

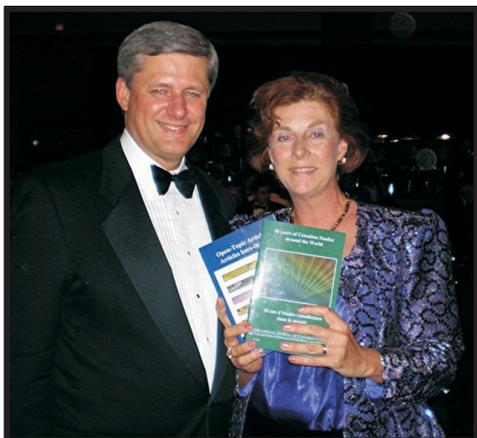
The International Canadianist



International Council for Canadian Studies

November 2007

Interview with the Prime Minister



Melanie ter Meulen presenting to Prime Minister Stephen Harper copies of the International Journal of Canadian Studies

Ms. **Melanie ter Meulen**, Media and Education Officer, Embassy of Canada in the Netherlands, was in Canada following her nomination for a Merit Award by the Association of Canadian Studies in The Netherlands. On May the 25th, 2007, she went along with the Dutch official party to a formal dinner presented by the

Calgary Military Museums Society in tribute to Canadian Military Contribution in Afghanistan.

The special guest speaker at this dinner was none other than Prime Minister **Stephen Harper**. Ms. ter Meulen was able to speak with our Prime Minister and took this opportunity to present to him the two latest issues of the International Journal of Canadian Studies (ICCS' scholarly journal) along with a box of Dutch chocolates and a handwritten letter that emphasized the important contribution of approximately 7,000 Canadianists from around the world through their topical research on Canadian international relations and politics, immigration, peace and security, environment, multiculturalism, sciences and technology and innovation, in brief, all that represent a challenge for today's Canada. The letter stated also the link between these scholars, DFAIT and ICCS in Ottawa, along with the ways in which the modest federal annual contribution is used, i.e. mostly for grants and to attract young scholars from around the world to come and study in Canada and pursue these Canadian Studies. Prime Minister Harper seemed to have enjoyed the discussion and the presents.

Korea-Canada Foundation (KCF) is doing well

Early this year, a meeting was held where 18 people, all founding members of the Korea-Canada Foundation participated in laying the foundations of KCF's role in the future development of relations between Korea and Canada. This meeting was hosted by the Minister of Reunification, The Honourable **Jae-Joung Lee** who was elected as the Korea Honorary Chancellor of the Korea-Canada Foundation. The

Canadian Ambassador to Korea, **Mr. Marius Grinius** was elected as the Canadian Honorary Chancellor of the Korea-Canada Foundation.

The Korea-Canada Foundation has received financial support from many organizations including Bombardier Korea, Novelis Korea, Isolite Korea and Canada Beef Export Federation.

The creation of an organization such as KCF had become more pressing following the "Canada Boom" that Korea witnessed towards Canada, particularly in immigration and education. KCF endeavours to be a catalyst and allow Korea to have at its disposition "Canada" professionals through supporting research and providing grants to individuals with an interesting potential for the future of relations between Korea and Canada. KCF has received financial support from many organizations including Bombardier Korea, Novelis Korea, Isolite Korea and Canada Beef Export Federation.

Canada and the "Fête de la Francophonie en Hongrie"

Canada was at the forefront of the festivities surrounding the "Fête de la Francophonie" in Hungary, this Spring. Numerous activities had been scheduled for the occasion and allowed Canada to gain much visibility outside of the Capital. It began with a Canadian supper organized by the Embassy of Canada to which were invited media representatives, academic institutions and the diplomatic community in Budapest. Guests were treated afterwards to a projection of Charles Binamé's movie *Maurice Richard*. The "Concours de la chanson francophone" followed and drew a crowd of close to 200 people. The Canadian Embassy offered three prizes for this occasion. The next event was the "Découverte des pays francophones" and has been one of the most successful activity of the festivities. Each one of the participating countries had a stand which offered a glimpse of its culture, cuisine, politic, etc. and their Embassy's activities in Budapest. Canada had a stand where students could test their knowledge of Canada and win prizes. An array of publications was made available thanks, among others, to the DFAIT's Library Support Program. La "Nuit du cinéma francophone" came next during which a hundred persons were able to see the movie *Maurice Richard*, and the Festival culminated with the "Grande dictée francophone" to which more than 70 teachers and students participated.

