

ABOLITION IX

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September 21, 1999

Dear Regional ICOPA Members,

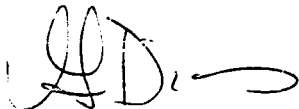
It has been awhile since our last gathering and we hope all is well with each of you. We want to remind you about our next regional meeting scheduled for November 21, 1999. We have not yet confirmed a location but we will be in touch as soon as we do. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

We have also included a current list of committees for which we ask your involvement. (Some of you will find your names beside certain committees but please feel free to work in whatever areas interest you.) We feel that we have made tremendous progress over the last several months but we are also aware of the huge amount of work left to do. Our strong but small local committee is asking for your assistance. There are activities that can be taken on from outside the Toronto area and we are asking for your commitment to become involved.

Most of you left our May 7th and 8th Regional Planning meeting with a number of responsibilities. Enclosed you will find the Regional minutes with a list of the commitments people made. We are very interested to know what progress has been made in these areas. Please call or write the office with the information you have. Outreach is essential, and so we ask that you get in touch with the groups you had suggested.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In strength and solidarity,



Giselle Dias

Coordinator, Rittenhouse: A New Vision

(5th Reorganized) Key Roles/Suggested Committees (with subcommittees) Aug9 99

Objective: to take Ruth's list of key tasks and org them into a functionally integrated system of committees, which also somehow equitably distributes tasks among our collective, over the time-line for the conference! (Whew!) Each of us in the key comms. need to recruit some 3-4 excellent folks to round out, help, energize....by Sept! (There are FAR TOO MANY Giselles, Lauras, Gords, and Esp RUTH's on this list!!)

****Asterisks indicate immediate high priority items, needing to be addressed through Sept -Dec./99**

XXX indicate frantic activity in May 2000!

(Names are not complete, from meeting notes, esp biased by GW thoughts)

1. Financial (the BANK) (Giselle, Office, Ruth, G. Cressy?)

Individual fundraising **

Grant Fundraising **

Financial Reports and management

XXXScholarship support **XXX

2. Administration: Accommodations, Physical Arrangements, Registration (The Nuts and Bolts Committee!!!) (Giselle Dias, Office, Pat Sanagan, Ruth, Leonard?, Ryerson—Carniol/SW, Metro UC person? "Bob Icopa I")

a)Accommodation Subcommittee (Pat Sanagan, Liz Flanagan)

Paid accommodations, relations with Ryerson**

Billeting**XXX

b) Food XXX

a. Physical Arrangements (Giselle, Office, Carniol/SW, Ryerson conf/plant, Met UC person)

actual physical arrangements re rooms, etc. **XXX

Signage at conference

d. Registration (Giselle, Office, Ry conference person?)

3. Publicity and Communications (the Flash in the Pan Oversold Media Pizzaz Group) (Giselle Dias, Gord West, Laura Metcalfe, Julius Melnitzer, Tom Mann, Ryerson

a) Publicity (Gord West, Giselle Dias, Gord to recruit Dave, Tomasz, and/or AJBIII to help!)

Outreach for registration

Mail outs and e-mails coordination (Giselle, Gord, Laura)**

Website maintenance, up-dating, registrations (Gord, Giselle, Laura)**

communication via web: ads on friendly sites, etc. (gord, Giselle, Laura)**

Advance Displays (eg at Am Soc Assoc, Am Soc of Crim, etc.)

Newsletter (Laura?)

Participant PackagesXXX

Advance Publicity, Events, Speakers

link to Demonstration committee

Links to alternative/campus radio and media (eg CIUT, CJRT, CKLN, etc., Ryersonian, Eycopener, Outreach, etc.)

Links to regular press, media, editorials (eg colin Vaughn, Mike Valpy, etc etc etc.)

b) Communications and Reports (Julius Melnitzer, Tom Mann, Ryerson, Gord West, Ryerson/Carniol, etc.)

Photography, taping, videotaping, room equipment (Julius, Tom Ryerson)XXX

Media room, press releasesXXX

Outreach

TranslationXXX

broadcast live: eg CIUT, CKLN, etc.

