

**The Canadian Southeast Asian Refugee Historical Research Project:  
Hearts of Freedom  
Management Committee Meeting  
Wednesday September 23, 2020  
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
Video conference: <https://meet.google.com/qzn-fwaz-bhf>**

**Summary Notes**

Participants:

Anne Arnott, Emily Burton, Peter Duchinsky, Charlene Elgee, Tri Hoang, Tuyet Lam, Van-Nha Tran, Colleen Lundy, Mike Molloy, Allan Moscovitch, Mai Nguyen, Laura Sanchini, Stephanie Stobbe, Chris Trainor, Mondy Lim, Ginette Thomas

Regrets:

Xay Bounnapha, Dau-Thi Huynh, Vuthy Lay, Charlie Lim

1. Welcome and Introductions

The past six months have been unusual times, and members were thanked for taking the time to meet today. The pandemic affected planning processes as workplaces shuttered their doors and employees shifted to working from home, but the team has maintained its resolve to keep moving ahead.

Colleen Lundy welcomed Van-Nha Tran, the president of the Vietnamese Canadian Federation, as the newest member to the Management Committee. He thanked the committee and mentioned that he will connect with Mai Nguyen and will be sending his ideas.

2. Review Agenda – other items?

None were proposed.

3. Review minutes

Summary notes were accepted without changes.

4. Update on reports/finances to date

Using the financial data outlined in Annex A of the *Annual Report* that was distributed in April 2020 (copy attached), an overview of the overall project funding to date was provided. The project has received funding from 4 sources:

- The federal Department of Canadian Heritage: \$429,204

- The DeFehr Foundation: \$40,000
- Carleton University's *FutureFunder 2019* crowdfunding campaign: \$29,483
- The federal Department of Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada: \$9,600

The project is now in Year 3. The field interviews were to be completed by the end of the Year 2 on March 31, 2020. Two factors negatively affected our ability to do so. First, we only received funding at the end of January 2020 to complete the last group of interviews in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and Halifax by March 31, 2020. The logistics quickly got under way to select and schedule participants in the 5 cities, with the final interviews slated for Halifax, the last week of March. Second, on March 16, 2020, Carleton University suspended all non-essential travel, including research projects. At the time of the announcement, the interview team was already in Vancouver, and we received permission to complete those interviews. However, we had to postpone the scheduled trip to conduct interviews in Halifax.

This delay required budget adjustments so that we could carry over funds to this fiscal year to complete the final interviews. Otherwise, the budget is on track for Year 3 as we proceed with work on the deliverables: the documentary film; the history book; the national museum exhibits; and, the high school curriculum.

#### 5. Completed interviews:

Colleen Lundy gave an overview of the 169 interviews completed to date and the planning that is underway to complete 10 more in Halifax. If travel restrictions continue, we will have to explore options to conduct the interviews by videoconference. With the help of Emily Burton at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, we hope to find an appropriate location to conduct the interviews, a videographer, and the video equipment on site in Halifax. We have a local Community Coordinator who did the preliminary work in March who will re-connect with participants in the community.

You can find a full breakdown of the interview data by city, group, gender and language of interviews in Annex C of the Annual Report (attached).

#### 6. Progress on the deliverables:

##### The Book:

- Allan Moscovitch explained that our contribution agreement with Canadian Heritage comes to an end on March 31, 2021. Although we cannot incur costs under that agreement after that date, in light of the impact of the pandemic on the project, they agreed to extend the deadline for the deliverables, including the draft manuscript for the book, to June 30, 2021.
- The Research Committee (Peter Duschinsky, Colleen Lundy, Mike Molloy, Allan Moscovitch and Stephanie Stobbe) is preparing a proposal to be submitted to a publisher, the McGill-Queens University Press. We hope to be included in a new series of publications on migration issues.

- It is proving to be a monumental task to weave together all of the stories from the interviews. The main subject areas include: life in their home countries; triggers to leave; the refugee experience; arrival in Canada; and, finally, how are they doing in Canada in the longer term.

#### The Exhibits:

- Stephanie Stobbe provided an update on the Exhibits Committee (comprised of Emily Burton, Stephanie Stobbe, Laura Sanchini and Dan Conlin, who is a travelling exhibit advisor at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21).
- They have been looking at the scope and pricing for a travelling exhibit that would reach the 8 cities where the interviews took place (Ottawa/Gatineau; Montréal; Toronto/area; Winnipeg; Edmonton; Calgary; Vancouver; and, Halifax. The goal is to have an interactive exhibit with three panels (in english and in french) that would not only include text and photos, but also a QR code to bring them directly to the online exhibits. They looked at the virtual exhibit at the Canadian Museum of History but did not qualify. They are however keeping in touch with the Communications team at Canadian Museum of History.
- Mondy Lim indicated that there are currently 8,000 unique hits on our website per month, which represents a significant increase since January 2020, even without extra marketing.
- Emily Burton encouraged us to tweet and retweet information about *Hearts of Freedom*, and also a hashtag.
- Allan Moscovitch mentioned that he is looking into applying once again for funds under the TD Bank community funding program to support the exhibits.

#### The Archives:

- Chris Trainor, Head of Archives and Collections at Carleton University, has been planning how to archive at the end of the project and has been looking at web-archiving as a resource.
- He recommends that we keep notes so that we can archive information about the process of this project, including the interviews.
- They are getting ready for this work and have a person dedicated to this project.
- Because of the pandemic, he is also exploring how he can have contactless access to all this information. But he plans to be in the office, and can work with Mondy Lim to access photos for the documentary. He has been going through his emails to pull out photos that he may have received.
- Sheila Petzold, the documentary film director, has about half of these photos now as we need to go back to the originators and either use the photos, or obtain higher resolution copies. Sheila Petzold also has a set of about 50 black and white photos supplied by UNHCR, and has been in touch with CBC to use parts of a good CBC documentary and other materials.
- Emily Burton mentioned that the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 has some images from refugee camps and she can get us in touch with the Collection Department for searches by collection.

#### The Documentary Film:

- Allan Moscovitch provided a short update. The person who had been hired to do the film editing advised us that he did not have the equipment required to work at a sufficient level with the quality of our camera equipment. He recommended the name of a film editor in Saskatchewan with the equipment and the experience. That person is now on board to work on film. He was sent a back-up drive with the interviews that we have to date and has been in touch with the team to talk about the equipment.
- The Documentary Committee is looking at getting more footage to make it more interesting. One of the challenges is the quality of materials from the early 1970s.

#### The Educational Materials:

- Ginette Thomas provided a brief update on the Educational Materials Committee (comprised of Colleen Lundy, Vin Hynh, a high school principal in Winnipeg, and Christiana Duschinski, a retired international educator).
- They are gathering model curricula and examples of recent educational platforms on social issues that promote interactive learning with effective use of digital platforms.
- The materials should focus on the narrative of the project, telling the story of the refugees' journeys of how they came to Canada, how they integrated, and their impressions of Canada. It should appeal to as many students as possible, and for many children, it should relate to their own experience of being new in Canada.

#### 7. Next Meeting:

- We will get back to the Management Committee to canvass availability and will schedule an appropriate date and time.