

February, 2010

*Letter to Members and Friends of the CIC-Toronto Branch  
From Jo-Ann Davis, President, CIC-Toronto Branch*

**Greetings CIC-Toronto members and friends!**

It is a privilege to succeed Keith Martin as President of the CIC-Toronto branch – a role which he carried out expertly with great enthusiasm and panache. On behalf of the branch I would like to thank Keith for his dedication, long service and leadership in building a strong and vibrant branch community.

In this letter I would like to introduce myself, share my early plans for branch strategy discussions, bring you up to date on upcoming events, introduce you to our newest Branch Executive member, share the results of the Members Survey carried out almost a year ago, and provide you with details on the national offices GPS e-conference initiative.

***So, who is your new President?*** If you're an active member you have likely met me in my role as Programming Chair for the past several years; and you've also likely met my father, Cyril Davis and my husband, Jonathan Dick (both members of CIC-Toronto). I am a born and bred Torontonian – I grew up in Etobicoke, and went to school near both High Park and Queen's Park. Professionally, I am a management consultant with Lemnan Group, a firm that specializing in the delivery of big one-time changes like M&A integrations, turnarounds and organizational transformations. Academically, I hold a BA in Political Science from St Michael's College, University of Toronto, a Masters Degree in Chinese Government from the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), and was a Government PhD candidate at the London School of Economics (LSE) until I decided to take leave from my studies (whether to finish my PhD is a current life question!). I have a long-standing interest in public policy, and have been actively involved both here at home and across the Atlantic with organizations like the Fabian Society, the European Movement, and Fair Vote Canada.

**The Toronto branch – Where do we go from here?** While we continue to roll-out a wide variety of events for our members, I am taking this opportunity to look beyond 2010, to develop a longer-term strategy and supporting action plan for the branch that both builds on our successes, and moves us into some new territory. In order to develop that strategy and plan, I'll be having a series of discussions with the Branch Executive, national office, and new and long-standing members of the Toronto branch to reflect on what we could and should do to:

- Improve programming.
- Better interact with and engage members, and attract new members.
- Increase our outreach to the larger diverse Toronto community.
- Better support the CIC national office strategy.
- Take better advantage of, and create mutually beneficial relationships with, CIC branches across the country.

I hope to share with you the ideas that come out of these discussions and get your thoughts on our proposed plans before we gather for what will be our fourth annual Summer Patio event in July. *(Yes, it will again be so warm that you'll be happy to just sit outside.)*

***New member of the Toronto Executive.*** As some of you may know, James Manicom is the newest member of our Toronto Executive. James is Chair of our newly instituted *Research Group* which you will be hearing more about this summer. To give you some background on James – he recently completed his PhD at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia where he examined maritime territorial disputes between China and Japan, and was funded by the Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship. He is currently a Visiting Scholar at Flinders University and an Asian Institute Affiliate in the Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto. His writings have appeared in *The Pacific Review*, *The Australian Journal of International Affairs* and *Contemporary Southeast Asia*.

***So, what's next for members? 'Save the dates' for your calendar!*** I'm pleased to let you know about five events your Branch has coming up starting 18 February ***(NOTE: flyers for the first three events have been included with this letter):***

**PANEL EVENT: Canada's Democratic Model: What Is To Be Done?**

- Larry Gordon, Executive Director, Fair Vote Canada
- Matthew Mendelson, Founding Director, Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation
- Don Newman, Broadcaster and Journalist
- Moderator: Sujit Choudhry, Scholl Chair, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto

**Date: Thursday, 18 February, 2010 / Time: 6:30pm**

Location: McMillan LLP, Brookfield Place, 181 Bay Street, Suite 4400

***Part of a CIC-Toronto Series on "Responding to Ontario's future energy needs"***

**PANEL EVENT: Smart Grid - A bright solution for Ontario's future energy needs?**

Confirmed Speakers (third to be confirmed):

- Richard Marceau, Provost, University of Ontario Institute of Technology
- Ken Quesnelle, Member, Ontario Energy Board

**Date: Tuesday, 2 March, 2010 / Time: 6:30pm**

Location: McMillan LLP, Brookfield Place, 181 Bay Street, Suite 4400

**EVENT : Canada-India - The future of business and global politics**

Keynote Speaker: Douglas Goold, CIC Senior Fellow

**Date: Thursday, 11 March, 2010 / Time: 6:30pm**

Location: Aird & Berlis LLP, Brookfield Place, 181 Bay Street, Suite 1800



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**PANEL EVENT: Corporate Social Responsibility - What should it mean for Canadian companies here and abroad?**

