

President's report by Emmanuel Hogg

First, I would like to thank everyone for coming this year. We have had, what I am pleased to say, a positive and successful annual meeting.

“I would first like to take a moment to acknowledge that we are gathered today on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Musqueam people.”

A special thank you to our volunteers Jenissa Sunderji and Shadan Ashrafi two STEM Fellowship representatives joining us for the CALJ Conference and to the Board of Directors for their hard work on behalf of the entirety of our members – and of all Canadian journals – throughout the entire year. Trust me, there would be no CALJ without their selfless labour.

This segues perfectly to my completely selfless attempt at recruitment: The CALJ Board serves the membership. Please do not hesitate to contact us, bring issues of importance to our attention – and if you are willing to help, please let us know. We have a lot planned for the coming years, and we can always use extra help and support. If you would like to participate on any of the committees, become a member of the Board, or if you can help out any way possible (even with something as something as helping us our social media initiatives), we are desperate to hear from you.

Thank you to our sponsors: Canadian Science Publishing, University of Toronto Press, Simon Fraser University Journals, Gage, BC Studies, and the Canadian journal of literature. A special thank you to the University of British Columbia Press for allowing member journals to display their work and for allowing CALJ to distribute some of our material at their booth.

When I was elected, I thought I could best serve in my capacity as President in two main areas that relate to recruitment:

1) To represent and to speak on behalf of Canada's scholarly journals community. To continue to develop the relationships we have cultivated over the years with important partners and funders of the scholarly journals community – and to start conversations with potential partners, sponsors, and funders. The past couple years have been turbulent. We have had to have some at times very difficult conversations, at times heated discussions. But I am proud of our journal community and I hope I was able to continue that tradition of standing up for Canada's journals to voice the very real concerns of our membership. As we move forward into uncertain times, Canada's journals will have an important part to play in the world of scholarly communication. And we are fighting to ensure our voice is heard.

2) To increase our membership. CALJ is stronger as a collective. Many individual journals in this country simply do not have the resources and support to dedicate to arduous advocacy

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campaigns. The more members we represent, the stronger CALJ's voice becomes. But, the membership drive did not only seek to increase numbers; we wanted to be more inclusive and diverse: in other words, we wanted to be more representative of the Canadian journals landscape as a whole, which, of course, we know all too well is heterogenous.

Therefore, we have strived to include more engagement with student-run journals and to better communicate and reach out to our francophone journals situated in Quebec, many of which are not CALJ members. And, we have reached out to several large and medium-sized scholarly associations that produce journals but are not members to encourage them to join our ranks. We hope that the proposal to restructure our membership dues will help current journals remain active members of CALJ while allowing new journals and publishing organizations to join us.

I am pleased to report that our efforts to speak on behalf of journals have been well-received, both by our membership and outside. Many individual journals and several associations (some large!) have thanked us for our outspoken advocacy campaign during the SSHRC ASJ review.

We have seen an increase in membership, which includes some new student members. Some of the larger associations we approached are currently bringing proposals to join CALJ to their Boards for approval.

Advocacy remains fraught with ups and downs. We drafted and signed a letter in response to the Plan S initiative. The revised implementations that were as a result of the feedback was released Friday.

We sent a member of Board, Rowly to stand before the INDU committee to provide testimony on behalf of CALJ towards the Copyright Review. In initial report on Copyright by the standing Committee on Canadian Heritage points to favorable outcomes for journal members.

In response to the call for nominations by the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences to appoint a new Director, Research Dissemination, the CALJ Board of Directors nominated Rowland Lorimer. Unfortunately, Rowly was not elected.

Through the hard work of our committees, we have improved our Professional development activities. This Conference and Webinar are testament to those initiatives. We have an excellent program again this year, which is also the largest yet. We will continue to provide such professional development opportunities and will hope to make them even more readily available.

The Communication's committee has made great strides in increasing CALJ's visibility as an important institution for advocacy on the part of Canada's journals. We have worked hard and will continue to work towards serving as a voice through which journals in Canada can and will be heard, whether in the media, within member organization, funding agencies, and the general public!

In addition to working towards building our membership and advocating on behalf of Canada's journals, in the coming year we plan to work towards a few more main objectives:

First, we will continue to develop a strategy that communicates the value Canadian journals bring to disseminating research and knowledge in Canada – and abroad! We have a few ideas for campaigns that we will work to implement in the coming months. But, if you have any ideas of your own, or would like to help us in our campaigns, please let us know.

Second, we are working to diversify our revenue streams. Journals find themselves in an increasingly volatile economic environment. It is no surprise that CALJ, an association that consists mainly of journals, is also restricted by economic realities. In order to increase our membership, we have put forth a proposal to reduce member dues. We hope this will have the effect of increasing membership, so as to better represent Canadian journals — and to be a more powerful voice for journals. But, we are also hoping that an increase in membership engagement will turn CALJ into a more desirable option for sponsorships and partnerships within the scholarly communications' industry. We are therefore working towards new partnerships and exploring new funding opportunities that will help sustain important initiatives and activities in the coming years.

Ultimately, the President is here to represent and speak on behalf of the membership. I hope that I have been partially successful in doing so over the past year. The coming year will undoubtedly present us with many challenges, but I think there are reasons for optimism.

I am reliant on you to reach out so we may better speak on your behalf. We were lucky again this year to have members invest into CALJ, by volunteering, but also by voicing their opinions and concerns. Please continue to do so. If you have ideas on how to improve and what we should be working on, please get in touch.