



# Canadian Evaluation Society

## NEWSLETTER

www.evaluationcanada.ca

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Partnering with the Voluntary Sector	1	<b>Partnering with the Voluntary Sector</b> <i>Nancy Porteous, President</i> Advocacy and capacity building are central themes in the CES strategic plan. The CES National Council is currently drafting an Advocacy Action Plan while initiatives such as the Essential Skills Series continue to help build the evaluation capacity of individuals and organizations across the country.
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On behalf of CES, I attended NVO's annual national conference in Ottawa in September to learn more about NVO, to meet its members and to begin to explore some possibilities for collaboration. Over the next few

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months, Council will continue to think about ways to reach out to this sector. Some initial ideas? On the advocacy front, perhaps CES can assist in helping funders consider their role in supporting evaluation. Core funding for voluntary organizations is practically non-existent. If project or initiative funding is contingent upon evaluative information, there is often a need for funders to assist in resourcing evaluation efforts. Voluntary organizations simply do not have the resources to do it all on their own. In terms of capacity building, CES can offer evaluation courses and workshops for front-line staff and managers as well as their boards of directors. We are also considering working with a not-for-profit organization that helps match volunteers to the boards of directors of voluntary organizations. The expertise of many CES members would be highly valued by voluntary organizations across the country.

If you have ideas for how to strengthen CES' advocacy and capacity building efforts in the voluntary sector or would like to be involved in this initiative, please don't hesitate to let me know at [Nancy.Porteous@city.ottawa.on.ca](mailto:Nancy.Porteous@city.ottawa.on.ca) or (613) 580-2424 ext 24310. For more information on NVO, go to <http://www.nvo-onb.ca>.



Don't forget that the United Nations has declared 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers. For more information on the International Year of Volunteers, see <http://www.iyvcanada.org/>.



All the best for a happy and healthy new year!

P.S. Speaking of volunteers, thanks again to the Alberta and Saskatchewan Chapters for their warm welcome during my visit in October!

## Building an International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation: Progress Report

*Arnold Love and Craig Russon*

This article presents a brief progress report about the grassroots efforts to develop a worldwide evaluation community and foster greater international cooperation among evaluation organizations. Building a worldwide evaluation community has the potential for all of us to learn from each other and to share previously untapped evaluation knowledge. This should lead to new contributions to evaluation theory and practice, a stronger voice to increase the visibility and stature of evaluation, raised standards for evaluation, and allow us to speak on important issues that involve evaluation data.

The first International Evaluation Conference in Vancouver (1995) brought together evaluators from 65 countries, which stimulated international exchanges through reciprocal memberships and the inclusion of international speakers at the conference. In the few years since the Conference, evaluation societies and networks have grown phenomenally – from a half-dozen in 1995 to over 30 in 2000. The current initiative to strengthen the worldwide evaluation community grew out of the work of the International and Cross-Cultural Topical Interest Group of the American Evaluation Association (AEA). They sponsored a Presidents' Panel at the 1998 and 1999 AEA Conferences to debate the pros and cons of entering into stronger collaborative relationships. Similar debates were held at CES Conferences. A grant awarded by the W.K.Kellogg Foundation enabled the official representatives of 15 regional and national evaluation associations to meet in Barbados this past February. The Barbados meeting afforded the opportunity for the presidents of evaluation associations, to meet and build trust, create a common vision and propose strategic directions for the development of collaborative relationships.

One of the outcomes of the Barbados meeting was a proposal to create an International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE). The new international organization proposes to establish international consensus on the legitimacy and credibility of evaluation; strengthen evaluation societies, especially those in vulnerable political environments; increase the systematic use of evaluation; and build evaluation capacity worldwide. The proposal also addresses concerns that the IOCE keep costs low, administrative structure light, and demonstrate tangible benefits for all members of evaluation societies. The complete proposal in English or French may be downloaded from the CES web site <http://www.evaluationcanada.ca/devprof.html>.

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## CES Consideration of the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation

*Nancy Porteous and Jean-René Bibeau*

At the October 20-22, 2000 meeting of the Canadian Evaluation Society's (CES) National Council, the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) was discussed. Presidents and Chapter Representatives of each of the CES regional Chapters had been asked to consult with their Chapters to provide feedback on the IOCE proposal. This feedback formed the foundation for Council discussions.