All in all, this celebration of the 2007 "Fête de la Francophonie" allowed Canada to gain a major visibility in the francophone community in Hungary. The activities targeted towards promoting education should widen and include more and more teachers, schools and university departments that teach French.

ICCS Forum on the Future of Canadian Studies

The Canadian Studies Forum, which was a well wished for event as discussion for its tenure had begun a year before, was held in May 2007. ICCS and the Canadianists community wished for a long time to enjoy the opportunity of discussing the nature and future of Canadian Studies and widen its definition and examine ICCS activities, services and programs within this evolution. Following Treasury Board's decision, DFAIT re-evaluated its Canadian Studies program. For its part, ICCS took the opportunity to reshape and refocus Canadian Studies activities around the world with a view to reinforce its network and best manage this transformation. A forum developed in relationship with DFAIT seemed to be the best solution. The forum's objective was widened in order to foster harmonization with Canadian Government foreign policy agenda to determine how Canadian Studies could be adapted to these in the context of the global current situation and to produce concrete and specific recommendations. The results of a survey executed in the summer of 2006 to obtain Canadianists' opinions on the sense of value and prioritization along with orientation and diversification of Canadian Studies program clearly demonstrated the importance of grants and access to research resources, such as publications and databases.

Prior to the Forum in May of 2007, ICCS President Christopher Rolfe sent a letter in January of 2007, to all Directors of the Board of the ICCS outlining the general context and objectives of the Forum. The Forum, a one day workshop divided into four areas, i.e. research, teaching, rejuvenation and outreach, allowed 40 Canadianists divided into four groups to participate in sessions on each one of these areas. Moderators and note-takers were responsible for contextualizing the Forum and encouraging the individuals present to participate actively in discussions. Moderators had to collect observations and prepare a list of recommendations in the form of a report.

A copy of the ICCS Canadian Studies Forum Report is available on the ICCS website.

Pacific Asia Network of Canadian Studies (PANCS)

PANCS is a network of the Associations in Canadian Studies from Australia and New-Zeland, China, India, Israel, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Its goal is to develop the Asia Pacific aspect of Canadian Studies, foster the establishment of links and cooperation between Canadianists in the Asia Pacific region and those in Canada and to contribute to the development of a new generation of Canadianist in Asia Pacific.

Since its foundation in 2006, PANCS has organized two graduate research seminars on Canada. The first one was held on April, 3rd, 2007 in Hong Kong and allowed 13 scholars to present research data on a variety of subjects linked to Canada. The second seminar attended again by Canadianists from the Asia Pacific Region was held on September 3rd, 2007.

Vivien Hughes is retiring

Vivien Hughes worked for close to 20 years as Canadian Studies Projects Officer in the Canadian High Commission, London England and is now retiring. She has worked closely with the International Council for Canadian Studies over the years and has administered the Faculty Enrichment Program, the Faculty Research Program and the Library Support Program. She worked as closely with the British Association for Canadian Studies (BACS) especially with the Library and Resources Group (LRG). Her work allowed hundreds of academics and students from Britain and others countries to be introduced to Canada. Her extensive list of relations allowed her to gather Canadian Academic News and to organize Canada House Lectures, whose texts can be found in many libraries across UK.

We celebrate without a doubt, the quality of her work, but it is with equal sadness that we see her leave the High Commission. She will maintain her contribution to Canadian Studies as she will take up the position of Reviews Editor for the *British Journal of Canadian Studies*. We wish Vivien all the best; she will begin a new stage in her career and her excellent service for Canada. She has done so much to get Canada established in the thinking of British Academics that it will not disappear easily. Vivien has been such a source of inspiration that we will do everything in our power to pursue what she has so successfully begun.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✿ **Six Canadian Authors Present at the Budapest Book Festival** -- Joseph Boyden, Sharon Pollock, Kathy Clark, Pablo Urbanyi, Anna Porter and Elizabeth Blajer participated at the Budapest Book festival held from April 12-15th, 2007. Porter, Clark, Blajer and Urbanyi are of Hungarian decent. It was the very first time that a non European country was featured in this festival.
- ✿ **The Report of the Associations and the Secretary's presentation of this report, which offers over sixty pages filled with information on the different activities undertaken by the associations of the ICCS, were presented on the day of the Annual General Assembly by Dr. Martin Howard, Secretary of the ICCS. Both the Report of the associations and Report of the Secretary are available on the ICCS website.**
- ✿ **Canadian Studies at Laurentian University-- Meliza Azuara, a student in International Relations at the Iberoamericana University, in Mexico, is the recipient for 2007 of a grant from the Research Group in Canadian Studies at Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario.**



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