



**ICOM Canada**  
**Chairperson's Report**  
**Victoria, British Columbia, April 10, 2008**

***Introduction***

The objectives of ICOM Canada are to provide members with the best service possible; to promote Canadian expertise at an international level, to contribute to the thought process on issues relating to museology and to improve relations with heritage organizations (CMA, ICOM International Committees, etc.).

In order to achieve these objectives, ICOM Canada developed an action plan (approved at the AGM on March 30, 2007) (attached) that was implemented by members of the Board of Directors.

***Communications with members***

Under the watchful eye of Jo-Anne Audet, our Website was regularly updated. Members of the Board undertook a full review of the ICOM Canada web site to make it more useful, relevant, content-rich and user-friendly. The upgraded web site will be available during the current year.

ICOM Canada re-launched its e-bulletins in January to inform members of the activities of ICOM Canada as well as activities of ICOM and ICOM International Committees. E-bulletins will be sent to members regularly to keep them informed.

***ICOM Canada Bulletin***

After examining the question of the museum as a social actor in a previous issue, the 2007 ICOM Canada Bulletin broaches the subject of the museum as a political actor. Four distinct points of view serve to explore the question of what commitments museological institutions can and should make. An article by Carolyn Cook on the Australian Museum and its exemplary practice regarding Indigenous communities is an eloquent illustration of how a museum policy can influence other sectors of society and lead to a new relationship.

René Rivard clearly calls for this type of commitment, which according to him “involves a constant effort to make and remake our world, to strive to improve our living conditions and quality of life and offer visitors relevant political subjects. For Benoît Légaré, it is through the prism of the Museum as a public arena that its political vocation becomes evident: “museums have become social institutions, able to bring communities together around shared values that can enhance people’s ideas about their citizenship. So a museum is not neutral. It cannot be, since it is an official institution with a role in city life. A museum has many referents, and provides a forum for sharing and debating ideas.” Sylvie Morel believes that the Canadian Museum of Civilization should highlight different perspectives, by introducing a multiplicity of tools (forums, theatre, interactive displays) in order to “expand opportunities and empower people to make better-informed decisions on issues.” Four points of view, four approaches, not unlike the diversity of approaches that characterize the museum environment. The first elements of a deeper reflection on the ambitions and limitations of museums!

## ***Outreach***

Monique Horth, Sylvie Morel and Katy Tari attended the ICOM Triennial in Vienna and Sylvie Morel represented ICOM Canada at the Advisor Committee meetings. She also attended a meeting organized by ICOM US with ICOM representatives from the Americas to discuss possible future collaboration; although no specific conclusions came out of the meeting, it was the beginning of an important dialogue.

Marie-Claude Corbeil served as Vice-Chair of ICOM-CC and Monique Horth completed a 6-year term on the ICEE board.

Last year, ICOM Canada encouraged its young members to submit an application for a training scholarship offered by ICOM in the aim of making it possible for young museologists to attend international committee meetings or the annual general meeting. These scholarships are valued at 2,000 or 4,000 Euros, depending on whether there is one or two recipients. A selection committee examined the applications and sent its recommendation to Paris. We were delighted to receive confirmation that a scholarship worth 1,222 Euros was awarded to Sophie Roberge, enabling her to attend the working group meeting "Paintings: Scientific Study, Conservation and Restoration" of the ICOM-CC committee in London from May 31 to June 1, 2007.

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 until the trust is dismantled and an agreement on the disbursement of the funds is concluded.

## ***Membership***

ICOM Membership is monitored by Monique Horth, Secretary-Treasurer of ICOM Canada and we greatly appreciate the support of Francine Caron from the CMA who processes all ICOM Canada membership requests.

For 2007, we had an increase in membership of 86 new members which is double compared to last year. Our membership stands at 567 members. This increase is mainly due to the ICOM triennial meeting that took place in Vienna. There was no increase in membership fees in 2007.

## ***International Achievement Award – ICOM Canada***

The 2007 ICOM Canada awards committee was chaired by Sylvie Morel. The 2007 ICOM Canada International Achievement Award went to Dr. David Grattan, Director, Conservation Research Division, Canadian Conservation Institute in recognition of his outstanding contribution of knowledge and expertise towards the advancement and support of museology worldwide.

Katy Tari was jury member for the 2008 CMA Awards of Outstanding Achievement and ICOM Canada award.

I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to attend the CMA and ICOM Canada awards ceremony to congratulate the recipient of the award for 2008. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to nominate candidates for next year's award.

## ***Programming***

George Harris and Katy Tari organized the ICOM session at the Canadian Museums Association conference. Moderator Sylvie Morel hosted Dr Boris Wastiau from the Ethnographic Museum of the City of Geneva and Dr Anthony Shelton, Director of UBC Museum of Anthropology as they presented particular perspectives on the topic of intangible heritage, the work museums have undertaken in this area and its implications for the future.

## ***Constitution and Rules***

The review of the ICOM Canada constitution and by-laws was completed after the revised ICOM statutes were adopted at the ICOM General Assembly in Vienna in August 2007. Our by-laws are tabled at this Annual General Meeting of ICOM Canada for approval by the membership. Once approved, the revised constitution and by-laws will be submitted to Industry Canada.

The task of updating the by-laws and regulations is a mammoth undertaking and I wish to sincerely thank Marie-Claude Corbeil for leading this activity.

## ***Strategic Planning`***

At the Triennial meeting in August, ICOM launched its new strategic plan (*Our Global Vision*). The Board of Directors of ICOM Canada has organized a Strategic Planning session in April in order to develop a strategic plan to set the direction for ICOM Canada for the next five years.

## ***Board of Directors***

Danièle Archambault was the election chairperson in 2007 and oversaw the election of the board members. For 2007, the Board of Directors consisted of Sylvie Morel, Chairperson (Gatineau, Quebec), Michale Lang, Vice Chairperson (Banff, Alberta), Monique Horth, Secretary-Treasurer (Ottawa, Ontario), and the following Directors: Jo-Anne Audet (Montreal, Québec), Marie-Claude Corbeil (Ottawa, Ontario), George Harris (Prince George, BC), Hélène Pagé (Québec, Quebec) and Katy Tari (Montreal, Quebec). Unfortunately, Jo-Anne Audet was forced to resign in December since she left her position at the Canadian Centre for Architecture and is no longer working in the Museum field; the Board is grateful to Ms. Audet for her involvement in the Board activities and wishes her the best of success in her new job. On behalf of the Board, I would also like to extend very special thanks to Benoît Légaré who left the ICOM Canada Board, for his leadership and vision over the last several years. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all our directors past and present for their active participation and their loyalty to ICOM Canada.

We are very pleased with the response we have received to our call for nominations for the ICOM Canada Board this year. We have received nominations from members across the country, from Newfoundland to British Columbia. Thanks to all of you who have agreed to let your names stand for nomination. The entire country will be well-represented on next year's board.

## ***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 continued support and the day-to-day assistance to ICOM Canada.

Finally, ICOM Canada is very grateful to the Canadian Heritage Information Network (Department of Canadian Heritage) for hosting the ICOM Canada web site.

Sincerely,

Sylvie Morel  
Chairperson, ICOM Canada

Attachment: Action Plan April 2007