The following motion was carried by Council: "CES supports in principle the creation of an International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) as set out in the proposal dated October 10, 2000. This support is contingent upon the establishment of resourcing arrangements that are seen by CES members as fair and equitable."

It is crucial that the IOCE:

- assist participating associations in securing funding to support IOCE participation;
- clearly explain to association members the benefits of association participation in IOCE; and
- recognize linguistic and cultural considerations.

The IOCE must remain a network of representative evaluation associations and it must be flexible enough to allow bilateral or individual arrangements.

Support for the IOCE fits well with the vision, mission and goals of the CES three-year strategic plan, which is currently being finalized. Advocacy and capacity building at home and abroad are important goals for CES. In the strategic plan and accompanying operational plan, opportunities for continued and active participation on the international scene will be clearly articulated.

As Arnold and Craig mention in their progress report, there has been incredible growth of national and regional evaluation associations around the world, including in developing nations. For a list of evaluation associations, go to <http://home.wmis.net/~russon/icce/eorg.htm>.

Jean-René, Past President of CES, participated in the panel discussion about the IOCE at the American Evaluation Association's conference in November. A full transcript of that discussion can be found at <http://home.wmis.net/~russon/icce/iocehi.htm>. In accordance with the agreement made at the AEA Conference

in Chicago in 1999, CES will again host a similar panel on the issue at the upcoming conference in Banff in May 2001. If you are interested in the IOCE concept, please plan to attend the panel discussion. Representatives from several national and regional evaluation associations will be in attendance. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about the IOCE, don't hesitate to contact either of us or your Chapter representative on Council.

A very special thank you goes to Arnold Love, Past President of the Canadian Evaluation Society, and Craig Russon, member of the International & Cross-Cultural Evaluation Topical Interest Group of the American Evaluation Association. They have devoted tremendous time and energy to facilitating and coordinating the international effort to strengthen linkages amongst evaluation associations.

## Vice President's Report: Advocacy

*Joe Kopachevsky*

As reported at the AGM in Montreal, National Council had identified advocacy as an essential part of our strategic plan. Although many of the Society's activities such as Essential Skills, Joint Standards, and Internationalization have an element of advocacy, Council decided that the advocacy of evaluation should become a dedicated, organized initiative supported by the necessary resources. Consequently, the CES has funded and is devising new initiatives to enhance the advocacy component of many of the Society's activities.

In Montreal, Council received and discussed a report which identified the many elements and actions that are involved in the advocacy of evaluation. It developed a "working definition" of advocacy to help clarify our goals and identify the requirements of a successful national plan. One of the major requirements of a national plan is an ongoing and comprehensive dialogue with Chapters. During the conference, an initial meeting between Chapter and Council Executives was held. The very well attended meeting, facilitated by Linda Lee as her "more or less" final act as Past President, focused on a joint understanding of advocacy and its purposes, past experiences and challenges.

During the meeting and in the discussions that followed, we came to learn that advocacy is first and foremost "everybody's responsibility". Most importantly, a national advocacy plan has to address the differences in Chapter's requirements, experiences, and resources.

It also became apparent from those discussions, that a national plan must involve both Chapters and Coun-

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cil in a coordinated effort that focuses on addressing different audiences. An effective plan will require a series of partnerships and mutual support in which Council will develop and provide supportive resources and a vehicle for sharing knowledge, expertise and experience between Chapters.

To this end, Council recently approved the creation of a National Advocacy Committee to be comprised of members from Chapter Executives and co-chaired by a CES member and the Vice President. The initial mandate of the body will be to devise an operating structure, identify initial advocacy initiatives, and establish priorities. The first report from the Committee will be made available in Banff.

As another step in a national plan, Council approved and funded the membership of the CES in the Coalition of National Voluntary Organizations (NVO) which is an important advocacy link for the Society. It is seen as an initial and very necessary step in bringing evaluation to the voluntary sector. We hope CES members will contribute papers or presentations to the NVO's national conference. This is an important linkage for the CES and we are continuing to pursue linkages with other national and international bodies.

In September, Marie-Hélène Adrien delivered a paper co-authored with Charles Lusthaus and Joe Kopachevsky, entitled "Advocating for Evaluation", to the African Evaluation Capacity Development Conference in South Africa sponsored by the World Bank and the African Development Bank. The paper was based upon a report to Council and highlighted the CES experience, views of advocacy and its requirements. All reports indicate that the paper was well received. Council also offered to be of assistance in developing international workshops on Advocacy and Evaluation.

