**Central European Association for Canadian Studies**

**President’s Report on activities for the period 2009-2012**

In view of its major objective of assisting university teachers, researchers and students in carrying out work relating to Canada, in the past three years the Central European Association for Canadian Studies has continued to pursue activities in order to advance Canadian Studies in the region. This report discusses the following areas:

* Membership
* Research groups
* Publications
* Young Canadianists
* Cooperation with associations, centres and local Canadian Government missions
* Outreach
* Grants and awards
* Future

***Membership***

In the period from 2009 – 2012, the Central European Association for Canadian Studies has seen a steady growth in terms of membership. In the past few years, CEACS membership has been as follows:

* 2009: 255
* 2010: 265
* 2011: 284
* 2012: 294

The above figures represent a 15% rise in the number of CEACS members since the last General Meeting in 2009.

***Research groups***

*Diaspora Project*

The *Central Europe in Canada: CEACS Diaspora Project*, led by Vesna Lopicic, was a large multidisciplinary project with the aim of examining aspects of the Canadian experience, the mark Canada left on immigrants from Central Europe. The research was done by looking at the literary production of immigrants from the Central European countries (including texts that were translated specially by research team members) as well as by collecting oral histories in which they spoke about their experience of becoming Canadians. The Diaspora project started in 2007 and was completed in 2010 with the publication *Migrating Memories: Central Europe in Canada*, comprising two volumes, the first a literary anthology with commentary on the presence of writers from the individual countries in Canada, the second a collection of selected and edited oral histories.

*Translation Research Project*

As opposed to the Diaspora Project, which revolved around aspects of the immigration experience in Canada, this project examined the image of Canada created in Central Europe through translations; more precisely, translations into the eight languages of the CEACS member countries of books in the humanities and social sciences by Canadians or by authors setting their stories in Canada. The project, led by Katalin Kürtösi, began in 2010 and resulted in the setting up of a comprehensive database with around 2,500 entries, and the holding of a conference in Budapest in October 2011 entitled “Canada in Eight Tongues,” at which members of the project team and invited guests presented papers based on their research and on their work as translators of Canadian texts. Finally, the revised papers, along with a number of other contributions, formed the contents of a volume which was published in the fall of 2012, in fact just a couple of weeks ago, bringing the project to a close. However, the database will be updated on an annual basis; as a unique tool, it will be open to anyone who wishes to use it for research purposes.

Each of the above projects brought together around thirty Canadianists from the CEACS countries.

***Publications***

Over the past three years, the CEACS has published the proceedings of the 5th International Conference of Central European Canadianists (Sofia, October 2009), the respective three volumes of the two CEACS research projects (see above) and new volumes of the ***Central European Journal of Canadian Studies*,** as follows:

* *Managing Diversity and Social Cohesion: The Canadian Experience/ Diversité culturelle et cohésion sociale : L’expérience canadienne*. Proceedings of the 5th International Conference of Central European Canadianists, ed. Diana Yankova (Brno: Masaryk University, 2010) p. 480.
* *Migrating Memories: Central Europe in Canada*. Vol. 1 - Literary Anthology, Vol. 2 - Oral Histories, eds. Vesna Lopicic and Rodica Albu (Brno/Nis: CEACS/AECEC, 2010), p. 461 and p. 424.
* *Canada in Eight Tongues: Translating Canada in Central Europe/Le Canada en huit langues: Traduire le Canada en Europe centrale*, ed. Katalin Kürtösi (Brno: Masaryk University, 2012) p. 248.

### ***Central European Journal of Canadian Studies*, Vol. 7, ed. Jason Blake (2011)**

### ***Central European Journal of Canadian Studies*, Vol. 8, ed. Jason Blake (2012)**

To encourage young scholars in the field of Canadian Studies, the European Network for Canadian Studies (ENCS) holds an annual European Seminar for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies. As part of its contribution to the work of the ENCS, the CEACS oversees the publication of the selected proceedings of the annual European Seminar for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies through its Secretariat at Masaryk University in Brno. In the period under investigation, the following volumes were published:

* *Dynamics of Canada/Dyanmiques du Canada,* (Vol. 8.) 2009
* *A View from Afar: Canadian Studies in a European Context/Une vision lointaine: Les études canadiennes dans un contexte européen*, (Vol. 9) 2010
* *Interpreting Canada: New Perspectives from Europe/Interpréter le Canada: Nouvelles perspectives du côté de l‘Europe*, (Vol. 10) 2012
* *Reflections on Canada: Canadian Studies in a Global Context/Reflections sur le Canada : Les études canadiennes dans un contexte mondial,* (Vol. 11) 2012

There has also been a steady output of scholarly articles, monographs, reviews, translations and edited collections by Canadianists from across the Central European region, which is reflected in the following figures:

* 2009 – over 120 publications by individual members
* 2010 – over 130 publications by individual members
* 2011 – around 100 publications by individual members

***Young Canadianists***

The Central European Young Canadianists, established in 2009, have continued to facilitate cooperation among young researchers to explore new Canadian - Central European perspectives and to support the exchange of ideas. In 2010, the CEYC network launched a website ([www.yc-jc.eu](http://www.yc-jc.eu)) and started publishing newsletters on a regular basis.

In 2011, the Central European Young Canadianists received a grant from the Government of Canada to organize **a summer school for students, which was held from 23-30 June, 2012, at Telč, the Czech Republic**. The theme of the summer school was**“Canada and the Environment - An Interdisciplinary Approach.”** Disciplines reflected in the summer school included cultural studies, economics, First Nations studies, geography, history, law, literature, natural science and political science.

