

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 3rd issue of the Alberta Press Council newsletter, as part of our goal to increase awareness of the APC and our activities.

The council has been active in the last year with several new initiatives.

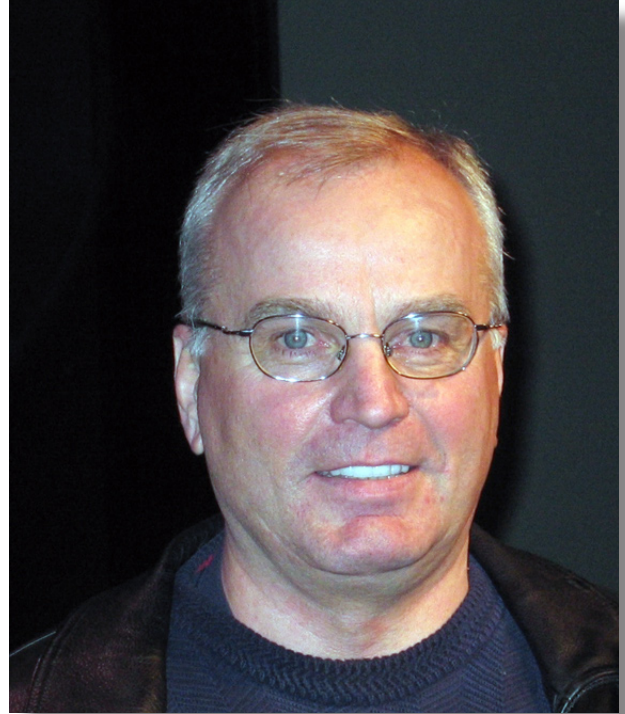
We partnered with the Calgary-based Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethical Leadership last fall to co-host successful public forums in both Edmonton and Calgary on the topic of "Knowledge is Power: Access to information in Alberta." These events were planned as part of "Right to Know" we held each year across Canada in September. We are now in discussions with the Chumir Foundation for another event this fall.

We also conducted a focus group in Edmonton which generated many new ideas for Council members to consider as we reflect on our challenges and opportunities. Former and current Press Council members as well as interested members of the public responded to questions about the role and mandate of the Council, and how we might broaden our reach. Guests felt strongly that freedom of the press and access to information remain critical priorities, and that we should continue to look for other organizations to partner with.

Press Member Nigel Hannaford resigned from council last fall as he has taken up residence in Ottawa. Nigel was our press council historian as he had many years of exemplary service to APC as well as the BC Press Council. We will miss Nigel, his wisdom and his sense of humour in our deliberations and wish him and his family well.

This spring marks the end of my term as chair of the Council. It has been a great privilege to hold this office for the last three years. APC has undertaken several new initiatives and activities during this time, and I sincerely appreciated the support by council members and our Executive Secretary-Treasurer Colleen Wilson. It's been a pleasure to work with such a great group of engaged citizens from across the province who are committed to supporting the aims of a free press, access to information, and a way for the public to deal with their complaints.

And finally, our condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Michelle Lang, reporter with the Calgary Herald who lost her life December 29th in a roadside bombing while covering the conflict in Afghanistan. We are reminded of the sacrifices and dangers that journalists throughout the world endure to bring us the news and to share their experience with us so that we can understand beyond the front pages.



Alberta Press Council chair, Ed Kamps



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

“*Knowledge is Power*” was the theme of two forums co-sponsored last fall by APC, the Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership and the Centre for Constitutional Studies.

The forums, held in Calgary and Edmonton, focused on the critical importance of access to information in Alberta and the public’s ‘right to know’.

Keynote speaker was Darrell Evans, executive director of the BC Freedom of Information & Privacy Association and Linda McKay-Panos, Executive Director, Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre. Also on the panel in Calgary was Lorne Motley Editor-in-Chief of the Calgary Herald. In Edmonton, Allan Mayer, Editor-in-Chief of the Edmonton Journal sat on the panel. The forums reflect the Alberta Press Council’s role in public education regarding the key principles of freedom of speech and access to information.



Knowledge is Power Forum

(Left to right: Janet Keeping, Paul Cashman and Heather Macintosh)

2010 ESSAY COMPETITION SCHOLARSHIP



Ed Kamps, chair of the Alberta Press Council is pleased to announce that the 2010 Essay Competition Scholarship of \$2,000 is presented to Mr. Marjun A. Parcasio, a grade twelve student at Old Scona Academic High School, Edmonton, Alberta. Mr. Parcasio has been accepted to the Joint Honours Baccalaureate in Social Sciences in “History and Political Science (French Immersion) program offered in English, for the Fall 2010 session at the University of Ottawa, Ontario.

