

CPA Activities: The Canadian Scene

13th Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar

The Thirteenth Canadian Regional Seminar was held in Vancouver, British Columbia from Thursday, November 17 through Saturday, November 19, 1988. The host was **John Reynolds**, Speaker of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly.

David C. Lam, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia opened the Seminar by remarking upon the need for parliamentarians to gather under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Not only do Members gain an insight into parliamentary practice and traditions in other jurisdictions but a clearer understanding of issues confronting each parliamentarian is developed. **John Fraser**, Speaker of the House of Commons in Ottawa and **Art Donahoe**, Speaker of the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and Speaker Reynolds were the panelists for the First Plenary Session: *Issues Facing Mr. Speaker at Election Time*.

The views expressed provoked a lively debate among the delegates particularly in light of the Canadian General Election to be held a few days later. It was generally agreed that the approach taken by the Speaker of the House of Commons had immense merit given the nature of the office.

The Second Plenary Session consisted of a panel chaired by **Arnold Tusa**, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and **David Smith**, MPP (Ontario) and **Jean Joly**, MNA (Quebec). They discussed the need for adequate compensation, especially in recognizing the role of the constituency office, for all parliamentarians. There was no disagreement that disparities existed between each jurisdiction and that a

more concerted effort should be made to, at the very least, monitor the Member's funding levels in a realistic manner.

The Third Plenary Session: *The Future of Bicameralism in Canada after the Meech Lake Accord* chaired by **Denis Rocan**, Speaker of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly had as its panelists Senator **Gerald Beaudoin** (Ottawa) and **David J. Carter**, Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly. The discussion revolved around the need for Senate reform. The participants suggested many different ways to modify the Senate to reflect the interests of all regions of Canada.

The final Plenary Session dealt with *Time Allocation in Debate*. The ensuing discussion concentrated primarily upon Question Period as a consequence of time allocation. The panel consisted of **Red Peterson**, Speaker of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, **Pierre Lorrain**, Speaker of the Quebec National Assembly, **Keith Penner**, MP and **Dianne Cunningham**, MPP, (Ontario).

Seminar on Canada and US Political Systems

During the first week of October, eleven legislators from six provinces participated in a seminar "Special Features of the US Political System". The seminar was organized for the Canadian Region of CPA by the Centre for Legislative Exchange. In addition to illustrating what the separation of powers means in terms of the policy-making process, this seminar focussed on four important features of the US political system quite different from Canadian practice: the organization of elections, party leadership and discipline, the role of caucuses and the role of political action committees in election financing.

In the opening session, **Catherine Rudder**, Executive Director of the American Political Science Association, outlined the dynamics of the congressional system and contrasted them with the parliamentary system. The group then travelled to Capitol Hill where Congressman **Beryl Anthony Jr.** described the role of political parties and the methods for selecting candidates. **Robert Okun**, Executive Director of the Republican Policy Committee concluded the first day with a discussion of the role of leadership for the minority party in Congress.

Day two began with a briefing by Canadian Embassy officials on current Canada/US relations. Then, **Robert Barrie**, Manager of Federal Legislation Relations Operation of the General Electric Company, spoke about the development of political action committees in the United States. Later, two members of the Northeast/Midwest Congressional Coalition, Congressman **Howard Wolpe** and Congresswoman **Claudine Schneider** described how their special caucus operated and contrasted it with some of the other congressional caucuses. The federal election law was outlined by **Carolyn Oliphant**, former Special Assistant General Counsel for the Federal Elections Commission. House Majority Leader **Thomas Foley** took time from a busy schedule on the floor to provide several humorous anecdotes about the role of party leadership and party discipline in Congress. The day ended after a meeting with **Christopher Bowman**, Director of Political Operations for the Republic National Committee and his counterpart, **Tom O'Donnell**, Deputy Director for Politics, Democratic Congressional Campaign.



People

Territorial By-election

Tony Whitford was elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as the Member for Yellowknife South in a by-election October 31. The seat became vacant following the appointment of the former member, **Ted Richard**, to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories.



