



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONSEILS
EN PROPRIÉTÉ INDUSTRIELLE

FICPI Canada Newsletter
May 2009

Dear FICPI Canada Members:

As you know, the World Congress in Washington is fast approaching. I am pleased to let you know that there are almost 40 Canadian members registered to attend. If you have not yet registered, I urge you to consider doing so. A FICPI World Congress offers excellent opportunities for building international relationships, and staying abreast of important IP issues around the world. If you have any questions about the Congress, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other members of Council.

Annual General Meeting

We will be holding an Annual General Meeting of FICPI Canada during the World Congress in Washington. The date, time and location will be communicated to you shortly. We have recently struck a Nominating Committee of Past Presidents, chaired by Doug Deeth, charged with recommending a nominee for a new Council member's position, to fill the vacancy that will result from Michael Stewart's retirement. As many of you know, Mike has served faithfully on Council for 12 years, most recently as treasurer. Mike was also responsible for organizing the successful World Congress in Vancouver.

You may recall that the former President of FICPI Canada, Ingrid Schmidt, retired during her term, and Council asked me to assume the role of President early. Unfortunately, I have largely had to curtail my FICPI travel plans for the past two years. I am grateful that other members of Council have stood in for me to represent Canada at recent ExCo meetings. I am also grateful that in view of my wife's improved health condition, the other members of Council have asked me to remain as President for the upcoming term. We therefore expect that the Council slate proposed for election will include me, Alain Leclerc as Vice President, John Knox as Treasurer, Coleen Morrison as Secretary, and a new Council member to be recommended by the Nominating Committee. Doug Deeth will continue to sit on Council as Past President.

If you would be interested in participating as a member of Council, or even just obtaining more information about the nature of the commitment, please get in touch with Doug in the next week or so. Please keep in mind too that FICPI is very active at the international level. I would encourage you to speak to a member of Council if you wish to become a member of a CET group.

Activities of Council

The past year has been particularly busy for members of FICPI Canada Council. In addition to the representations we make in our meetings with the Commissioner of Patents and other senior CIPO officials, Council has conveyed five written submissions in respect of proposed changes to the Patent Rules and changes to the Office's practice before the Trade-marks Opposition Board and in summary cancellation proceedings for non-use under Section 45 of the Trade-marks Act.

Please remember that when CIPO consults with the public on any of its initiatives the submissions received from FICPI Canada are given very careful consideration. You should therefore not hesitate to communicate your views to any member of Council so that they may be taken into consideration. Remember as well that while FICPI Canada agrees with positions taken by IPIC on many issues, that is not always the case. For example, FICPI Canada has much more strenuously argued against CIPO's proposal to permit maintenance fees for pending patent applications to be paid by a person other than the agent of record.

FICPI Canada is also continuing to hold its annual two day Claim Drafting Clinic, with the technical program organized by Joan Van Zant. Council is considering a reprise of the Opinion Drafting Clinic that was last held two years ago and organized by Doug Deeth, and a new clinic on Opposition Board practice.

At the upcoming Annual General Meeting, we will be seeking your input with respect to these educational programs and annual salary survey, as well as the possibility of a FICPI Canada members meeting later this year to discuss a variety of issue that are confronting us as private practitioners. You may also contact any member of Council to discuss any ideas you may have about our educational programme.

Membership of FICPI Canada remains well over a hundred, including the following members who have joined in the past year: Franz Bonsang, John Alan Aucoin, Elaine Johnson, Randall Marusyk, Shauna Paul, Nadine D'Aguiar, James Erwin Gastle, Jonathan Auerbach, Marc Gagnon, Gonzalo Lavin, Ted Urbanek, Marc Benoît and Adrian Kaplan. Please be sure to welcome these new members at upcoming meetings.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other members of Council. I look forward to seeing you in Washington in June.

Bob Storey

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