

2010-2011 President's Report
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It has been a busy, challenging and – most importantly – successful year for the Canadian Political Science Association. The Association continues to enjoy healthy and stable membership numbers and a balanced budget. The 2010 annual conference at Concordia was a great success and the conference this year at Wilfrid Laurier in Waterloo promises great things as well.

The Association's core activities continue to be strong and well managed. The *Canadian Journal of Political Science* goes from strength to strength, in no small measure due to the efforts of the editorial teams. On the French-language side, Co-editor Nicole Bernier and Book Review Editor Linda Cardinal continue their fine work. Changes are unfolding in the English-language editorial team. After five years at the helm, Csaba Nikolenyi has tendered his resignation in order to take on the Chairship of the Concordia Department. Our thanks and congratulations to Csaba. Happily, Jim Kelly, who has been serving as Assistant Editor, has agreed to step in as English Co-editor and Francesca Scala continues as English-language Book Review Editor. In short the *Journal* remains in good, experienced hands. At the time of writing the status of the assistant editorship was uncertain.

As of July 1, 2012 the term of the English-language editorial team at Concordia will end. Having shepherded the *Journal* through two three-year terms, the Concordia team has indicated that they will not be seeking another. Accordingly, the search is on for a new English-language editorial team. A search committee is in place and a formal call for proposals went out in February to all English-language departments as well as to all bilingual departments. We hope to have identified a new English-language home for the *Journal* by the Fall.

Both the Parliamentary Internship Programme (PIP) and the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP) continue to prosper under the capable direction of Garth Williams (PIP) and Henry Jacek (OLIP). Each programme gives ten bright, committed university graduates a marvelous opportunity to see parliamentary politics from both government and opposition perspectives while contributing their skills to the elected members fortunate enough to have interns serving in their offices. Both programmes continue to enjoy strong support from parliamentary/legislative staff and members; as can be seen from the directors' reports, enthusiasm and financial support from sponsors remains high.

The annual CPSA-organized meeting of Political Science Chairs took place in Toronto in January. Nearly 40 chairs attended. A new format, focusing on important themes such as mentoring of new faculty and changes to SSHRC's granting programmes, proved highly successful.

The other ongoing core CPSA activity is the annual conference. The major departure from past practice in this year's conference warrants special attention in the reporting of additional Association developments:

The Annual Conference

This year – and next, as described below – CPSA will not be meeting as part of the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences. Instead, the Association accepted the invitation of the Department at Wilfrid Laurier to host the conference. This is part of a two-year experiment on 'going it alone' authorized by the Board three years ago and discussed extensively at the Annual General Meeting in 2009.

Meeting separately from Congress has afforded the Programme Committee and the local organizers substantial flexibility and access to prime campus locations for sessions and events. Programme Chair Debora VanNijnatten and her team have put together a wonderful programme featuring 13 workshops, the usual number and range of sessions, a series of special events including a second plenary. The annual dinner at the Concordia Club promises to be great fun from the opening keg-tapping ceremony to the after-dinner dancing.

Organizing any CPSA conference is a huge task, calling for a tremendous commitment of time and energy, not to mention a high level of organizational skill plus knowledge of the profession and its members. This year the challenge has been especially daunting since CPSA is responsible for many of the tasks that Congress usually undertakes: arranging accommodation, finding day care, organizing the book fair, setting up an on-line registration process, and much more. The Laurier organizing team has risen to the occasion and then some. Local Coordinator

Andrea Perrella and his colleagues David Docherty, Jason Roy and Sherry Palmer (ably assisted by Sally Rutherford and Michelle Hopkins at the CPSA Secretariat) have done a superlative job in putting together a conference that combines top-notch academic sessions and great social events. Kudos to all.

Next year, CPSA will be meeting in Edmonton at the University of Alberta. The organizing team has been hard at work for some time. Programme Chair Yasmeen Abu-Laban has put together a terrific Programme Committee and Local Organizer Judith Garber is well into the planning for a series of special events – including celebrations of CPSA’s centennial (of which more below). It will be a great conference; mark your calendars now: June 13-15.

Following the Edmonton conference, Association members will have the opportunity to assess the experiment and to offer their views on whether CPSA should continue to ‘go it alone’ or return to Congress. Given the lead time necessary to organize a stand-alone conference (should that be outcome of the consultation with the membership), the Board has decided that in 2013 we will meet with Congress in Victoria. The following year, 2014, the International Political Science Association will be holding its World Congress in Montreal in July and CPSA will have to decide whether to schedule our meetings during or around the IPSA meetings, as we did previously when IPSA met in Canada.

The Profession

CPSA continues to move forward on a range of issues that directly affect the discipline and profession of political science.

The Diversity Task Force is nearing the end of its work. In addition to conducting a survey of diversity practices in Canadian political science departments it surveyed the membership of the Association in order to develop a profile of the discipline and understand members’ experiences and perceptions of diversity issues. The Task Force – Yasmeen Abu-Laban (Alberta), Richard Johnston (UBC), Joanna Everitt (UNB-SJ), David Rayside (Toronto) and Martin Papillon (Ottawa) – will be submitting its final report shortly.

