



# *CPA Activities: The Canadian Scene*

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## **Presiding Officers Conference**

**T**he 14th Conference of Canada's Presiding Officers was held in Edmonton January 23 to 25, 1997. The Conference was hosted by the Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly **Stanley Schumacher** and attended by 19 Speakers, Deputy Speakers and assistant presiding officers from jurisdictions across Canada. A number of Table Officers also attended.

Among the Presiding Officers in attendance were Speaker **Gilbert Parent** and **David Kilgour** (House of Commons), Speaker **Louise Dacquay** and **Marcel Laurendeau** (Manitoba); **Percy Barrett** (Newfoundland); Speaker **Danny Gay** and **Greg O'Donnell** (New Brunswick); **Jane Groenewegen** (NWT); **Francene Cosman** and **Dennis**

**Richards** (Nova Scotia); Speaker **Wilbur MacDonald** and **Greg Deighan** (PEI); Speaker **Jean-Pierre Charbonneau** and **Claude Pinard** (Quebec); Speaker **Glenn Hagel**, **Dale Flavel** and **Kim Trew** (Saskatchewan); Speaker **Gildas Molgat** (The Senate) and Speaker **Robert Bruce** (Yukon).

The business sessions included three round table discussions devoted to "Developments in Jurisdictions". Provinces were given 7 minutes each to outline the situation in their legislature.

There were also a number of formal presentations including one by Speaker **Hagel** on "Outreach Programs - Educational Initiatives by the House". Other presentations were by **Robert Marleau**, Clerk of

the House of Commons on "Management of Question Period", by **Robert Vaive**, Clerk Assistant of British Columbia on "Relations between Speakers and Deputy Speakers", **Patrick Michael**, Clerk of the Yukon on "Designation of Official Opposition" and **Mark Audcent**, Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel of the Senate on "The Limits of Privilege: Jurisdiction of Outside Investigatory Agencies with respect to an Assembly and its Members".

As is usually the case a great deal of useful information about the role of presiding officers was exchanged outside of the formal sessions. Next year the Conference will be held in British Columbia.