Our most recent initiative is now being developed by the Professional Development Committee and will involve both Chapters and Council. A set of short courses are being designed to meet the "needs" of senior administrators and politicians on the value, use and assessment of evaluation activities. The PD Committee will be reporting on these developments in the near future. I feel we will agree that this is an important and timely undertaking.

In closing, advocacy is definitely every member's "business". We hope members will support the recent Professional Development initiative, the National Advocacy Committee as the national plan is more fully developed, and check out the NVO web site [www.nvo-onb.ca](http://www.nvo-onb.ca).

## Powering Up for Evaluation in the New Millennium Banff, Alberta, May 20 - 23, 2001

The Conference features three themes: Theme 1 - Expanding the Horizons of the Evaluation Environment; Theme 2 - Building Capacity: Developing and Managing Knowledge; Theme 3 - Transforming Evaluation Practice to Meet New Challenges. For further details please visit the Conference web site at <http://edmc.net/ces2001/>.

### Travel Grants Notice: Academics and Students!

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) has once again provided funding for travel grants for students and academics to travel to Conference 2001 in Banff. These grants, if awarded, will provide up to \$900-\$1,000 for travel, fees and accommodation to attend the annual conference. Check out the CES web site for information on how to apply for the SSHRC travel grants.

### Student Essay Contest 2001

The deadline for the CES Student Essay Contest has been extended to February 19, 2001. For further details call Nicole Steward at 416-327-5674 or see the CES web site at [www.evaluationcanada.ca/etudiant.html](http://www.evaluationcanada.ca/etudiant.html).

The Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) will be offering awards for the best essay written by an undergraduate student and graduate student in the field of evaluation. The topics must be in any of the following areas:

- theory and practice of evaluation;
- case studies in evaluation;
- state-of-the-art advances; or
- designs and methodologies for evaluating programs.

The winners will be awarded \$500 as well as travel and registration costs to attend the CES Annual Conference in Banff, in May 2001. Two honourable mention awards will also be granted. The honourable mention winners (one undergraduate and one graduate student) will each receive a cash prize of \$300. The granting of all awards is dependent on the quality of the essays received. Essays can be submitted in either official language. The winners may be asked to submit their winning essays to the Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation.



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## CES Student Essay Contest 2000

Thank you to all of the students who competed in the annual CES Essay Contest. Thanks also to the instructors who encouraged their students to enter the contest. Thank you to the Ontario Chapter of the CES for sponsoring the Honorable Mention Award.

As with any initiative, a lot of volunteer time and energy make it happen. Special thanks to the panel of judges: Tim Aubry, Leslie Buckle, Kaireen Chaytor and Judy Evans. Appreciation is also extended to Patrick Moran who co-ordinated the Contest.

Winner, Graduate Division

Chantal Langevin (Student of Shelley Borys)  
Psychology Department, Carleton University  
"An Evaluation Framework for the Maison Decision House Substance Abuse Treatment Program" (to appear in upcoming issue of the Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation)

Honorable Mention, Graduate Division

Molly den Heyer (Student of Harry Cummings)  
Rural Planning and Development,  
Ontario Agriculture College, University of Guelph

Winner, Undergraduate Division

Ryan Sommers (Student of David Zitner)  
Medical Informatics, Faculty of Science,  
Dalhousie University

"How Information Technologies and Health Decision Support Systems can Improve Clinical Practice Guidelines" (abstract follows)

Unexplained geographical variations in medical treatment, stresses on acute care facilities and inappropriate resource allocation are only a few of the misuses within the Canadian Health Care System. With increasing emphasis on health care reform, accountability and effective care, health care workers and administrators are searching for methods to better deliver high quality care. One proposed solution is Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG). These systematically, evidence based tools serve to aid practitioner and patient decision making processes, improve the quality of care, help policy development and also serve as educational instruments. Yet, these documents fall short of their expected goals, often not accounting for budget constraints, physician behavior or clinically relevant situations.

Health Decision Support Systems (HDSS) are computer and information technologies that provide real-time,

evidence based health status and outcomes that provide health care workers with relevant and accurate information. Applications such as Rough Sets and Concurrent Review possess the ability to aid the delivery process via speedy, efficient methods, while at the same time improve the quality of care. This paper examined and evaluated the structure of CPG in and outside the clinical environment and studied how new information technologies, such as HDSS, have the potential to complement or replace these ineffective support tools.

