The CIA is turning 50!
The Canadian Institute of Actuaries will celebrate its 50th anniversary on March 18, 2015. Join in our year of events and activities to commemorate Actuaries: The Professionals of the Future.

Essay Contest
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50th Anniversary Annual Meeting in Ottawa
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I recently returned from attending the 2014 Annual Meeting in Vancouver—a very positive experience overall!

I sat in many presentations, all well attended and delivered by excellent speakers. They included active audience discussion on a wide range of current topics relevant to our industry. The information can be obtained elsewhere but getting it live in the company of experts and peers is an experience like no other.

The meeting also included many opportunities for networking and learning outside of the sessions. I was able to meet new people and see colleagues and business partners as well as catch up with former classmates. I especially enjoyed the keynote by Ian Hanomansing, where he gave us a very interesting inside view of the world of the media.

Vancouver marked the end of my time as Chair of the Continuing Education Committee. I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their significant efforts over the last couple of years in delivery of the Annual Meetings, specialty seminars, and webcasts. The committee’s goal is to provide quality content covering significant current issues and I do believe we achieved this, with Vancouver being the most recent example.

I very much look forward to attending our 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting in Ottawa, and highly recommend it to all. Hope to see you there!

Lynn Grenier-Lew
Chair
2014 Annual Meeting

Above: the Annual Meeting attracts actuaries from every practice area and every level of experience.
OUTSTANDING SESSIONS

What a great CIA Annual Meeting we held in Vancouver this year! Thanks to Lynn Grenier-Lew and the CIA staff for an excellent event. The organizers put together a great program of sessions and activities. Sessions of interest were held in all practice areas and the quality of each was outstanding.

I really enjoyed the presentation from Ian Hanomansing on how actuaries can be headline news. Ian shared with us the “five myths”, fantastic examples of how headline news happens, a two-minute challenge, and the “four how-to’s”. It was a very helpful presentation as we, the CIA, attempt more and more to reach out to the Canadian public using the media.

I also have to mention the new CIA Annual Meeting App. What a useful tool it was.
MEETING OFFERS SO MUCH TO MEMBERS

The CIA Annual Meeting is far more than the flagship event of the Canadian actuarial profession. Members who attend are able to learn about changes and advancement in actuarial specialties which can ultimately benefit their clients and Canadians as a whole. The meeting provides opportunities to discover new ways to address actuarial issues, explore the promises of emerging fields of practice, and develop business skills such as leadership and branding.

One of the key benefits for members attending the CIA Annual Meeting is having a chance to keep in touch with their colleagues and make new connections, and the CIA provides them with the opportunity to attend social gatherings with like-minded, forward-thinking actuaries.

In Vancouver, actuaries from all over the country attended the two-day meeting and were able to visit sponsors’ booths, attend informational workshops and plenary sessions, and even a fabulous keynote address on how actuaries can be headline news.

If you are among the few who missed that opportunity, I encourage you to book June 17–18, 2015, in your calendar in order to celebrate the CIA’s 50th anniversary with your colleagues in Ottawa. You can make important connections and learn valuable information in these meetings but your attendance is, more importantly, an eloquent way to demonstrate commitment and support to your professional association. The CIA is the voice of the actuarial profession in Canada. It is up to every individual member to help in keeping it strong and clear.

Michel Simard
Executive Director

Left: the Exhibitor Hall was an opportunity to learn about several key actuarial organizations.
THE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

Vancouver welcomed more than 400 attendees over two days at the 2014 Annual Meeting, the Institute’s flagship event for key professional development and invaluable networking opportunities.

In addition to an outstanding program with more than 40 sessions covering every practice area, 2014 featured two special breakfast sessions in emerging areas: one centred around the CIA Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability, and the other was entitled Actuaries Carving a Niche in Healthcare.

Also new for 2014, the New Fellows and Volunteer Award recipients recognition events were combined into one celebratory luncheon event that highlighted the achievements of the Institute’s newest members, as well as those of Bronze, Silver, and Gold volunteer award recipients who have helped shape the Institute through their outstanding contribution over the years.

The Institute’s first meeting app for iPhone, iPad, and Android devices and the mobile web was launched. The fully bilingual app is among the first of its kind and enhanced the meeting attendee experience with easy access to documents, schedules, speakers, and other timely information. The app was very well received and will continue to evolve in its functionality.

