

## President's Report - André Blais

The two most important responsibilities of the Canadian Political Science Association are to organize the Annual Meeting and to publish the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*.

Perhaps the most important responsibility of a CPSA president is to appoint a Programme Chair. I am greatly indebted to Brenda O'Neill for agreeing to chair the programme committee. Brenda has assembled an excellent committee and they have mounted an outstanding programme. Most sections have full programs and there are five workshops, five special sessions, and a plenary on the BC Citizens' Assembly. This should be a superb conference.

The CPSA now subscribes to PROL, the APSA on-line system for conference papers. Those who wish so will have the opportunity to put their CPSA papers on the system. This should increase the dissemination of CPSA papers and enhance the visibility of the CPSA meetings.

The *Canadian Journal of Political Science* is now published by Cambridge University Press. Because of the transition from Wilfrid Laurier University Press, the September 2004 issue was made available in March and the December 2004 issue in April. We are confident, however, that from September 2005 on, issues will be released on time. The *Journal* is available on line for the members of the association. A POLCAN memo was circulated on how to access the *Journal*. More information can be obtained from the secretariat. CPSA has also contracted with JSTOR, the Scholarly Journal Archive. All back issues of the *Journal* should be available on JSTOR soon. I am also pleased to report that the SSHRC grant to the *Journal* has been renewed for another three year period.

Michael Howlett, Manon Tremblay and the entire editorial team have been doing a great job of running the journal in a highly professional manner. I wish to thank them for their dedication to the journal. On behalf of each member of the CPSA and the Société québécoise de science politique (SQSP), I also wish to express our deepest gratitude to John McMenemy, the administrative editor from 1976 to 2004. John provided an invaluable service to the CPSA and the SQSP and the discipline over 28 years. We are also indebted to Sandra Burt, who has graciously accepted to take over as administrative editor, especially in this time of transition.

A search committee, composed of president-elect Kim Nossal, Sandra Burt and John Courtney, has been formed to invite applications and make recommendations for the 2006-2009 English Language Editors of the *Journal*. Those interested should contact Kim Nossal. The Board should make a decision on that matter at its December meeting.

The Annual meeting of departmental chairs was held in Montreal, on February 4th and 5th. The meeting was hosted by the chair of the department at the Université de Montréal, Gérard Boismenu. The meeting is a great opportunity for exchanging information about news in the discipline and the universities. Student enrollment seems to be rising about everywhere, new graduate programs are being created, and most departments expect to be hiring new faculty members in the coming years. These are all positive news.

The Board of Directors, at its last December meeting, had an extensive exchange about the CPSA's relationship with the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. There is clearly much frustration with the Federation. We have agreed to examine the possibility of exiting the Federation but we have also agreed that it is important to assemble more information about the benefits and costs of the various options. To that effect, a special committee of the Board was struck to examine the issue at greater depth. The committee will report to the Board at its next meeting in June. The issue was raised at the Annual meeting of the department chairs, and many chairs provided useful information and suggestions. This will be one of the most important items on the agenda in the June Board meeting.

In June 2004, the Board decided to discontinue providing a printed version of the *Bulletin*. The current proposal is to replace the *Bulletin* with an electronic newsletter that would appear every two months. The Board is in the process of finalizing the proposal and finding an editor for this e-newsletter. I wish to thank James Driscoll, who was editor of the *Bulletin* from 1999 to 2004. James has provided a great service to the members over these five years.

Our two internship programmes, the Parliamentary Internship Programme and the Ontario Legislature Programme, are functioning very smoothly, under the skillful guidance of Jean-Pierre Gaboury and Henry Jacek. I wish to thank both of them for their deep commitment to these wonderful programmes.

It has been a pleasure and an honour to have worked on your behalf as president of the CPSA. I am beholden to all those who have helped me, in many direct and indirect ways. I have already expressed my gratitude to Brenda O'Neill. I wish also to thank the Board members, Gerald Baier, David Brock, Marc Chevrier, Cristine de Clercy, Munroe Eagles, Judith Garber, Yvon Grenier, Elizabeth Riddell-Dixon, Hamish Telford and Marie-Joelle Zahar for their support, good humour, intellectual rigour and patience. And very special thanks to the members of the executive committee: past president Robert Young and president elect Kim Nossal, on whom I count at any time to get precious advice, Éric Montpetit, who

miraculously accepted on very short notice to become secretary-treasurer, and Joanna Everitt, always willing to help out.

Many other people have made their contribution. I have already mentioned the professional work accomplished by Michael Howlett, Manon Tremblay and Sandra Burt for the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. We need to extend our gratitude to Lynda Erickson (assistant editor), Laurent Dobyzinski and Christian Rouillard (review editors).

The CPSA will remain a vigorous association only if a broad range of candidates are invited to run for the Board election. I have had the great pleasure of benefiting from the wise advice of the members of the Nominating Committee, Kathy Brock, David Laycock, and Louis Imbeau. My sincere thanks and I am pleased to welcome the newly elected members of the Board for 2005-2007: Chedly Belkhodja, Anna Hunter, Patricia O'Reilly, François Pétry and Tony Porter. We count on their precious input.

Then there are all those who graciously accepted to be members of the prize juries: Karen Bird, Cristine de Clercy, David A. Good, Michael Howlett, David Johnson, André Lecours, Heather MacIvor, Maureen Mancuso, Pauline Rankin, Manon Tremblay and Reeta Tremblay. Recognizing excellence in the discipline is no easy task. I simply wish to tell them that they have rendered the association an important service. In the same vein, Jean Crête and Sébastien Lévesque continue to perform a wonderful job with the POLCAN network, as does Peter Meekison, chair of the trust fund.

My deepest debt is to Michelle Hopkins. I had assumed from the start that Michelle would do about everything, that I would just have to sign letters...I was wrong. I panicked a bit last June when I received all these emails, gently indicating all the things I had to do. Fortunately, things settled down a bit. The main point was that I could trust Michelle to remind me about the dossiers that needed to be dealt with, and to provide me with the appropriate information. I also knew that I could pick up the phone and talk to Michelle and get the facts straight. It was a great pleasure to work with her. I wish her the very best.

In last year's report, Robert Young wished me a tranquil year. It was indeed a relatively tranquil year (CPSA wise), in part because Robert had taken care of the main dossier, the selection of a new publisher for *CJPS*, Cambridge University Press. I know that my successor, Kim Nossal will do whatever is required to ensure that the members get the very best services possible. I wish him a great year.