## Student Evaluation Case Competition 2001

The Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) is organizing its sixth annual student Evaluation Case Competition. The Case Competition draws together teams of university and college students from any discipline to compete in the analysis of an evaluation case file. In a preliminary round, teams have five hours to develop commentary on a case that has been delivered by courier to their home institution. They submit their analyses by fax for judging. In a final round, the top three teams have five hours to examine a different case and prepare a presentation for delivery to a live audience. This year, the final round will be held in Banff, Alberta, in conjunction with the 2001 CES Conference.

- Teams should be registered by February 15, 2001.
- Preliminary round of Competition, Saturday February 24.
- Final round, Monday May 21.

Past Sponsors:

Contributors to the student travel and prize fund: Health Canada, Heritage Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, Industry Canada, KPMG, Ontario Chapter of the CES, Price Waterhouse Associates, Performance Management Network, Quebec Society of Program Evaluation, Transport Canada, Treasury Board of Canada

Contributors of in-kind support: Carleton University, Department of National Defense, Finance Canada, Goss Gilroy, International Development Research Centre, Lord Elgin Hotel, Medical Research Council of Canada, University of Ottawa, Université du Québec à Montréal, Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Rideauwood Family Services, Starbucks

Administration of the Competition is provided by the National Capital Chapter of the CES. The organizing committee of the 2001 Case Competition: Natasha Bergeron, Irina Goldenberg, Michael Obrecht, and John Wall.

For more information, please visit our site: [www.magma.ca/~evalucom](http://www.magma.ca/~evalucom).

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## A Conversation with Harry Cummings

*Michael Obrecht*

Harry Cummings has been a member of the Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) since 1989. He teaches program evaluation, rural development planning, regional economics and research methods at the University of Guelph and provides consulting services through his company Harry Cummings and Associates (HCA). He was interviewed by Michael Obrecht, a member of the CES since 1983, who is currently with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), a federal organization responsible for creation of new health knowledge, transfer of knowledge to users in the health care system and health-related firms and innovation and integration in the Canadian health research system. The interview was conducted by e-mail.

MO: Harry, I have been involved with the CES Evaluation Case Competition since its inception in 1996. The fact that for two years in a row you coached the winning team of students has made me curious about your views on program evaluation and your approach to teaching evaluative skills. First, could you tell us about your initial exposure to program evaluation and how your involvement in program evaluation has evolved since then?

HC: I was initially exposed to program evaluation while working for the federal government in Edmonton, Alberta. I worked in regional development and we had to have an evaluation plan in place for our program. I remember very clearly being concerned about how we would evaluate our program when the province did the implementation in most cases. I suppose my first exposure might have been through learning cost benefit analysis in my graduate and undergraduate geography degrees. Since then, I have become heavily involved in teaching and doing evaluations. My first evaluations were of international development programs run by CIDA (the Canadian International Development Agency). My first teaching in evaluation was in Guelph in about 1984. I have developed strong interests in applied methods, the use of program logic, logical frameworks and results-based management, and teach and use all of these tools in Canadian and international contexts.

MO: So, would I be right in guessing that you bring extensive practical experience to bear on your teaching of evaluation?

HC: Yes, lots of practical experience has been a big help in the classroom. First of all, it keeps you current and gives you credibility. My evaluation experience means I can always speak to what is useful in evaluation. I also use my evaluation reports as case studies.

I am excited about the evaluation work I do and that shows in the classroom, I hope. Secondly, it gives you lots of material for teaching. I learned how to do Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) while working on an international evaluation. I then read more about it, and subsequently taught my students how to use the Logical Framework. This also feeds back to my evaluation work. Because I have taught the LFA method, read about it, and expanded the ideas to logic models more generally, I hope I do a better job of evaluation practice. The variety of experience I have also works well in the classroom: international, Canadian, economic impact, health and quality assurance, community development, etc, are all present in my work and the interests of my students.

MO: Just in case some readers must, as I do, confess ignorance about Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) could you recommend an article or book about it?

HC: Readers may wish to look at the Canadian Journal of Development Studies, (University of Ottawa) Special Issue, Vol. XVIII. 1997, Results Based Performance Reviews and Evaluations, edited by H. Cummings. It contains articles by myself, pp 587-596 and Sawadogo and Dunlop, pp 597-612.

MO: In teaching a group of students who may not previously have thought about program evaluation, what is the one basic principle that you consider the most important to instill?

