



# CPA Activities: The Canadian Scene

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## 22nd Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference

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The twenty-second Canadian Presiding Officers Conference was held in Halifax from January 20-23, 2005. The host for the Conference was Speaker **Murray Scott** of Nova Scotia. Other presiding officers in attendance were: Speakers **Peter Milliken** (House of Commons), **Bev Harrison** (NB), **Harvey Hodder** (Newfoundland and Labrador), **Ted Staffen** (YT), **Greg Deighan** (PE), **George Hickes** (MB), **Myron Kowalsky** (SK), **Ken Kowalski** (AB), **Paul Delorey** (NT) and **Alvin Curling** (ON).

Speaker Kowalski chaired the first business session on "The mechanics of democracy: a made in B.C. electoral system". The presenter was **Robert Vaive**, Clerk Assistant of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly.

The second session, chaired by Speaker Hodder, was entitled "Omnibus bills: have we run the wheels off? The presenter was **Rod MacArthur**, Chief Clerk, of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly.

Speaker Staffen chaired the third session on "Legislative scrutiny and the *Charter of Rights*: a review of Senate practices and procedures." The presenter was **Gary O'Brien**, Deputy Clerk and Principal Clerk in the Senate.

The fourth business session, chaired by Speaker Deighan, featured a presentation on "The Speaker's Outreach Program in Manitoba" by **Patricia Chaychuk**, Clerk of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Hickes chaired the fifth session on "Parliamentary reform under consideration at the National Assembly and the preparation of a

code of ethics for Members". The presenter was **Diane Leblanc**, MNA, Vice-President of the Quebec National Assembly.

The last session was entitled "Board of Management: administrative functionary or defender of the faith?" The chair was Speaker Kowalsky and the presenter was **Tim Mercer**, Clerk of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Kowalsky also gave a special report on "Monitoring the Ukraine election."

Aside from the discussions and warm hospitality offered by the host province two huge snowstorms immediately before and during the Conference made this a memorable experience for all who attended.

