



ICOM Canada
Chairperson's Report
Toronto, Ontario, March 26, 2009

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.).

Strategic Planning

The Board of ICOM Canada concentrated its efforts in 2008 on the development of a series of action plans to achieve the objectives stated in the Strategic plan that was approved at the AGM in 2008. This has been a difficult task but will ensure that ICOM Canada is on a solid track for the next few years.

Communications with members

This has been a priority for the Board. We have reviewed our web site and corrected some of the information. In partnership with IdéeClic, we have also submitted a grant request to ICOM to completely re-do the web site to make it more user friendly and easier to update. However, we have yet to receive a response from Paris on the success of our application.

ICOM Canada sent out five e-bulletins to inform members of the activities of ICOM Canada as well as activities of ICOM and ICOM International Committees.

Funding

We were very pleased that the trust created in 1992 was dismantled and that the CMA and SMQ boards voted to provide ICOM Canada with one-third of the fund – that is \$100,000.

Outreach

Marie-Claude Corbeil has been elected Chair of ICOM-CC and Manon Blanchette has been become a member of ICOM's Finance and Resources Committee. Sylvie Morel was jury member for the CMA Awards of Outstanding Achievement.

Membership

ICOM Canada 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 2008, we had an increase in membership of 53 new members (49 regular, 2 students and 2 retirees). Our membership stands at 555 members (470 regular, 1 associate, 25 institutional, 39 retirees, 20 students).

There was a small increase to our membership fees in 2008.

International Achievement Award – ICOM Canada

The 2008 ICOM Canada awards committee was chaired by Sylvie Morel and composed of 4 other members of the Board – Manon Blanchette, George Harris, Michale Lang and Lisa Making. The 2008 ICOM Canada International Achievement Award went to Dr. Carol Mayer in recognition of her invaluable contribution to international museology. As a professional, researcher, writer, teacher, mentor and volunteer, she has been instrumental in bringing Canadian museum theory and practice to the international arena and has made significant contributions to international museology.

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

Michale Lang organized the ICOM session at the Canadian Museums Association conference. As moderator, she will host panellists Craig Richards, Curator of Photography, Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Tim Willis, Director of Exhibits & Visitor Experience, Royal British Columbia Museum, and Nicolas Gauvin, Director of Travelling Exhibitions, Exhibition Planning and Partnerships, Canadian Museum of Civilization as they presented their particular perspectives on the pros and cons of international collaboration between museums.

Constitution and Rules

The ICOM Canada constitution and by-laws that had been approved at the 2008 Annual General Meeting were submitted to Industry Canada. Unfortunately, Industry Canada required more changes. These have been made and the by-laws will be presented for approval at the AGM on March 26, 2009. The Letters Patent were also updated to be consistent with the constitution and by-laws. Once again, I want to thank Marie-Claude Corbeil for leading this activity; without her attention to detail we would not have been able to complete this task.

Board of Directors

Michale Lang was the election chairperson in 2007 and oversaw the election of the board members. For 2008, the Board of Directors consisted of Sylvie Morel, Chairperson (Oxford Mills, Ontario), Michale Lang, Vice Chairperson (Banff, Alberta), Monique Horth, Secretary-Treasurer (Ottawa, Ontario), and the following Directors: Manon Blanchette (Montreal, Quebec), Marie-Claude Corbeil (Ottawa, Ontario), George Harris (Prince George, BC), Shirley Madill (St. Catharines, Ontario), Lisa Making (Drumheller, Alberta) and Katy Tari (Montreal, Quebec). Marie-Claude Corbeil and Monique Horth will both be finishing their terms on the board. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to them for their tireless hard work and dedication to ICOM Canada. And I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our directors past and present for their active participation and their loyalty to ICOM Canada.

In response to our call for nominations to the board, we have received nominations from members across the country, from Newfoundland to the Yukon. 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. On behalf of the Board of ICOM Canada, I would therefore like to express my deepest appreciation to the Canadian Museums Association and its Executive Director, John McAvity, and the staff 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