

**Editors' Association of Canada/Association canadienne des réviseurs  
Vice-President's Report on National Executive Council Meeting  
September 13–14, 2003  
Toronto**

**Strategic planning**

The day before our meeting in Toronto in mid-September, the executive council met with Ryerson University professor Agnes Meinhard to bring the planning that began with members' meetings in the various branches and a members' meeting before the June AGM to fruition: a statement of EAC/ACR's goals and a clear understanding of how to make those goals into carefully planned realities, taking into account EAC/ACR's human and financial resources in a strategic planning process.

In our weekend meeting, we then crafted a goals statement that is being sent to all members—one that clearly encompasses the desires of members across the country, although it can never be possible to bring every member's every desire into such a document. We are now committed both to pursuing those goals and to regularly revisiting them—as a council and with the membership.

**Routine business**

One aspect of council's routine business that has often come up for discussion, for a variety of reasons, is the three-reader rule, by which all documents sent by the association to its members or to the public are read by three council members. This rule was originally instituted to ensure that EAC/ACR publications do not go out that contravene EAC/ACR policy or that otherwise might cause the organization significant difficulty. At times it has become simply an exercise in copy editing. Much of the time it has led to significant delays in getting information to members or other important stakeholders. Council approved an adapted version of the rule for trial—a two-reader rule, with those readers to be drawn from the executive director, the president, the past president, and the vice-president; any of those readers may ask for a third reader, particularly for sensitive documents, as may the originator of a document. The rule change will be reviewed in 12 months' time.

**Committees and mandates**

The council approved a mandate for a list person for the English-language EAC/ACR email discussion list, making the position an official EAC/ACR position, and appointed Glenn Clavier to that position. It also provisionally adopted a set of list guidelines and referred them to the member communication committee, who have been asked to consult with the membership about the guidelines and report back to the council with recommendations. The council anticipates presenting a set of guidelines for approval by the AGM in Calgary in June 2004.

The council also appointed Rosemary Tanner as interim mediator, and Cy Strom as co-chair of the professional standards committee with Lee d'Anjou. Lee will be stepping down from her position in February 2004. Council also gave the professional standards committee the go-ahead to work on a revision of *Meeting Editorial Standards*.

The external liaison committee was struck; that committee currently consists of Faith Gildenhuis, president; Stephanie Fysh, vice-president and an EAC/ACR representative at the Book Industry Group and the Book and Periodical Council; Jennifer Latham, past president and active in liaison with the federal Department of Canadian Heritage; Greg Ioannou, chair of the PICA committee and an EAC/ACR representative at the Book Industry Group; and Lynne Massey, executive director. One of the first matters the new committee will consider is how and to what extent

EAC/ACR should work with other groups on the issue of Pearson/Penguin's new, lower indexing rates.

The members-at-large reported that several committees need new membership. Lynne Massey will lead this search.

### **Finances**

The council moved to make the executive director's life easier in the area of procurement. The executive director will now have sole signing authority on cheques up to \$600 (the previous limit was \$300) and EAC/ACR will apply for a Visa card with corporate liability to enable larger purchases to be made more conveniently.

The council also discussed at length the issue of to what extent EAC/ACR should fund council members' attendance at council meetings. Currently, the organization pays only for transportation. After a lengthy discussion, we agreed to consider this issue again in the November budget meeting.

Ann Fothergill-Brown, treasurer, presented an explanation of the branch funding formula for the branch representatives to bring back to their executives.

### **Conference**

Council approved an increase in the honorarium for the 2004 conference coordinator, to \$2600, and agreed that we should seek to incorporate a francophone element in the conference, though this conference will not be fully bilingual.

Toronto volunteered to host the 2005 conference, to be timed to end just as the BookExpo trade show begins in June.

### **Specific projects**

Council asked the publications committee to proceed with a new membership package, to be delivered primarily on CD-ROM. In a related move, council also approved the creation of a members-only area of the EAC/ACR Web site. This area will likely have a single password to begin, but we will be able to move to a more sophisticated system when our new, improved and expanded database system is up and running.

Council also asked the office to investigate group professional liability insurance along with its general investigation of current insurance options.

*Editing Canadian English* has been reprinted by McClelland & Stewart and is soon to ship. Delays in its availability for September were of some concern, however.

### **Certification**

Council heard a detailed presentation from the certification committee, covering the current state of the project and plans for its further development, including timelines. Although no specific motion was passed, council took to heart the results of the members' goal-setting exercise and confirmed its support for certification. Our support will include investigating various options for the legal and financial structure of certification.