



SPRING 2008 NEWSLETTER

Farewell from CSLP's Out-Going Director General

For the last 31 years, I have worked for the federal government on files ranging from energy supply and demand, official languages policies, environmental reporting, citizenship and immigration, and financial assistance to students. I have reported findings to the public, sought and attained additional funding in each of these areas and have had the privilege to lead teams who have made major policy and structural changes for the betterment of Canadians. It has been a pleasure to serve the public. I doubt that I ever would have had such opportunities to feed my passion for more knowledge than I have had throughout my career as a federal bureaucrat.



Rosaline Frith,
Out-Going Director General

I am leaving on the heels of Budget 2008 which I hope will bring more non-repayable assistance to students and modernize the Canada Student Loans Program. I have enjoyed the advice of student financial advisors and hope that they feel that their concerns were acknowledged. I am looking forward to accomplishing more personal tasks over the next part of my life. I have two loveable grandchildren and a fantastic garden on which to focus this summer. Then, I hope that voluntarism comes back into my life in a big way.

I would like to thank CASFAA for their generosity of spirit and always putting students first.

SPRING 2008 ISSUE

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SPRING 2008 ISSUE

2006 Census Highlight.

* According to the 2006 Census, 61% of Canadians between ages 25-34 have completed a post-secondary program (28% earned a university credential, 20% a college credential and 12% a trades certificate).

A Welcome to CSLP's In-Coming Director General Barbara Glover

Barbara Glover has worked in the Government of Canada for 20 years during which period of time her responsibilities have related to the development of social and economic policies and programs, including labour market analysis, policy research and program evaluation.

For the past ten years, Ms. Glover has been working at Human Resources and Social Development Canada. Previously, Ms. Glover has held positions at the Department of Finance for ten years. In addition, Barbara has worked for the Government of Saskatchewan and in the private sector.



Barbara Glover,
Director General, CSLP

Message from the CASFAA President

I have analyzed the data from the recent CASFAA Membership Survey and have posted the results within our Spring 2008 Newsletter for membership review. I want to take this opportunity to thank the membership for their candid and insightful comments. It is clearly evident from the comments below that our members are committed to the success of CASFAA as an Association.

2008 CASFAA MEMBERSHIP Survey Responses

TOTAL RESPONSES RECEIVED = 69/264 or 26.14% of CASFAA Membership population (based on September 20, 2007 membership list).

Question #1:

In an effort to enhance conference attendance and affordability, the CASFAA Board has reduced our annual conference registration fees by \$100.00 (\$300.00 is now the Early Bird Member Rate). This reduction will take place immediately with the 2008 CASFAA Conference "Chart Your Course the Maritime Way" to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia June 8-10, 2008. As a Board, we have decided to provide the CASFAA 2008 Conference Chair with a \$10,000.00 Conference Grant to ensure that the reduced membership registration costs will not adversely affect the smooth financial operation of the conference. Do you have any comments in reference to the future direction of the Board regarding conference registration costs? Comments:

RESPONSES

- ◆ 67% (46/69) respondents welcomed the fee reduction and grant.
- ◆ 17% (12/69) respondents had no comment.
- ◆ 13% (9/69) respondents did not want the fees reduced as they preferred costs either kept at the same level or increased for the following reasons:
 - i. Need conference resources to fund the position of an Executive Director for CASFAA
 - ii. Need conference resources to develop travel grant program for institutions struggling under the costs of attendance
 - iii. Need conference resources to develop a strong program, do not want reduced costs to equal weak program
- ◆ 3% (2/69) respondents wanted an association cost comparison completed before they felt comfortable commenting on the reduction in fees.

Further ideas noted: **Profit-sharing for future CASFAA conferences**
 Reduction and/or elimination of fees for CASFAA Speakers/Presenters

Question #2:

We want your input on future directions for the CASFAA Board. Would you like to see more resources applied towards;

- A) National Research beneficial to the CASFAA Membership in reference to Student Financial Assistance. An example of National Research would be the EPI "The End of Need-Based Student Financial Aid in Canada?" report commissioned by CASFAA in 2007. If yes, what are some key areas of interest you have as membership? Comments:
- B) B) Institutional Research beneficial to the CASFAA Membership in reference to Student Financial Assistance. Research on Institutional Best Practices, etc. This information may be relevant to other jurisdictions and regions. Comments:

RESPONSES

- ◆ 36% (25/69) respondents wanted CASFAA to concentrate on **Institutional research related** to (in order of request):
 - Institutional Best Practices related to:**
 - * Increasing student awareness of financial aid options,
 - * Outreach initiatives
 - * Financial aid policy
 - * Affordability of education
 - * Scholarship/student awards
 - * Archive established with past list-serve best practices issues
 - * Institutional Needs Assessment and how to best spend needs-based institutional resources
 - * Under-represented groups

