

President's Report

Annual General Meeting, 2009

Canadian International Council (Toronto Branch)

Programming

The philosophy of the Toronto branch is that programming is the core service that members join the organization for. While we are increasing our research capabilities in conjunction with Head Office's commitment to the funding of core research, our focus has been on offering relevant panels and speakers on issues of interest to our membership.

Key initiatives this year included our ability to attract two federal Ministers, and to focus on more events of interest to students. We have attempted some innovative programming to attract students. Two highly successful free events were held at Hart House Debate Committee at the University of Toronto. We developed a relationship with the Toronto Political Science Alumni Association and held our 4 October, 2008 U.S. election event with that Association. We held two free events at the Munk Centre (Al Jazeera English and the Daryl Copeland events). Together, these events have given us exposure to the student population, a key demographic that we seek to involve more in our organization.

We have also developed some partnerships with law firms which co-sponsor some of our events. We strengthened an existing partnership with Mcmillan LLP, providing us with the opportunity to hold a series of events at their choice location in Brookfield Place without incurring rental expenses. We also have strong relationships with Aird & Berlis, and Miller Thomson.

2008-2009 was the most active and successful year in the history of the CIC Toronto branch, with over 2000 attendees at our twenty events held during the programming year.

Date	Speaker(s)	Event
Wednesday, 24 September, 2008	Moderated by: Lou Milrad, Chair and CEO, Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance and Associate Counsel, Miller Thomson LLP With speakers: Don Eastwood, Director of Economic Development, City of Brampton, Kam Rathee, President, Canada-India Business Council, and Carol Wilding, President and CEO, Toronto Board of Trade	Attracting Foreign Direct Investment into the Toronto Region How does the Toronto region fare in attracting foreign investment? How does it compare to other major metropolitan areas in North America? How can it do better?
Thursday, 16 October, 2008	Ambassador Mei Ping, Senior Visiting Fellow, Centre for International Governance Innovation Chairman, China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation Former Chinese Ambassador to Canada (1998-2005)	The Future of Canada-China Relations
Tuesday, 4 November, 2008	Opening remarks US Deputy Consul General, Mark Bysfield Expert Panel Professor Stephen Clarkson (UofT) Professor Richard Iton (UofT) Professor Linda White (UofT)	The 2008 US Presidential Election: What is the best result for the USA? Canada? The World?
Thursday, 20 November, 2008	Expert Panel with Pamela Wallin O.C., S.O.M., Honourable Senator Hugh Segal C.M., and Timothy Murphy, moderated by CIC Toronto Branch President Keith Martin	A New World Order? The implications of the U.S. and Canadian elections on Canadian Foreign Policy
Thursday, 27 November, 2008	Rear Admiral Robert Davidson Former Commander, Combined Task Force 150	Fighting Pirates and other Tales from the High Seas: Canadian Naval Operations Today
Thursday, 11 January, 2009	Brigadier General (Ret.) Russell D. Howard (Harvard MPA '88)	New Terrorism: How to win this War
Monday, 19 January, 2009	Speaker: The Hon. Tony Clement, Minister of Industry	The Auto Industry in Canada & the Role of Government on the Road to Recovery
Thursday, 22 January, 2009	Expert Panel: Professor Rhoda Howard-Hassmann, Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights, Wilfrid Laurier University, Judy Jackson, Award- winning documentary film maker of "Ungrateful Dead: In Search of	Dealing with Dictators: What should Canada and the International Community do about tyrants?

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker(s)</u>	<u>Event</u>
	International Justice,” and Razmik Panossian, Director, Policy, Programmes & Planning, Rights & Democracy	
Tuesday, 3 February, 2009	Event Moderator: Jo-Ann Davis, Programming Chair, CIC Toronto Branch Speakers: David Crane, journalist and author, Dennis DesRosiers, President, DesRosiers Automotive Consultants Inc. and Jim Stanford, CAW Economist, and Globe and Mail Economics Columnist	Auto Industry Aid: A Sound Investment for Canadians?
Wednesday, 4 March, 2009	International Development Experts Discussing the Topic: Ian Smillie, International development consultant and writer, Founder of Inter Pares Robert Calderisi, Author of The Trouble with Africa: Why Foreign Aid Isn't Working Parker Mitchell, Co-founder and co-CEO of Engineers Without Borders	Trade and Foreign Aid: Can We Make Poverty History?
THURSDAY, 5 March, 2009	With Assistant Deputy Minister, Trade Policy and Negotiations, Don Stephenson Followed by a Q&A period and cocktail reception	Trade Policy in Difficult Times
Monday, 9 March, 2009	A panel co-presented by CIC Toronto Branch and McMillan LLP Chair: Bill Hearn, Partner, McMillan LLP Speakers: Hon. Perrin Beatty, President & CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce Praveen Goyal, Director of US Government Relations, Research in Motion Michael Kergin, Bennett Jones LLP, Former Canadian Ambassador to the US Chair, CIC Working Group on	The Canada-US Border: A New Bridge for Old Allies

