



June 24, 2005

## MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

This month's edition is packed with updates from chapters around the world. We have also included a policy update on Canada25's presentation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

We also want to hear from you and understand why you joined Canada25, so please fill out our brief on-line survey at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=924981119185>

If you have any suggestions for future editions of the newsletter, please contact us.

Hope you enjoy this issue

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## CHAPTER UPDATES

### Antipodes:

Antipodes got off to a casual start in May with its first get-together at The Playhouse pub in downtown Auckland, New Zealand. A half-dozen graduate students and young professionals sated their thirst for Canadian conversation, with topics ranging from the federal government's tax treatment of Canadians abroad to the recent resurgence of Quebec separatist sentiments (one Quebecoise amongst us had voted an unequivocal 'Yes!' in the 1995 referendum, and her passionate case for Quebec nationalism drew us all into a fun, frank debate).

We've also established contact with the Canadian High Commission in Wellington. She confirmed her support for Canada25's Antipodean expansion and looks forward to exploring opportunities together.

You can reach the Antipodes Chapter leader at [christopher@kutarna.com](mailto:christopher@kutarna.com)

### Halifax:

The Halifax Chapter of Canada25 is reaching its one year anniversary!

Current Chapter activities have been focused on preparations for a launch of the latest

Canada25 report. We are also in the planning stages of preparing for the Regional Roundtable to be held on July 22 & 23.

Finally, we are pursuing a collaborative relationship with the Joseph Howe Initiative, a group of individuals committed to establishing a forum for citizen engagement around a variety of issues. We feel there is great potential and opportunity with this organization considering the theme chosen by Canada25 for this year!

The Halifax Chapter can be reached at [halifax@canada25.com](mailto:halifax@canada25.com).

### **Ottawa:**

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Canada's Chief Electoral Officer Jean-Pierre Kingsley met with 20 members of Canada25's Ottawa chapter to discuss the issue of low voter turnout among young Canadians.

Mr. Kingsley shared his belief that declining voting rates among first time voters are linked to a sense of detachment youth feel towards their society and history. Specifically, he posited that a decline in the teaching of history and civics is at the root of the problem.

Canada25 members suggested that other factors might also be coming into play. Some pointed to increasing participation of youth in voluntary organizations as evidence that young people do not feel disconnected from their society. Instead, young people fail to vote because political parties, focussed on the baby boomers generation, neglect the policy issues that matter to youth. Another member contended that voting locations were a factor as voting booths continue to be located in places that young people today do not usually visit (e.g., churches, community centres and primary/secondary schools).

Mr. Kingsley was impressed with the discussion and told Canada25 members that their theories would be tested in Election Canada's ongoing consultations and surveys. In short, the discussion provided another excellent example of how Canada25 members can positively shape policy development and programs at the local, provincial and even national level.

You can contact the Ottawa Chapter at [ottawa@canada25.com](mailto:ottawa@canada25.com).

### **Toronto:**

At the invitation of the Toronto Public Space Committee, the Toronto Chapter of Canada25 spent a recent Sunday afternoon "guerrilla gardening." The practice, which started in New York in the 1970s, tries to reclaim neglected and abandoned urban places such as alleyways, empty lots and street corners, by planting plants and flowers.

While Sunday's gardeners didn't get as much sun as they might have wanted, they got a number of pleasant surprises. Curious passersby were happy to see the spontaneous garden pop up in their neighbourhood. A woman named Manuella, a nearby co-op resident, joined in with the gardening, bringing fresh cuttings, her own flowers and even water for the new seedlings.

"I thought fixing my flowers made my day, but this really did it," she said. The garden can be spotted on the corner of Jarvis and Shuter streets. For more information on guerrilla gardening in Toronto, go to [www.publicspace.ca/gardeners.htm](http://www.publicspace.ca/gardeners.htm).

The Toronto Chapter can be reached at [toronto@canada25.com](mailto:toronto@canada25.com).

### **Washington, D.C.:**

The Washington Chapter is pleased to sponsor two events this month.

