



# CPA Activities: The Canadian Scene

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## New Speaker in Saskatchewan

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The Speaker of the 26th Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan is **Don Toth**, MLA for Moosomin. The Speaker is a Member of the Legislative Assembly elected in a secret ballot by all other MLAs to maintain order in the House in an impartial manner. This election takes place after each general election, or when the office of Speaker becomes vacant for any reason. Mr. Toth was the only MLA to put forth his name for the office.



Hon. Don Toth

He was first elected in the 1986 general election and was re-elected in 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007. He has served as the Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Health and Chairman of the Crown Corpora-

tions Committee. He was the Opposition's Deputy House Leader, Deputy Whip and Deputy Chair of Committees. His Opposition critic duties have included Health, Highways, Labour, Public Service Commission, Social Services, Corrections and Public Safety and Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Speaker Toth replaces **Myron Kowalsky**, former MLA for Prince Albert Carlton, who retired before the general election in November.

## Twenty Fifth Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference

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Speakers and Presiding Officers from every Canadian legislature except Nunavut met in Quebec City from January 24-27, 2008.

The Presiding Officers' Conference was hosted by the President of the Quebec National Assembly, **Michel Bissonnet**. Other Speakers in attendance included: **Peter Milliken** (House of Commons), **Bill Barisoff** (British Columbia); **Don Toth** (Saskatchewan); **Steve Peters** (Ontario); **Roy Boudreau** (New Brunswick); **Alfie MacLeod** (Nova Scotia); **Kathleen Casey** (Prince Edward Island); **Roger Fitzgerald** (Newfoundland and Labrador); **Ted Staffen** (Yukon), and **Paul Delorey** (Northwest Territories).

The first business session, chaired by Speaker Casey, dealt with the theme of "Parliamentary Management Boards and the Role of the Speaker in Effective Decision Mak-

ing." The lead presenter was Speaker Barisoff.

The second session was entitled "The Secrets of an Effective Speakership" and it featured presentations by Speakers Milliken and Bissonnet. The chair was Deputy Speaker **Bonnie Korzeniowski** of Manitoba. The third session was chaired by Speaker Fitzgerald and featured a presentation by Speaker Boudreau on "Maintaining Order and Decorum."

The First Vice President of the National Assembly, **Fatima Houda-Pepin**, chaired the fourth session which was devoted to the report by Chief Justice **Derek Green** of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Clerk of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador, **William Mackenzie** made the presentation.

The fifth session was entitled "The Canadian Parliamentary System; Pragmatic Adaptations" and featured a presentation by Senator **Pierre-Claude Nolin** substituting for the Speaker of the Senate. The Chair of this session was Speaker Staffen.

The final session, chaired by Speaker Peters, featured a presentation by **Louis Massicotte** on the newly created Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions at Laval University.

Following the conference delegates were taken to the Duchesnay Tourist Station near Quebec City where they were given a tour of the facilities including the Ice Hotel.

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Later they had an opportunity to observe the Red Bull Crashed Ice competition whereby skaters from several countries hurtled themselves, four at a time, at speeds up to 50 km/hr down a specially constructed ice course in quest of a \$5,000 prize for the fastest time.

All delegates and observers expressed their appreciation to Speaker Bissonnet and his staff headed by Secretary General **François Côté** for making the 25th conference such a memorable event.

#### Québec City 1608-2008

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**D**uring the Conference delegates were briefed on the numerous

events being planned to mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of Québec. **Lucie Latulippe** of the organizing committee outlined some highlights including a free open air concert by **Céline Dion** on the Plains of Abraham on August 22, 2008, a special performance of the Cirque du Soleil on October 19, 2008, a performance of two operas, *le Château de Barbe-bleue* by Béla Bartók and *Erwartung* by Arnold Schönberg, in association with **Robert Lapage** from October 18-25. For a complete list of all events see [Myquebec2008.com](http://Myquebec2008.com).

On July 3, 2008, the precise anniversary of the founding of Québec by **Samuel de Champlain**, all capi-

tal cities in Canada are invited to join Québec City in ringing their bells or chimes at 11 am Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

**John Porter**, Managing Director of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec briefed delegates on the special exhibits being organized by the museum including an unprecedented exhibition of 271 paintings, sculptures, jewellery and other works from the collection of the Louvre to be held from June 5 to October 26, 2008.



Delegates, observers and guests at the Twenty Fifth Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference in Quebec City