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker(s)</u>	<u>Event</u>
	Border Issues	
Wednesday, 18 March, 2009	Panel discussion with Franklyn Griffiths, CIC Research Fellow, University of Toronto, Rob Huebert, CIC Research Fellow, University of Calgary, and Whitney Lackenbauer, CIC Research Fellow, University of Waterloo	Use It or Lose It: What's Next for Canada's Arctic Policy? A CIC National Research Videoconference and Live Webcast
Monday, 30 March, 2009	Brigadier-General Denis Thompson, Former Commander, Task Force Kandahar	The Struggle for Kandahar: Canadian Soldiers Making a Difference in Afghanistan
Friday, 3 April, 2009	The Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, Government of Canada	The Federal Government and Canada's Mining and Energy Industries
Monday, 6 April, 2009	Panel discussion with Rick Hyndman, Senior Policy Advisor, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers and Elizabeth May, Federal Leader, Green Party	Endangering the Peace? Are Canada's Energy Policies Contributing to World Instability
Thursday, 14 May, 2009	Anthony Joyce Cary, British High Commissioner to Canada	Strengthening Canada-EU relations: the negotiation for a deeper economic partnership
Tuesday, 26 May, 2009	Tony Burman Managing Director, Al Jazeera English	Al Jazeera and International Media: Reporting from the Global South
Thursday, 25 June, 2009	Daryl Copeland, author of Guerilla Diplomacy	Book launch with former foreign affairs bureaucrat Daryl Copeland
Thursday, 23 July, 2009	Keith Martin, President, Toronto Branch Jo-Ann Davis, Programming Chair, Toronto Branch Douglas Goold, outgoing President, National Office	Midsummer's Evening Get-Together—a Celebration Event for Members and Guests

Membership

In 2009 we experienced an approximate decline in membership of 20 percent, which we believe was due to the recession and economic environment resulting in a lower level of corporate and personal renewals. It

will be a key objective for CIC Toronto to re-establish the level of membership we have had in the past.

Financials

This past year the Board welcomed a new Treasurer, Bonavie Tek. She has updated our financials. We have a significant surplus which grew in 2009, from \$28,490 at the end of the last fiscal year to \$36,458 at the end of this fiscal year. While the surplus is managed carefully, and is a buffer in the event of a last minute cancellation of an event which could create losses for the branch, the Board recognizes that the surplus is larger than required and in the coming year we will review options around how to reduce it.

We seek to hold our events on a cost-neutral basis. As we have been largely successful in that strategy, and as we receive a stipend for every member, we have grown our surplus in recent years. In this fiscal year, our revenues over expenditures netted to \$7968.

Strategies to address the size of the surplus include some membership events for free; investing in an annual conference; investing in student membership; or an arrangement with Head Office on using a portion of the surplus for other purposes. We will explore all of these options in the coming year.

We have an administrator who receives a modest sum for her time registering and collecting payments from attendees at events. A typical event would incur a cost of \$100-200 in administrative costs. Our Board of Directors receive are entirely volunteer, but there are some costs that Board members may incur as part of their duties which the branch absorbs. There and other expenses we incurred in addition to the usual and normal costs associated with events are summarized here:

- Every board member is offered access to two events at no cost (the branch pays the cost);
- The board member organizing an event is offered access to that event at no cost (the branch pays the cost);
- We held one lunch to thank Head Office personnel with the following in attendance: Keith Martin, Renee van Kessel, Jo-Ann Davis, Jordan Dupuis, and Laura Sunderland.
- We have an annual dinner of the Board after the Board is selected by the AGM.

- The CIC Toronto Branch president was offered transportation costs by Head Office to attend the Head Office Annual Conference. The Branch paid for the President’s registration fee and room and board.
- We offer for the Annual Conference a subsidization for up to two Executive Committee members to attend, up to a maximum limit determined annually by the Board. In 2008-2009 there were no takers and no subsidization occurred.
- We offer for the Annual Head Office fundraising event up to \$500 in total subsidization for Executive Committee members interested in attending. In 2008-2009 Renee van Kessel attended the Fundraising event at a subsidy by the branch of \$500.
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Board of Directors Including the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Programming Chair, and Treasurer.

The members of the Board in 2008-2009 were:

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Title</u>
Keith Martin	President
Renee van Kessel	Vice-President
Jo-Ann Davis	Programming Chair
Robin Oliphant*	Treasurer (resigned)
Bonavie Tek**	Treasurer (incoming)
Roland Merbis*	Member at Large (resigned)
Josh Bowen	Member at Large (resigned)
Karen Lu	Member at Large (incoming)
Fraser Mann	Member at Large
Alex Haque	Member at Large (incoming)
Ron Clark	Former President and Member at Large
Larry Herman	Former President and Member at Large

* *Has resigned from the Board.*

** *Bonavie Tek joined the Board in July 2009 by unanimous vote at a Board meeting*

Membership Survey

Former Board Member Roland Merbis led an effort to survey all members of the Toronto branch using web-based Survey Monkey technology. We received a good response rate and based on the data garnered, we were able to glean some important observations about the branch members. The key learnings from the survey will be tabled in an Executive Summary of our findings at the Annual General Meeting.

Among the key findings were:

- 92 members responded, a 21% response rate.
- Satisfaction is high at 78%, but there is room for further improvement.
- Satisfaction declines with tenure, to 69% for those who have been members for 10 years plus.
- The two largest benefits associated with being a members are “Contribution to a worthy organization” and “Sense of community.”
- 61% of members cited evenings as their preferred times for an event.

Conclusion

2008-2009 has been an excellent year for the Branch with exceptionally strong programming, a healthy financial position, and a solid membership base despite a challenging economic environment.

KEITH MARTIN, PRESIDENT

For the Board of Directors

24 September, 2009

At the Offices of Miller Thomson LLP