



May, 2005

## **Membership Newsletter**

Welcome to the Canada25 Monthly Membership newsletter. We are excited by this opportunity to reach all of Canada25's members and bring together the people and ideas that contribute to our growth and success.

The aim of this newsletter is to bridge the geographic distances that separate our chapters in Canada, and around the World, and create a forum where the 1800+ engaged and dedicated individuals that comprise Canada25 can inform and inspire each other.

Each month you will be able to look to this publication for updates from across our network of Chapters; news on our past and current policy projects; media coverage of Canada25; exciting new volunteer opportunities; information on our sponsors; and much more.

Canada25 owes its success to the contributions you have made and we hope that they will continue. We welcome your feedback on this newsletter, suggestions on how we can make it more relevant and submissions that would be of interest to our network of members.

Thank you for making the commitment to becoming an informed and active citizen!

Jonathan Dunn

Tabatha Soltay

National Director of Communications  
Canada25

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## **Civic Engagement Update:**

Canada25 has launched work on its fourth major policy project initiative. The year's project focuses on helping Canadians become the most civically engaged citizenry in the world. This project, like previous years, will involve regional roundtables, a national forum, and culminate with the release of a major policy report on civic engagement. Overseeing the Civic Engagement Project is a national organizing committee chaired by Sarah McQuarrie and Court Curry.

Work on the Civic Engagement Project continues with Chapters gearing up for their regional roundtables. Essential to the success of the Civic Engagement Project is participation at the regional level. The important insights and ideas that will form the backbone of Canada25's final report on civic engagement will come from these regional roundtables. Delegates at the national

conference will debate the ideas and policy recommendations developed at the roundtables.

The National Planning Committee's logistics team is working to select a location for the national conference, tentatively planned for November 2005. Stay tuned for further developments!

The Committee is also pleased to announce that Canada25 will be working with the Canadian Unity Council to conduct research in support of the national project.

In sum, the exciting work of developing a policy-relevant report on civic engagement is well underway. We cannot stress enough the importance of Canada25 members and other interested individuals getting out and participating in the roundtable process. If you are interested in participating in a Regional Roundtable, contact your local chapter or connect with the Civic Engagement Project team at [engagement@canada25.com](mailto:engagement@canada25.com). Details and scheduling for regional roundtables will be announced shortly.

## **Chapter News:**

### **Recent Events**

#### **Edmonton, AB**

The Edmonton Chapter of Canada25 recently launched the report *Investing in the Next Alberta: Beyond 2005 (INA)*. A joint venture with the Calgary Chapter, *INA* presents the vision of Alberta's Canada25 members on what kind of province we want to live in and how we believe these goals can be achieved. *INA* is the result of research, interviews, and two roundtables that challenged its participants to see the potential of a debt-free Alberta and the opportunities it holds for investing in arts and culture, human and social development, stronger communities, connecting Albertans to Alberta and Canada, and sustainable economic development.

As a result of the launch, the Edmonton Chapter has set-up meetings with Alberta government ministers and opposition M.L.A's to discuss the report. The publicity received from *INA* has also brought forward the potential for partnerships with organizations such as the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.

We hope to have the report on-line soon, but in the meantime, requests to view the report can be sent to [edmonton@canada25.com](mailto:edmonton@canada25.com) and we can send you a PDF.

#### **Victoria, BC**

In a month, as British Columbians head to the polls for the provincial elections, they will also get a chance to decide in a referendum whether the province's electoral system should be reformed as per the recommendation of the independent B.C. Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. Recognizing the need for more information and dialogue on the options facing voters in the referendum, the Victoria chapter of Canada25 partnered with the local chapter of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada New Professionals to organise a public forum on April 7.

We packed as much as we could in the one-and-a-half hour event. We started with an overview of the Assembly's work and recommendation, followed by a friendly debate, and finished off with a mock election using the current first-past-the-post system and the proposed BC-STV (single transferable vote) system. Speakers included representatives from the Citizens' Assembly, Know-STV (a "no" group), and the Canadian Unity Council. The event was moderated by a well-known local personality from CBC Radio One. Elections BC and Get Your Vote On (a B.C. non-partisan group dedicated to encouraging youth to vote in the upcoming

election) were present to register and provide information for voters, as were other event sponsors. The forum was a great success, thanks to the event organizers' amazing team work and dedication. We hope to build on this experience as we move forward to organise our first chapter roundtable in the summer. You can reach us at [canada25.victoria@canada25.com](mailto:canada25.victoria@canada25.com).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **London, UK**

The London Chapter is pleased to be hosting a roundtable discussion – Enhancing Global Markets: Young Canadian Professionals Abroad – on May 4th, 2005. Featuring Brian McKay, Managing Director & Head of European Mergers & Acquisitions for CIBC World Markets, and Ron Hoffman, Minister (Political and Public Affairs) Canadian High Commission, the event promises to be lively discussion on such topics as defining the Young Canadian experience abroad; Identifying our relationship with our native country; and Are we an economic drain or an economic gain.

Stay tuned for a summary of the discussion and future London Chapter events and initiatives. You can always reach us at: [London\\_uk@canada25.com](mailto:London_uk@canada25.com).