On June 15, Canada25 member Jeff Colgan presented at a roundtable discussion on Canada-U.S. trade policy, sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson Center. Jeff is an economic consultant in Washington, DC who has recently published a book entitled "The Promise and Peril of International Trade". Other panellists included:

- Gary C. Hufbauer, Reginald Jones Senior Fellow, Institute for International Economics
- Christopher Sands, Senior Associate, Center for Strategic and International Studies
- Jim Holbein, former deputy chief negotiator of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement
- Paul Bailey, Counsellor (Trade Policy), Embassy of Canada

The Washington DC regional roundtable on civic engagement will happen on the evening of Wednesday June 29, at the Canadian Embassy. Our focus for the roundtable will be civic engagement among Canadians living in the United States. We are pleased to announce that the Honourable Frank McKenna, Ambassador of Canada to the United States, is planning to participate by opening the discussion. Space will be limited for this event. For more information or to register to be part of the Washington, DC regional roundtable, please contact Erica Fensom at [erica.fensom@international.gc.ca](mailto:erica.fensom@international.gc.ca) or 202-682-7716.

## **POLICY UPDATE**

Presentation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade

On Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> Canada25 was invited to present the ideas and recommendations outlined in "From Middle to Model Power: Recharging Canada's Role in the World" to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. This presentation, made possible by the Chair of the committee, the Honourable Bernard Patry, was a tremendous opportunity for Canada25 to influence key parliamentarians as they review the government's recently published International Policy Statement (IPS) and begin to debate Canada's foreign policy for the coming decade.

During the 15 minute presentation Dr. Alexandra Tcheremenska outlined the consultation process behind the report while David Eaves shared the report's key themes using specific recommendations as examples: reforming the role and function of Foreign Affairs Canada, creating an E-8, and the need for a Corporate Social Responsibility agenda within Canada's foreign policy.

After the presentation the committee conducted a question and answer period during which other recommendations were highlighted and discussed. The committee members were significantly impressed by the quality of the report's ideas and the concept of Canada25. Consequently the ideas of our members will help to shape the parties' platforms and influence the foreign policy debate. More importantly, this presentation has positioned Canada25 as an important and credible resource for future parliamentary committees, providing our members with another important vehicle to influence public policy.

## **PEOPLE AND PLACES**

Along with all the great updates from the Chapter and National level, we are eager to use this newsletter as a way for our individual members to keep in touch and up-to-date on each other's

news, moves and accomplishments.

If you are moving and want to connect with the local chapter in your new home or have received an award, had an article published or have some personal news you want to share with our membership, please send the details to: [members@canada25.com](mailto:members@canada25.com).

We will do our best to include everyone's news and look forward to hearing from you.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Graphic Designer**

Canada25 is looking for an experienced Graphic Designer to lend their expertise to a wide range of projects. In this role, you will work closely with the National Communications team in the development and ongoing management of a library of products including organizational and media collateral.

Ideally, you are a whiz with the usual Adobe programs and other publishing software. Experience in web development and design (HTML, Flash, etc.) is an asset, but not required.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please send your resume to: Jonathan Dunn, National Director of Communications, at [communications@canada25.com](mailto:communications@canada25.com).

For a full list of Canada25 volunteer opportunities, please visit:  
<http://www.canada25.com/volunteer.html>

## **FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

This month I'd like to use this space to tell you about a group of people who are working hard to build Canada25 and keep it a dynamic and innovative organization – our **Chapter Leaders**.

Our Chapters are the backbone of Canada25 - they're where our activities and programs take place and probably the place most of you first got involved with the organization.

Working with little resources but lots of creativity, our Chapter Leaders and their volunteer teams organize countless events where you can learn about public policy, discuss issues with other young Canadians and public leaders and most importantly, contribute your thinking to important national and local policy questions.

Our Chapter Leaders are extremely committed, innovative and passionate about Canadian public life and Canada25 wouldn't work without them.

Victoria – Jill Symonds  
Vancouver – Stefanie Gray  
Calgary – Erich Mende  
Edmonton – Erin Chrusch  
Winnipeg – Marshall Ring  
Toronto – Shira Honig and Elaine Lam  
Ottawa – Samir Chhabra, Patrick Quealey, Simon Nicoloff  
Montreal – Anuj Khosla  
Fredericton – Youssef El-Khoury  
Halifax – Joanne Macrae

Boston – Lindsay Kirkpatrick  
New York City – Christian Idicula  
Washington DC – Erica Fensom  
San Francisco – Sri Artham  
London, UK – Aaron Caplan  
New Zealand – Chris Kutarna

If you are interested in working with any of these fantastic people please email them directly.  
You can find their email addresses at – <http://www.canada25.com/chapters.html>.

As always, 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.

Thanks very much,

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).