

## **President's Report, 2013**

**Ellen Judd**

I am very pleased this year to have worked together with a superb team of fellow members on the Executive and in the partner core areas of the Canadian Anthropology Society—each of our networks, our journal and the dedicated organizers of CASCA 2013. I would invite everyone to join me in thanking veteran members of the CASCA Executive, Marie Nathalie LeBlanc (Past President), Craig Candler (Practicing Anthropologist), Natalie Boucher (Francophone Member at Large); continuing members, Lorne Holyoak (President Elect), Susan Vincent (Secretary), Caura Wood (Treasurer), Robin Whitaker (Anglophone Member at Large); and our Webmaster, Michel Bouchard, and Membership Secretary, Karli Whitmore. We are happily about to be joined by Christine Jourdan (incoming President Elect) and Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier (incoming Francophone Member at Large). The CASCA Women's Network is energetically organized by the team of Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, Heather Howard, Cheryl Matthew and Martha Radice; the Medical Anthropology Network is led by Janice Graham and the Practicing Anthropology Network by Craig Candler. Anthropologica is edited by Naomi McPherson (Editor in Chief and Anglophone Editor), Sylvie Poirier (Francophone Editor) and a host of co-editors and editorial board members. We are especially grateful as we gather in Victoria for the generous and thought-provoking work of Lisa Mitchell, Andrea Walsh and their many colleagues and students who have created this stimulating meeting.

### **Supporting and Building the CASCA Community**

The annual conference is one of the main pillars of CASCA and an essential venue for scholarly and professional exchange as well as for building the anthropological community in Canada. CASCA benefits from colleagues around the country who undertake to organize our conferences, as we see so significantly in Victoria. The role of the Executive in conference planning is largely that of recruiting and supporting Local Organizing Committees. I would like to acknowledge Peter Stephenson who, in a conversation in Fredericton, astutely recommended Lisa Mitchell and Andrea Walsh. On this basis, we proceeded to invite the University of Victoria Anthropology Department and Lisa and Andrea to organize CASCA 2013. In the nearly two years since that time, we have enjoyed the customary CASCA cooperation between the Victoria LOC and the Executive on a full range of including program, scheduling and financial arrangements. The Executive as a whole met with Lisa and Andrea in

Edmonton, and has participated in a number of consultations in support of their vision, organizing work and the LOC's SSHRCC application.

Within the LOC's conception of the conference and in support of it, members of the Executive have been energetic in recruiting participants for scholarly panels and in incrementally increasing the level of network activities in line with a vision of building community and expanding avenues for involvement in CASCA. This is most visible in Craig Candler's work in organizing the Practicing Anthropology Network meetings and is also very evident in the two CASCA Executive Sessions on Funding Anthropological Research organized by Janice Graham and Susan Vincent. The path-breaking Women's Network remains exceptional in its network meeting, scholarly roundtable and awards. I am also pleased to have extended our cooperative reach through introducing a WCAA-linked symposium to CASCA, bringing together international and Canadian scholars on the theme of Displacements and Immobilities.

In the present year I commenced a search for a host for CASCA 2014 and am delighted to report that the York University Anthropology Department welcomed our invitation and that Albert Schrauwers is Chairing the Local Organizing Committee. We have been in communication for several months as the York LOC has been developing its proposal for a conference on the theme of "Promising Uncertainty: Unsettling the Future of Anthropological Terrain." We are pleased that Albert will be present in Victoria and meeting with the Executive.

A second major pillar of CASCA is our journal, Anthropologica, which we undertook to target for enhanced support this year. A working group of Naomi McPherson, Caura Wood and myself have focused this year on creating an improved institutional basis for the publication of the journal. The major achievement to date has been the move of the journal to the University of Toronto Press where Anthropologica will be able to benefit from a comprehensive package of journal services, including online peer review, copyediting, circulation and financial services, and marketing and promotion. We anticipate that this move will increase readership and public profile for the journal and provide support for Anthropologica in online and open access publication. Caura has been essential and resourceful in financial management and contract negotiation, and Naomi is energetically managing the journal through a challenging and on-time editorial transition.

Inspired by the sustained contribution of the CASCA Women's Network and the potential that networks offer for supporting the work of anthropology in Canada, we have chosen to support the growth of both established and emerging networks where opportunities have presented themselves or been possible. This has been incremental or nascent to date, and we look forward to further steps. I am

pleased to report that the Women's Network now has a dedicated section on the CASCA website. CASCA has also recently started to provide support to the Medical Anthropology Network through management of its listserv and through outreach to medical anthropologists, including those in departments not traditionally anthropological, by our Membership Secretary, Karli Whitmore. A Practicing Anthropology Network is presently emerging through the initiative of Craig Candler, and promises to become an important and expanding area for CASCA. In the autumn of 2012, a working group of people concerned with the changes to the Canadian Museum of Civilization was formed online through the initiative of Michel Bouchard and has continued to be active and resourceful. Each of these networks has organized sessions at this conference as well as conducting additional anthropological activities.