Last year the Board reviewed the report of the Committee on Professional Ethics and the views of members who offered comments after the report was posted on the CPSA web site. With some minor changes, the Board endorsed the committee’s recommendations, which involved establishing a Standing Committee on Ethics which would, among other things, develop a statement of ethics for the profession and advise the Board on ways to inform and educate the membership about ethical issues. The Standing Committee is not empowered to investigate or review individual complaints about ethical breaches. The Standing Committee on Ethics comprises Ian Greene (York), Catherine Frost (McMaster) and Caroline Andrew (Ottawa).

In planning for the Laurier and Edmonton conferences, it became evident that CPSA lacks an explicit policy about what could generally be labeled ‘sponsorship’. The point was not whether CPSA should accept donations from sponsors, since it already does so in various ways. For example, PIP and OLIP are heavily dependent on funding from sponsors; organizers of workshops at the annual conference often solicit funding from a range of institutions; and publishers, both academic and commercial, have donated funds for book prizes. Instead, the issue was that the Association has no formal or informal policy or guidelines as to what sort of donations are acceptable and under what circumstances. In order to fill this gap, an ad hoc Committee on Sponsorship was created to advise the Board on an appropriate policy. Members of this committee are Robert Young (UWO), Frances Abele (Carleton), Janice Newton (York) and Patrick Fournier (Montreal).

A good many CPSA members are employed in government, the volunteer sector or the private sector. Some of these, but by no means all, are part-time or sessional instructors at colleges and universities. Substantial numbers of those with graduate political science degrees pursue careers outside of academia yet wish to remain engaged in the profession. Accordingly, the Association created an ad hoc committee to report to the Board on ways that the Association could better serve the needs of (for want of a better term) ‘non-academics’ and on ways that CPSA could take advantage of the talents and experiences of its non-academic members. The committee consists of Leslie Seidle (Institute for Research on Public Policy), Craig McFadyen (Government of Ontario), Danny Lepage (Government of Canada) and Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox (Fox Consulting).

The Standing Committee on Ethics as well as the two ad hoc committees advised the membership of their mandates and sought information and suggestions through notices sent to all CPSA members and through notices on POLCAN.

CPSA Centennial

2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Political Science Association. Planning is underway for special events at the Edmonton conference to celebrate the occasion but we also hope to be able to recognize this milestone in other ways as well. Suggestions are welcome.

CPSA Representation Role

The Association continues to actively represent the discipline of political science and the professional interests of Canadian political scientists on a range of issues, most notably:

SSHRC Granting Programmes. Major changes are underway in the way that SSHRC organizes, funds and adjudicates its research grants. CPSA made a submission last Spring in response to SSHRC's discussion paper on its new 'architecture'. Some, but not all, of CPSA's concerns were addressed in the first major round of changes last Fall and the Association maintains a watching brief on developments as the changes continue to unfold.

Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The Federation released an important discussion paper, *Framing Our Direction 2010-12* last year as part of a strategic planning exercise. Led by CPSA Representative to the Federation (and Federation Board member) Tony Porter, the Association submitted a brief setting out ideas for improving the effectiveness of CFHSS in general and on issues of particular concern to political scientists.

Research Ethics. The final version of the second edition of the *Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS)* which governs research ethics was released in November. The new policy departs in significant ways from its predecessor. CPSA was actively involved in the process leading to the new policy; the final version incorporates a number of important improvements the Association had advocated. Although TCPS is now in place, much will depend on how it is implemented. CPSA continues to monitor this critical issue.

CPSA maintains links with a number of important national and international organizations. In addition to Tony Porter's involvement with CFHSS, Les Pal is the representative of the Association and of the Société québécoise de science politique to IPSA and serves on its Executive Committee. Thanks to both for their work on our behalf.

A Final Word of Thanks

I've been honoured to serve as President of CPSA. Although it can be demanding, my load has been immeasurably lightened by the assistance and support of a great many people. At the CPSA Secretariat, Sally Rutherford and Michelle Hopkins are not only consummate professionals – really they are the ones who keep the Association running smoothly – but they also are a joy to work with. The Executive Committee – Keith Banting, Reeta Tremblay, Christine Rothmayr Allison and Genevieve Fuji Johnson – have been wonderfully supportive throughout the year. Together with Sally and Michelle they have saved me from any number of errors and provided invaluable (and quick!) advice. Special thanks to Christine for agreeing to step in to take over as Secretary-Treasurer when Eric Montpetit resigned to become Chair at Montreal and to Keith who, as Past President, never looked over my shoulder or told me what to do but was always available with sage advice when I asked. The members of the Board continue to prove themselves great colleagues; my thanks to each and every one.

Mention has already been made of the contributions of colleagues such as Henry Jacek, Garth Williams, Les Pal and Tony Porter. So too the members of the various task forces and committees noted above have given freely and effectively of their time and talents. I'd be remiss in not extending my thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee, whose work is so essential to the continued organizational strength of the Association: Ian Stewart (Acadia), François Rocher (Ottawa) and Lisa Young (Calgary).

My predecessors warned me that perhaps the most difficult part of the job would be rounding up members for the many committees and prize juries that shoulder so much of the Association's work. In one sense they were right; it took a fair bit of time and energy. In another sense, however, they neglected to mention the upside: discovering the enormous good will towards CPSA among so many of the Association's leading (and busy) members who agreed to take on what were often quite onerous responsibilities. On CPSA's behalf, I thank them and all the others who have made my year as President such an enjoyable experience.