

**Editors' Association of Canada/Association canadienne des réviseurs  
Report on National Executive Council Meeting  
May 30–31, 2010, Montreal**

In the *2008–09 EAC Annual Report*, I promised to make communication to members a priority this year. With so much going on, it is important to keep members informed and to solicit feedback. So here is the first of my quarterly reports to members. I plan to write a summary of each national executive council meeting to help members stay on top of the council's activities.

But, as with any form of communication, it has to go both ways. So, I expect members to send their comments and concerns back to me. You can email me directly at [president@editors.ca](mailto:president@editors.ca). You can also contact your branch reps, members-at-large or committee chairs (all listed on the EAC website, [www.editors.ca/about\\_EAC/index.html](http://www.editors.ca/about_EAC/index.html), with their contact information).

***Editing EAC***

You will all have received our discussion paper, *Editing EAC*, among the reports sent out to all members leading up to the AGM. Although in a lot of ways EAC really has its act together, some things aren't working very smoothly. Some of these problems can be addressed by simply changing how we *organize* things. This document looks at those issues.

This fall, VP Greg Ioannou and I will be taking our *Editing EAC* show on the road to get your feedback. One of us will be visiting each of the branches in September or October to discuss our structural options and to get your opinions about where we should be going with this. There was not a lot of negative feedback at the conference in Montreal, so we hope that means we are on the right track. However, much still remains to be worked out, primarily in the areas of revenue sharing and branch representation. Greg is taking the lead on the financial side of *Editing EAC*, while I am starting the *Editing EAC* discussion with the branches and twigs.

If you would like to comment on the *Editing EAC* discussion paper, or make some interesting new suggestions, we welcome your participation on Interactive Voice (Interactive Voice / Association Issues / Editing EAC / L'ACR... revue et corrigée).

You are welcome to download the minutes of each quarterly national executive council meeting on the EAC website at [www.editors.ca/members/readup/minutes.html](http://www.editors.ca/members/readup/minutes.html). However, minutes are boring, so I would like share some of the highlights of the most recent meeting with you and share with you some the flavour of the meeting.

**Francophone Affairs**

The national executive council talked about the renewed energy we are seeing among the francophone members of the association. We held a Francophone Affairs Town Hall in Gatineau in March 2010 and received some very good suggestions. Carolyne Roy has written an excellent summary report of the event and Sheila Mahoney is in the process of translating the summary into English. Both versions of the report will soon be available on the EAC website. In general, there was some surprise among both the anglophone and francophone members in attendance at the similarity between the concerns of both groups. It was also clear that increased communication between the two groups would be beneficial.

Our most recent conference in Montreal also seemed to encourage some of our francophone members to get more involved. At the AGM, members voted to split responsibility for *Active Voice / Voix Active* between two co-chairs, one from each of our official languages. Gilles

Vilasco is the new francophone co-chair and Alethea Spiridon is the anglophone co-chair. Members also voted to create a new director of francophone affairs position on the national executive council. There were two candidates for the position, so an election was called and Carolyne Roy won the honour. Our Francophone Affairs Committee has been without a chair since last September, but encouraged by the willingness of so many new volunteers, Anna Olivier stepped forward again to head this committee. This is all tremendously encouraging for francophone affairs.

### **Budget Update**

Turning our attention to the budget, the national executive council got an update from treasurer Sheila Mahoney and executive director Carolyn L Burke. At our budget meeting in November 2009, we were concerned about the effects of the membership fee increase on already declining membership numbers. As a result, we adopted a very conservative budget with a wish list of initiatives to pursue should the funds become available. It seems our membership numbers have started to rebound, so Sheila and Carolyn will draft a half-year financial report for the national executive council at the end of June. The council will use this report to determine whether the association should migrate toward a more optimistic budget.

### **Think Tank**

The council also discussed hosting a think-tank session in conjunction with the September meeting weekend. Years ago, an annual think tank brought together some of the associations' movers and shakers and some ambitious young members to brainstorm and plan for the future of the organization. Some of EAC's most ambitious and exceptional initiatives, like certification, came out of these gatherings. Unfortunately, as funds became tight, we stopped holding the think tanks. Discussion at the recent council meeting focused on the feasibility of bringing key branch representatives together this fall to help develop a framework for how a new EAC branch governance might work.

### **Training Aboriginal Editors**

When the council learned that the Saskatchewan Arts Board, as part of the Aboriginal Editors Initiative, was sponsoring two Aboriginal writers, Rita Bouvier and Harold Johnson, to train as editors, we decided to support their initiative by providing one-year memberships in EAC. The purpose of the training program is to develop editorial training and professional development opportunities for Aboriginal publishers, editors and writers as a key component of supporting Indigenous literary arts in Canada.

### **Committee Updates**

On the topic of special interests groups within EAC, the council is also interested in exploring corporate membership and developing services for in-house editors. An ad hoc committee will be struck to pursue these initiatives as soon as a suitable chair can be found to lead the group.

If you are wondering who to talk to about any of our committees, you can contact one of our two members-at-large or the new director of francophone affairs.

Jacquie Dinsmore will be responsible for

- Conference
- External Liaison
- Forum Monitor
- List Monitor
- Marketing and Public Relations

- Mediator
- Member Communication
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Online Job Tools
- Website

Debra Roppolo will be responsible for

- Certification Steering
- Professional Standards
- Publications
- Training and Development

Carolyn Roy, as francophone affairs director, will be responsible for the Francophone Affairs Committee.

### **External Liaison**

At our meeting in May, the Council also appointed the following external liaison representatives:

- EAC's director and delegate to the Book and Periodical Council:  
Stephanie Fysh
- EAC's delegate to the Book and Periodical Council: Carolyn L Burke
- EAC's delegate to Cultural Human Resources Council: Karen Virag
- EAC's delegate on behalf of CHRC to The Alliance of Sector Council's Working Group on Standards, Certification and Accreditation:  
Carolyn L Burke
- EAC's chair and delegate to Freedom of Expression Committee: Marg Anne Morrison

### **Council Meeting Dates**

The executive council decided on the following dates and locations for council meetings in 2010–11.

- September 11–12: 100 km radius of Toronto
- November 20–21: Calgary
- March 5–6: Ottawa
- TBD: Vancouver

Michelle Boulton  
President, Editors' Association of Canada