

President's Report

Annual General Meeting, 2006

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. We tried some innovations this year, such as having students thank speakers, a choir sing the National Anthem, and debaters introduce topics. We continued our popular series with Consuls General, with the New Zealand Consul General followed by a tasting of New Zealand wines and appetizers.

The programming over the past year included the following events:

20 September, 2005 at the offices of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP

Derek Burney

Former Canadian Ambassador to the United States and author of "Getting it Done"



28 September, 2005 at the Royal Canadian Military Institute

Jeremy Kinsman

Canada's Ambassador to the European Union on "Europe's Struggle with Change: Canada has a Partner's Stake in the Outcome"



Jeremy Kinsman

October 12, 2005 at the King Eddy Hotel (Annual General Meeting)

Honourable Pierre Pettigrew

Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs on "Coherence and Commitment: Implementing the New International Policy Statement"



Honourable Pierre Pettigrew

3 November, 2005 at the offices of Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP

"2005 Portraits of Canada"

Presented by Rebecca Low and Environics Pollster Donna Dasko



Donna Dasko and Rebecca Low

24 November, 2005 at the Offices of Aird & Berlis

Honourable Aileen Carroll

Minister for International Cooperation on Canada's aid obligations



Honourable Aileen Carroll

15 December, 2005 at the Royal York Hotel

His Excellency David Wilkins

United States Ambassador to Canada on Canadian-United States Relations



His Excellency David Wilkins

16 February, 2006 at the Royal Canadian Military Institute

Panel on The Harper Government

A panel discussion on the Implications for Canada's International Relations with journalist Peter Goodspeed, Senior Reporter, International Affairs, National Post; Pollster Tim Woolstencroft, Managing Partner, The Strategic Counsel; and academic David Dewitt, Director of the Centre for International and Security Studies, and Professor of Political Science, York University



David Dewitt, Peter Woolstencroft, and Peter Goodspeed

11 May, 2006 at the Royal Canadian Military Institute

Panel on Afghanistan

A Panel Discussion on Afghanistan with Panelists Haroon Siddiqui, Senior Columnist for the Toronto Star; Sergei Plekhanov, Associate Professor of Political Science at York University; and David Rudd, Executive Director of the Canadian Institute for Strategic Studies



Haroon Siddiqui, Sergei Plekhanov, and David Rudd

27 June, 2006 at the offices of MacMillan Binch Mendelsohn

His Excellency Graham Kelly, Consul General of New Zealand

Graham Kelly on “Reflections from an Expatriated New Zealander”



Graham Kelly

10 July, 2006 at the CIA Head Office

Dr. Nikolai Zlobin

Nikolai Zlobin on “Russia in the World: Washington’s Insider’s View on Moscow”

