

President's Report CASCA, Fredericton, May 2011

2010-2011 was a busy year for the CASCA Executive. With the hard work of Karli Whitmore, CASCA Membership Manager, we conducted a general survey of Canadian anthropologists, dealt with issues surrounding transfer of national funding to health researchers from SSHRC to CIHR, as well as trying to organize the Fredericton CASCA 2011 meetings in light of the AAA meetings in Montreal in November. We learned of the AAA meetings only late in 2010, after the 2011 CASCA conference preparations were well in place, and began anticipating a drop in our usual opportunity for membership renewals with the inevitability that our members would divide their Canadian travel funds between the two conferences.

We held two interim Executive teleconferences (October 15, 2010 and January 19, 2011) and actively corresponded through hundred of emails on a listserv set up by our diligent webmaster, Michel Bouchard. Our website continues to improve under his hard work.

An overview of what we have overseen this year follow:

- CASCA 2011, Fredericton. Craig Proulx, Evie Plaice, and Robert Adlam have done an exceptional job organizing our annual conference. We very much appreciate their hard work and the outstanding quality of the keynote, panels and papers on “The Greening of Anthropology: Reconfiguring our Work for the 21st Century.”
- Survey of Canadian Anthropologists: developed e-survey, and with Karli, surveyed and produced a 100 page report on the state of Canadian anthropology. An abbreviated report was distributed to all members in Fredericton and discussed at the AGM for forward planning.
- We facilitated a coordinated exchange among medical anthropologists across Canada towards actions to address the changes affecting funding of critical social science health research by CIHR and SSHRC
 - roundtable with funding agencies at CASCA 2010;
 - presented paper at EASA/WCAAA in Ireland in August;
 - circulated report widely in autumn 2011,
 - published manifesto in the March University Affairs, *The end of medical anthropology in Canada? A manifesto*. University Affairs. March 2011. <http://www.universityaffairs.ca/the-end-of-medical-anthorpology-in-canada.aspx>. Canadian anthropologists are seen as the leaders in raising these concerns to scholars across Canada and internationally.
 - follow-up session organized by James Waldram and myself at CASCA 2011

- AAA Montreal 2011. In August 2010, I learned of the Montreal AAA meetings in November 2011. With the president of AAA, I negotiated and coordinated CASCA gaining a prominent platform at those meetings, including co-hosting the Welcome Reception, an Executive session, a CASCA Booth at the bookfair, and a very special gala CASCA reception, along with other and events. Marie Nathalie LeBlanc and Nathalie Boucher will now see through these plans with the AAA organizing committee.
- As President, I represented CASCA at the World Congress of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) interim meetings at EASA (Ireland) and at AAA (New Orleans). CASCA's international relations are widening, and we will host the WCAA Delegates at the AAA meetings in Montreal in November
- Representing/engaging Canadian anthropologists in public policy: Wrote official letters to Tony Clement, Minister of Industry regarding Conservative decision to cut the long-form census, and to the Belgian Embassy when they arrested a beat up an anthropologists in Brussels at a rally
- CASCA Executive oversaw the change in Editor of our journal, *Anthropologica*, from Andy Lyons (Thank you, Andy) to Naomi McPherson, and of several Executive positions in May of 2011
 - MAL (from Martin Hebert to Nathalie Boucher),
 - Treasurer (from Robert Adlam to Lorne Holyoak)
 - Incoming President (Ellen Judd)
- Weaver-Tremblay Committee. This award was granted to Dr. Pamela Downe, University of Saskatchewan. An impressive nomination package was submitted with over a dozen letters of support. As president, I chaired this Committee and am indebted to the reviews of the material by the former Weaver-Tremblay awardee, Gilles Bibeau (U Montreal), and by CASCA Member at Large, Martin Hebert (Laval)
- The importance of the piloted Applied /Practicing Anthropology executive position at raising our Society's profile and relevance to those anthropologists working outside of the academy was heightened during 2010-2011 through the work of Craig Candler and others.

It has been a pleasure to serve the membership of CASCA as your President. I thank Deirdre Meintel for guiding us through her three years of presidential responsibilities, and will look forward to continuing to support the initiatives of our incoming President, Marie Nathalie LeBlanc and the entire Executive. Thank you.