

## **Moving forward... Introducing the International Council for Canadian Studies**

Susan Hodgett<sup>1</sup>

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Members of the Brazilian Association may not be familiar with the work of the International Council for Canadian Studies in Ottawa. The International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS), founded in 1981, is a not-for-profit organization composed of 23 member associations and 5 associate members in thirty-nine countries, dedicated to the promotion and support of research, education and publication in all fields of Canadian Studies around the world. The ICCS is governed by a Board of Directors and an elected Executive Committee. The Board of Directors, which meets once a year, is responsible

for planning and establishing the general direction and policies of the ICCS. It is composed of one representative from each member association and associate member, and the Executive Committee. The ICCS network links over 7000 academics and researchers in 70 countries. Over the years, the council has developed a series of activities and programs in support of Canadian Studies associations around the globe including conferences, seminars, publications, information sharing and awards. Recognitions and awards include the Governor General's International Award in Canadian Studies, the Best Doctoral Thesis in Canadian Studies award, the Pierre Savard Awards for outstanding monographs in English and French and Certificates of Merit for contributions to the field (see <http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/iccs-scholarships-awards.php>).

Since the ending of the government of Canada's Understanding Canada Program the ICCS has lobbied to maintain

the profile of Canadian Studies in Canada and beyond and to represent the interests of its member associations. We have been active in highlighting the profile of Canadian Studies in Ottawa and ensuring that policymakers, politicians, the media and others are aware of the great work that our member associations and their individual Canadianists undertake. We also work with Canadianists in Canada to connect into many universities in the country. In May 2015, we made a major contribution to Trent University's conference entitled "Contesting Canada's Future". The conference covered themes ranging from environmental policy to artistic practice and featured a number of guest speakers, including water rights activist Maude Barlow, Canadian writer Miriam Toews and Idle No More activist Erica Lee. Our annual general meeting took place at the Trent conference where the Board of Directors discussed the future of Canadian Studies. The main subject of discussion

included reviewing our current constitution; our new media and crowdsourcing campaign and the search for sources of funding. Another contribution ICCS made to its member associations at this time included establishing a fund to aid associations for the period of 2015 and 2016 so helping maintain their activities.

ICCS is an important means for Canadian Studies associations to make connections and to establish collaborations for international research possibilities across countries and disciplines. We also offer a high quality journal published by the University of Toronto Press for Canadianists to profile their work to a serious and growing international audience. Details of the International Journal for Canadian Studies can be found at <http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/international-journal-canadian-studies.php>.

More and new initiatives will emerge from ICCS in the next months and we look forward to working with the Brazilian

Association for Canadian Studies in  
taking forward our joint work.

### **Note**

<sup>1</sup> PhD, Ulster University, Ireland, UK.  
President ICCS. [sl.hodgett@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:sl.hodgett@ulster.ac.uk).