

## **President's Report**

Reeta Tremblay  
2011-2012

It has been a busy, challenging and successful year for the Canadian Political Science Association. The Association continues to enjoy healthy and stable membership numbers and a healthy budget. The 2011 conference at Wilfrid Laurier University provided a very successful model for the Centennial Conference that CPSA is holding in Edmonton at the University of Alberta this year.

### **CJPS**

The *Canadian Journal of Political Science* continues to increase its breadth and reach. Sincere thanks must go to the French language team, Co-editor Daniel Salée and Book Review Editor Dominique Caouette and the outgoing editorial team on the English-language side, Co-editor James Kelly and Book Review Editor Francesca Scala and their team. CPSA owes a debt of gratitude to the Concordia cohort lead by Csaba Nikolenyi which has guided the journal through modern publishing realities into a world where on-line availability not only increases readership but results in the submission of papers from around the world.

As of July 1, 2012, continuity at the journal will be provided by the French language team while the English-language editorial team comprised of Graham White and Peter Loewen from the University of Toronto and Bryan Evans and Carolyn Johns from Ryerson University will take over the English language duties. On behalf of CPSA I would like to welcome the new English language team and we look forward to the success we know they will have.

### **PIP and OLIP**

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). The programmes, which provide ten bright, committed university graduates an opportunity to see parliamentary politics from both government and opposition perspectives, attract an increasing number of increasingly high quality candidates each year. The strong support each of the programmes receives from parliamentary/legislative staff and members is evident in the fact that the high number of applications from members of Parliament and the Legislature for interns creates a situation where the members themselves must go through a selection process to host an intern!

### **CPSA Chairs' Meeting**

The annual CPSA-organized meeting of Political Science Chairs took place in Victoria in February. 29 Chairs attended. The Round Table format allowed good discussion on issues like open access publishing, SHHRC programming and impacts of funding cuts. This meeting continues to be an important opportunity for peers in the discipline to meet, share and compare their experiences and best practices.

### **CPSA Conference**

The major CPSA activity this year is, of course, our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference. Over the past year the Board, the Programme Committee, the local organizing committee and CPSA staff have worked hard to ensure that the centennial of the organization is celebrated in style. Yasmeeen Abu-Laban and her team, including Judith Garber, Steve Patten and Cindy Welch must be congratulated on the hard work that they have done in organizing, fundraising, cajoling and problem solving. The result of the hard work is evident in reading through the program. I congratulate them as well for the new initiatives they have undertaken, especially the mentoring café. Providing an opportunity for peers and colleagues to share experiences and problem solve is an important addition to CPSA activity that I hope will continue. Making sure that this conference both celebrates and supports the discipline and those who function within it is a challenge that

was enthusiastically accepted and, as you will experience, has been delivered with enthusiasm and success.

### **Future Conferences**

As was noted in last year's Annual Report, CPSA members will have the opportunity to determine by referendum if CPSA should continue to hold stand-alone conferences after the two year experiment that Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Alberta have carried out. CPSA's Board is finalizing the arrangements for the referendum that CPSA is obligated to hold after the Edmonton conference. Relevant information on costs and logistics will be posted on the CPSA web site, a forum for on line discussion will be created and invited opinion pieces aimed at highlighting the issues to be considered will be commissioned. CPSA will hold the on line vote in November 2012.

Given the lead time necessary to organize a stand-alone conference (should that be outcome of the referendum) the Board has decided that in 2013 CPSA will meet with Congress in Victoria and again in 2014 at Brock University. Éric Montpetit (Montréal) as 2013 Programme Chair has already put together his team including Janni Aragon (Victoria) as Local Organizer. CPSA's Board and Éric fully intend that the innovations of the last two stand-alone conferences will be continued. I look forward to welcoming you as Past-President next year!

The 2014 IPSA World Congress will take place in Montreal in July. CPSA is working with IPSA and SQSP to organize a reception for international participants.

### **The Profession**

As always, CPSA continues to work on a range of issues that directly affect the discipline and profession of political science.

The Diversity Task Force has completed its work and has reported to the Board. This report will be available on the web site. The Task Force, Yasmeen Abu-Laban (Alberta), Richard Johnston (UBC), Joanna Everitt (UNB-SJ), David Rayside (Toronto) and Martin Papillon (Ottawa) deserve our sincere thanks for their hard work.

