

Dear Colleagues,

We have spent the winter enhancing the institutional role and position of Canada's national academy by heeding closely to six objectives. These are:

1. To provide a Canadian perspective to problems of national interest through expert panels and the production of advisory reports;
2. To integrate students in the core activities of the RSC;
3. To increase the number of scholarly activities in partnership with our institutional members;
4. To enlarge the participation of RSC Fellows in our activities through the establishment of regional chapters;
5. To launch outreach activities aimed to help our youth access higher education;
6. To establish partnerships with Canadian citizens and corporations to foster the objectives

In this edition of RSC News, you will find numerous illustrations and examples of activities held recently, as well as many other activities planned imminently, in support of these objectives.

Secondly, I am pleased to report that the "hands on deck" of the RSC as we move forward are scholars of vision, integrity and passion. From 2009-2011, the elected academy presidents are: Patrick Imbert (Academy 1, University of Ottawa), Marc Renaud (Academy 2, l'Université de Montréal), and Graham Bell (Academy 3, McGill University). I would also like to recognize my successor as president of the RSC, Rod Macdonald. Rod is an outstanding legal scholar, teacher, mentor and citizen. The hand on the tiller of the RSC is in the best possible hands.

Finally, I would like to thank Sandra Irving and Laurent Beaudoin for their continuing commitment to RSC and to *Extending Excellence*. Their support for the expanding horizons of our national academy has been and continues to be essential. We are grateful.

There is much to be done, and there are many ways for individuals of all walks in Canadian life to become involved. I urge you to contact our team in Ottawa and to take a role in the more than 40 events occurring during the coming year.

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