- ◆ 32% (22/69) respondents wanted CASFAA to concentrate on **National research** related to (in order of request):
 - * **First generation students**
 - * **Federal Budget Implications for low income students in high cost programs**
 - * **Retention and increasing access**
 - * **Debt load from private banks/lenders**
 - * **A database of our students--demographic overview—who are they, where do they come from and why or why not do they stay?**
 - * **Trends in Canadian Financial Assistance—Build on the EPI document.**
 - * **Student default strategies**
 - * **First Nations Students, mysteries surrounding band funding**
 - * **Middle-class students—are they falling through the cracks?**
 - ◆ 26% (18/69) respondents wanted CASFAA to concentrate on a combination of both National and **Institutional research related** to the areas defined above.
 - ◆ 4.5% (3/69) respondents had no comment.
 - ◆ 1.5% (1/69) respondents wanted resources applied towards obtaining professional designation for CASFAA members.
- Further ideas noted: Wanted regional research added as a category**

Question #3:

Do you want more communication from the CASFAA Board? If yes, can you list key areas that you want more communication on to assist you in your institutional duties. Comments:

RESPONSES

- ◆ 55% (38/69) respondents felt that the level of Board communication was sufficient to excellent.
 - ◆ 43.5% (30/69) respondents wanted the level of Board communication to increase in reference to (in order of request):
 - * **Stakeholder Communications from AUCC, NAGSFA and Federal/Provincial Governments**
 - * **Wanted more information from Regional Representatives in reference to Provincial updates**
 - * **More communication from Board on new research initiatives and institutional best practices**
 - ◆ 1.5% (1/69) respondents were undecided.
- Further ideas noted: Develop a quarterly review of e-mail discussions from list serve.**

Question #4:

As a membership, are you interested in the CASFAA Board developing an awards recognition program? An example could be a program targeted at recognizing outstanding CASFAA members, special projects, initiatives, etc. Comments:

RESPONSES

- ◆ 42% (29/69) respondents felt that a CASFAA awards recognition program was not necessary.
- ◆ 40.5% (28/69) respondents wanted a CASFAA awards recognition program in reference to (in order of request):
 - * **Provides ability to recognize hard work and achievement and foster a sense of community among the membership**
 - * **Awards focused on research grants which provide financial incentive to the membership**
- ◆ 17.5% (12/69) respondent felt that it was a low priority.

Coupling the no interest respondents with the low priority respondents 59.5% of the CASFAA respondents did not see the need for an awards program at this point in time.

*Flaming enthusiasm, backed up by horse sense and persistence, is the quality that most frequently makes for success.
- Dale Carnegie*

Question #5:

If you have other concerns, comments and/or questions that you wish the Board to consider, we would love to hear from you. Comments:

RESPONSES

- ◆ 75.4% (52/69) respondents had no further comments or concerns for the CASFAA Board.
- ◆ 24.6% (17/69) respondents wanted the CASFAA Board to review the following issues (in order of request):
 - * Earlier notification of annual CASFAA conference program
 - * Need more scholarship content in annual conference
 - * Try and time the annual CASFAA conference to connect with the ARUCC conference
 - * Would CASFAA be able to lobby on Provincially based student aid regulations
 - * Would CASFAA be able to network with Provincial Associations to increase lobbying efforts
 - * Please post conference presenter information to the conference web site
 - * Develop an institutional membership fee to increase number of institutional staff able to join under one cost
 - * Would like to know of opportunities where members could be more involved with CASFAA Board
 - * More open Board election process.
 - * In its current structure, CASFAA has little value; more emphasis has to be placed on developing CASFAA as a productive association.

2008-09

The CASFAA Board will be taking the membership responses into account when planning our budget and agenda for 2008-09. As current President, I have listened to your comments regarding greater communication on federal initiatives and will continue to improve my efforts in this area.

Thank you again for the time given to this survey, your comments will allow us as a Board to develop a priority list of initiatives for the new year.

All the Best,

Shelley Clayton

2007-08 CASFAA President

LOOKING FOR CASFAA MEMBERSHIP FEEDBACK on the following initiative:

“The YMCA and the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation partner to increase post-secondary participation

December 13, 2007

Toronto – Scott Haldane, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Toronto, and Norman Riddell, CEO and Executive Director of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, unveiled a new partnership that aims to ensure that more young people from Aboriginal, first generation and low-income families continue school past high school. The Post-Secondary Access Partnership will provide information and one-on-one advising to students and their families from groups that traditionally do not pursue education beyond high school. The program aims to show how a post-secondary education is not only a desirable option for them, but also a viable one. Four out of ten young Canadians do not finish high school, do not go on to post-secondary education or drop out of post-secondary studies. These students generally come from First Nations communities and families where parents did not go beyond high school. To succeed in a global economy that demands highly skilled workers, a country like Canada, with a low birth rate and an aging workforce, must tap the potential of people who are underrepresented in post-secondary programs.”