Confirmed Speaker (two speakers still to be confirmed):

- Peter Munk, Chair and Founder, Barrick Gold

**Date: Wednesday, 7 April, 2010 / Time: 7:00pm**

Location: Hart House, University of Toronto

**Part of a CIC-Toronto series on “Canada’s Foreign Policy Priorities - What should they be?”**

**EVENT: Canada’s Foreign Policy Priorities - What should they be?**

Keynote Speaker: Hon Bob Rae, MP, Foreign Affairs Critic

**Date: Thursday, 22 April, 2010 / Time: 6:30pm**

Location: McMillan LLP, Brookfield Place, 181 Bay Street, Suite 4400

For full details on all events as they become available, please check out the [Programming Page](#) on our branch website. For on-line registration go to [www.canadianinternationalcouncil.org](http://www.canadianinternationalcouncil.org).

**2009 Survey Results.** A collective apology from your Toronto Branch Executive for taking so long to report back to you on the results of the survey that many of you so kindly took the time to participate in last year. We have looked to respond to the results through the variety, timing and venue of events over the past year, but there is still more to be done. So, what did we find out?

*Who are our members?*

- Approximately one-in-seven (14%) branch members are under 30 years of age, with the average member’s age at just under 50 (46.8 years).
- One-in-four members are also members of, or attend events at, the RCMC (23%), the Empire Club (23%) and the Canadian Club (21%).

*What do you see as the benefits of membership?*

- One-half of members think that the CIC should offer timely and topical events (52%) and high-calibre speakers (51%). These two benefits are clearly the most critical to offering a valuable membership experience.
- In addition, members want Council events to offer debate and a wide range of opinion on issues (37%).

*General Findings*

- Overall, almost eight-in-ten members (78%) are satisfied with their CIC – Toronto membership experience, including 38% who are completely satisfied.
- Student members are highly satisfied (87%), but are looking for less formal events geared specifically to younger (student) audiences.
- Members are pleased with the calibre of speakers invited to Branch events (61% rate the Branch as “excellent” or “very good” in this regard).



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- Similarly, the Branch does well in terms of hosting events frequently (64%) and organizing events that are timely and topical (60%).
- The one area that the Branch appears to be performing less well on is the opportunity to network, rated lowest overall (38%).
- In theory, all events scheduled for Wednesday or Thursday evenings, between 6:00pm and 8:00pm, given that these are members' preferred days and times for events.
- Members clearly prefer events be held in the evenings (61%).
- When offered an opportunity to suggest improvements to the CIC Toronto Branch, many members were looking to broaden their experience with the Branch, either by volunteering, being able to suggest speakers, or networking with other members.

***A Word from National Office*** - The Global Positioning Strategy (GPS) e-Conference Series.

The CIC has embarked on a major foreign policy mapping initiative for 2010. The Global Positioning Strategy (GPS) Project will generate and disseminate fresh perspectives and ideas about Canada's priorities in international affairs both in the short term, as we prepare to host the G8 and the G20 meetings next summer, and beyond.

The GPS e-Conference Series presents a unique opportunity for everyone concerned about Canada's international roles, responsibilities and activities to get involved with the GPS Project by sharing their views and opinions with experts and each other online, providing a public feed-in mechanism for the GPS report. The CIC urges all CIC members and friends to participate.

- **February 11, 2010** - Energy and Environment: Cooperating for Growth and Sustainability?
- **March 11, 2010** - Security and Reconstruction: Lessons from Afghanistan
- **April 15, 2010** - Recasting Development for the 21st Century

Go to [www.canadianinternationalcouncil.org/gps](http://www.canadianinternationalcouncil.org/gps) to register. If you have any questions, call 416-946-7209 or e-mail [conference@canadianinternationalcouncil.org](mailto:conference@canadianinternationalcouncil.org).

***Winding it up.*** I'm always happy to meet and talk with members about any ideas that you have for the branch, and even more especially if you're interested in taking an active role. Where we go as a branch is only limited by the volunteer resources available to us!

All the best to you and your families for a wonderful 2010!

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