

**ICCS'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY**

*F*or the past few years, the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS) has held its annual meeting in Ottawa. This year, the week of May 27 will again provide an ideal opportunity for those interested in Canadian studies abroad to take stock of the virtual university that ICCS has become. Furthermore, 1996 marks the 15th anniversary of ICCS's foundation.

Since its foundation, without being physically present in the field, ICCS has forged ties among the five continents. Not a week goes by without a seminar, conference, publication or course on Canada somewhere in the world. ICCS brings together over 6,000 academics on hundreds of campuses in thirty countries. This virtual university relies on the voluntary commitment of academic researchers and institutions. This commitment gives Canada a profile that far exceeds the resources at its disposal to promote its cultural identity abroad.

Among the events that will mark this anniversary week, ICCS will award five Certificates of merit to highlight the remarkable contribution that various people have made to the advancement of Canadian studies. The recipients are Ginette Kurgan, Université Libre of Brussels; Richard Beach, SUNY, Plattsburgh; Bengi Streiffert, Lund University, Sweden; John Halstead, who was one of the fathers of Canadian studies in Germany when he was Ambassador of Canada; and Marra Messenger, who is responsible for Canadian studies at the Canadian Embassy in Israel.

That same week, the Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies will be presented to Maurice Lemire of Laval University for his noteworthy contribution to furthering the knowledge and development of Canadian studies around the world. The award will be presented at the ICCS banquet on Wednesday, May 29, at the National Arts Centre.

Finally, it should be noted that, on May 27, ICCS will be launching the colloquium on Language, Culture and Values in Canada at the Dawn of the 21st Century, held in Ottawa last year and attended by 25 Canadianists from Canada and abroad.

While ICCS is celebrating its 15th anniversary in May, it should not be forgotten that associations for Canadian studies existed well before ICCS was created. This is particularly true of the French Association for Canadian Studies, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary in May by holding an international colloquium on the theme Translating Culture.

This brief overview suggests the vitality of Canadian studies abroad, which benefits Canada in terms of both culture and trade.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: **ROBIN HIGHAM**EDITOR: **ELIA GORAYEB**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: **CAROLINE-ANNE COULOMBE & LILIANE SIMARD**PUBLISHING: **BOÎTE NOIRE**

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