4. Program, Participation, And Events (the haul the wagons, meaningful and heavy duty, long march substance folks) (Ruth Morris, Eugenia, Doug x, Cistina, Chris, Ry Social Work/Carniol; toronto Y (Grant Lowery, etc. , etc) the Ottawa folks, Pat Monture, JHS and EFrye folks, OCAP folks, Toronto Native groups; Sympathetic TO Academics (eg Marg Beare, Frank Pearce, Livy Visano, P. Stenning/U of T, George Dei/OISEcomm college folks, etc.etc: Ruth, Ray, Gord etc/all to Contact)

a) Program (Ruth Morris,

Main speakers (Ruth)XXX

Plenaries

Workshops *** We need a key organizer here! NOW!!**XXX

Displays (publishers and orgs)

Visits, toursXXX

Conference volunteers

Legal issues, immigration, etc. (Julius M, etc.

b) Participation (Chris, Eugenia

Victim involvement (Eugenia, Church Conference, Chris)**

Youth involvement**

Prisoner communication, release, participation (Kim, Pam, Rick, Julius?）**

"Good cops and judges"???**

c) DemonstrationXXX

d)Entertainment, cultural (Lisa? need to org now, to make bookings, etc. Pat S and Gord will help re photog; Christina re great ideas!)**XXX

5. ICOPA INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE: LONG TERM PERSPECTIVES (the aging dreamy guru visionaries, handing on the torches) (Ruth, Louk, Laura Metcalfe, Gord, Julius, etc etc. etc.

a) ICOPA TEN Planning (Louk, Ruth)

ResolutionsXXX

on-going financing and support/affiliations

b) "Wrap-ups"/followup (Ruth, Laura, Gord)

Reports and thanks to funders

c) Publications:

Publication of final report

Publication of book(s) (Ruth, Laura Metcalfe, Gord**

ongoing publication affiliations

NOTES:

ICOPA Outreach

The following people agreed to contact the organizations/newsletters listed below to promote ICOPA IX:

Pat Sanagan	Harm Reduction Network HIV Prevention Conference - Corrections Catholic Church bulletins
Ken Logan	John Howard (Kingston) Bridge House Organization Friends of the ??
Leonard Mulczanski	Ontario Association of Social Workers Canadian Association of Social Workers Canadian Schools of Social Work
Tom Mann	St. Leonard's Society Criminal Studies Associations Criminal Lawyers Associations
Bob Melcombe	Kick It Over - through this he will contact the anarchist press, projects and similar papers Anarchist e-mail
Gord West	Presbyterian Church in Canada Web Contacts 519 Community Centre Toronto Centre Rosedale Political Mafia
Ruth Morris	Toronto Friends Meeting newsletter Metro Network for Social Justice newsletter Letter to Critical Resistance newsletter
Viviane Saleh-Hanna	Simon Fraser University, School of Criminology LINC program BC Prison Arts Foundation
Kim Pate	Women's and Criminal Justice Groups - National MP's and Senators Media Faith Nolan

Your Invited to the 3rd Regional ICOPA Planning Committee

**When: Sunday November 21, 1999
Time: 9:30-3:30**

**Where: St Luke's United Church
157 Carlton St.
Suite 202**

**We will be discussing: finance, registration,
accommodation, food, physical arrangements
publicity, communication and reports, programs,
participation, demonstrations and entertainment.**

**Please R.S.V.P
We Look Forward to Seeing You**

**Contact Giselle at (416)972-9992
ritten@interlog.com**

ICOPA IX Regional Planning Committee Meeting

May 7th and 8th, Metropolitan United Church, Toronto.

Intros: Christine Brown, Bob Melcombe, Leonard Molclanski, Joe Lawless, Rita Czarny, Mary Line Pierre-Antoine, Rose Coulton, Vanessa Christie, Pat Sanagan, Rick and Michelle Sauve, Ken, Lisa Finatari, Rebecca Calma, Vivianne Saleh-Hanna, Laura Metcalfe, Caroline Goodfellow, Ruth Morris, Gord West, Tom Mann, Trisha Monture-Angus, Julius Melnitzer, Mark Davidson, Kim Pate, Eugenia Pearson, Rana Haq, Rosie Rowbotham, Valerie Philips

Review of the Agenda

Presentation of Planning to Date, Presentation and review of documents by Ruth Morris:

- conference is unique in that it makes the connection between the corporate agenda and the penal system
- Review of each of the days of the conference
- Review of the main speakers
- Review of the budget

Feedback:

Speakers/Panels:

- Stanley Cohen
- John Thompson (Tiny), ex-prisoner (Julius contact)
- Julius suggested that we invite white collar ex-prisoners
- Lisa will get contact information for Robert Elias, Ezza Fattah, and Greg Barrack to speak about a widened conceptualization of victimization that includes human rights and state criminality
- Lisa suggested that we invite prisoners families, and suggested Leigh Lateman
- Trish suggested that we organize a panel on the Healing Lodge, and debate about whether or not it is good or bad
- the panel could include North American First Nations, and Mauri representatives to discuss alternatives to prisons and debate Aboriginal partnerships with governments
- we should look into the idea of having music/theatre/storytelling in between workshops
- we should begin planning workshops and getting out requests for papers

