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International Relations Committee

November 2007

The International Relations Committee met at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa on June 7. It was a successful and productive meeting. A total of nine members were present, which was the largest number of attendees in the last decade.

A work plan for 2007-2008 involving several clearly identified actions was adopted. Some of the approved actions have already been undertaken. For example, John Berry and Janel Gauthier have published in *Psynopsis* the first of a series of four articles in order to inform CPA members about major activities in international psychology (research, service, congress, etc.). Furthermore, the Committee has submitted a proposal for an invited speaker jointly with some CPA sections (namely, the International and Cross-Cultural section and the Social and Personality) for the 2008 CPA convention. The purpose of the proposal is to bring international psychology to CPA members who will have the opportunity to interact with international leaders. For 2008, the Committee has suggested to invite Shalom Schwartz, a former president of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology.

Other approved actions are in the process of being initiated or about to be initiated. One of them involves the development of an IRC section on the CPA website. This section would include expanded versions of articles on international affairs published in *Psynopsis* **Invitation** rather than **Letter of Acceptance** to international participants to facilitate entry. As Chair of the International Relations Committee, I am currently drafting a letter to be sent to the NRC International Relations Office to pursue these cases under the ICSU "Free Circulation of Scientists" provision, a reprint of the ICSU statement on the free circulation of scientists, and information about the involvement of CPA members in international psychology. Another action involves the free circulation of scientists under a provision of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). It has been brought to the attention of the Committee that, at the 2006 and 2007 conventions, some participants whose paper had been accepted by CPA for presentation were denied entry to Canada by Canadian authorities. It was agreed at the meeting that the Chair of the Committee would ask the CPA Board of Directors to take action, which I am doing through this report.

Janel Gauthier, Ph.D.
Chair