

Introduction

I'd like to kick off this post-conference update by thanking everyone who helped make our Halifax conference a huge success. We had 170 attendees from across Canada and a handful of friends from south of the border, along with 10 sponsors who helped support the conference.

It was great to meet so many new people but also sad that we have to say goodbye to a couple of others (I'm thinking of you Sharon and Thelma).

New Board of Directors

The end of the conference also marks the beginning of the New Year for the CIRPA board. Here's a brief introduction to your 2015-16 CIRPA board.

- Mike Krywy (aka me – from Red River College) is beginning his stint as President, having spent 4 years on the board - most recently as Vice-President. Sharon Shultz (formerly of Keyano College) has recently retired, but has left us remembering her friendly smile and the thoughtful guidance that she provided over the years.
- Sonia Richards (Nova Scotia Community College) moves from member-at-large (MAL) to her new role as Vice-President. In addition to her good humor, Sonia brings 3 years of extensive CIRPA conference planning experience to this roll.
- Stephanie McKeown (UBC Okanagan) takes over as Treasurer from Jamie Graham (Nipissing University). Thanks to Jamie for his term on the Board and the sage advice he provided over the past 2 years.
- Miranda Pearson (University of Regina) continues on as secretary (aka the person who keep everyone organized) beginning the second year of her second term.
- Garry Hansen (St. Thomas University) and Randy Roller (University of Manitoba) continue on as MALs, and we welcome Carmelinda del Conte (Mohawk College) and Charlotte Alexander (College of the North Atlantic – Qatar) as new board members. These four board members will provide leadership in the areas of web development, communication, strategic planning, and networking and professional development.
- Cameron Tilson (Concordia University) will continue on in his role as Chair of the Nominations committee.

Strategic Plan Renewal

With the current CIRPA Strategic Plan set to expire in the upcoming year, the board began the renewal process in April 2015. The previous plan saw some significant achievements, such as creating governance documents and updating association by-laws, developing a new CIRPA website, and continuing to enhance member engagement through the annual conference and conversations via the member List Serv and the [CIRPA LinkedIn group](#).

Looking ahead, the board needs to ensure that the next plan is aligned with the views of membership, and that it outlines a set of activities that are strategic, sustainable, and achievable.

In September a short survey was sent to recent CIRPA member to gauge perceptions on the mission, vision, and values, as well as to assess the current strengths of the Association and potential new opportunities.

- The survey was sent to 390 members with 78 responding (20% response rate).
- A session was held at the conference to further explore these ideas.
- A summary of results is available members under the Association Records tab (here's the [link](#)). If for some reason the link doesn't work – navigate to Members/Association Records/ Strategic Plan Consultation 2015. [You have to login to access the information.](#)

Consultation will continue over the next year, with the goal of providing a revised Strategic Plan at the next AGM in November 2016 (coinciding with the conference).

CIRPA 2015 - Halifax

For those fortunate enough to attend the Halifax conference, you'll know first-hand what a great time was had by all. The keynotes General Rick Hillier and Dr. Andrew Parkin both delivered excellent and thought provoking speeches, focusing on Leadership and the challenges in measuring the success of the post-secondary sector respectively.

Members will soon be able to access presentations by navigating to the “Conferences” tab, locating the conference, and clicking on the schedule.

Special thanks go to the conference Chairs Aimee MacDonald (St FX University) and Yuqin Gong (UPEI) and the [team of volunteers](#) who helped make the conference possible. We'd also like to thank the respective institutions who were kind enough to allow us time and support their involvement.

Recognition of Excellence

We'd also like to recognize Alan Vladicka (formerly of MacEwan University and currently with Golden Sage Consulting) and former CIRPA President Cameron Tilson who received CIRPA's Outstanding Service Award. A full list of past recipients can be found [here](#).

- Since 2001, Cameron served multiple terms in several positions on the Board of Directors, including member and later chair of the Data Advisory Committee, member-at-large, vice-president, and member and chair of the Nominating Committee, culminating in his role as president of CIRPA-ACPRI from 2009-2013. Aside from his good nature and wry sense of humor, Cameron provided strong stable leadership during his time on the board.
- Alan Vladicka is the former Executive Director of Institutional Research & Planning at MacEwan University in Edmonton, with 37 years of experience in planning, policy development and senior management in Alberta's post-secondary system. He was a regular presenter at CIRPA conferences from 2003 onward and a good friend to many IR professionals.

The Best Practices Award went to Matthew Kennedy (Manager of Institutional Planning & Analysis at Thompson Rivers University) for his work on [Enrolment and Headcount Projections](#). This work improved the TRU's ability to accurately forecast enrolments, and changed the way some key stakeholders viewed the role of institutional research.

CIRPA 2016 – Kelowna, BC

If you haven't heard, next year's conference will be held in Kelowna BC. Located in the heart of the Okanagan Valley, the conference is in the cradle of wine country and belly of the west coast craft brewing industry (plus there are some lakes, mountains and other stuff to see). The conference will be jointly hosted by CIRPA and [PNAIRP](#) (Pacific Northwest Association for Institutional Research and Planning). CIRPA and PNAIRP last held a joint conference in 2001 in Victoria – so it will be exciting to once again mix and mingle with colleagues from south and north (hello Alaska) of the Canadian border.

The conference co-chairs Stephanie McKeown and Drew Philainen (both of UBC Okanagan) are anxious to welcome everyone to their backyard next year.

This and That

Our newsletter team, led by Teresa Chernecki and Emily Roscoe (University of Manitoba) are hoping to produce the next CIRPA newsletter in December. If you have something you'd like to contribute, you can contact them at cirpa.editors@gmail.com.

If you use LinkedIn (or are dying to try it out) you should join the [CIRPA group](#) and contribute to the conversations taking place there.

If you ever wish to share your thoughts directly with myself or other members of the board, feel free to contact me at mkrywy@rrc.ca.