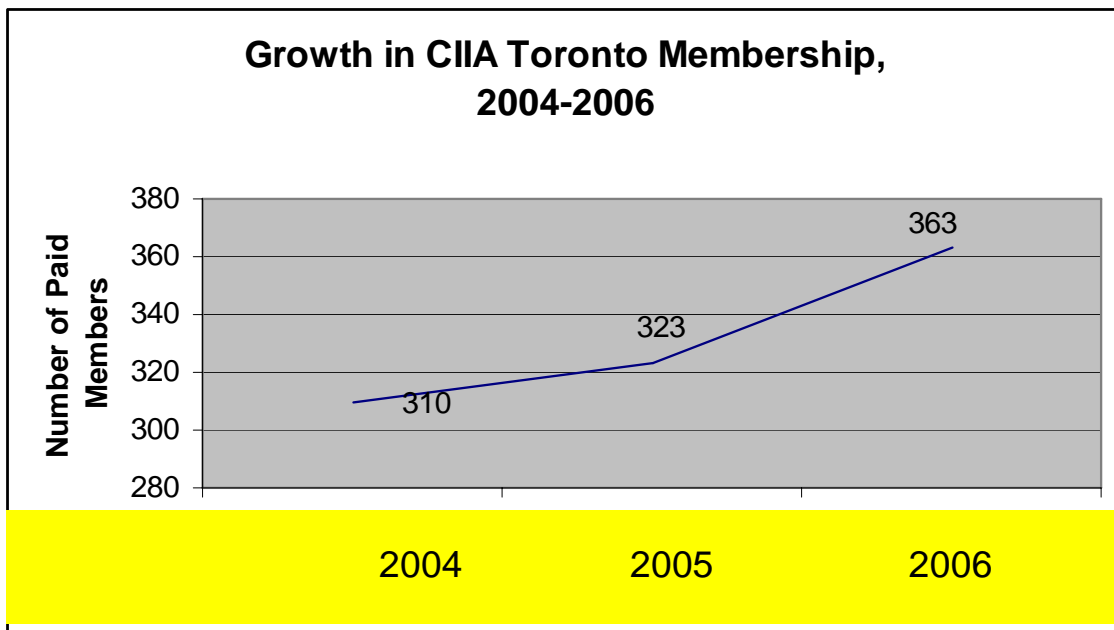


Nikolai Zlobin

Membership

Membership is a critical factor in our success. From 2004 to 2006 we have experienced just under 20% growth overall in membership.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>
September 2004	310 Paid Members
September 2005	323 Paid Members
August 2006	366 Paid Members



Financials

The full financial report will be tabled by Treasurer Millie Poon. We are in a strong financial position, but we also realize that the risk always exists for our organization that a last minute cancellation by a speaker could result in a large loss. The surplus, therefore, is to a considerable extent a buffer against that possibility.

With prudent management of our members' contributions, and with attention to avoiding losses on events, in 2005 we 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, including increasing membership.

Our financial performance can be summarized as follows:

End of June, 2005

Cash surplus at beginning of the past year:	\$ 5,472
GIC:	<u>\$10,515</u>
Total surplus at beginning of the past year:	\$15,987
Revenue over expenses, year in question:	\$ 5,147
Surplus at June 30, 2005:	\$21,134

End of June, 2006

Cash Summary at June 30, 2006:

Total cash receipts for year:	\$ 30,583
Total cash disbursements for year:	<u>\$(23,291)</u>
Net increase in cash for year:	\$ 7,292
Cash at year end:	\$17,911
GIC at year end:	<u>\$10,516</u>
Cash surplus at June 30, 2006:	\$28,427

Income Summary (year ended June 30, 2006):

Net earnings from events for year:	\$ 2,089
Membership revenues for year:	\$ 9,809
General expenses:	<u>\$(2,826)</u>
Net Income:	\$ 9,072

Board of Directors Including the Executive Committee

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 Executive Committee worked together effectively and collaboratively in 2005.

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

Keith Martin <i>President</i>	Rebecca Low <i>Vice-President</i>
	
Millie Poon <i>Treasurer</i>	Renee van Kessel <i>Secretary</i>
	
Board of Directors—Members at Large	
<i><u>Ron Clark</u> (former President)</i>	
<i><u>Larry Herman</u> (former President)</i>	
<i><u>Doug Valentine</u> (outgoing)</i>	
<i><u>Jess Hungate</u> (outgoing)</i>	

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 to CIIA Toronto events, and we have also attempted to get students involved in other ways. We instituted a new program where students thanked many of our speakers. We also had champion debators from the University of Toronto attend a panel discussion on the new Harper government, where they debated the key issues prior to the comments by the panel. We will continue to build on these initiatives and efforts in order to get more student involvement in our branch. It is our view that this is in the long-term interests of the organization.

Partnerships

We partnered with the Canada Unity Council's CRIC (Centre for Research and Information on Canada) again 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. We continued our outreach program with Universities, including the University of Toronto's Centre for International Studies.

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, and people can register through the website including through an embedded email link. We archive past events including photos, videos, and descriptions of events. The web 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
21 September, 2006 at the CIIA AGM,
King Eddy Hotel Toronto, Canada