

Announcement: Special Meeting of COHA

Special Meeting of the Canadian Oral History Association
Scheduled for Wednesday April 27, 2016 2:30 pm CDT

Your current COHA Executive is approaching the end of their first term. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and participation. We have been conducting an extensive review of the operations of the Association. We have examined the current Constitution and By-Laws, *Forum* operations, and have observed Canada's oral historians in action! In response to conversations had and heard, and observations of the practices and patterns of our Canadian oral history community, we are proposing some changes in the upcoming year.

In order for us to evolve as an organization, it is important for us to update our By-Laws and Constitution, both of which can be found on the *Forum* website (<http://www.oralhistoryforum.ca/index.php/ohf/issue/view/53>). Note that you will need to be a current COHA member in order to access this issue of *Forum*. We have noted a number of challenges in the existing environment that indicate COHA is struggling to survive as a small, independent professional association. The Executive is actively looking at changes that can be made in response to the current situation. It is important to note that we are *not* looking at dissolution, but rather, seeking a solution that would allow the Association to exist in an alternate format.

Our members, and the Canadian Oral History community in general, participate heavily in activities of the Canadian History Association and the (American) Oral History Association. COHA Executive has concluded it would be beneficial to explore the possibility of becoming an affiliate or sub-group of the OHA, while maintaining our existence as a sub-committee of the CHA. Many COHA members are also OHA members, as it is a strong, active and resource-rich association.

We would like to hold a special, online-only, meeting at the end of April in order to review the issues outlined above. At this meeting COHA members will:

- 1) Vote on proposed changes to our Constitution and By-Laws (see Appendix A, and Appendix B for proposed amendments)
- 2) Vote on a proposal for potential affiliation with the OHA

Draft Motion: That COHA explore formal affiliation with the OHA, and, should it prove a viable option, COHA executive will return to the membership to vote on a formal proposal for affiliation at such time as appropriate.

- 3) Propose the idea of a virtual meeting format for our AGM, at which elections for COHA executive will be held. We had been planning to hold our AGM at the CHA Annual Meeting in Calgary in June. However, many COHA members who would normally be there have indicated that they are unable to attend the CHA this year.

Details of the Special Meeting format will follow shortly.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact COHA President Rhonda L. Hintherr at hinherr@brandonu.ca.