

# President's Report

## Annual General Meeting, 2008

### Canadian Institute of International Affairs (Toronto Branch)

#### Programming

Programming is at the heart of the Toronto Branch. We believe based on feedback from our members that the core reason members renew is because of high quality speakers and relevant topics.

We had a highly successful and active year with excellent speakers on a wide-range of topics. Our activities this year included the following programming events.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
17 July 2008:	<a href="#"><u>Canadians and the World: Engaging and Engaged</u></a> (Michael Adams)
10 July 2008:	<a href="#"><u>Midsummer's Evening Patio Get-Together</u></a> (membership reward)
04 June 2008:	<a href="#"><u>An Evening Dialogue: Japan in Transition</u></a> (Ambassador Caron)
27 May 2008:	<a href="#"><u>A New Mandate by the People: Government Change in Taiwan &amp; its Cross-Strait Implications</u></a>
22 May 2008:	<a href="#"><u>The Beijing Olympics: Going for Fool's Gold?</u></a>
8 May 2008:	<a href="#"><u>Media in Canada &amp; Abroad: Pluralism, Power &amp; Persuasion</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Reflections on UN World Press Freedom Day</u></a>
19 February 2008:	<a href="#"><u>2008: The Year of the Rat...or the Bear?</u></a>
12 December 2007:	<a href="#"><u>His Excellency Ambassador Donald Stephenson: Canada's Ambassador to the World Trade Organization</u></a>
5 December 2007:	<a href="#"><u>Peter Mansbridge: "Reflections from a Globetrotting Anchor"</u></a>
2 November 2007:	<a href="#"><u>Major-General Tim Grant: "My Experience in Afghanistan"</u></a>
6 September 2007:	<a href="#"><u>Canada's Reputation Abroad: the role, impact &amp; responsibilities of the Canadian mining industry</u></a> (Panel discussion)

## **Membership**

Our membership continues to be solid. We have had good retention and the merger with organizations like the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies has allowed us to expand on our existing base of members. Over the course of the past year we have grown from 297 members to 409 members, a 38% increase.

We continue the strategy of offering a significant differential between the member and non-member price for events in order to encourage attendees to become members, and to reward membership. We held our second patio membership recognition event in the past year for “members only” to recognize and reward our membership.

## **Financials**

The full financial report will be tabled by Treasurer Robin Oliphant. We remain in a strong financial position. We have purposefully protected our surplus as a buffer against the risk of a last-minute cancellation by a speaker producing a financial loss to us. With our current surplus, such an event would not undermine our ability to continue as a viable organization.

Our ending balance slightly increased our net position when all factors are considered. We have an overall surplus that is just under \$30,000.

## **Board of Directors Including the Executive Committee**

For 2008 we operated with the following Board members

The members of the Board were:

<b><u>Individual</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
Keith Martin	President
Renee van Kessel	Vice-President
Robin Oliphant	Treasurer
Jo-Ann Davis	Programming Chair
Fraser Mann	Member at Large
Roland Merbis *	Member at Large
Josh Bowen	Members at Large
Andrea McCabe* *	Member at Large
Ron Clark	Former President and Member-at-Large
Larry Herman	Former President and Member-at-Large

\* joined after 2007 AGM

\*\* resigned during term

The Board was exceptionally active and effective and the membership was well-served by these dedicated and capable individuals.

### **Strategic Transformation**

In 2008 the Canadian Institute of International Affairs was reconstituted into the Canadian International Council. A new Board of Directors was created, a new Advisory Panel was instituted, and the branches received the opportunity for new funding and support. The Head Office moved to the University of Toronto's Munk Centre, and new research Fellows were incorporated into the CIC's activities which will allow the organization to have a stronger contribution.

***KEITH MARTIN***

For the Board of Directors

24 September, 2008

At the Offices of Miller Thomson LLP