



Alain M. Leclerc

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 21, 2012

Ficpi Canada is part of a great organization. Figuratively speaking, Ficpi represents the eyes, ears and voice of the IP private practice profession in Canada and throughout the world. Ficpi stands for high standards of the profession, for continued training and for good business relations between members. Although non-political, Ficpi does not refrain from expressing opinions on matters of IP legislation or court decisions. Ficpi is a dynamic organization. It organizes numerous recurrent and ad-hoc meetings in Canada and elsewhere. I encourage you to attend and fully participate within the Ficpi organization. Your participation will promote its growth and success.

Ficpi is present in 86 countries. At Ficpi Canada, we have the privilege of a strong and growing participation amongst both seasoned professionals and younger members. We have over 100 active members with members in all major Canadian firms from coast-to-coast. This allows us to be active in putting together varied programs.

For example, over the past few years we have commissioned a salary survey of trainees and agents. This confidential survey is conducted by a consultant at arm's length from Ficpi Canada. The results of the survey are distributed to all members whose firms participated in the survey.

Another initiative is an intensive claim drafting clinic held over a weekend in the fall of every year. Clinic attendees are trained towards better claim drafting and improved odds of being successful at the Patent Agent's Exam. From time to time, Ficpi Canada also organizes an opinion drafting clinic, subject to demand from the profession.

Next year, on February 7 and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Ficpi Canada is hosting a major ad-hoc meeting on the theme of "Promoting Canadian IP on a World Stage". As you know, Canadian IP filings are currently falling behind when compared to other jurisdictions. This meeting will explore the causes of this phenomenon and explore ways we might reverse this trend. Let's face it our profession as Canadian patent and trade-mark agents and lawyers is under constant threat. We now face increasing worldwide competition. We must adapt. We must promote our profession and promote Canada as a must-file IP country.

Also next year, Canada will participate in the FICPI ABC (American British Canadian) meeting to be held in New Orleans on May 15 to 18. Then on to Sorrento, Italy, from October 2 to 5 for the 14<sup>th</sup> Open Forum. It promises to be a busy year for all of us.

We at Ficpi Canada are also busy responding to frequent calls for comment on proposed new legislation, regulations, practice notices or manuals of practice. In addition, we are in the process of submitting proposals to the Federal Government's Standing Committee on Industry and Commerce that has undertaken a review of IP related policies in Canada. The submissions and presentations prepared by your Ficpi Council are well-respected and given due consideration by CIPO officials and the Canadian government in general.

Our objectives in 2013 are to increase our voice and presence amongst decision makers by presenting frequent, clear and concise submissions. Part of this mandate is fulfilled by frequent face-to-face meetings with Mr. Sylvain Laporte, CEO of CIPO and other senior officials.

I take this opportunity to warmly thank my fellow council members, for the term of 2012-2014:

**Robert Storey, past-president**

**John Knox, vice-president**

**Coleen Morisson, treasurer**

**Stephen Perry, secretary**

**Brett Slaney, councilor**

I have the privilege of acting as your elected president. This is an important role that requires your support. With your help and participation we can make a difference. Please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on FICPI Canada council at any time. Your suggestions are welcome.

With best wishes for the Holidays and for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.



Alain M. Leclerc - President, Ficpi Canada