ISA Canada
President’s Report 2011

ISA Annual Convention, Montreal, March 16-19, 2011:
ISA Canada held its annual business meeting and reception in Montreal during the ISA’s 52nd Annual Convention. The events were co-sponsored by the Centre for the Study of Canada at SUNY Plattsburg/Institute on Quebec Studies; Canadian Foreign Policy Journal; Oxford University Press; McGill University Centre for International Peace and Security Studies; the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, Dalhousie University; Revue études Internationales; and the University of Toronto Press.

Following past practices, ISA Canada sponsored two thematic panels at the annual convention. The first panel was titled “Québec’s Foreign Relations”. It was chaired by Christopher Kirkey (State University of New York at Plattsburgh) and the discussant was Nelson Michaud (ÉNAP). The panel featured speakers from Québec and Ontario universities, including Stéphane Paquin (Université de Sherbrooke), Jean-Christophe Boucher (Université Laval), Hans Michelmann (University of Saskatchewan), and Kim Richard Nossal (Queen’s University). The second panel chaired by Stephen Brown (University of Ottawa) was titled “Reevaluating Responsibility to Protect (R2P)”. The discussant was Antonio Franceschet (University of Calgary). The panelists were Cristina Badescu (University of Toronto), Andy Knight (University of Alberta), Don Hubert (University of Ottawa), and Ramesh C. Thakur (University of Waterloo). Both panels were well attended.

ISA Canada Regional Conference, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, May 16-19, 2011:
For the fourth consecutive year, ISA Canada held its annual regional conference in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA). In 2008, ISA Canada established a partnership with the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA). As a result of this partnership, ISA Canada began to hold its annual regional conference with the CPSA and has jointly organized and hosted the International Relations’ section of the CPSA’s annual meeting held at University of British Columbia, Vancouver (2008); Carleton University, Ottawa (2009); Concordia University, Montreal (2010); and Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo (2011). ISA-Canada and the CPSA will again co-host the IR section for the CPSA Annual Conference at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, June 13th to 15th, 2012. The IR program section co-chairs for Edmonton are Greg Anderson (University of Alberta) and Brian Bow (Dalhousie University). Preparations for the 2013 Annual Regional Conference in Victoria are already underway.

A total of 36 IR panels were organized for the Waterloo conference. Following the trend set in 2008, the jointly held IR section was the largest at the CPSA’s annual meeting. Of the 36 panels, eight were interlinked sessions on Critical Security Studies organized by the Canadian Critical Security Studies Network and three on were interlinked panels on the theme of Transitional Justice.

Professional Development:
The IR section also featured two jointly organized workshops. The first workshop included three panels and roundtables titled “The Future of Peacebuilding: Haiti, Afghanistan, and Beyond”. The second workshop with two panels was titled “Canada’s Northern Policy: Themes, Tensions, and Contradictions”. The workshops sought to bring together doctoral candidates, junior and senior scholars. Building on the
experience of past ISA Canada workshops, the goal was to combine the opportunity for doctoral candidates and junior scholars to participate on a formal panel relevant to their research while also opening the opportunity for mentorship from senior scholars in the field.

ISA-Canada capped the conference with a business meeting and reception co-sponsored by the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). Both were held at the Centre’s headquarters in Waterloo. ISA Canada would like to thank CIGI for its generous support.

Other Developments:

ISA Canada Distinguished Scholar Committee:
2012 coincides with the biennial ISA-Canada Distinguished Scholar award. The award honours exceptional scholarship accomplishments and contributions to the development of the study of International Relations in Canada. The nomination process for this award is placed under the responsibility of the Distinguished Scholar Award Committee. The Chair and three members of this committee were elected at the annual business meeting in Waterloo. The committee members were Joanna Quinn (chair) (University of Western Ontario); David Black (Dalhousie University); Tom Keating (University of Alberta); Chris Kukucha (ISA Canada Past-President) (University of Lethbridge); and Stéphane Paquin (ÉNAP).

The committee unanimously voted to nominate Dr. Claire Turenne Sjolander from the University of Ottawa. As the committee noted in their recommendation to the executive council “Dr. Turenne Sjolander has played a very important role not only in terms of “the community”—she served as President of ISA Canada, and has been ISA Canada’s institutional memory for many years—but in terms of her scholarly role in articulating, encouraging, and enabling the “critical turn” in Canadian international studies scholarship, including, but not limited to, feminist approaches.” A Distinguished Scholar panel and reception will be held in honour of Dr. Turenne Sjolander in San Diego.

ISA Canada Student Paper Prize:
ISA Canada announced the launch of its first annual student paper prize on November 1st, 2011. The prize will be open to all PhD students in any of the disciplines that fall under the aegis of International Studies and who are members of ISA and ISA-Canada. Among other criteria, the prize will be awarded to a previously unpublished, single authored paper written in either French or English and delivered at the ISA annual convention in the year the prize is awarded. The value of the award is $300.00 (CAD).

The terms of reference for the student paper prize were developed by the professional development committee. ISA Canada would like to thank committee members Heather Smith (chair) (UNBC); Claire Cutler (University of Victoria); Andrew Grant (Queen’s University); Anita Singh (University of Toronto); Sabrina Hoque (Dalhousie University); and Paul Gecelovsky (Independent Scholar).

ISA- Canada would also like to express its appreciation to David Black (chair) (Dalhousie University); David Grondin (University of Ottawa); and Claire Cutler (University of Victoria) for agreeing to sit as jury members for the student paper prize.

ISA Canada Constitution Committee:
ISA-Canada struck a constitution committee at its business meeting during the annual regional conference. The committee was chaired by Joanna Quinn (University of Western Ontario) and
committee members were David Mutimer (York University) and Daniel Preece (Carleton University). The constitution committee was asked to propose language to address the issue of resignations by executive committee members and by-elections between annual general meetings. The committee was also tasked with identifying other gaps in the constitution. The constitution committee submitted its recommendations to the executive council in August. Proposed amendments were forwarded to the ISA at that time, and a formal response was received in November. The ISA indicated that some of the proposed amendments were in conflict with the structure of ISA regions. The remaining proposed amendments are scheduled to be put to a ratification vote at the AGM in San Diego.

ISA Canada/CPSA MOU:
The ISA Canada and the CPSA presidents signed a memorandum of understanding in August 2011. The MOU reaffirmed the commitment by both associations to the joint sponsorship and management of the IR section and IR workshops at the annual meeting of the CPSA. The MOU details the working relationship of the two associations as it pertains to naming the IR section co-chairs; organizing the IR panels and workshops; and the identification of the associations in the IR section of the CPSA’s conference program.

Financial Statement update (June 2010 to November 2011)

Revenues:
Opening Balance as of June 1st, 2010 $7,821.55
Revenues* $9,745.00
*revenues include sponsorship (Montreal and San Diego); region dues; and conference registration.

Expenses:
PCMA Insurance $375.00
ISA-C/CPSA Reception, Concordia, June 1-3, 2010 $1,165.95
ISA-C Reception, 52nd ISA Convention, Montreal, March 16-19, 2010 $1,912.33
Professional Development workshop, ISA-C/ CPSA Regional Conference $491.33
Waterloo, May 16-19, 2011

TOTAL: $3,944.61

BALANCE as of November 1st, 2011 $13,621.94

Respectfully submitted,
Marc G. Doucet
ISA Canada President