

President's Message

Looking ahead to CIRPA 2017 in Toronto

For those who could not attend [CIRPA 2016 in Kelowna](#) (which was fantastic!), I'm pleased to announce that next year's conference will be in [Toronto, Ontario](#). The conference will be held at the Chelsea Hotel October 22nd to the 24th.

The conference planning team is being led by Erin Mills and Pina Marinelli-Henriques from [Seneca College](#), and they will soon be building a volunteer team to handle program planning, local arrangements, and communications. If you are an IR professional in the Toronto area or anywhere else in Canada for that matter, you can reach out to Pina (pina.marinelli-henriques@senecacollege.ca) or myself Mike Krywy (CIRPA President, [Red River College](#), mkrywy@rrc.ca), and we'll find a way to get you involved.

Wrapping up CIRPA 2016 in Kelowna

The second joint CIRPA-[PNAIRP](#) conference was a smashing success. The conference drew nearly 200 attendees from Canada and the North-Western U.S. to share ideas, connect, laugh, dance, make merry and watch the U.S. election (not necessarily in that order). We had two excellent key note addresses from [Dr. Stephen Porter](#) (North Carolina State University) and Dr. Anna Warwick-Sears (ED of the [Okanagan Basin Water Board](#)) on assessment and evaluation, and the Okanagan watershed. The conference featured 7 workshops, 43 plenary sessions, and a few wine tours thrown in for good measure. It was also great to renew our relationship with [Statistics Canada](#), and connect with Sylvie Gauthier, Louise Marmen and Michael Martin to discover the work they're doing in the post-secondary sector. We hope that everyone walked away with something to take home to their own institutions, and a few new friends to call the next time you have a pressing research question.

Special thanks to Stephanie McKeown (CIRPA Treasurer) and Drew Pihlainen of [UBC Okanagan](#) and Jan O'Brien of [Okanagan College](#), as well as the many other volunteers who made up the conference planning committees.

We'd also like to thank our many sponsors such as [eXplorance](#), [EMSI](#), [Academica](#), [StrategicPlanning Online](#), [Information Builders](#), [PRA](#), [DPM Research](#) and [Mosaic Research](#). In addition to their financial support, our sponsors are valuable allies in conducting our work, so please consider reaching out to them to learn more about the services they offer.

The conference presentations will be up shortly, and can be found at this site ([LINK](#)).

Recognition for Outstanding Service - Luc Simon

At the Tuesday luncheon, we took the opportunity to recognize Luc Simon of [Université Laval](#) for the [Outstanding Service Award](#). Luc has played a very important role in the Association, serving four years as a member-at-large on the Board of Directors (2010-2014) where he led the redevelopment of the CIRPA website. Luc also chaired the 2008 conference in Québec City which had unsurpassed food and entertainment, in a truly beautiful city. For those who regularly attend the CIRPA conference, you'd also know him as a regular presenter on data mining and analytics and sharing interesting ways to use

Tableau. Join us in congratulating Luc for being a pillar within the IR profession, and continuing to model excellence in institutional research.

CIRPA 2016 - Best Presentation

Congratulations to Laurie Alexander and Nonie Sly Nichols of [Nova Scotia Community College](#), who were selected as the best presentation for “Collaborating with Student Services to Improve Retention: NSCC's Incoming Student Success Survey”. The selection was based on the session evaluation survey and a review by a Programming Committee sub group.

As a result, Nonie and Laurie will receive the [AIR](#) travel grant (cost-shared with CIRPA) to attend [the AIR Forum in Washington DC in 2017](#), where they will present their piece as the CIRPA Best Presentation for 2016.

Strategic Plan

At the 2016 AGM, CIRPA officially adopted a new Strategic Plan which you can read [here](#). The new CIRPA Mission and Vision read as follows:

Mission Statement: CIRPA-ACPRI supports the professional development of its members through networking and knowledge-sharing to facilitate informed decision-making in Canadian post-secondary education.

Vision Statement: CIRPA-ACPRI will be a collegial community of institutional research and planning professionals with a broad, engaged national membership readily sharing knowledge and expertise.

The Plan has two strategic priorities.

- 1) Building a community of institutional research and planning professionals with a broad, inclusive national membership
- 2) Supporting the professional development of CIRPA-ACPRI members through networking and knowledge-sharing

CIRPA celebrates a Birthday!

Lost in the shuffle, CIRPA quietly celebrated 25 years. Past-President Cameron Tilson ([Concordia University](#)) penned this [excellent piece](#) five years ago to support a newcomers workshop at the conference. The piece summarizes the origins of the Association up till the 2011 conference, providing a way to trace the lineage of the Association. Given the time elapsed, with many of the founding members retiring or nearing retirement, it is good to look back to see some of the names of the Association founders. Special recognition goes out to Brian Christie ([University of Regina](#)) who was at the first CIRPA conference and the 25th (and most of the conference in between) not to mention his continuing involvement as a conference presenter and a mentor to new IR practitioners.

Changes to the CIRPA Board

Finally, I'd be remiss not to mention a few changes to the Board of Directors. David Paul from [Portage College](#) is joining the Board as Secretary while Miranda Pearson ([University of Regina](#)) is taking on the VP role on a one-year interim basis to replace Sonia Richards (NSCC) who has unfortunately left the VP role one year into her term. Special thanks to Sonia for her hard work organizing several conferences. We will miss your laughter, hard work, and guidance.

We would also like to welcome Isabelle Cormier ([Université de Moncton](#)) and Tony Olmsted ([NAIT](#)) to the Nominations Committee.

Mike Krywy

CIRPA-ACPRI President

Senior Research and Planning Analyst, Red River College

mkrywy@rrc.ca