HC: Evaluation makes sense. If you are going to invest in a program or project, you want to learn if your investment was a success. If it was not a success, why not and how can you do it better. Evaluation will help you do that. More importantly evaluation gives you a systematic approach to assessing the program or project that will ensure that all angles are covered. Of course this assumes you learn to do evaluation well.

MO: In the Evaluation Case Competition, each team of students has only five hours in which they have to read and understand an evaluation case file then develop specific recommendations in response to it. Of the many things you tell your students about program evaluation, what do you think best prepares them for outstanding performance in this highly intense activity?

HC: The one most important thing is to be flexible, innovative and think outside the box. Apply systematic evaluation approaches but don't get locked into the jargon. Other key elements are: appoint a team leader, do time management, have a conflict resolution strategy. And last but not least – have fun!!

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MO: Speaking of fun, I learned from one of the members of the 1998 winning team that your coaching had included an evening discussion on evaluation over pizza at your place. Is working with the students in that sort of relaxed environment part of the team-building that prepares them for success in the Competition?

HC: Yes, Michael, building up a commitment to the Competition and to the team is a very important part of the process. Also, getting away from the University allows us to focus without distraction. Students also need to know how committed I am to evaluation and to them. Making my home available to them gives that clear message – and it gives them the chance to ask any questions they might have.

MO: I suppose it is also quite important that the time and effort students put into the Competition is recognized as the equivalent of evaluation course work. Do you give students some sort of academic credit for participating in the Competition?

HC: Yes. I develop a learning contract with the group of students. The contract has two levels depending on how far in the Competition students go (round 1 or round 2). Their involvement in the Competition may vary from 25 to 75% of their final mark in my program evaluation course.

MO: In chatting with members of the winning teams that you coached in 1998 and 1999 I got a sense that the students were exceptionally gifted and cosmopolitan in outlook. Do you think that the Program in Rural Planning and Development tends to attract unusually talented students?

HC: That sounds like a complement that I am proud to accept, Michael. They certainly are cosmopolitan in outlook and very experienced in group work. We have a nice combination of international and Canadian content in our student body and program. By the time students get to the graduate level they are generally a bright and committed group.

MO: Well thanks very much, Harry. I really enjoyed this e-mail exchange.

HC: Thank you, Michael and others, for organizing this Competition. It certainly has changed things in my teaching of evaluation at Guelph.

*Congratulations to Harry as the recipient  
of the 2000 CES Award for  
Contribution to Evaluation in Canada!*

## Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation: Seeking New Editor

*Bob Segsworth, Editor*

My term as editor of the Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation comes to an end on 31 December 2001. The CES Council has initiated a process to find a successor. Individuals who are interested in the position of editor are invited to submit an application by 1 March 2001 to:

Bob Segsworth  
Department of Political Science  
Laurentian University  
Sudbury, ON P3E 2C6

Information regarding the responsibilities of the position are posted on the CES web site <http://www.evaluationcanada.ca/publdoc.html>. If you are interested in additional information or have questions about the position, please feel free to phone me at (705) 675-1151 ext.4324. CES Council intends to appoint the new Editor in May 2001.

## CES: A Sponsoring Organization of the Joint Committee on Standards of Educational Evaluation

*Joan Kruger, National Council Representative*

The Program Evaluation Standards, 2nd Edition is a reference with which CES members may be familiar. The Standards were first developed in 1979, and a 2nd edition was completed in 1994 by The Joint Committee on Standards of Educational Evaluation located at the Evaluation Centre, Western Michigan University. The Joint Committee (JC) is an international organization with 16 sponsoring organizations from the United States and Canada. Its primary role is to promote sound evaluations through the development and use of standards. CES has been a Sponsoring Organization of the JC since 1994. As a sponsoring organization, CES attends an annual meeting and participates in JC activities.

The Joint Committee has developed two sets of standards: The Program Evaluation Standards, published by Sage Publications, Ltd. and The Personnel Evaluation Standards published by Corwin Press, Ltd. The Program Evaluation Standards have been affirmed in their present form until 2002. The Personnel Evaluation Standards are under revision and are to be completed in two to three years. The Program Evaluation and the Personnel Evaluation standards are utilized within various disciplines and professions. The Joint Committee has just completed a third draft of The Student Evaluation Standards (K-12 and postsecondary)

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that will go to field test in January 2001 and to National hearings in May/June, 2001.