### **Chapters Around the World...**

Canada25 is looking to start an Australia/New Zealand Chapter. If you live in either of these countries, or know civic-minded individuals who do, please get in touch with Tabatha Soltay, National Membership Director, at [members@canada25.com](mailto:members@canada25.com)

### **From Middle to Model Power Update:**

Towards the end of 2004, Canada25 launched its third major policy report entitled, *From Middle to Model Power*. This report is the culmination of our Canada and the World project which brought together almost 400 young Canadians in 12 different cities in Canada, the US and the UK, to discuss and debate ideas for Canada's future role in international affairs.

The response to this report has been overwhelming. Harvard Professor Michael Ignatieff says the "Canada25 is thinking new thoughts" and Jennifer Welsh, author of *At Home in the World* called *From Middle to Model Power* "a must read for all those concerned about Canada's global role in this new century."

A lot has happened since the release of this report last November, including:

- Our Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver chapters hosting events to launch the report in their respective communities. In total more than 500 Canadians attended these events.
- A review in the Literary Review of Canada by David Malone, Assistant Deputy Minister, Foreign Affairs Canada
- Countless media stories across the country including an editorial in the Toronto Star which said Canada25 was "defying the status quo" and articles in the Calgary Sun, Ottawa Citizen and on the websites of Maclean's Magazine and the National Post

As the discussion about Canadian international affairs heats up with the release of the International Policy Review we look forward to continuing our outreach with *From Middle to Model Power*. Please visit [www.canada25.com/~canworld](http://www.canada25.com/~canworld) or contact [canworld@canada25.com](mailto:canworld@canada25.com)

for information on how to get more involved.

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

Looking for ways to contribute to Canada25's growth and success? The following volunteer opportunity is one of many currently available:

#### **Director, Internal Communications:**

Working closely with the National Director of Communications, you will be responsible for managing Canada25's internal communications efforts. You will coordinate, edit and publish the Monthly membership newsletter and be a key liaison between the national committee and Canada25's chapters. You will also have plentiful opportunities to spearhead new initiatives that improve the internal organizational communications function.

Requiring a commitment of approximately 1-3 hrs/week, you should have some writing and editorial experience, be comfortable building and enhancing relationships with key stakeholders, and be full of ideas and initiative. Most of all, you are enthusiastic and committed.

If you are interested in this position, please send a letter introducing yourself, your involvement with Canada25 to date, and how you feel you can contribute to this position to Jonathan Dunn, National Director of Communications at [communications@canada25.com](mailto:communications@canada25.com). (Resumes are welcome, but not required.)

Check out [www.canada25.com/volunteer](http://www.canada25.com/volunteer) for a complete list of Canada25 opportunities.

### **Executive Director's Message:**

The last few months have certainly been exciting for Canada25. We launched From Middle to Model Power, kicked off our Civic Engagement policy project and our chapters organized events engaging hundreds of young Canadians right across the country. As you'll have seen from elsewhere in this Newsletter the next few months promises to be just as exciting with our Civic Engagement project moving into high gear, continued outreach with From Middle to Model Power and a number of interesting chapter initiatives in the works.

I want to use my Newsletter space this month to thank a number of people who've made incredible contributions to Canada25 over the past few months.

First, I'd like to thank Danistan Saverimuthu and Janet Butler who recently stepped down as National Director of Membership and National Director of Communications respectively. Danistan and Janet played key roles in the development of Canada25 as members of our National Committee worked to chart the path of a new organization. They are dedicated, passionate and incredibly fun to work with. I'm happy to report that Danistan and Janet remain active with Canada25.

Jonathan Dunn and Tabatha Soltay are Canada25's new Director of Communications and Membership and both are doing a fantastic job. This newsletter is certainly a testament to that.

You'll be hearing a lot more from Tabatha and Jonathan over the coming months.

Thank you also to all those who participated in our Canada and the World project, including Regional Roundtables participants and organizers, National Delegates and the many volunteers who made this project happened. This was the largest Canada25 project to date and has definitely resulted in our greatest impact. A major reason for the success of this project has been the hard work of the Canada and the World project organizing team. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll have seen the incredible impact we've had with that report and it wouldn't have been possible without the talent, commitment and energy of Adrian Mucalov, Lucas Robinson, Alexandra Tcheremenska, Jesse Moore, Mike Morgan, and Duyen Nguyen. I know the team would also like to thank Ross Wallace and Cynthia Mackenzie for deftly facilitating the national forum and David Eaves for expertly leading the writing process of the final report.

Canada25's strength is its volunteers and these people are just a few of the many who've made an incredible impact on Canada25 over the past few months. In each Newsletter, I will endeavour to tell you more about our incredible volunteers and the contributions they are making to Canada25.

If anyone has any ideas, comments or concerns about Canada25 please let me know. I can be reached at [amedd@canada25.com](mailto:amedd@canada25.com) or 416 313 3722.

Thank you everyone for your support of Canada25.

Andrew

### **Canada25 Partners:**

Canada25 would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions to the organization over the past few months:

McKinsey & Company

Manulife Financial

RBC Financial Group

Historica Foundation

Canadian Unity Council/Centre for Research and Information on Canada (CRIC)

Anyone interested in helping with Canada25's fundraising efforts please contact Andrew Medd at [amedd@canada25.com](mailto:amedd@canada25.com).

If you have any questions, comments or ideas for Canada25 please email [info@canada25.com](mailto:info@canada25.com).