Tony Whitford

For the year preceding his election, Mr. Whitford was Executive Assistant to **John Parker**, Commissioner of the NWT.

A graduate of the Social Work program at the University of Calgary, Mr. Whitford headed the Territorial Government's Office of Native Employment and was later appointed director of the federal Northern Careers Program.

Mr. Whitford has been a Justice of the Peace since 1972 and a coroner since 1985. In 1986, following law

studies at the University of Saskatchewan, he joined the Department of Justice to co-ordinate training for Justices of the Peace. He was a member of the Territorial government's Task Force on Justices of the Peace and Coroners.

New Table Officers in Manitoba

Janet Summers began sitting at the Table during Manitoba's short first session in 1988 (February 11 to March 9). As well as serving as Clerk of several Standing Committees of Manitoba's Legislative Assembly (Law Amendments, Municipal Affairs, Public Accounts, Public Utilities & Natural Resources, and Rules of the House), Janet oversees the administration of MLA allowances for constituency, access, mailing and printing expenditures. She joined the staff of the Clerk's Office in November of 1986.

Bonnie Greschuk joined the Table at the start of the current session (July 21). She is the Clerk of the following Committees: Agriculture, Economic Development, Industrial Relations, Private Bills, Privileges & Elections, and Statutory Regulations & Orders. As well, Bonnie is the financial administrative officer for all offices of the Assembly. She joined the Clerk's Office staff in May of this year.

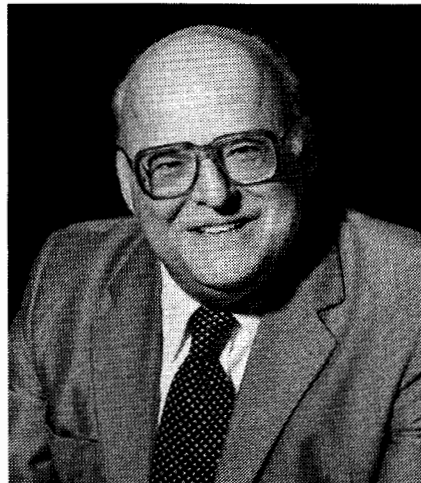
Recent Senate Appointments

On September 26, 1988, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney appointed the following persons from the province of Quebec: **Gérald-A. Beaudoin**, **Roch Bolduc**, **Solange Chaput-Rolland** and **Jean-Marie Poitras**.

The appointments followed the procedure set out in the Meech Lake

Accord whereby the Prime Minister chose from lists provided by the province.

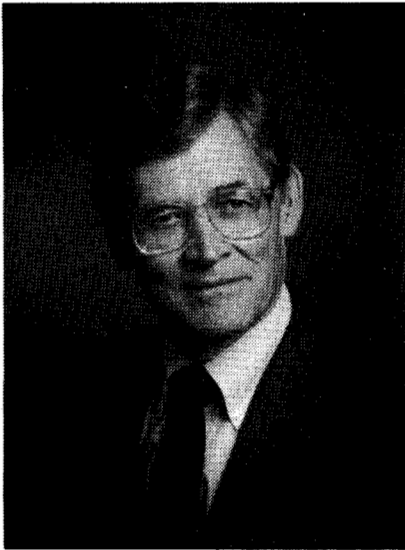
Gérald-A. Beaudoin is one of Canada's leading constitutional experts and titular professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa. He is Director of the Human Rights Centre, University of Ottawa; author of several books and has pleaded for different governments before the Supreme Court of Canada in constitutional law cases. He was a member of the Pepin-Robarts Task Force on Canadian Unity.



Gérald-A. Beaudoin

Professor Beaudoin was born in Montreal on April 15, 1929. He studied at the University of Montreal, from which he holds a Masters in Law. He is a member of the Quebec Bar, and has studied at the post-graduate level at the University of Toronto.