The Committee on Professional Ethics has also submitted its report to the CPSA Board. This report outlines a statement of ethics for the profession and aims to advise the Board on ways to inform and educate the membership about ethical issues. The Standing Committee has also tabled a proposal on managing conflict of interest that the new Board will consider. I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Ethics comprised of Ian Greene (York), Catherine Frost (McMaster) and Caroline Andrew (Ottawa) for their efforts as they enter the final year of their three year appointment.

Open access and the many related issues are of significant concern to CPSA members. We are grateful to Tony Porter (McMaster) who continues to follow these issues and advise the Board

A Committee to Review the Terms of Reference for CPSA Prizes has been created to review the rules around all of the prizes. This includes everything from technological issues to reviewing the language around the identification of jurors. The members of the Committee include, Genevieve Fuji-Johnson (UBC), Pascale Dufour (Montréal), Christian Leuprecht (RMC), Daniel Salée (Concordia) and Janni Aragon (Victoria). They will provide a report to the Board in time for the call for submissions in the fall.

### **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: As reported last year and as we are all now aware, changes are underway in the way that SSHRC organizes, funds and adjudicates. Added to the program changes that

were announced last fall have been added the recent budget cuts. CPSA will continue to track SHHRC's development.

Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences: Through CPSA Representative to the Federation (and Federation Board member) Tony Porter, the Association continues to follow the Federation's activity. With Tony's assistance, CPSA continues to work on improving the effectiveness of CFHSS in general and on issues of particular concern to political scientists.

CPSA maintains links with a number of important national and international organizations. Tony Porter (McMaster) deserves our thanks for his activity with CFHSS. Les Pal (Carleton) has served CPSA and SQSP very well over the past six years as our representative to IPSA as both a Board and an Executive Committee member. I would like to thank him for his diligence and commitment and to welcome Linda Cardinal (Montreal) who will take over Les' role as IPSA representative at the meeting in July 2012.

### **CPSA Accords**

CPSA has renewed and strengthened its relationship with SQSP over the past year with the signing of an updated accord. The excellent ongoing collaboration on the journal and the future collaboration on hosting a reception at the time of the IPSA World Congress in Montreal keeps communications active and productive.

The development of an accord between the International Studies Association – Canada (ISA-Canada) and CPSA has provided an opportunity for discussion and created a positive working relationship around the international studies section of the annual conference. It is this type of collaborative activity that makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts.

### **CPSA Development Fund**

Two years ago, CPSA reconstituted the Trust Fund into a Development Fund. One of the tasks that I especially entrust to the new Board of Directors is the commitment to raise funds to support mentoring for those involved at all levels of the discipline. Thanks to Tracy Summerville and Rita Dhamoon, CPSA held an inaugural mentoring café at this year's conference. My wish is that CPSA raise sufficient funds through the Development Fund, to expand this type of activity throughout the year.

### **Some Words of Thanks**

Throughout my year as President I have benefitted from the assistance of many people. At the CPSA Secretariat, I have appreciated working in partnership with Sally Rutherford and I thank both her and Michelle Hopkins for keeping things on track. The Executive Committee, Graham White, Michael Atkinson, Christine Rothmayr Allison and Jim Bickerton always have been ready to provide advice when called upon and have taken an active role in decision making. They have been truly supportive throughout the year on all of the issues – the ones we expected to deal with and the ones that came as a surprise. They have my sincere thanks.

I have relied, as well, on past Presidents to assist me in taking on various duties. I would like to thank Keith Banting for helping with the organization of the Centennial Panels. Along with Keith, Miriam Smith and Richard Johnston prepared a background paper on the upcoming referendum.

Being the President of the CPSA has been, among other things, an encouraging experience. It has given me an opportunity to appreciate the very numerous contributions made by our colleagues to the organization and towards supporting and enhancing our discipline. CPSA cannot function without the many people who volunteer on the many committees and juries that are named every year. I would like to thank those on the Nominating Committee, Richard Johnston, Anthony Sayers and Jacqueline Best, who ensured the high level of candidates for the Board. I also would like to express my real gratitude to all of the members of the juries for our various prizes. They have put in many hours of work in adjudicating awards. On behalf of our membership I thank them all.

