

**Editors' Association of Canada/Association canadienne des réviseurs
Vice-President's Report on National Executive Council Meeting
November 27 and 28, 2004
Toronto**

At this meeting, the NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL reviewed, revised, and approved a balanced budget for the 2005 calendar year. All members of the COUNCIL attended this meeting, along with the executive director and office manager.

In 2004–05, our remaining meetings will be held in Vancouver (March 5 and 6) and Toronto (June 12 and 13).

Key points

All council members and committee chairs prepare written reports before each quarterly meeting. Key points raised in reports and discussion at this meeting include:

President FAITH GILDENHUYS reported on communications concerns and initiatives, including coordinating a volunteer communications planning group from Royal Roads University, and responding to email forum concerns. Faith will also prepare a report for an upcoming issue of *Active Voice* on the membership survey results.

Vice-president MAUREEN NICHOLSON organized an online discussion of a potential new EAC/ACR publication for both external and internal audiences. The concept paper will be forwarded to the editors of *Active Voice* for comment.

Treasurer GILLIAN WATTS reviewed the association budget to date, which is expected to show a \$25,000 deficit at yearend, in line with last year's projections. She also presented the 2005 budget, which projects a modest surplus. Gillian is reviewing how to communicate financial information to the membership more effectively.

Past president JENNIFER LATHAM is actively seeking bilingual editors who could act as judges for French-language Tom Fairley Award submissions and is coordinating the 2004 submission process. COUNCIL provided initial feedback on a draft policy statement from the Tom Fairley Award Policy Committee. Jennifer is also working with the members-at-large to complete a manual for committee orientation.

Branch representatives LYNN SMITH (BC), BRENDAN WILD (Prairie Provinces), ANN FOTHERGILL-BROWN (NCR), GREG IOANNOU and JENNY WORDEN (Toronto), and SUZANNE AUBIN (QAC) outlined recent and upcoming activities in their respective branches. BC reported on workshop plans, early conference planning for the 2006 conference, and recent changes to the branch's scholarship program to include students from more educational institutions. BC is looking forward to welcoming the executive in March. NCR has now hired a bilingual administrative assistant, provided a full slate of fall programs, and experimented with using GiftTool for seminar payments. Prairie Provinces will participate in a board development program to develop the skills and knowledge of the branch executive. QAC is excited about the presentation and review of *Les Normes*, taking place in November and December. Toronto held a fall program of 16 seminars, including a well-attended weekday seminar. The branch also discussed communication issues, mostly related to the discontinuation of the print directory. For financial reasons, COUNCIL will not rescind its decision to end publication of the print directory,

and it encouraged the concerned Toronto members to form a working group to develop and produce a print directory of Toronto branch members, if they wish to do so.

Members-at-large SUSAN DAVIS and TOM VRADENBURG provided an overview of committee activities and responded to questions from the rest of COUNCIL. Some issues and requests emerged.

- Although the Constitution refers to Rules and Regulations, none exist. COUNCIL discussed some strategies for moving forward with their development, with an initial focus on referendum policy and codes of behaviour, as well as for consolidating existing policy.
- The Certification Committee requested an investigation of the benefits and drawbacks of establishing a separate legal entity for the administration of certification tests. The NATIONAL OFFICE will report on this request in March.
- The subcommittee on *Les Normes* requested funding to compensate external reviewers of this document. COUNCIL approved modest honoraria to expedite the review process.
- Member-at-large Susan Davis will consult with the *Active Voice* editors on making the publication more web-accessible.

Executive Director LYNNE MASSEY reported on planned changes to the *Online Directory of Editors*, including increasing the amount of information that can be presented in an entry. Delays with programming have slowed the implementation of these changes, but members should be contacted in early 2005 about the improved format and the new system of charges. COUNCIL also discussed related promotional activities, including a bookmark and an AV article on the value of listing in the directory.

COUNCIL ratified the appointment of BRENDA CHRISTIANS as mediator.

COUNCIL created a new policy to address an occasional problem reported by branches: when a member is in arrears in payment to a branch, the outstanding amount will be added to that member's renewal fee and membership will be contingent upon receipt of full payment.

TOM BORESKIE will act as coordinator of the 2005 conference, which is scheduled for June 10–12, 2005. Conference fees will remain at 2004 levels.

COUNCIL engaged in three sustained discussions: external and internal communication; the formation of new branches of the association; and membership benefits. Questions and follow-up actions were referred to the appropriate committees.

New elements in the 2005 budget include funds for committee-chair training and a significant allocation (\$10,000) to update the association website, including web-based member forums (in addition to the current email forum). COUNCIL also undertook to seek significant sponsorship for the conference in order to fund the website development without imposing additional costs on members.

The NATIONAL OFFICE will seek proposals from various web-development companies and will work with the Website Committee to update the association site by mid-2005.

The COUNCIL extended its thanks to volunteers and staff across the country.