

CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

International Relations Committee

November 2008

The International Relations Committee (IRC) met at the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel in Halifax on June 14. It was a successful and productive meeting. A total of six members were present.

A work plan for 2008-2009 involving several clearly identified actions in two different areas was adopted:

Dissemination of information about international psychology:

- The IRC will continue to develop and update the CPA web page on international relations.
- The IRC will submit at least one article for publication in each issue of *Psynopsis*.

Two articles were submitted for the fall issue:

- International psychology conferences in Europe in July 2008 (John Berry and Janel Gauthier)
- Adoption of the *Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists* (Janel Gauthier)

The following topics are under consideration for the forthcoming issues:

- Tips about sabbaticals in other countries (Saba Sadfar and Randal Tonks)
- CPA in Congo (Nicole Aubé and Karen Cohen)
- International credentialing and licensing (Catherine Lee and Karen Cohen)

Contribution to 2009 CPA convention:

The Committee will submit a proposal for a symposium jointly with the Committee on Ethics and the Canadian National Committee of the National Research Council for the International Union of Psychological Science. The symposium will be chaired by Carole Sinclair and will focus on the *Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists*:

- Overview and development of the Universal Declaration
- Comments from a cross-cultural perspective (John Berry)
- Comments from an international organizational perspective (Michel Sabourin)
- Potential impact of the Universal Declaration on the next revision of the Canadian Code of Ethics (Jean Pettifor)

The Chair of International Relations (Janel Gauthier) and the Chair of Scientific Affairs (David Dozois) are returning from a 10-day professional visit to South Africa. They had the honour and the privilege to attend a lecture on psychology and South Africa by Professor Don Foster at the University of Cape Town. They were so much impressed by the content and the quality of his presentation that they are now considering to make a joint proposal to invite Professor Foster as a keynote speaker at the next CPA convention in Montreal.

The case of an Iranian psychologist who was forced to give up his profession was brought up to the Committee's attention for discussion. According to an article in the National Post of May 29, the government of Iran, in its continuing persecution of Ba'hai, has arrested a psychologist, Behrouz Tavakkoli, whose son Naim lives in Ottawa. According to this son, when the mullahs took over Iran, Tavakkoli was forced to give up his profession (because he is a member of Ba'hai) and work as a carpenter; now he and five of his coreligionists have been arrested and their families do not know where they are or even if they're still alive. Canada has been the leading critic of Iran's human rights record, and the IRC believes that the CPA should look into this matter. It was agreed that the IRC would contact the son in Ottawa to get more information and ascertain that Behrouz Tavakkoli is indeed a psychologist. It was also agreed that, if the facts check out, the IRC would ask the son if he consents that a letter be sent to our Parliament and the Iran embassy regarding this matter.

Janel Gauthier, Ph.D.
Chair