Roch Bolduc was until recently Secretary-General of the Government of Quebec, the highest public servant in Quebec. He was one of those



Roch Bolduc

primarily responsible for the reform of the public service in Quebec. He is now a private consultant in administration, as vice-president and advisor to the President of CGI (Information System and Management Consultants). Mr. Bolduc holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Laval University, and is a member of the Quebec Bar. He pursued studies at the post-graduate level in public administration at the University of Chicago.



Solange Chaput-Rolland

Solange Chaput-Rolland is a well-known political writer, radio and television commentator, author and lecturer. She was a member of the Pepin-Robarts Task Force on Canadian Unity. In 1979 she was elected to the National Assembly where she sat as a Liberal until 1981. In 1984, she was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws by Queens University.

Born in Montreal, Mrs. Chaput-Rolland studied at the Couvent d'Outremont, the Sorbonne, and the *Institute Catholique de Paris*.

Jean-Marie Poitras is Vice-Chairman of the Board for the Imperial Life Insurance Company of Canada. He holds an honorary doctorate in business administration from Laval University, is an Officer of the Order of Canada and a Member of the Canadian Business Hall of Fame. He studied at the Séminaire de Québec, the Académie de Québec, Laval University and is a Fellow of the Life Insurance Institute of Canada.

Mr. Poitras was born September 5, 1918.

Eighth Annual Meeting Canadian Association of Sergeants-at-Arms

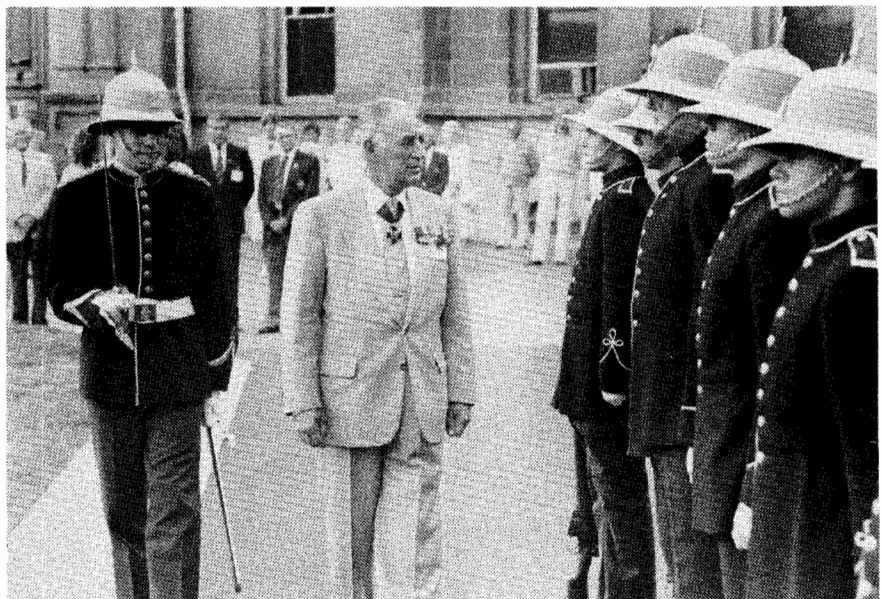
Leo McNulty, Sergeant-at-Arms of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly was host to the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Sergeants-at-Arms held in Fredericton from August 16 through August 19, 1988.

Attending the three-day conference along with Sergeants-at-Arms from the various provincial legislatures and the Senate was **Peter Jennings**, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms of the British Parliament in London.

During the three-day conference, the delegates attended lectures on the history of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Library and participated in four working sessions covering such topics as employment of sessional staff, detection of drug abuse in the workplace and New Brunswick's first legislature without an official opposition.

The last day of the conference saw the election of **Thomas Stelling**, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Ontario Legislature, as the new President of the Association.

The informal nature of the discussions, the generous hospitality of Sergeant-at-Arms McNulty, and the excellent presentations made for a most successful conference.



On opening day, Mr. René Jalbert, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod in the Senate inspected the honour guard in front of the legislative building.