

ICOM Canada
President's Report
Ottawa, March 30, 2007

Introduction

The action plan approved at the General Assembly of May 4, 2006 was implemented by seven committees, each led by a member of the Board of Directors.

The seven committees are: internal communication with members, outreach, membership, the ICOM Canada Award, programming, by-laws and regulations, and director selection.

Internal communication

Under the watchful eye of Nicole Vallières, our Website was regularly updated.

During the membership renewal period in late 2006 and early 2007, 50% of our members agreed to have their contact information appear on our site. The list of members has now been drawn up and efforts are currently underway to make it available on the Website.

Hélène Pagé worked hard to produce a new electronic bulletin. Articles are now complete and translated. They should be on-line shortly.

ICOM Canada is thinking of offering a pre-conference activity at the Canadian Museums Association Conference to be held in Victoria in 2008, as a way of improving CMA members' knowledge of ICOM and its activities. George Harris developed a survey that was e-mailed to all members to measure their interest in this idea and, if applicable, what subjects they preferred. We will have the survey results very soon.

Outreach

ICOM Canada promotes the work of Canadian museum specialists, museums and museology abroad. With this in mind, Danièle Archambault has prepared a list of Canadian museum specialists working abroad that will be published on our Website. We contacted these individuals to ask them for authorization to publish their names and contact information. We will publish the list only once we have received everyone's reply. I would encourage you to help us add to this list.

Glenn Sutter published an article entitled "Thinking Like a System: Are Museums Up to the Challenge?" in *Museums and Social Issues*. Vol. 1, No. 2.

Benoît Légaré, as President of ICOM Canada, and at the request of ICOM Secretary General John Zvereff, represented ICOM at the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities, put on by the Organization of American States, in Montreal from November 13 to 15, 2006. The event looked at different cultural initiatives by countries in North and South America, such as *Culture and creation of decent work to vanquish poverty*, *Culture and the role of aboriginal peoples*, and *Safeguarding and presenting cultural heritage*.

In terms of association activities, Danièle Archambault worked on the Planning Committee for the CMA 2007 Conference, while Marie-Claude Corbeil served as Vice-Chair of ICOM-CC. Sylvie Morel and Benoît Légaré were jury members for the CMA Awards of Outstanding Achievement.

ICOM Canada launched an appeal to its younger members to encourage them to submit applications for ICOM grants to help young museum specialists attend meetings of international committees or the General Assembly. These grants are worth 2,000 or 4,000 Euros, depending on whether there are one or two winners. A jury reviewed the applications received and made a recommendation, which was sent to Paris. We are waiting for the results.

As for the feasibility study to determine whether ICOM Canada can offer professional development grants, we are still awaiting the results of the dismantling of the trust created in 1992 at the General Assembly in Quebec City. ICOM Canada will not be able to go ahead with the proposed grants unless the trust is dismantled. Nicole Vallières has begun research work, in any case, to track down information on existing grants and selection criteria. If you have any information in this respect, I would appreciate it if you could send it to Monique Horth.

Membership

The membership committee is chaired by Monique Horth of the CMA and Secretary-Treasurer of ICOM Canada.

The action plan developed by Ms. Horth in 2005-2006 was implemented.

In all, 49 new members were recruited, bringing total membership to 497, for a 1% increase over 2005-2006.

This year, the only increase in fees was for “retirees,” to bring that fee into line with the student fee. It is now set at \$70.

International Achievement Award – ICOM Canada

The ICOM Canada awards committee was chaired by Benoît Légaré. The 2006 ICOM Canada International Achievement Award went to the Société des musées québécois for its exceptional contribution to Quebec and Canadian museology at an international level.

I hope that many of you had the opportunity to attend the CMA’s and ICOM Canada’s awards ceremony and congratulated the recipient of the award for 2007. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to nominate candidates for next year’s award.

Programming

The programming committee was chaired by Hélène Pagé. This year, ICOM Canada presented a session entitled “Les musées entre l’enchantement et le chaos ?”, looking at the various roles played by museums, in particular their social and political ones.

Constitution and Rules

The review of the ICOM Canada by-laws and regulations was completed. We are waiting for the ICOM by-laws and regulations to be approved in Vienna in August 2006, so as to ensure that our by-laws are in line with those of ICOM. We will then have to have them approved by ICOM and the general assembly of ICOM Canada and submit them to Industry Canada.

