



CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DU CANADA

Victoria Branch | Section Victoria

5 September 2018

Annual Report from the CIC Victoria President

Dear CIC Victoria Branch members,

As we get closer to our 19 September Annual General Meeting (AGM), I thought it was important to take a moment and look back at our branch activities, talk briefly about the next four months and also provide you with an update on events at the CIC national level. Certainly, it has been a busy and exciting year with a number of excellent events and activities plus we have seen a significant growth in our membership.

Your Executive Committee

Last year, at about this time, I was getting ready to replace Cam Ross as President and after the AGM, Mary Collins, Margaret Cornish, Marilyn Denton and Gerry Thompson joined the Executive Committee replacing the departing David Collins and Hugh Stephens. More recently, Anne-Marie Gagnon has informed us that she will be leaving the Executive Committee and our intent is to nominate Chris Chan, our student representative at the University of Victoria (UVic) as her replacement. Anne-Marie was a great team-player, an immense help to us all and will truly be missed.

Programming

A form of performance measurement is the extent of membership turnout for the various events that the branch holds each year. In this regard we appear to be doing quite well, including an incredible turnout in February 2018 for the former Canadian Ambassador to China that saw us packing 171 people into the Union Club for lunch. Indeed, we managed to surpass our minimum goal of 72 people for the lunches on every occasion.

Since last September, we have held 8 lunches, 9 Politics-in-the-Pub sessions (PiP), 1 dinner and many academic outreach activities with UVic, Royal Roads University (RRU) and Vancouver Island University (VIU). All of our events and some of our university outreach activities are captured in Table 1 at the end of this report.

In general, attendance at events has surpassed expectations but no-shows were a particular problem with PiP evenings. For example, you'll see in Table 1 that PiP attendance levels, due to no-shows, were always below the maximum capacity of 60 people when almost every pub night often had a significant waiting list. The maximum capacity of 60 people for a PiP is based on fire regulations at the Sticky Wicket Pub and for the space we use. We have looked, in vain so far, for a suitable and larger venue. On the other hand, we also realize that the current location does provide an intimate setting where members are better able to converse with our guest speakers.

To keep costs down at our Union Club lunches, we recently decided to end the bar service at our lunch venue, which had quite limited use. Instead, CIC members will be able to purchase drinks at the upstairs bar and bring them down for lunch from now on.

And, for the fall of 2018 a full slate of interesting and inspiring events will be presented:

- 19 September – our AGM and lunch event at the Union Club with the Directors of the Centre for Global Studies and the Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives at UVic speaking about their research and future collaboration with CIC Victoria
- 24 September – Politics in the Pub (PiP) featuring Ms. Corey Levine who recently spent a year with the European Union military mission in Mali. She will be joined by Scott Osborne, a retired army officer who has served in Africa and is the Vice President of the Royal United Services Institute Victoria
- 10 October – lunch event at the Union Club featuring Dr. Wil Greaves speaking on: The Big Melt? Canada and Arctic Security
- 16 October – afternoon reception and tour of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria in conjunction with the Victoria Branch of the Retired Heads of Mission Association
- 17 October – PiP featuring Dr. Mohan Malik from the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies speaking on: Strategic Posturing in the Indo-Asia-Pacific
- 6 November – joint event at Royal Roads University focused on the Asia-Pacific (details to come)
- 27 November – PiP event with the Centre for Asia-Pacific initiatives (details to come)
- 28 November – special event (details to come) with Dr. Cemil Aydin speaking about his recent book the “Idea of the Muslim World – A Global Intellectual History.”
- 28 November – PiP featuring Dr. Jon Allen speaking on Israeli-Palestinian current issues



Dr. Stephan Haggard from the University of California (San Diego) talks to a full room at the Union Club in May about recent events in North Korea.

