

Report to the Board of Directors
Canadian Association of Journalists
January 10, 2011

Report prepared by: John Dickins, Executive Director

On December 15th, 2010 at a duly constituted meeting of The Canadian Association of Journalists Board of Directors, the board tasked the Executive Director with determining whether Robert Frank, current Montreal Chapter representative to the national board, meets the criteria of working journalist as is required by the CAJ's bylaws, paragraph 7, subsection 3,4.

The motion generating this report was:

MOTION:

Whereas questions have been raised about board member Robert Frank's eligibility, as outlined in the CAJ bylaws, to be considered a full CAJ member and, therefore, a member of the Montreal chapter executive and member of the CAJ national board of directors;

Whereas a background sheet detailing some of these concerns is attached to this motion;

Be it resolved that Executive Director John Dickins is directed to investigate whether Robert Frank meets the criteria as a full CAJ member, as outlined in CAJ bylaws, doing any research he considers necessary;

Be it further resolved the executive director provide members of the board with a report on his findings no later than Jan. 10, 2011;

Be it further resolved that Robert Frank be extended an opportunity to provide evidence that he meets the criteria to be considered a full CAJ member and, therefore, a member of the Montreal chapter executive and member of the CAJ national board of directors, as outlined in the CAJ bylaws.

The applicable CAJ bylaws to this situation is paragraph 7, subsection 3,4:

All active members of the Corporation shall be qualified to be elected as a director or an officer of the Corporation and its Chapters and to vote at all annual or special general meetings of the Corporation and its Chapters.

Active members of the Corporation shall be students or working journalists whose salary comes primarily from, or time goes principally into, journalism, including the managers of media enterprises and teachers of journalism, as determined by the Board of Directors of the Corporation. Students shall be considered those who work in the student media on a regular basis during the academic year and have paid the active member's fee as determined by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Research was undertaken by a few board members assisting me in looking for proof of Robert Frank's practice of journalism.

The following links, or documents are noted so far:

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/npres-communic/2005/pr27-eng.htm> (April 29, 2005) press release re: Fisheries patrols being launched in North Pacific, with Captain Robert Frank listed as a contact and Public Affairs Officer for 1st Canadian Air Division. (Non-journalism)

http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:JCVCDsn6TsQJ:https://www.cna-acj.ca/cart/cart.php%3Fm%3Dproduct_detail%26p%3D26+post+traumatic+stress+-+Robert+Frank&cd=6&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=ca (April 8, 2009) Robert M. Frank made a presentation to the Canadian Newspaper Association on post-traumatic stress. Robert Frank is listed as being a director of the Canadian Association of Journalists Educational Foundation, and former freelance correspondent for Investigations desk of The New York Times.

<http://www.westmountexaminer.com:80/Living/Community/2010-04-29/article-1044581/Shaar-prepares-for-Elegant-Table-Settings-2010-/1> - (January 9, 2011). The Westmount Examiner featured an article about a talk Major Robert Frank gave on Haiti. Major Frank is noted as being a Senior Air Force Reserve Public Affairs Advisor for the Canadian Air Division. (Non-journalism)

http://www.nunatsiaqnews.com/archives/2008/809/80905/news/nunavut/80905_1504.html (September 5, 2008) The article about Robert Frank's visit to Nunavut lists him as a public affairs officer for the Canadian Forces. (Non-journalism)

Further, a google search was done of Robert Frank's phone number that has been used on CAJ press releases. The following comes up:

Textex - Quebec - Pointe Claire - (514) 697-7377 > 411.ca Contact info for Textex in Pointe Claire, Quebec. Category: Public Relations Consultants.

www.411.ca/business/Textex/4034798.html - Cached

Public Relations Consultants in Montreal - West Island, QC | Canpages(514) 684-1191 3484 Boul des Sources (suite 232), Roxboro, QC ... (514) 697-7377 17 Av de la Baie de Valois, Pointe-Claire, QC ...

www.canpages.ca/business/QC/montreal-west.../R16-688800.html - Cached

Textex - Communications Consultants , Pointe-Claire, Quebec - 514 ...Address phone number postal code city province.514-697-7377 - 17 Av DE LA Baie-DE-Valois, Pointe-Claire, Quebec, H9R 4B4.

www.businessnetpages.com/CompanyPage.aspx/quebec/.../1438532 - Cached

Information received via a third party related to a LinkedIn search revealed that Robert Frank has had Bank of Montreal and Teleglobe as clients of his Textex communications consulting company. Two references are provided, attesting to this:

Robert is an entrepreneurial project manager with excellent presentation skills and follow-through. I have known Robert since we both worked in Public Affairs at Bank of Montreal and later worked as a subcontractor for him at Textex. He knows how to get things done, and is very pleasant to work with." *April 16, 2010*

[Margaret P.](#), *writer, self*
reported to Robert at Textex

"Robert developed the most complete media package I have ever seen, and proactively pursued key influencers in the media to update their files constantly. He is the most complete media relations strategist I have worked with in over 20 years in business." *September 17, 2008*

[Dean N.](#), *Sales and Advertising Manager, Teleglobe*
was with another company when working with Robert at Teleglobe

The above may suggest that Robert Frank is in the communications and/or public relations business. There is no mention of the word journalism. And while communications and public relations people are members of the Canadian Association of Journalists, it must be noted that they fall under the status of 'associate' member and as such, are not eligible to hold office. The third-party check revealed that to date his byline has not been seen in the New York Times since the early 2000's.

Dale Bass spoke to a source at the New York Times who confirmed that Robert has not done any work for them since 2002.

Finally, I took the opportunity to speak to Robert on January 10th and asked for any proof or indication that he is currently a working journalist. Robert reiterated what he had said in a PDF response he had sent to the board in November, essentially not recognizing this process, nor the right of board to ask for this information. The question I put to Robert was whether he was a working journalist, and his response to me was yes.

At that point he would not give me any further details except to say he has journalism endeavours ongoing, like many freelancers. I have been in the position of having journalists tell me that they have projects on the go without being able to go into detail. Accordingly, I accepted his response without feeling the need to probe any further.

Please consider this my report as per the direction of the board and is submitted to the board for consideration and action.