



CPA: The Canadian Scene

12th Canadian Presiding Officers Conference Yellowknife, NWT

Delegates from every jurisdiction, except Quebec, travelled to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories for the 12th Canadian Presiding Officers Conference, January 26-12, 1995. The President of the Quebec National Assembly was due to take part but an extraordinary session of the National Assembly preventing his attendance.

The conference was held in Canada's newest legislative building, opened in November 1993 and widely-praised by visitors from around the world.

Following welcoming remarks by the Acting Speaker of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, **Brian Lewis**, there was a round table discussion on procedural and administrative happenings in each jurisdiction.

The next session dealt with "Search Warrants Inside the Parliament Buildings" A paper prepared by **Pierre Duchesne**, Secretary-General, National Assembly of Quebec was read by **Gwenn Ronyk**, Clerk of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. Mr. Duchesne concluded

that it is the duty of the President or Speaker to ensure that the rights and privileges of the Assembly and its Members take precedence over the requirements of justice by refusing to allow the execution of a search warrant for offices within the precincts of the legislature, or by deferring it to a later date.

Another paper entitled "Impartiality of the Speaker vs. Effective Constituent Representation" was presented by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, **David M. Hamilton**.



The third session focused on "Managing Change", and featured a presentation by **Robert Marleau**, Clerk of the House of Commons.

The fourth session was a discussion about the relationship with "The Parliamentary Press Gallery". **Robert Vaive**, Clerk Assistant of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly presented the paper to lead off the discussion.

The fifth session focused on "A Tie in Opposition." **Shirley Dysart**, Speaker of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly reviewed her December 16, 1994, decision which recognized the Confederation of Regions Party as the Official Opposition and its Leader as the Leader of the Opposition.



Sam Gargan

New Speaker in Northwest Territories

The new Speaker of the NWT Legislative Assembly is **Sam Gargan**.

Representing Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan was first elected to the Legislature in 1983 and re-elected in 1987 and 1991. From November 1987 to November 1991 he was Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.