

Creative City Network of Canada AGM
President's Report
May 31, 2013

It just seems like a few months ago we were in Victoria, oh wait it was! How exciting that we all get to be together twice within a twelve month period. However, the mix is different and there will be many new faces, so the bold walk-up-and-introduce-yourself is still very much in effect. It's a great gift that we're able to meet, greet, eat, learn, network and socialize with colleagues from across and up and down this rather enormous country of ours. To discover that, although some of you may be the only ones in your department, you've got plenty of company at the town next door or six provinces away. Chances are very good that somewhere, someone, has been there, done that, and might even offer you a t-shirt....with their town's logo on it of course.

It's been an amazing year for the CCNC, with Tammy Isaacson finishing her contract and now pursuing new professional opportunities. A big thank you to Tammy, for all that you accomplished for the network, the new website, new branding, and of course your invaluable contribution to the success of the Victoria Summit! I'd like to introduce Jennifer Lord and thank her for stepping in to bring that senior management experience and dedication we appreciate so much. Welcome Jennifer! And of course, please join me in thanking Kelsey Hicks for seeing us through another year of growth and change. Kelsey will be leaving the network in June to pursue dreams that we have kept interrupting by asking her to come back, just for a little while! And she always does with that quiet good grace and thoughtful demeanor and the work ethic of six generations of pioneer settlers. All the best Kelsey, you most definitely...rock.

For this year we are looking forward to continuing to grow our membership, by having opportunities like this, and by enhancing the on-line experience to provide you with more communication tools and resources to better serve your communities and to foster vigorous arts and culture growth locally, provincially and nationally. Because, as we all know, it starts with the grassroots, the local artists and organizations that bravely go where no rational person would dare. Our job is to harness that energy and creativity, give it a voice, perhaps provide a venue or two, maybe a little ka-ching to make it grow, and to be the conduit to senior level of local government and of course the elected officials. It is not an easy job we have, nor one that is not fraught with pot-holes and booby-traps the size of a Buick to trip us up and throw us off path. And it is at those times that having a support system of people who know exactly what you're going through and can offer words of advice, research, jokes, or maybe just a sympathetic ear or flat screen to vent upon that allows you to look at everything with fresh eyes and ears. That's what the network has meant to me, and why I remain so passionate about committing to becoming a member and to ask a non-member, why not?

In closing I would like to offer my simply too big to fit on this page thanks to retiring board members Rebecca Cann (St. Catharines, ON), Angela Watson (Fredericton, NB), Frances Westlund (Saskatoon, SK), Andrew MacGregor (Amherst, NS) and Caroline Obeid (Ottawa, ON). They have given so much of themselves to the organization and have covered my you know what on many occasions, so please join me in thanking them and wishing them well.

Have a wonderful summit in Ottawa everyone, and if I don't see you here, next year in Hamilton!

Ian Forsyth
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City of North Vancouver
District of North Vancouver