

CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

Convention Committee

November 2007

Members:

Bob Vallerand, *Past Convention Chair and CPA Past President*; Catherine Lee, *CPA Incoming President and CPA Clinical Psychology Section*; Frederick Grouzet, *CPA Section on Environmental Psychology*; Juanita Mureika, *CPA Director Responsible for Sections*; Kathy Lachapelle-Petrin, *Convention Manager*; Kelly Smith, *CPA Students in Psychology Section*; William Smythe, *CPA Section on History and Philosophy of Psychology*; Thomas Hadjistavropoulos, *Convention Chair and CPA President*

The convention committee convened in early September via a two hour teleconference and made several unanimous decisions that are summarized below:

Convention Fees:

According to CPA's convention coordinator, convention fees had not been adjusted for eight to ten years, depending on delegate category (e.g., member, student, non member). As such, the convention committee approved small fee increases for members/fellows, non members and students. The detailed schedule of fees for the Halifax convention is attached. Despite these increases, CPA convention fees are relatively low compared to those associated with other comparable conventions. Moreover, our student delegate fees remain among the lowest compared to student convention fees of other national organizations in Canada and the United States (e.g., Canadian Association on Gerontology, Canadian Pain Society, American Psychological Association).

CPA Social Event:

Based on a suggestion from a CPA Board Member and preliminary discussion, CPA staff made a tentative reservation of the Citadel for the Halifax convention social event. However, when CPA staff phoned to follow up on our tentative booking in early September, the Citadel had already been booked by a different group. After considering several alternatives, the CPA Convention Committee decided that the Tall Ship Silva will be the venue for this year's social event. The plan is to have two food stations as well as a drink station during the Halifax waterfront cruise. While the Citadel had the potential of accommodating more people, the Tall Ship Silva can accommodate up to 150 which compares favorably to the social event in Ottawa which accommodated a maximum of 100.

Keynote Speakers:

Last year's convention committee approved keynote addresses by Carol Ryff and Hazel Markus for the Halifax Convention. The rationale was that it is easier to book top speakers well in advance. This year's committee will be selecting speakers for the Montreal convention. A motion was approved that two-year-in-advance keynote speaker bookings be done in consultation with the President Elect of CPA in order to help ensure that the selection of speakers can contribute to Presidential areas of emphasis (for the year that the President Elect will be President).

Number of Scientific Sessions and Submission Reviews:

Concerns have been raised about extremely low attendance of many of the convention's concurrent sessions. Anecdotal reports suggest that many speakers are reluctant to re-submit oral presentation proposals to CPA because of past experience with very low attendance of individual sessions (possibly due to the high number of concurrent sessions). It was also pointed out that CPA has more concurrent sessions than some conventions that are considerably larger. The committee decided to limit the number of concurrent sessions in the Halifax convention to 8 (in the past there have been 9 to 10 concurrent sessions

for conventions in smaller cities such as Halifax and 12 in larger cities such as Montreal). We also hope to encourage more people to present posters.

We have revisited and revised the submission review guidelines that are sent to sections. We now recommend that posters are reviewed by only one reviewer unless rejection has been recommended (in which case more than one reviewer is recommended) and that theory review sessions always include a psychologist, who is not a student, in the list of authors.

Letter from CPA's Scientific Program Committee:

In response to a letter from the scientific program committee, the Convention Committee is working on the development of a grant preparation workshop presented by experts representing SSHRC, CIHR and NSERC research areas. Also in response to the same letter, the Convention Committee is taking steps to encourage more basic science content in the convention (e.g., direct invitations to relevant section Chairs to contribute to the Convention Committee and to submit proposals for CPA sponsored speakers).

A Session for Undergraduate Students:

In order to encourage greater undergraduate student attendance, we are planning a session on "how to get into graduate school". The Student Section of CPA, through its representative on the Convention Committee, will work with us to promote this session especially among undergraduate students in Nova Scotia Universities.

In sum, things are shaping well for Halifax. We are looking forward to what promises to be a great convention!