

CANADIAN  
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## **Convention Committee**

### **February 2007**

Since last October, the Convention Committee has been working hard to organize this year's convention in Ottawa (June 7-9 2007), to slowly get ready for that of 2008, and to put the final touches on some issues. The committee is made up of 4 section representatives (Catherine Lee, Joe Snyder, Frédérick Grouzet, and Melanie Morrison), one liaison person (Juanita Mureika), one graduate student (Elizabeth Sharp), the CPA convention manager (Kathy L. Petrin), and the present Chair (Bob Vallerand). Here are some of the issues we have been working on:

#### The Ottawa Convention:

- The final numbers are in and they are outstanding: There were 1738 submissions of which 1620 were accepted. To put these numbers in perspective, there were close to 1000 presentations in Montreal and we attracted over 1500 attendees. How many people will we attract with over 1620 presenters? The committee believes that the Montreal record number will be pulverized! Between 1800 and 1900 attendees are expected.
- In addition to the North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology (NACCJPC) group with 255 presentations, the Clinical (214 presentations), Social (202), Developmental (112), Health (107), and Industrial/Organizational (99) sections will be the most active. The NACCJPC and these 5 sections are responsible for 60% of all presentations.
- Based on these numbers, the rejection rate was about 6.2%. Sections varied greatly with respect to this rate (from 0% to 17%).
- The review process went relatively well in spite of the new November 15 deadline. In fact, only 4 sections couldn't respect the deadline (Clinical Neuropsychology; Developmental; Perception, Learning, and Cognition; and Religion). In these cases, the reviews were either performed by the section itself, by someone on the Convention committee, or by John and Karen at central office.
- Additional meeting and hotel rooms for presentations as well as hotel rooms were reserved in order to deal with this huge increase in presentations and expected attendees.
- Following letters sent to the three regional universities, special presentations will be presented by Carleton Univ. and the Univ. du Québec en Outaouais.
- Scheduling has been completed and is awaiting final feedback from the sections.

#### The Halifax Convention:

The 2008 Convention will take place at the Halifax Sheraton Harbourfront Hotel on June 12-14. We have already taken some preliminary steps to ensure that the 2008 convention will also be a success. For instance we have secured the participation of two outstanding speakers:

- The Family of Psychology Keynote Address will be given by Dr. Hazel Markus from Stanford University, who will be presenting her work on culture.

- The Science and Applications Keynote Address will be presented by Dr. Carol Ryff from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, who will be talking about her work on subjective well-being and successful aging.

Other Issues:

- A tentative agreement has been signed with the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel for the 2011 Convention. Certain issues need to be ironed out (e.g., number of rooms that need to be reserved by attendees). However, if things work out, this agreement means that the Convention will finally return to Toronto after a rather long hiatus. This agreement also means that for the first time in a long period, we now know 5 years ahead of time where the Convention will take place.
- The Terms of Reference have been slightly modified to reflect the changes that have taken place over the past two years.
- In sum, the committee has been working very hard to make the Ottawa convention a success while keeping an eye on future conventions. I'd like to sincerely thank the members of the Convention Committee for their sustained commitment to making the Convention an event that the Canadian Psychological Association can be proud of.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert J. Vallerand, Ph.D.  
CPA President and Chair of the Convention Committee