President's Report

Annual General Meeting, 2005

Canadian Institute of International Affairs (Toronto Branch)

Programming

The success of the Toronto branch to a large extent depends on the quality of the programming. We focused our year on providing strong, effective speakers and are pleased with the slate we were able to offer our members. This included some high-profile speakers, along with some less formal, more interactive events.

The programming over the past year included the following events:

Wednesday, 6 October, 2004

The Consul General of Spain, Ignacio Sanchez de Lerin Garcia-Ovies, on "Spain Today"

Thursday, 23 September, 2004

Annual General Meeting with Keynote Speaker Margaret MacMillan, Speaking on "The Long Shadow of the Paris Peace Conference: 1919 and Now"

Friday, 12 November, 2004

Portraits of Canada 2004—Presentation by The Canadian Unity Council and the CIIA (The Canadian Unity Council ("CUC"), in conjunction with the CIIA, presented the findings of the CUC's 2004 "Portraits of Canada" survey to a distinguished gathering of consuls and ambassadors posted in Toronto, over a lunch at the offices of Davies Ward Phillips and Vineberg)

Wednesday, 1 December, 2004

A Panel Session the "The Implications for Canada of the United States Election: The Second Bush Mandate," featuring David Crane, Business Columnist, the Toronto Star; Peil Heinbecker, former Ambassador of Canada to the UN (2000-2004); Lou Pauly, Director of the Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto; and Stephen Clarkson, Professor of Political Economy, University of Toronto

Tuesday, 18 January, 2005

David Miller, Mayor of Toronto on "The International Challenges Facing Toronto"

Friday, 18 March, 2005

General Rick Hillier, Chief of the Defence Staff, Canadian Forces, on "The Vision of the Chief of the Defence Staff"

Thursday, 31 March, 2005

A panel discussion with Piya Chattopadhyay, CBC Radio; David Agnew, President, Unicef Canada; and John Watson, President, Care Canada on "The Asian Tsunami and Canadian Foreign Policy—"Three Months On"… Lessons Learned"

Thursday, 2 June, 2005

The Consul General of Mexico, Carlos Pujalte, Speaking on "Canada & Mexico: From North American Bookends to Strategic Partners"

Financials

The full financial report will be tabled by Ted Crysler. We have focused on having a strong financial position, recognizing that the risk exists for our organization that a last minute cancellation by a speaker could result in a loss. With prudent management of our members' contributions, and with attention to avoiding losses on events, we have been able to conclude our year with more revenue than expenses, and consequently have increased the size of our surplus. The Board is committed to only drawing on this surplus for activities that are in the long-run strategic interests of the organization.

Our financial performance can be summarized as follows:

Cash surplus at beginning of the past year:	$ 5,472.32
GIC:	$10,515.51
Total Surplus at beginning of the past year:	$15,987.83
Revenue over Expenses, year in question:	$ 5,147.07
Surplus at the end of the past year:	**$21,134.90**

Membership

Membership is a critical factor in our success. At the end of September 2004 we had 310 members, which has since grown to 323 members. It will be our objective to continue to grow the size of our membership.

Board of Directors Including the Executive Committee

Many new members of the Board joined in 2004, and have added considerable strength. The Board was restructured in 2004 into an Executive Committee, which meets monthly, and Members at Large, who participate in meetings with the Executive Committee quarterly.

The members of the Executive Committee and the Full Board follow.

Keith Martin
President

Rebecca Low
Vice-President

Ted Crysler
Treasurer

Renee van Kessel
Membership and Communication

Millie Poon
Secretary

Board of Directors—Members at Large

Ron Clark (former President)

Larry Herman (former President)

Doug Valentine

Jess Hungate

Student Involvement

CIIA Toronto seeks to replenish its membership with a variety of efforts, one of which is to get more student engagement. Student members get subsidized rates, and we have also attempted to get students involved in other ways. We participated in the past year in the University of Toronto internship program, where a student worked on a project for us, and in exchange received an academic credit. The student, Tomislav Ivancic, was engaged and developed an extensive database, which we have already begun to use, of student organizations at York University, University of Toronto, and Ryerson University. Another University of Toronto student, Benita Hansraj, worked for CIIA Toronto as a volunteer over the past year. We will continue to build on these initiatives and efforts in order to get more student involvement in our branch.

Partnerships

We partnered with the Canada Unity Council's CRIC (Centre for Research and Information on Canada) in the past year. This proved to be a very fruitful effort which included a joint-meeting with Consuls General on research the CRIC had sponsored on the changing Canadian federation. Two events were held at PriceWaterhouse Coopers which heavily subsidized costs for us, and proved to be mutually beneficial given PWC's extensive international consulting practice. We continued our outreach program with Universities, including the University of Toronto's Centre for International Studies.

Sponsorships

In order to keep costs reasonable for our members, we attempted to get sponsors for as many events as possible. Typically this involved offering recognition and some seats at the Head Table, for a sponsor willing to pay $500 to the Branch. This program proved very successful. From our experience, we will attempt to coordinate the sponsorships more closely with Head Office to further leverage these partnerships, so that they assist in the National effort at developing longer-term, strategic sponsorship relationships.

The following organizations were sponsors at events of the Toronto branch in the past year:

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

TSX group TSX

Heenan Blaikie

GE Canada

FMC FRASER MILNER CASGRAIN LLP

CIBC

CAW TCA CANADA

Centre for Research and Information on Canada CUC Centre de recherche et d'information sur le Canada

Consul General of Mexico

Consul General of Spain

Price-Waterhouse Coopers

CIIA Toronto Website

We have continued to view our Toronto branch website as a useful communication and marketing device. The site, www.ciiatoronto.ca includes extensive content. All upcoming events are mentioned on the home page, people can register through the website including through an embedded email capability, and we archive past events including photos, videos, and descriptions. The site has also proven to be useful in attracting speakers, especially those who may not know about the CIIA Toronto Branch, since we can refer them to its rich content to learn about our organization and its successes.

KEITH MARTIN

For the Board of Directors,
Keith Martin, President
12 October, 2005, Toronto, Canada