



Yolande Grisé

President

(2011-2013)



Yolande Grisé has been elected as the new president of the Royal Society of Canada for a two-year mandate. Originally from Montreal, she has been living in Vancouver since 2005. Her Latin studies (La Sorbonne, 1977) were a perfect match for a teaching position with Laval University's Department of History in 1978. In 1980, Yolande moved on to the University of Ottawa's Department of French literature, where she taught until 2004. She was the head of the Centre for Research on French-Canadian Culture from 1985 to 1987, helping to secure financial support for the Centre's projects although times were tough for humanities and social sciences. Throughout her career, she has consistently played an administrative role in academic circles. Yolande has been active in the community, delivering numerous speeches, attending forums and roundtables, giving interviews, hosting a literary radio show, sitting on literary panels and heading the Governor General's Literary Award in the non-fiction category.

In 1983, she directed the first doctoral thesis in Franco-Ontarian literature at the University of Ottawa, and from 1986 to 1988, she led the first comprehensive research on visual arts in French Ontario. Her four-volume anthology of Franco-Ontarian literature was the first of its kind and had a major impact on schools in Ontario. In 1991, the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communication appointed her to lead a workgroup tasked with developing the first cultural policy for Ontario Francophones. The Ontario Prime Minister in Council appointed her to the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) board of directors, which she chaired from 1991 to 1994.

In 2004, Yolande was hired by Simon Fraser University (SFU) to lead the new Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs (2005-2008). Under her leadership, French language undergraduate and graduate courses and programs were developed and offered, and exchange agreements were put in place with Francophone universities in Quebec and Europe. Since May 2008, she has been an Affiliate Faculty member at the SFU Department of Humanities.

Author of specialized studies in Classics (*Le Suicide dans la Rome antique*) and in French Canadian literature, Yolande Grisé has been doing research work for over 20 years with the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Throughout her years as a senior researcher (1986-2000), she headed a research team and a study program that led to the publication of the 12 volumes in *Les Textes poétiques du Canada français, 1606-1867. Édition intégrale*. Her interest in research and the Francophonie has led to her attending national and international seminars (United States, Italy, France, Austria, Ireland) and to join the scientific committee (1991-1997) and the steering committee (1997-2003) of

Laval University's *Chaire pour le développement de la recherche sur la culture d'expression française en Amérique du Nord* (Chair of research development on French cultural expression in North America). From 2005 to 2011, she served on the board of directors with the *Association internationale des études québécoises* (International Association of Quebec Studies, AIEQ).

She recently completed her critique of poetry by François-Xavier Garneau (1809-1866), the first Romantic poet in Lower Canada. Her book will be published in the fall of 2012 by Laval University Press. She is currently working on SSHRC-funded research projects, including a review of poetry by Jacques-Adolphe Marsais (1803-1879), an adopted Canadian (1854-1879) who originally hailed from Angoulême, France.

Her achievements include: election to the Royal Society of Canada (1996); the *Centre de documentation Yolande-Grisé* (1997) at Béatrice-Desloges High School (Orleans, ON); Chevalier with the *Ordre de la Pléiade et du dialogue des cultures* (1998); recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal (2002); the honor of the *Compagnie des Cent-Associés francophones* (2005); badge of Chevalier in the *Ordre des Palmes académiques* (France, 2008).

At the Royal Society of Canada, she has been a member of the selection committee for the Lorne Pierce Medal (1999-2002); president of the Humanities Division (2), chair of the Divisional Committee for the Selection of New Fellows and member of the Executive Committee for the Academy (I), Arts and Humanities (2005-2008).

Yolande Gris  has a broad experience in disciplinary diversity, gained through research, studies and her commitment to research, literature and the arts. These aspects of her vision define her as a humanist with a conviction that new approaches are needed in order to create a better future for Canada. She believes that advancement of knowledge, the resourcefulness of researchers, the vitality of culture, the inventiveness of scientists and artists, and individual awareness are linked inextricably to the continual development of an original, innovative, attractive and empathic Canadian society.

The year 2012 will mark the 130th anniversary of the Royal Society of Canada. Yolande Gris  wishes to continue the work of her predecessors by focusing the Society's efforts in strategic areas like membership diversity, financial vitality, and the promotion of the intellectual, artistic and scientific achievements of the nearly 2,000 members of the Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada for the benefit of the Canadian society.