



# CPA Activities: The Canadian Scene

## New Speaker in Québec

On January 13, 2009 **Yvon Vallières** was elected Speaker of the Québec National Assembly. He was born in Danville (Richmond) on February 5, 1949 and educated at the Université de Sherbrooke. He was a teacher at Saint-Hubert, Asbestos, Danville and Valcourt (1970-1972 and 1976-1981) and also an Education consultant in the Taillon School District from 1972-1973.

He was first elected as the member for Richmond in the general election held on October 29, 1973 and re-elected in 1981, 1985, 1989, 1994, 1998, 2003, 2007 and 2009. Over the years he has held a number of parliamentary positions including Opposition critic



Yvon Vallières

for mining, highways, agriculture, regional development.

He has served as Chief Government Whip on two occasions and is also a former Chair of Caucus. He has been Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

He was elected Speaker by acclamation.

## Canadian Presiding Officers Conference

The 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Canadian Presiding Officers took place in Regina, Saskatchewan from January 22-25, 2009.

The host of the Conference was Speaker **Don Toth** of Saskatchewan. Other Speakers in attendance included **Peter Milliken** (House of Commons), **Roy Boudreau** (New Brunswick), **Roger Fitzgerald** (Newfoundland and Labrador), **George Hickes** (Manitoba), **Paul Delroy** (Northwest Territories), **Alfie MacLeod** (Nova Scotia), **Kathleen Casey** (Prince Edward Island) and **Ted Staffen** (Yukon).

A number of Deputy Speakers also attended including **Wayne Cao** (Alberta), **Katherine Whittred** (British Columbia), **Andrew Scheer** (House of Commons), **Bonnie Korzeniewski** (Manitoba), **Bill Fraser** (New Brunswick), **Thomas Osborne** and **Felix Collins** (Newfoundland and Labrador), **Bruce Crozier** and **Jim Wilson** (Ontario), **Steve Nordick** (Yukon), **Paula Biggar** (Prince Edward

Island), **François Gendron** (Québec), **Greg Brkich** and **Tim McMillan** (Saskatchewan).

The conference was opened by Speaker Toth who welcomed the visiting Speakers and delegates to Saskatchewan.

The first business session was on Parliamentary Broadcasts – Is it Time to Level the Playing Field? and featured a presentation by **Gregory Putz**, Clerk of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly and **Darcy Hislop**, Chief Technology Officer.

Speaker Milliken presented a paper in the second session on the Challenges of Special Sitings. The third session was a Roundtable with three former Saskatchewan Speakers **Glenn Hagel**, **Myron Kowalsky** and **Arnold Tusa**.

Speaker MacLeod gave a presentation on Notices of Motions at the fourth session and the final session was on Committee Reform in Alberta with a presentation by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, **David McNeil**.

Aside from the business sessions members had an opportunity to visit the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the RCMP Heritage Centre. Following the final business session they attended a performance by the music group *Kevin Costner and Modern West*. The show included original material penned by the band and cover songs written by some of music's giants.