For further information on these Standards, visit the JC web site at [www.wmich.edu/evalctr/jc/](http://www.wmich.edu/evalctr/jc/). Summaries are available. A useful link on Designing Evaluations is available on the Program Evaluation page.

CES presence on the JC is important at this time. The program evaluation standards caused lively debate at the February 2000 meeting of international evaluation organizations. Although the JC has always maintained that The Standards are uniquely American, several international evaluation organizations are anxious to adapt or develop standards suitable for their own use. The standards have been examined based on value dimensions, and these value dimensions cause the differences between cultures. The Germans have translated the standards and are contemplating the development of a unique set of German evaluation standards. The Swiss have developed standards based on The Program Evaluation Standards; the first to be developed outside of US. In general, evaluators outside the United States are encouraged to use these standards where appropriate. See The Canadian Evaluation Society Newsletter, March 1997 for a good discussion of The Standards.

The Joint Committee is currently looking for individuals/organizations who would field test the Student Evaluation Standards. If you are interested or require more information on any Standards or the Joint Committee, contact Joan Kruger, CES representative on the JC, at [kruger@cableregina.com](mailto:kruger@cableregina.com) or 306-780-5188.

## Chapter Updates

### La Société québécoise d'évaluation de programme (SQÉP): Award for Excellence

*(excerpt from presentation of Award)  
Quebec City, November 10, 2000*

Once again this year, for the fifth time since 1996, the *Société québécoise d'évaluation de programme* is presenting its Award to a person from the program evaluation milieu in recognition of the person's contribution to the growth of the profession. The Award is bestowed upon people who have made an exemplary contribution to the development of program evaluation in one of the following areas:

- Evaluation studies;
- Publishing books or articles;
- Training and professional development activities;

- Active participation in a professional association such as CES or SQEP;
- Organization of a conference or a congress.

The recipient of this award entered into public administration in Quebec after receiving a B.A. followed by a certification in political science and economy from McGill University in 1971. Over the course of a rich and diversified career that is nearing the thirty-year mark, he worked in the central agencies, in network departments and in operational departments. His career took on an international dimension from 1992 to 1994, when he worked at UNESCO in Paris as senior program and policy evaluation specialist.

His specific interest in program evaluation dates especially from 1982. The development of program evaluation in the Quebec public administration has been an ongoing focal point for him, first at the *Ministère de la main-d'oeuvre et de la sécurité*, then at Treasury Board Secretariat, where he participated in the writing of a draft policy framework for evaluation within the government, and the many positions that he has held since.

But his commitment to program evaluation is not limited to his professional activity in the service of his employer. He has made a powerful contribution to the development of professional associations for program evaluation practitioners. For example, he was co-founder of the *Société québécoise d'évaluation de programme* in 1986, and was president of that society from November 1995 to November 1996. On the national level, he has been a member of the Canadian Evaluation Society since 1984, and served as president from May 1998 to May 2000. And on the global level, since 1998 he has participated actively in efforts to create an international association for cooperation in evaluation. Over and above his responsibilities within various professional associations, he also played a key role in the development of web sites for the CES and the SQEP, and continues to serve as Webmaster for the CES site. He has given numerous speeches on evaluation to a wide variety of audiences in Quebec, in Canada and abroad.

I wonder if, having listened to this brief summary of the career of our recipient, there could possibly be anyone in the room who would not know whom we are talking about. We also note that he satisfies not just one or even some of the prerequisites for receiving the Award, which would be normal, but satisfies all the conditions, which are absolutely exceptional. And that is the word that best describes him. His buoyancy, his outgoing enthusiasm, his boundless energy and his



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unshakeable will, his mastery of new technology and especially his willingness to help others, make him the best possible ambassador for program evaluation in Quebec, in Canada and now throughout the world.

In presenting him its Award for Excellence, the SQEP recognizes and salutes the contribution made by Jean-René Bibeau to the development of program evaluation.

## P.E.I. Chapter

*Carl E. Doucette, Chair*

The P.E.I. Chapter remains very active by offering its 42 members a variety of professional development and networking events. On October 26-27, 2000 the Chapter hosted a workshop on Satisfaction Surveying (client and employees) which demonstrated how satisfaction surveys are essential components of the strategic planning process. This workshop highlighted the exciting work of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Department of Health and Social Services, and Veteran Affairs Canada.