- 29 November – mini-conference featuring: Dr. Jon Allen – The rise of populism (confirmed), Dr. Chris Tenove (UBC/invited) – The influence of social media on democracy, and Dr. John D. Wilkerson (University of Washington/invited) – assessing the results of the US mid-term elections
- 10 December – our annual holiday reception at the Victoria Golf Club

Student Essay contest and other activities

We were pleased to announce earlier this year the winners of our 2017-2018 student essay contest. The essay contest was open to students from UVic and RRU and for 2018-2019 the contest will be open to students from UVic, RRU, Camosun College and VIU. This year our winners, all from UVic, were:

- First place and \$1,000: Aidan Collier - *Populism and Political Discourse*
- Second place and \$500: Paige Lewis - *Terrorism in 140 Characters or less*
- Third place and \$250: Charles Chervieu - *Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement: Canada needs to Withdraw*

As part of the contest, our first place winner presented his research findings at a Roundtable at the Centre for Global Studies in early June. In his essay, which has since been published on the CIC national website, Aidan critically evaluated the meaning and current uses of the term “populism” including its pejorative uses, relevance to contemporary global issues, and application to current trends in right-wing politics in both Europe and the United States. In addition, he suggested a way forward for changing how we constructively engage with seemingly extreme positions in order to forge a better world. Put simply, he recommended that we resist the



Chris Kilford presents a cheque for \$1,000 to the winner of the student essay contest, Mr. Aidan Collier. Photo, left to right: Chris Kilford, Ms. Jodie Walsh, CFGS Operations Director & Research Coordinator, Mr. Aidan Collier, and Dr. Oliver Schmidtke, Director CFGS.

temptation to see political opponents as evil. Widening the scope of legitimate political discourse would, he argued, draw support away from parties that advocate for the worst of right-wing ideology. During a lively question and answer period, Canada’s role as a potential leader against the worst

forms of populist politics was also a hot topic of discussion. You can read Aidan's essay here: <https://thecic.org/cic-victoria-student-essay-contest-winner/>

When it comes to engaging with students and building our student membership base, like last year, we will be taking part in UVic's student career fair on 2-3 October. Specifically, this means having a table at the career fair alongside the Centre for Global Studies and advertising the essay contest and CIC's growing activities on campus. In relation to this, we will also be supporting the UVic Model United Nations (UN) Club conference here in Victoria and the VIU Model UN Club conference in Nanaimo with speakers and advisors in October and February respectively.



Many of our members are also active on a number of fronts and I wanted to make special mention of CIC member Anna Tsurkan's recent initiative to establish a Canada-Russia Research Initiative at UVic. The aim is "to promote and advance Russian studies in Canada and Canadian studies in Russia; to link experts in both fields in the two countries; and to fill in the gaps in the existing research, creating even more potential topics to explore." If you would like to know more about Anna's efforts please see her website (<https://thecrri.ca/>) or contact her directly at: atsurkan@uvic.ca

In other branch news, CIC Victoria member Ms. Corey Levine who served with the EU military mission in Mali in 2017 will be providing a paper and briefing to the Canadian Armed Forces in late September on "the existing structure and mechanisms in place to assist victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CSRV) to report, get medical, psychological and/or legal assistance in Mali, Africa." This work is part of an overall effort by the Canadian government and military to better understand the operating environment in Mali.

CIC Victoria has also begun to work closely with the Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. As many of you know, they have a wide ranging program of events each year and if you would like to be part of their mailing list please send an e-mail to commcapi@uvic.ca. In addition, the Centre for Global Studies also has an interesting program of events each year and a quick e-mail to cfgs@uvic.ca will get you on their mailing list as well.

In 2018, we were also pleased to announce the appointment of two honorary CIC Victoria members (our only two at this point):

- Dr. Oliver Schmidtke, the Director of the Centre for Global Studies at UVic
- Dr. Mark Williams, Professor of Political/Global Studies at VIU. Mark is also a past president of the CIC Hamilton branch

Membership

On the membership front it has been good news. At the 2015 AGM CIC Victoria had a very healthy 204 members. At the 2016 AGM this number had grown to 234 members and last year at this time we had 238 members. I'm pleased to report that today CIC Victoria has 308 members.



Part of this membership increase has come from our student outreach efforts, especially with UVic and as mentioned on

This year your membership fees allowed us to support Model United Nations Clubs at the University of Victoria and Vancouver Island University. Executive Committee member Gerry Thompson (fourth from the left) is our liaison officer with Vancouver Island University.

