



ICOM Canada
Chairperson's Report
St. John's, Newfoundland, May 12, 2010

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 continued to work on the action plan created in 2009. The promotion and visibility of ICOM Canada has been one focus as is the establishment of a more solid business plan for ICOM Canada.

Communications with members

This continues to be a priority for the Board.

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

Our submission to ICOM for funding to re-do our web site has stalled because ICOM is redoing the main web site and will be creating templates for National committee sites. We expect those templates in May.

Outreach

Manon Blanchette continues to be a member of ICOM's Finance and Resources Committee. Sylvie Morel participated in the CMA's 'Hill Day' and met with three MPs to make them aware of the importance of Museums.

Manon Blanchette attended the Annual Meeting of ICOM in Paris in June on behalf of ICOM Canada.

The new Director General of ICOM, Mr. Julien Anfruns was in Montreal on September 10th. He and Sylvie Morel met with the Board of Directors of the Board of Montreal Museum Directors where Mr. Anfruns shared his thoughts on new directions for ICOM. Sylvie Morel promoted membership in ICOM Canada.

Mr. Anfruns was also in Ottawa for meetings and visits to Museums. Sylvie Morel met with him on February 10th to discuss the strategic directions of ICOM.

On October 8th, Manon Blanchette hosted the ICOM Canada Board members for their meeting in Montreal. The Board also met with members of the Board of Directors of the Board of Montreal Museum Directors.

Sylvie Morel and Manon Blanchette were in China in November with the Canadian Fund for International Understanding Through Culture where they met with many Chinese and Canadian colleagues and promoted ICOM.

Katy Tari attended a meeting in Montreal with a group intending to mobilize resources to assist in saving cultural heritage in Haiti after the earthquake. ICOM Canada has been in touch with ICOM (Paris) as well as Blue Shield and the ICOM's Disaster Relief Task Force to provide its members with contact information for volunteering.

Membership

The CMA manages ICOM Canada membership; we greatly appreciate the support of Francine Caron from the CMA who processes all ICOM Canada membership requests.

For 2009, we had : an increase in membership of 72 new members (56 regular, 8 students and 5 retirees). Our membership stands at 632 members (514 regular, 31 institutional, 54 retirees, 33 students).

There was an increase to Institutional membership fees in 2009 due to a change in the way ICOM calculates its fees. Rather than basing the fees on number of staff, the fees are now based on the institutional budgets.

ICOM Canada became a partner of the Canadian Federation of Friends of Museums. The CFFM purchased a number of memberships that they make available to their members.

Promotion

ICOM Canada pins were produced and will be distributed to members. ICOM Canada stickers were also produced for institutional members in order to promote their membership in the organisation.

International Achievement Award – ICOM Canada

The 2009 ICOM Canada awards committee was chaired by Sylvie Morel and composed of 4 other members of the Board – George Harris, Michale Lang, Shirley Madill and Katy Tari. There were several very strong nominations this year and the decision was a difficult one. The 2009 ICOM Canada International Achievement Award went to Mr. François Tremblay in recognition of his invaluable contribution 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 2009. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to nominate candidates for next year's award.

Programming

ICOM Canada is sponsoring a plenary session at the Canadian Museums Association conference this year. This plenary explores questions critical to the future of museums: As you plan for the future, are you working to include your community? How are you retooling or redesigning programs and exhibitions to respond to the Net Gen? To a great extent we fashion the future by how we imagine it, what do you see for the future of museums? The Moderator is Françoise Enguehard and the speakers are Dean Brinton, The Rooms, James Chung, Reach Advisors and Marc Mayer, National Gallery of Canada.

Constitution and Rules

The ICOM Canada constitution and by-laws that had been approved at the 2009 Annual General Meeting were re-submitted to Industry Canada to respond to their request for more changes. The constitution and by-laws were approved by Industry Canada.

ICOM Triennial 2016

The Board of Directors will be making a proposal to host the 2016 Triennial in Canada. The last Triennial held in Canada was in 1992. Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Tourisme Montréal, the Société des musées québécois and the Canadian Museums Association.

Board of Directors

Michale Lang was the election chairperson in 2008 and oversaw the election of the board members. For 2009, the Board of Directors consisted of Sylvie Morel, Chairperson (Oxford Mills, Ontario), Michale Lang, Vice Chairperson (Banff, Alberta), Manon Blanchette, Treasurer (Montreal, Quebec), and the following Directors: Mary Bradshaw (Whitehorse, Yukon), George Harris (Prince George, BC), Shirley Madill (St. Catharines, Ontario), Lisa Making (Drumheller, Alberta), Gerry Osmond (St. John's, Newfoundland) and Katy Tari (Montreal, Quebec). Unfortunately Gerry Osmond resigned from the board in early 2010 for personal reasons. Michale Lang and Katy Tari will both be finishing their terms on the board; Katy Tari will be running for a second term but Michale Lang will not. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to Michale Lang and Gerry Osmond 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 several nominations from members across the country. 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