The exhibit area continues to grow each year. Our sincere thanks to the Actuarial Students National Association, the Casualty Actuarial Society, KPMG, Oliver Wyman, and Swiss Re for their presence at the event. The CIA also appreciates the generosity of the following sponsors whose support greatly enhances the overall quality of the meeting: Aurigen, Deloitte, Elliott Bauer, GGY Axis, KPMG, RGA, Scor Global Life, the Society of Actuaries, and Sun Life Financial.

The Networking Reception was a hit once again. From the 34th floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, attendees enjoyed an outstanding view of Vancouver, great
refreshments, and valuable time to network with old friends and new acquaintances.

The closing luncheon featured the time-honored tradition of the presidential change of office. Simon Curtis, Immediate Past President, paid elegant tribute to Jacques Lafrance for his year as President of the CIA. Jacques in turn thanked Simon for his thoughtful and valued guidance over the past year and spoke briefly of the highlights of his presidency before presenting Jacques Tremblay with the presidential chain of office. M. Tremblay then addressed the crowd as the 2014–2015 President of the CIA and highlighted his priorities: protection of the public interest, stakeholder outreach, international affairs, and the importance of a strong and healthy volunteer base. Finally, following the closing keynote address by CBC’s Ian Hanomansing about how actuaries can make headline news, M. Tremblay officially closed the 2014 Annual Meeting with the well-travelled ceremonial gavel.

All in all, a very successful meeting, but we cannot rest on our laurels. Work has already started on the 2015 Annual Meeting, where we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the CIA. We hope you will join us for the must-attend actuarial event of next year.
YOUR FEEDBACK

The update from the Committee on Climate Change was most interesting. Karen Lockridge and Frank Grossman provided some ideas on this new committee’s planned activities and used the session to seek input from attendees on issues that the committee should consider. Climate change is a major issue for Canada and the world. It is encouraging to see the CIA taking a proactive approach to this important global issue as actuarial skills at assessing long-term contingent events can be valuable. Ian Hanomansing provided an excellent overview of the media’s role in society and suggested some practical action steps on how the CIA can increase its public visibility. Ian’s journalism career has spanned over 25 years and he has covered many of the major news items of our era. He admitted that he did not know much about the actuarial profession but that made his comments relevant to the CIA as many in the public have little awareness of actuaries.

Great hotel choice—well located, well appointed, and reasonably priced. Lots of new content and new ideas. I particularly enjoyed the sessions on longevity risk and pension risk management using liability-driven investment.

I really enjoyed the great presentation by Ian Hanomansing from CBC. He shared a refreshing and honest perspective on the process for newsroom decision-making and how that translates into our profession becoming more media savvy.

I attended the session on longevity perspectives and enjoyed the great discussion that developed among the audience. It’s great to see how actuaries in the pension field are excited by the many great innovations several insurers are producing in the area of retirement income and longevity insurance for Canadians.

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My knowledge and understanding were expanded by a combination of ‘new information’ and ‘old information in a new light’. I feel that I learned something at every session. This is what all continuing education should be like. Thank you!

Vancouver was a lovely city and the hotel location was excellent.

The meetings always strike me as being exceptionally well organized.

This was one of the best CIA meetings I’ve attended in recent years. Content was better than usual, attendance was good, hotel was good, and even the food was quite good. Well done.

The networking reception is always the most valuable portion of the meeting.

Ian Hanomansing was a real class act and a very informative and lively session. More of that please...

Very good meeting overall. Many of the sessions were interesting. Location was good. Attendance was good. Food was particularly good.

I found the meeting was useful to connect with other actuaries I hadn’t seen in recent years.

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Sample Results from the Post-meeting Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The meeting content was informative and my time was well spent</td>
<td>90.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegates’ Networking Reception: good or excellent</td>
<td>89.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Business Session: good or excellent</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keynote speaker Ian Hanomansing: good or excellent</td>
<td>96.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEW FOR 2014: THE DATA WALL

An additional feature made its debut at this year’s Annual Meeting: the Data Wall.

Containing one question for each day of the meeting, the highly visible interactive charts prompted a great response from those eager to express their opinions.

Here are the questions and results.
Above: Jacques Lafrance, left, was succeeded by Jacques Tremblay as CIA President. M. Tremblay’s year in office will include the 50th anniversary and many other high-profile and unmissable events.
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