2-3 October 2018, members of the Executive Committee will take part in UVic's career fair with a view to meeting students and increasing the number of our student members. Part of the membership increase is also due to our many members who speak to their friends and colleagues about CIC Victoria and I urge you to keep doing so. Of course, membership is also tied to other factors such as the vitality of CIC's national office and its activities plus the local program we deliver. In the case of the latter, we will strive to do even better in 2019.

Finances

Our financial situation is very good and the treasurer's report will be delivered at the AGM. In the meantime, we have approximately \$35,000 in the bank, which will give us much greater flexibility not only to support student focused activities such as the essay contest but also importantly, to continue bringing in top-level speakers from further afield. Indeed, travel expenses for such speakers doubled this year and are now a significant part of the Branch's overall budget. However, the benefits were reflected in the strong turnouts for these speakers.

As you can imagine, the more members we have, the more money we have to support our activities. For example, for every new member we attract we receive 50% of the membership fee with the other 50% supporting CIC national activities such as social media platforms, research fellows and membership management. Some monies retained at the national level are also returned to us in the form of national speaker grants, which help off-set such things as air fare for visiting speakers.

Despite an increase in Union Club food costs being passed on – and a minimum head count now being required – lunches remained at the break-even point, as did our PiP events once the fee to attend was raised from \$15 to \$20 earlier this year.

Having a healthy bank account is reflective of the strength of CIC Victoria. And even with a busy and expanding program, this amount is tending to move upwards year by year. That's good but in the near future your Executive Committee will examine how we can, as an influential organization in Victoria, make a real difference by, for example, expanding our outreach programs with students and new Canadians. For example, we are actively looking at what it would require to create an endowment fund at the University of Victoria to finance the essay contest. In addition, we will look at other ways to effectively employ our funds such as establishing student scholarships and reaching even further afield for the best speakers we can entice to Victoria. Any ideas from the wider membership are always welcome.

CIC National

Over this past year, CIC National has made great strides and had a few setbacks. In March 2017, Dr. Mark Sedra was appointed as the CIC's new President & Research Director. Although he resigned from this position in June 2018, he certainly accomplished a great deal. As he noted in his resignation letter, when



he assumed the job, “there was no research program to speak of, membership was declining, and the organization’s reputation was gradually deteriorating.” These trends have generally been reversed and now CIC has 27 research fellows (unpaid) producing important research papers. Over the summer the search for a new CIC President & Research Director continued with an application cut-off date of 17 August. I'm pleased to say that in the end we had 17 outstanding applicants for the position and at the moment we are in the short-listing stage. I would like to be able to say that we will have someone in place by a certain date but the process takes time and we are trying to be as rigorous as possible.

Also over the summer, *Behind the Headlines* was back with a paper by Benoît Gomis: *Measuring “Success” in Countering Terrorism*. And he was followed with a second *Behind the Headlines* article: *How Software Shapes Democracy* by Ben Rowsell and Caroline Allante. Their article will be followed up soon by a new, important submission: *Securing Canadian Elections: Disinformation, Computational Propaganda, Targeted Advertising and What to Expect in 2019* by Samantha Bradshaw.

Another new development was the transition to an automated membership program. Ultimately, it will make the task of joining CIC or renewing a membership far simpler but we are also aware that the program has quite a few bugs. They are being tackled and I thank you for your patience.

As for the CIC National Board, today, it is far more inclusive and responsive to branch needs and interests. For example, four branch representatives (including myself) are now on the National Board and a Governance Committee, of which I am also a member, has been created. On the other hand CIC National's financial underpinnings are not the best and a major fundraising effort will need to be the focus of the next President & Research Director.

Vision for the future

CIC Victoria members share a passion for global affairs, a conviction that Canada can play a significant role in the world, and a clear understanding of how that role can be shaped by a vibrant civil society dialogue.

With this in mind, your Executive Committee's intent is to continue bringing to our membership the best possible speakers on a wide range of domestic and international issues of importance to Canada. In addition, we will strive to create bridges between our more experienced members and our student and young professional members to better prepare them for the challenges ahead. And, we will strive to become a more diverse and inclusive branch where once more the incredible experiences of our wider membership can be shared with those who are new to Canada.



