowd funding

- a. There was a general discussion about the possibility of doing some crowd funding raise funding for the project. Carleton University does have a *Future Funder* initiative that supports fundraising campaigns, and it would be good to get more information as to whether it would fit the mandate of this project. One advantage of this initiative is that donors receive a tax receipt from Carleton University, which could be an incentive for fund raising.
- b. It was generally agreed, however, that it might be easier to explore these, and other types of funding, once the research has been done and that the project is looking tangible deliverables. Suggestions include: a travelling exhibit of the interviews and artifacts collected to bring people together across Canada, or perhaps supporting a national conference on this topic to showcase the outcomes from this research.

5. Next meeting: January 30, 2019

Attachments:

- Archival Documents List
- Powerpoint: Martelly - Introduction to Oral History and Interviewing