Board of Directors

The Director Selection Committee is chaired by Danièle Archambault. For 2006, the Board of Directors consisted of Benoît Légaré, President, Sylvie Morel, Vice President, Monique Horth, Secretary-Treasurer, and the following Directors: Danièle Archambault, Marie-Claude Corbeil, George Harris, Hélène Pagé, Glenn Sutter and Nicole Vallières. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all our directors for their active participation and their loyalty to ICOM Canada. I would also like to extend special thanks to Danièle Archambault, Glenn Sutter and Nicole Vallières, who are leaving the ICOM Canada Board, for the support they have provided over the last few years.

Ms. Archambault has worked hard to achieve a good mix of directors on our Board in terms of disciplines, institutions and origin.

Our partners

ICOM Canada has little in the way of resources for carrying out its mission. Contributions from partners are essential for the organization to attain its objectives. I would therefore like to express my deepest appreciation to the Canadian Museums Association and its Executive Director, John McAvity, for their unwavering support and the day-to-day assistance the CMA provides to ICOM Canada.

I would also like to extend special thanks to lab)idéeclic! for its generous contribution following up on our requests regarding the ICOM Canada Website. It is a remarkable partnership that has enabled us to deliver timely news.

Finally, I must thank Heritage Canada and its Réseau canadien d'information sur le patrimoine for hosting the ICOM Canada site.

If I have overlooked any of our partners, please accept my apologies and my deepest gratitude.

Sincerely,

Benoît Légaré
President, ICOM Canada

ICOM CANADA

ACTION PLAN

MAY 2006

ICOM CANADA'S vision

The expertise and the work of ICOM Canada's members will contribute to the development of world-wide museology.

ICOM CANADA'S mission

ICOM Canada will speak on behalf of its members on important issues discussed among the international museum community.

ICOM CANADA'S mandate

To advance and promote Canadian expertise in museology on the international scene through communication products and professional development.

ICOM objectives

- To encourage and support the establishment, development and professional management of museums of all kinds.
- To advance knowledge and understanding of the nature, functions and role of museums in the service of society and of its development.
- To organize co-operation and mutual assistance between museums and professional museums workers in different countries.
- To represent, support and advance the interests of professional museums workers of all kinds.
- To advance and disseminate knowledge in museology and other disciplines concerned with museum management and operations.

ICOM Canada objectives

1. Provide members with the best service possible.
2. Promote Canadian expertise at an international level.
3. Contribute to the thought process on issues relating to museology.
4. Improve relations with heritage organizations (CMA, ICOM International Committees, etc.).

2006 Action Plan

Objectives	Methods	Actions	Performance Indicators	Responsible
1. Provide members with the best service possible.	Maintain communication with members	Maintain an updated website	Update the website on a regular basis	Achieved
		Membership Development	Implement the action plan drawn up in 2005/2006	Achieved
		Publish an electronic version of an ICOM Canada bulletin issue	Bulletin publication	Partly achieved
	Generate revenues for the operation of the association	Vary revenue sources	Continue studying the question of the trust set up in 1992	Partly achieved
			Study new ways of generating revenues for ICOM Canada	Achieved
	Achieve a balanced geographic and disciplinary representation	Identify Canadian museologists who would like to join the Board of Directors of ICOM Canada	A representative Board in terms of both geography and fields of expertise, given the length of current terms	Achieved
	Equip ICOM Canada with tools to fulfill members' needs	Update ICOM Canada's statutes and by-laws to help the association achieve optimal operations.	End the review of statutes and by-laws	Achieved
			Study the feasibility of a half-day retreat/training session as a CMA pre-conference event.	Achieved

2. Promote Canadian expertise at an international level	Promote training and international exchanges	Identify existing resources to help Canadian museologists obtain training at an international level	Study the feasibility of launching an awards program to foster the training of Canadian museologists.	Partly achieved
	Encourage members To get involved in international projects or initiatives	Confer the ICOM Canada Award	Award conferred	Achieved
3. Contribute to the thought process on issues relating to museology	Organize activities on international issues or questions	Organize a workshop at the CMA Conference	Workshop held or sponsoring of an event	Achieved
4. Improve relations with heritage organizations (CMA, ICOM International Committees, etc.).	Cooperation with the CMA	Represent ICOM Canada on certain working committees	Presence on a CMA committee	Achieved
		Write columns or articles in publications	Publication of at least one column or article	Achieved
	Regular communications with International Committees	Identify Canadians working on different ICOM international committees	End of year report on Canadian members working on different ICOM committees	Achieved
		Take part in the Advisory Committee in Paris	Effective presence	Achieved