On April 18th, Louis Haeck from the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation gave a presentation in Victoria, BC on the new Canadian Post-secondary Access Partnership at the Association of Student Awards Personnel of BC. Dr. Haeck described the collaboration between the Millennium Foundation, community partners such as the YMCA, the accounting firm, Ernst and Young, and higher education institutions. Through collaboration with many partners, the access initiative aims to increase access to and success in post-secondary education by under-represented groups. The groups are defined as low-income, first generation to attend post-secondary, aboriginal, and newcomers to Canada. For further information on this initiation, please contact Mr. Louis Haeck at lhaeck@bm-ms.org

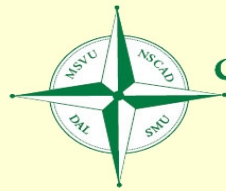
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Check out the Tall Ship Silva for a cruise around Halifax Harbour as a Post-Conference option on June 11, 2008!

<http://www.casfaa.dal.ca/postconf.php>



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2008 Halifax NS

June 8 – 10

Chart Your Course
the maritime way

A Message from the 2008 CASFAA Conference Chair, Frances Cody

Opening Reception Nova Scotia College of Art and Design June 8, 2008

The opening reception for *Chart Your Course the maritime way* will be held at NSCAD University's Port Campus. Located on the waterfront of historic Halifax in the dynamic arts and cultural district near Pier 21, NSCAD's Port campus opened in the summer of 2007. It features 18-foot ceilings, generous natural lighting, and an uninterrupted view of the George's Island lighthouse from second floor studios through 172 feet of glass curtain.

The opening event of CASFAA 2008 promises to offer a warm Maritime welcome to our conference delegates, with appetizers and drinks catered by Scanway, music provided by the Menuet Trio and tours of the sculpture and wood and metal studios and the ceramics complex which is unequalled in Canada. You are guaranteed to enjoy yourself in this artistic and historic setting!

Howe Hall Kitchen Party Dalhousie University June 9, 2008

This is your time to let loose and enjoy some of the Maritimes best known traditions - live music, food and drink! Wear your jeans and some good stompin' shoes and by the end of the night we guarantee you'll be tired of "raising a drink" ... AND ... you may even know how to play the spoons! We invented the kitchen party. Shhhhh ... the Newfoundlanders don't know that!

Closing Dinner/Theatre Mount Saint Vincent University June 10, 2008

Let us finish off your CASFAA 2008 experience with the ultimate in down home hospitality ... a lobster dinner (with great veggie and chicken alternates). Mount Saint Vincent University's verdant campus will be the setting for our closing dinner/theatre. Our evening will start off with a great reception on Rosaria Terrace; hosted by CASFAA 2009.

While savoring the riches of the sea, Jim Petrie and the cast of Historic Feast Halifax will entertain us throughout dinner with their take on the Friends phenomenon ... Friends (Buds). The cast will examine the lives, loves, music and laughter of six inseparable comrades. The show will delve into the trials, tribulations and dreams of this group of Buds. In the end, the show is ultimately about the ties that bind. Could there be a better way to end CASFAA 2008 than with an evening of great food and great music among ... FRIENDS?!

Post-Conference Tour June 11, 2008

After all the hard work you will have done at CASFAA 2008 why not treat yourself to the Post Conference Tour? The Conference Planning Committee has come up with the best of both worlds guaranteed to educate and delight.

The Tour starts off at Pier 21, Canada's Immigration Museum. Pier 21 was selected as one of the seven wonders of Canada. A tour guide will take you through Canada's last remaining ocean immigration shed. Then please join us onboard the Tall Ship Silva for a cruise around Halifax Harbour. Lunch will be provided onboard as we enjoy a fun filled sailing adventure with the best views of Halifax and Dartmouth.

For pictures and additional information please check out the websites: www.tallshipsilva.com and www.pier21.ca. Cost of the Post Conference Tour is \$80.00 (including lunch). The tour will run from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm

CALL FOR PAPERS—DEADLINE EXTENDED
Issues related to financial aid are complex. Identifying obstacles that impede a student's journey to education as well as identifying ways to circumvent them are what financial aid administrators are all about.

The more barriers we identify, the easier the journey becomes not only for our students but for their parents. With the aid of our partners in financial aid, we can make the trek from high school graduation to post-secondary graduation as smooth as possible for all concerned.

CASFAA 2008 welcomes member and partner submissions that speak to the significance of charting our way through the turbulent waters of financial aid.

Deadline for submissions: Friday, April 25, 2008

Submit completed Call for Papers electronically at http://www.casfaa.dal.ca/call_for_papers.php

All those who have a proposal selected will pay a reduced registration fee of \$200.00.

As Chair of the 2008 CASFAA Conference, I look forward to seeing you in Halifax!!

Frances Cody
2008 CASFAA Conference Chair