On November 20, 2000, the Chapter held its annual meeting and a workshop featuring Dr. Arnold Love, the former national president of CES and an international consultant in the field of evaluation. In early December, the Chapter hosted its final professional development event for the year 2000. Titled "Making Connections: Evaluation and Health Promotion", the December 7, 2000 noon time event featured a panel discussion involving three levels: provincial, regional, and national. The Health Promotion specialists included Teresa Hennebery, Director of Public Health and Evaluation, PEI Department of Health & Social Services, Charlottetown; Renee Lyons, Director of the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Center, Halifax; and Jaunita Bernard, Director of Health Promotion, Veteran Affairs Canada, Charlottetown. These professional development events provide training opportunities for the participants as well as a forum for the Chapter to advocate for the increased use of evaluation within the public and private sectors.

## Newfoundland Chapter

*Lynn Bryant*

*Activities 1999-2000  
Professional Development*

Once again this year, the Professional Development committee organized a mix of events to meet the needs of as many members and prospective members as pos-

sible and to contribute to the Society's goals of advocacy and professional development.

A group of members met in a brown bag session in September to provide input to the Canadian Evaluation Society Strategic Plan. We encouraged the National Council to think broadly in promoting evaluation as a way of thinking and acting in all phases of policy and program management.

In December, a group of members met to draft a submission to the Province's Ministerial Committee on Jobs and Growth. Our submission was designed to provide three clear messages to the Ministers on ways they could build evaluation into the Strategic Economic Plan, using examples of evaluation approaches that had worked in the past.

Our lunch time sessions focused on evaluation work in specific sectors:

- In October, consultants from HRDC and Human Resources and Employment, along with a consultant from Goss Gilroy Inc. provided an overview on the results of a review of client needs for labour market information.
- Beverly Clarke, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Program Branch, Department of Health and Community Services, provided an overview of policy development work underway in her department and the role of evaluation in that work at our March luncheon.
- In June, Elizabeth Marshall, the provincial Auditor General, presented her views on the linkages between audit and evaluation in ensuring accountability for results across government.

### *Conferences*

The Chapter partnered with the Public Service Managers Association (PSMA) in their bi-annual conference in March. Our involvement was three-fold: We assisted with travel costs to bring Dr. Andy Rowe, US President of GHK International, back home to conduct two workshops on managing for results. Andy, a former Newfoundland and national CES president, donated his time to conduct these sessions. This was one of the most attended workshops in the conference. Mike Woodford, CES - NF treasurer and Director of Strategic Planning with Government Services and Lands, chaired a panel in the conference plenary session on the role of evaluation in public service reform. We also manned a booth during the conference displaying local and national CES materials, with CES members present to answer questions.

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Our involvement in this conference helped promote awareness of the Society, our work, and evaluation among a large group of provincial and federal government managers – a prime target group for CES membership

#### *Workshops*

The workshops this year brought together members and people who are new to our organization. Jean René Bibeau, CES national president, conducted a workshop in October 1999 on 'Managing for Results' based on the work underway in the Quebec government. This was part of his tour of the Atlantic CES Chapters.

A workshop on organizing and conducting focus groups was delivered by Chapter members Rick Morris and Amy Percy of the Institute for Human Resource Development in May. This was similar to a session they did for the Chapter last year, and was offered again due to popular demand. While Andy Rowe was in the Province, he conducted a session for senior consultants and managers on 'Improving Program Performance'.

#### *Essential Skills*

Under Helen Banfield's leadership, the Chapter was contracted by provincial Treasury Board to offer the Essential Skills Series of workshops in early 2000 to managers and consultants from across the provincial government. Treasury Board has since contracted with the Chapter to deliver a second series of these workshops. Local member Abe Ross and Ontario member Paul Favaro conducted these sessions.

#### *National Case Competition*

For the second year, the Chapter sponsored a team in the National CES Case Competition. This year's team of five master's level students came from various faculties at Memorial University. They worked from November to February in preparing for the Competition. The team put in a great effort and we all learned a lot from the process. Several members of the Chapter helped in various ways in coaching the team.

#### *2000 Chapter Activities to date:*

A member survey to review topic interests, venues and time slots for professional development events; a Meet and Greet on October 3, 2000 which was attended by 20 members, including several new participants; and a lunch time session on November 9, 2000 which was attended by 25 members. The topic was ACOA's Program Evaluation/Monitoring Approach with Don Hogan.