Marjun’s essay titled:

An Unlikely Partnership: Facebook and the Newspaper in the Modern Era

was judged to be the winning essay over 64 submissions received on the topic:
Facing Up To Facebook: How Does The Traditional Newspaper Survive?

The essay can be read on the APC website: www.albertapresscouncil.ca

Sixty four essays from Grade 12 students across the province were read and carefully graded by the committee which comprised of David Forbes, chair, public member, Medicine Hat News readership area; Tanis Fiss, public member, Calgary Herald readership area; Gerald Gauthier, press member, Lethbridge Herald and public member, Steven Wright. “It’s an interesting process, especially when several people judge the same essays to be good ones out of so many,” Forbes said, adding that “the winning essay is the one that best meets the criteria of creativity, style and content. We appreciate the effort made by those who showed a keen interest in the essay topic.”



PRESS RELEASE

Directors are pleased to announce that Ms. Bauni Mackay of Edmonton, AB is the Alberta Press Council's new chair. Her term will expire spring, 2013.

Bauni Mackay is a retired high school English teacher who served as provincial president of the Alberta Teachers' Association from 1993 to 1999. She also served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Teachers' Federation for nine years. She holds two degrees from the University of Alberta and has been the recipient of numerous awards.

Mackay brings to the position strong ethical standards and principles that will assist her in executing her responsibilities as chair. Her continuing dedication as a volunteer to numerous organizations will also be an asset in fulfilling her responsibilities.

Replacing Ed Kamps who served as chair 2007-2010, Ms. Mackay was elected at the Spring General Meeting in Calgary on May 14th, 2010

The Alberta Press Council, first of its kind in Canada, was established in 1972. The three fold mandate of the council is:

- to hear and mediate on complaints about our member newspapers
- to defend the established freedoms of the Press
- to protect against limitations on access to information in certain circumstances.

Alberta Press Council

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Alberta Press Council chair, Ed Kamps with new chair, Bauni Mackay



2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NEWS:

Dr. Joan Scott and Dr. Ian MacLachlan, were elected to the position of public member, Alberta Press Council for a second term of three years. They have both been active members since 2007. Dr. Scott currently instructs in the Bachelor of Education program at Red Deer College and is actively involved in the health, sport, and education spheres in Red Deer. Scott represents the readership area of the Red Deer Advocate. An economic geographer, Dr. MacLachlan is a Professor of Geography at the University of Lethbridge and is currently the Editor of The Canadian Geographer / Le Geographe Canadien. MacLachlan represents the readership area of the Lethbridge Herald.

Mr. Paul Harvey, assistant managing editor - nights was elected press member representing the Calgary Herald.

Mr. Ed Kamps, Chair, congratulates Mary Jane Harper, public member on her retirement from the Alberta Press Council board of directors. Harper has represented the readership area of the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association since 2007. A Licensed Realtor with Royal LePage Wildrose Real Estate in Olds, Alberta and a Councilor for the Town of Olds was thanked for her contributions to the work of the council and in particular to the Education Committee.

Ed also paid tribute to retiring members, Nigel Hannaford, Tanis Fiss, Darrell Winwood and Dan MacEachern.



ALBERTA PRESS COUNCIL DIRECTORS

PRESS MEMBERS

Paul Harvey	Calgary Herald
Paul Cashman	Edmonton Journal
Gerald Gauthier	Lethbridge Herald
Alan Poirier	Medicine Hat News
Harley Richards	Red Deer Advocate
Chris Brodeur	AWNA

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Applicants being sought	Calgary Herald
Applicants being sought	Edmonton Journal
Dr. Jerry Petryshyn	Northern Alberta
Steven Wright	Northern Alberta
Dr. Joan Scott	Red Deer Advocate
Dr. Ian MacLachlan	Lethbridge Herald
David Forbes	Medicine Hat News
Applicants being sought	AWNA

2009 was a year of difficulty for many organizations. In light of that the APC reduced its budget by \$20,000 by reducing our face to face meetings to just one per year. We supplemented our communications with conference calls by our various committees, the executive and the full council. In 2010 the APC has drawn down its surplus fund account to assist member newspapers with their assessment fees.

Please see www.albertapresscouncil.ca for public members application process.

Chair

Bauni Mackay

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Colleen Wilson