Students from the CEACS countries participated in the EU-Canada Study Tour and Internship Programme in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Don Sparling, Treasurer of the CEACS and of Masaryk University, Brno, acted as Executive Director of the tour in each of these years. This programme took students selected from the Member States of the European Union first to Brussels and then to six cities in Canada (Ottawa, Québec, Montréal, Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria). Each year students on the tour attended around one hundred presentations and briefings with politicians, public servants and representatives of other public institutions, private firms, cultural groups, First Nations and Inuit representatives, think tanks and foundations.

Inthe past three years, several students from the CEACS countries attended the annual European Seminars for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies, organized by the European Network for Canadian Studies. These student conferences were held in Maribor, Slovenia, in 2009; in Milano, Italy, in 2010; and in Groningen, the Netherlands, in 2011.

Every year sees new Canadian Studies courses being introduced at universities throughout the region by members of the CEACS. In the past three years, 49 new courses were launched at the universities and colleges of the CEACS countries. These courses primarily focused on Canadian culture, literature, history and cinema studies.

In 2009, 2010 and 2011, a total of 153 Canadian Studies theses supervised by CEACS members were defended in our region, at all levels of education (BA, MA, PhD), covering a broad range of themes, among them literature, theatre, linguistics, language policy, multiculturalism, immigration, anthropology, the First Nations, socio-economic features of the North, history, Canada and war, gender and class, film, popular culture, economic development and legal terminology.

***Cooperation with associations, centres and local Canadian Government missions***

In the past three years, about 150 collaborative activities took place between associations, centres, and local Canadian missions in the Central European region, including a great number and variety of cultural events, visiting lectures and film screenings. (A detailed list of these is available in the country reports available on the CEACS website: <http://www.cecanstud.cz/>) A great number of our members attended various Canadian Studies conferences held in a range of countries outside our region, and CEACS chapters, as well as individual CEACS members, organized a number of international Canadian Studies conferences in their home country or at their home institutions.

In the context of international cooperation, following the introduction of the Understanding Canada Programme in 2008, the Central European Association for Canadian Studies was responsible for administering the pre-selection process for Faculty Research and Faculty Enrichment Grants and Doctoral Student Research Awards for the European region.

Also, on 13 October 2012, our association is going to host the upcoming meeting of the European Network for Canadian Studies during the 6th Triennial International Conference of Central European Canadianists to be held in Bratislava.

In all the Central European countries, Canadianists cooperate closely with the local Canadian missions. In the period under investigation, this took various forms, such as hosting and publicizing talks by Canadians brought to these countries by the embassies or with embassy support; serving as sources of information and as contact persons for the embassies; and acting as sources of expertise on Canada.

***Outreach***

Outreach has received special attention in the Central European region in the past period. Much has been done by CEACS members in different countries to work with schools. In some countries (Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Hungary), there have been regular presentations and a number of series of lectures by local Canadianists on Canada for young people at schools. There has also been a research project in Hungary, in cooperation with the Association for Canadian Studies in the German-speaking Countries (GKS), to develop Canadian-focused teaching material for upper primary and secondary schools; the tangible results so far have been two cultural readers and a handful of teacher-training sessions, conference presentations and articles in both countries.

In addition, CEACS members are often viewed by the media as resources; they are frequently approached by the media for comment on current events related to Canada. Local radio and television stations request Canadianists to talk about Canada and Canada-related topics, which are often linked to issues such as immigration and the development of non-homogeneous societies. Canadian media, too (such as the *Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star*, Radio Canada), have asked for the views of local Canadianists on specific occasions. In addition to this, during Canadian Studies conferences there have been TV and radio reports and interviews made with the organizers and participants on various Canadian issues, and announcements made in the press.

***Grants and awards to CEACS members***

Between 2009 and 2012, a number of CEACS members received grants under the Understanding Canada Programme or grants offered by the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS). These included grants under the Faculty Enrichment Programme, the Faculty Research Programme, the Doctoral Student Research Award and the Graduate Student Scholarship. In addition, the CEACS has continued to offer its members travel grants to attend conferences, and CEACS members have had the opportunity to apply for a Brno Research Grant. (The list of recipients can be downloaded from the CEACS website under “Grants.”)

Two CEACS members received prestigious international recognition in Canada: in 2010 Katalin Kürtösi, of the University of Szeged, was awarded an ICCS Certificate of Merit, and in 2012 Ádám Fuglinszky, of Eötvös Loránd University, received the ICCS’s Pierre Savard Award.

***The future***

With the unexpected abolishment of the Understanding Canada Programme by the Government of Canada on 30 April, 2012, all Canadian Studies associations, the CEACS included, find themselves in a very difficult situation. The decision means cancellation of support for Canadian Studies activities around the world, and thus it will have a profoundly damaging effect on Canadian Studies internationally. It is up to our joint efforts to mitigate these damages in our region. We need to take stock of our existing assets, consisting of our network, human resources, communications channels, knowledge and expertise, as well as our good relationship with other Canadian Studies associations in Europe and around the world, and think about ways to continue with our activities with significantly less financial resources than up till now. Having said this, we also need to consider ways of ensuring funding for our association.

The General Meeting of our association, to be held in Bratislava on 13 October 2012, during the 6th Triennial International Conference of Central European Canadianists, will offer an opportunity to discuss these issues, determine the priority areas and activities for the CEACS to pursue in the future and make suggestions for possible ways of raising funds (such as applying for grants and programmes offered by national governments, NGO’s and the EU, and getting in touch with the business world and private individuals in our region and beyond to gain their support). The joint Executive Committee and Advisory Board meetings, which will take place on October 14-15, subsequent to the General Meeting, will pay special attention to the decisions and suggestions made at the General Meeting.

Janos Kenyeres

CEACS President, on behalf of the Executive Committee

9 October, 2012