#### *Newfoundland Membership Update*

Currently the Newfoundland Chapter has 40 Local

members and 59 National members, for a total of 99 members overall. Thirty-seven people became National members by way of participation in the Essential Skills Series through the Public Service Commission. Thus, the majority of the National members in Newfoundland are provincial government employees and this trend will continue upward with further offerings throughout the Province.

#### *NF Communication Committee Activities*

In 1999/2000 the Communications Committee consisted of one member, the committee chair. By Christmas, however, one other member was recruited and information was gathered to produce the first and only newsletter of the year. This newsletter was distributed electronically to all members of the Newfoundland Chapter of the Canadian Evaluation Society and several members of the National Society. In addition to involvement in the newsletter, the Communications Committee was also responsible for the communications strategy for two workshops presented by the Program Committee.

The original goal of the Communication Committee in 1997 was to produce four newsletters a year. In past years, members have been asked to submit articles and demonstrate an interest in the newsletter. To date only executive has participated in this role. The Communications Committee has gained two new members for the year 2000-2001 but the chair of this committee has recently stepped down. The Newfoundland executive is currently exploring possible new approaches to this aspect of our service.



agence intergouvernementale  
de la francophonie

### **Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (ACCT): Program and Evaluation Branch**

*Paris, 31/05/2000*

*Composition of a list of evaluation experts  
at the Agence de la Francophonie*

The *Agence de la Francophonie* is in the process of creating a database of Francophone evaluation experts, and as such, is actively encouraging members of Francophone evaluation societies such as your own to send us information that they deem pertinent regarding their skills and experience in evaluation matters. This would permit us to send them invitations for pro-

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posals put out by the *Agence de la Francophonie* for external evaluations of its programs and projects, since in general only multidisciplinary, multinational teams are invited to submit proposals. In certain cases this database would also make it possible to help determine the composition of such teams, by bringing together various experts able to join together in response to proposal invitations by the *Agence de la Francophonie*.

Members of your association who are interested in becoming part of our database should send their application dossier to the *Agence de la Francophonie*, Program and Evaluation Branch. The dossier should consist of a presentation form and a curriculum vitae, and sent either electronically or by mail. In the case of teams, each team member must complete the curriculum vitae form.

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Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie  
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## Research Request from Germany

*Dr. Horst Breier  
Head of Division, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany*

The Evaluation Division of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany) is planning to establish a databank of local intermediate institutions in partner countries that would qualify for potential cooperation in evaluation. Thus, we seek to expand our possibilities to recruit local consultants expertise and to enhance partnerships and participation in evaluation work. We intend to share the content of the databank with those who are interested. Specifically, we are looking for independent research institutions, think tanks, consulting firms, NGOs and university departments and other partner countries that have a well-founded background in evaluation and monitoring techniques. We are especially interested in institutions that are experienced in cooperating with bilateral or multilateral aid agencies. Ms. Stefanie Schurer of the University of Potsdam is helping us with our research. If you know of any suitable organization, any already existing database or any knowledgeable person in the field, we would very much appreciate, if you could provide us with further details. In addition, we would like to encourage you to forward this letter to other potential sources of information. For further information, any queries, please contact Ms. Schurer: Tel: +49/(0)228/535-3629 e-mail: [schurer@bmz.bund.de](mailto:schurer@bmz.bund.de).

## The Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP) in Humanitarian Assistance

ALNAP is an interagency forum working to improve learning and accountability within the international humanitarian system. Established in 1997, ALNAP's membership now comprises 45 Full Members and a growing number of Observer Members (currently 230). Full Members represent bilateral and multilateral donor organisations; UN agencies and Departments; NGOs and NGO umbrella organisations. Full Members are drawn from a mix of evaluation, operations and policy sections within their respective organisations. A Database of evaluation reports on humanitarian programmes is maintained by the ALNAP Secretariat. Currently, 290 such reports have been catalogued and the key sections of over 200 of these are maintained in fully searchable format on the ALNAP website.

ALNAP's workplan for 2000-02 is organised around three themes:

- Making the Evaluation Process More Effective
- Strengthening Accountability Frameworks within the Humanitarian System
- Improving Field-Level Learning Mechanisms

For further information, visit the web site at [www.odi.org.uk/alnap](http://www.odi.org.uk/alnap).

### *Disclaimer*

*Individuals interested in evaluation are encouraged to submit articles to the CES national newsletter to encourage dialogue and debate on issues. The views expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Canadian Evaluation Society.*