It is a particular delight to celebrate members of our community who have been recognized for exceptional contribution at each stage in the anthropological trajectory:

- Josh Lalor (MUN), Salisbury Award, 2012, who is presenting his Salisbury research at this year's conference
- Karine Gagné (U Montréal), Salisbury Award, 2013
- Stacy Lockerbie (McMaster U), Women's Network Award for Student Paper in Feminist Anthropology, 2013
- Adrian Tanner, Weaver-Tremblay Award in Canadian Applied Anthropology, 2013
- Penny Van Esterik, Women's Network Lifetime Achievement Award for Contributions to Feminist Anthropology in Canada, 2013

In the realization that we have not had adequate institutionalized means to recognize the contributions of our colleagues and mentors, and noting in particular that we are somewhat belated in this realization, CASCA is this year initiating the designation of Fellow of the Canadian Anthropology Society. We are beginning with particular acknowledgement of our Founding Fellows who have built anthropology as we know it in Canada and who have contributed generously to the discipline, the public and the Society. We aim to be able to honour our Founding Fellows in person at conferences over three years and to follow this with a continuing practice of celebrating our colleagues. I am pleased to announce that we are privileged to honour the following Founding Fellows this year:

- Michael Asch
- Margaret Critchlow
- Regna Darnell
- Harvey Feit

- Marie-Françoise Guédon
- Robin Ridington
- Peter Stephenson
- Adrian Tanner
- Penny Van Esterik
- Elvi Whittaker

## **Organization, Membership and Registration**

Organizational work for CASCA has included reviewing financial, membership and conference registration data, both current and historical; initiating a comprehensive revision of the CASCA bylaws (Lorne Holyoak), operations manual (Susan Vincent) and conference manual (Marie Nathalie LeBlanc); working with Karli Whitmore on outreach to the membership and potential membership and on proposals for expanding outreach and recruitment; working with Michel Bouchard on enhancements and updates to the CASCA website; and transition planning with Lorne Holyoak, President Elect.

Current and comparative historical data will be presented live at the AGM.

## **Public Anthropology**

Taking positions on public matters has been essential to CASCA since its creation, and is to be found throughout our work. Insofar as this concerns CASCA as an organization, there are three specific developments during this year to be reported. The earliest of these arose in the autumn of 2012 with the announcement of changes to the Canadian Museum of Civilization. In consultation with the Executive, I wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister which we posted on our website (it is still there under the Positions tab) and circulated widely. This letter produced a number of responses from members, other associations and the public. Michel Bouchard facilitated connections through organizing an online group of concerned anthropologists that continues to be active, including organizing a panel for this conference. Michel has been instrumental in the work of this group, connected as it is with his own research, which was the basis for his contribution to Culture in the fall 2012 issue. Both CAUT and the Canadian Historical Association have contacted CASCA in connection with wider initiatives each is organizing in support of publicly created and shared knowledge in Canada, and I have indicated our willingness to be involved. In the latter case this resulted in an invitation to join a CHA-organized roundtable at the meeting of the National Council on Public History, together with the Presidents of the Canadian Archaeological Association and the Canadian Association of Archivists in Ottawa in April 2013. All of us were in agreement to continue to work together and the CHA is moving to expand this group to include

a larger network, an initiative the CASCA Executive supports. A shortened version of my presentation will appear in the spring 2013 issue of Culture and the complete set in the next issue of the CHA Bulletin. The role of CASCA's working group on the CMC and associated colleagues has been and will continue to be essential as this work unfolds.

*Idle No More* has been a powerful catalyst in Canadian society beginning in November 2012. The CASCA Executive issued a statement in support in early 2013, which was also distributed widely and posted on the CASCA website.

This year has seen the reconstitution of CASCA Resolutions Committee, a project undertaken and organized by Marie Nathalie LeBlanc with the support of the Executive. The new committee will have its first meeting during the Victoria conference and we look forward to its resumption.

### **External Connections**

Within Canada, CASCA is a member of the Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences and has enjoyed some support in the past year on a key issue for many of our members, the funding situation for medical anthropology following the concentration of health research in CIHR. In response to CASCA recommendations, CFHSS successfully nominated Janice Graham to serve on a CIHR Open Reforms working group, where she has continued her energetic advocacy in the interests of medical anthropology and cognate social science health research. Lorne Holyoak is keeping our ties with CFHSS active and attended its AGM in March as CASCA's representative.

We continue to be active in the World Council of Anthropological Associations. This was not a biennial meeting year and was relatively quiet. I attended the WCAA interim meeting in conjunction with the AAA annual meeting in November. At this meeting, the WCAA asked if CASCA would be able to provide a former WCAA Delegate (CASCA President) to attend the World Social Science Forum to be held in Montréal in October 2013 on behalf of the WCAA. Deirdre Meintel and Marie Nathalie LeBlanc have jointly agreed to do so.

There have been some significant developments in our relationship with the American Anthropological Association this year, that has included welcoming a proactive effort to reach out and improve the relationship between the two organizations on the part of AAA Vice-President and President Elect Monica Heller, who is also a member of CASCA. On this renewed basis of cooperation, I was informed in early November that Montréal and Toronto were under active consideration as sites for AAA 2017 and that a decision on this would be made at the AAA annual meeting later that month. I consulted with the CASCA Executive and also with two of our former Presidents and met with AAA officials and

staff during their conference. The outcome was a welcome decision not to approach a Canadian city for 2017, and to open substantive and cooperative discussions with CASCA about a subsequent year. This began early and has so far resulted in an additional initiative, already in the planning stage, and a conference-related proposal. The additional initiative was an invitation to join an experimental virtual seminar on “Language and Anthropological Knowledge” initiated by Monica Heller (AAA), Bela Feldman-Bianco (ABA) and Susana Narotzky (EASA). CASCA accepted this invitation early in the new year and Marie Nathalie LeBlanc is coordinating CASCA’s participation. This spring discussions commenced revolving around the possibility of holding AAA 2019 in Montréal or Toronto, the only Canadian cities with unionized convention facilities large enough to accommodate such a conference. We are presently in negotiations regarding the process and substance of a joint CASCA-AAA Task Force to explore the possibility of a joint conference in 2019 and other forms of collaboration. Our primary goal in this year’s AGM is to hear the views of the membership on these possibilities, and especially on a conference option.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Canadian Anthropology Society for the opportunity for involvement and service I have been granted this year. It has been a privilege and a pleasure.

I join you in looking forward to our meeting this year!