Budget:

Food:

- cautioned that Food Not Bombs may not be the best choice for food for the conference.
- Second Harvest may be an option

yes - immediately

Travel Subsidies:

- Rita will approach embassies
- Eugenia and Leonard will talk to Ryerson about getting an airline to sponsor the conference

Translation:

- How many? -*
Wendy
- we should aim to have simultaneous translation in both French and Spanish
 - Marylynn volunteered to do French translation at the conference and to translate documents for the conference
 - Eugenia will approach language schools
 - Tom Mann will approach Foreign Affairs about helping with translation and try to arrange Spanish translators with the Humanist Organization
 - Laura will approach the Department of Heritage to seek a grant for translation
 - We may approach French and Spanish speaking prisoners to help with translating documents
 - Laura will put up a posting at the volunteer centre for volunteer translators
 - Sign language may be arranged through Warkworth Prison

Speakers Honorariums:

- include a note on speakers' information letter asking if they can cover most of their costs

Afternoon Sessions:

- Each group discussed fundraising and outreach and focussed on two areas:

Fundraising:

- Ruth will talk to Jim from the Criminal Lawyers Association as a possible funding source
- Kim, Tom, Rick, Vivian, and Lisa will talk to Ole about making a financial contribution or sending conference participants at the Organizational rate.
- Kim will talk to the Parole Board about funding
- CPAC?
- Gord will look at funding from CERC?
- Rebecca will contact Prison Arts to try to get art donated to sell as fundraiser (raffle?)
- We may consider making T-shirts with prisoners' art to sell as fundraiser
- We may consider making a video at the conference to sell on the final day
- Caroline will work with the United Church and other faith groups to get info out on ICOPA
- Leonard will talk to Rabbi's
- Laura will talk to the Taric Mosque
- Registration Fees: should be raised from current fees on March 1st - agencies add \$50, individuals add \$25 and unwaged add nothing.
- The charitable number should be emphasized and included on the brochure (Laura)
- The Law Union should be approached for fundraising

JPP - val 10 + 9.2
- All other

12.00
5-61.00 2

Fundraising (con'd):

- Fundraising could be linked with bringing third world and low income participants
- Specific groups could be approached to bring specific speakers
- Ruth will approach Antone Querti (?) famous pianist about fundraiser

Outreach:

- Vivian will get the Critical Resistance contact list
- The week of the conference is E-Fry week, and E-Fry could help with outreach (Rona and Kim)
- Lisa will approach Bob Gaucher to see if he could dedicate an issue of Journal by Prisoners on Prisons to ICOPA
- We should ask prisoners to contribute art for the poster, and art that is not used on the poster could be displayed at the conference, we could put a call out for art in the JPP
- We could try to contact some of the celebrities that have done support work for Amnesty to get support for ICOPA (Rona, Rebecca)
- We will try to advertize in University newsletters, targeting certain departments
- We will target local and national organizations to let them know about the conference
- Laura is working to plan a calendar of events leading up to ICOPA with events put on by outside organizations in support of ICOPA, to either publicize or fundraise
- Soon many leaflets will be printed, everyone will carry leaflets with them and bring them to conferences, demos, etc.
- Everyone who signed up to outreach to a certain organization (see attached) will follow through on that
- Leonard will work on arranging info sessions for students at Ryerson
- Pat will develop a paragraph or so on ICOPA that can be submitted to newsletters
- Rose will work on getting info into newsletters and on leafletting
- Get conference info out on the SWAT e-mail/web-page/ and fax list

Prisoner Involvement:

- Rick is working on getting prisoners out on passes for the conference
- Kim Pate suggested that we set up video conferencing for prisoners who can't attend the conference, Gord and Tom will arrange setting up the video conferencing
- Kim, Tom, Rick, Vivian, and Lisa will meet with Ole in Ottawa to discuss video conferencing for long-distance prisoner participation and ETAs for travelling-distance prisoners.
- Kingston folks will try to arrange citizens escorts
- Rick is working on getting video clips of prisons
- We will work on setting up a bulletin board at the conference with postings of letters from prisoners

Billeting:

- Pat will create a form on billeting to be included with our registration forms
- Include a section on the registration forms for local participants to ask if they could provide billeting
- Leonard is looking into rooms at Ryerson and will develop a one page info sheet to be included with registration forms
- Ruth has arranged to hold 20 to 25 rooms at Friends House
- Other housing options that we should provide information on include hotels, Bed and Breakfasts, YMCAs, hostels, Neil Wysick, etc.
- We should hold rooms for unregistered participants who are unexpected

Childcare:

- approach both Ryerson (Leonard) and the Metropolitan United Church (Rose)
- we need to check regulations regarding childcare (ie. Do we need a license?)
- The registration forms should be changed to ask about childcare info (Laura)

Translation:

- please see above (under budget)

Entertainment:

- **Thursday night entertainment for all:** Kim will contact Faith Nolan, Bob will contact Rhythm Activism, from Montreal, Tom will contact Stephen Reid and Susan Musgrave, Lisa will contact John Reives, Giselle will contact Asha Bondel
- We will also look into drumming for Thursday night
- **Friday night hip hop concert with local performers:** Lisa will contact BullFrog
- **Benefit concert with big name prior to the conference:**
- Laura will contact Spearhead and Blue Rodeo, Lisa will contact Ani DiFranco,
- Rick and Michelle will contact Steve Earl

Demonstration:

- Demonstration may focus on the privatization of jails and supper jails, in the hopes of making the connection between corporate rule and penal abolition – we will pick our exact target closer to date so that the demonstration is timely and has a practical purpose
- Handouts for the demonstration should emphasize penal abolition, so that it is clear that we are not just against supper jails or privatization
- Giselle will contact people who will make puppeteers, and we may wish to use costumes or certain colours for effect
- We should contact TASC and OCAP to propose co-sponsorship
- The demo could go from one location to another, with a talk at each stop

Next Regional Planning Committee Meeting:

Sunday November 21st, 10 am to 4 pm, location tba.

Next Local Planning Committee Meeting:

Friday June 4th, 2 pm to 4 pm, Friends House.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PENAL ABOLITION IX

Dear Friend,

I am writing to provide you with information on the Ninth International Conference On Penal Abolition, to be held in Toronto from May 10th to 13th, 2000.

"ICOPA IX - A Call to Transformative Justice - New Questions, New Answers!", will be the first international conference to make the primary focus the link between corporate rule and penal abolition. Each day of the conference will focus on a different theme, with two plenaries in the morning and a variety of workshops in the afternoon.

Confirmed speakers to date include Angela Davis, on the prison industrial complex; David Korten, author of *When Corporations Rule the World*; Elias Carranza, from the UN Centre for Research on Crime in Latin America; Rick Sauve, wrongfully convicted ex-prisoner; Ruth Morris, ICOPA founder; Ursula Franklin, world famous peace and social justice activist; Louk Hulsman, leading European abolitionist, Tom Matthieson, Norwegian abolitionist and Rev. Bill Phipps, moderator of the United Church of Canada. Many other key speakers have confirmed to speak at the conference. Please see the enclosed brochure for a more complete list.

The ICOPA local planning committee is currently working on administration, publicity & communication, planning workshops, fundraising, and outreach. There are many ways for volunteers to get involved in planning ICOPA IX. If you would like more information on how to get involved in planning ICOPA IX, or if you would like to help at the conference itself, please let me know.

Please find enclosed a leaflet on ICOPA IX, a registration form, a call for workshops and a financial appeal. For more information on ICOPA IX, please check our web-site at www.interlog.com/~ritten/icopa.html, or contact ICOPA by e-mail, fax or telephone.

Please forward your e-mail accounts to us in order for us to cut down on mailing costs. We can be reached at ritten@interlog.com.

Sincerely,



Joan Ruzsa
Giselle Dias
ICOPA organizers

P.S. Donations are urgently needed to enable people from all over the world & low income people to attend ICOPA. Donations are tax deductible in Canada.

Thank-you



Rittenhouse: A New Vision

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Phone: (416) 538-6900

Fax: (416) 538-2655

**RE: International Conference On Penal Abolition IX Regional Planning Meeting -
May 7th and 8th**

Hello,

To follow up on the telephone call you received a couple of weeks ago, I am writing to provide you with some more details on the ICOPA IX regional planning committee meeting, on May 7th and 8th. The tentative agenda is as follows:

Friday May 7th

6 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Registration and Social at Friends House (60 Lowther St. at St. George and Bloor).

Saturday May 8th (location TBA)

9:00 am to 9:30 am

Welcome

9:30 am to 10:30 am

"Abolition from an Ex-Prisoner's Perspective"

Panel Discussion

10:30 am to 12:00 NOON

ICOPA IX - A presentation of planning to date

12:00 NOON to 1:00 pm

Lunch break (lunch provided)

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Small Group Discussions

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Large Group Discussion

3:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Closing

If you are planning on attending the meeting, please let us know as soon as possible. If you require accommodation while staying in Toronto, please let us know.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Laura Metcalfe.

P.S. Please note that as of May 1st our address will change to 157 Carleton, Ste. 202. Our e-mail and phone number will stay the same.