Dr. Jim Boutilier, Asia-Pacific Advisor, Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters gives a packed room at the Union Club an update on recent goings on in the Asia Pacific.

Sincerely,

Chris Kilford, CD, PhD
President
Victoria Branch
Canadian International Council

Table 1: CIC Victoria Event Overview 2017-2018

Date	Speaker(s)	Topic	Attendance/Notes
20 Sep Lunch	Harvey Rishikof	What is going on: US foreign policy?	137
21 Sep Dinner	Dina Temple-Raston	What Were You Thinking: Latest global solutions tackling extremism and cyber hacking	36
24 Oct Lunch	Dr. Daniel F. Schulz: Research Associate, European University Institute, Firenze, Italy	Back to the Future: can the Franco-German motor revive Europe after the elections of 2017?	78
30 Oct PiP	VAdm (ret'd) Bob Davidson: Canada's former military representative to NATO and Dr. Vladimir Prebilič: Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia	NATO: Current Challenges...Future Prospects	55
13 Nov PiP	Jeremy Kinsman: Former Canadian Ambassador to Russia	On Russia – 100 years after the revolution	53
15 Nov PiP	Jeremy Kinsman: Former Canadian Ambassador to Russia	On Russia – 100 years after the revolution	54
17-19 Nov	UVic	Victoria Forum	CIC Victoria was an event sponsor
22 Nov Lunch	Dr. Jim Boutilier: Asia-Pacific Advisor, Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters	Asia Pacific Update	125
11 Dec	Victoria Golf Club	Christmas Reception and reading by Lisa Warden from Bill Warden's book	102
17 Jan Lunch	Nicholas Coghlan: Former Canadian Ambassador to South Sudan	Collapse of a Country: A Diplomat's Memoir of South Sudan	127
21 Feb Lunch	Guy Saint-Jacques: Former Canadian Ambassador to China	Rising China – What lessons can we learn from the 19th Party Congress?	171
26 Feb PiP	Jonathan Manthorpe: Author and columnist and Dr. Andrew Wender, UVic	Saudi Arabia – what next?	54
19 Mar Evening	Panel event with four CIC speakers held at the UVic with the Undergraduates of Political Studies Club	Canadians going Global	50
21 Mar Lunch	Fainula Rodriguez: Senior Specialist - Governance, Access to Justice, Gender Equality	From Burma to Myanmar: The Slippery Road to Democracy	119
26 Mar PiP	Marc Lortie: Former Canadian Ambassador to France and Spain and Dr. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, UVic	Canada, Europe and Brexit	46
27 Mar PiP	Marc Lortie: Former Canadian Ambassador to France and Spain and Dr. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, UVic	Canada, Europe and Brexit	46
18 Apr Lunch	Dr. Bruce Mabley: Former Canadian diplomat	The rogue Canadian diplomat who took on Assad	119
19 Apr Joint	Dr. Bruce Mabley: Former Canadian Diplomat and Dr. Chris Kilford (joint event	The rogue Canadian diplomat who took on Assad	30

	with CFGS, UVic)		
19 Apr PiP	Dr. Bruce Mabley: Former Canadian diplomat and Dr. Chris Kilford	The rogue Canadian diplomat who took on Assad	49
17 May PiP	Dr. Stephan Haggard: University of California (San Diego)	North Korea: The Nuclear Question and Beyond	59
18 May Lunch	Dr. Stephan Haggard: University of California (San Diego)	North Korea: The Nuclear Question and Beyond	86
11 June PiP	Jerome Sauvage: Amnesty International and Dr. Victor Ramraj, CAPI Director (joint event with CAPI, UVic)	Living in and Dealing with North Korea	51
21 June Joint	Aidan Collier: Student essay contest winner presentation (joint event with CFGS, UVic)	Populism and Political Discourse	20
26 June Joint PiP	Berenice Diaz: Consul-General of Mexico and Renee Umezuki, Deputy Director, Pacific Regional Office, Global Affairs Canada (joint event with the RRU MBA Asia Pacific Trade and Investment Specialization and Master of Global Management program)	Canadian Trade Opportunities in Asia: Pacific Alliance, Comprehensive and Progressive TPP and Other Options	40