

# *Newsletter*

Issue No. 1 — January 1998

## *Hansard Association of Canada*



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Next Edition  
August 1998

## WHAT'S INSIDE



1. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT .....	1
2. EDITORIAL .....	2
3. UPCOMING HANSARD CONFERENCES .....	3
4. CONFERENCE 1998 — VICTORIA B.C. ....	3
5. EDITING — THE ONGOING DEBATE: OBVIOUS MISTAKES AND FALSE STARTS .....	4
6. DIGITAL AUDIO COMES TO QUEEN'S PARK .....	9
7. RECONSTITUTING THE DEBATES OF THE QUEBEC LEGISLATURE .....	10
8. HANSARD REPORTING SERVICE, MESSENGER SERVICE .....	12
9. VISITORS FROM BELGIUM .....	12
10. INDEXER'S CORNER .....	13
11. CROSS REFERENCES .....	14
12. NEW OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE EEC .....	15
13. NEW BRUNSWICK NEWS .....	16
14. MANITOBA NEWS .....	17
15. NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS .....	17
16. YUKON NEWS .....	18



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Richard Copeland, President, Canadian Hansard Association

TORONTO, February 25, 1998

Greetings to all Hansardians from coast to coast, and welcome to our revamped Canadian Hansard Newsletter. Kudos to our Editor, Jeanie Morrison, and to Cheryl Fulton and Dave Robertson, the other members of our Editorial Advisory Board, for such a fine effort.

This initiative certainly reflects the vitality of our organization, and the talent and will of our membership to keep pushing forward despite the hurdles brought on by cutbacks and funding shortfalls. In my view, this newsletter and our website are just the first tangible signs of the new direction we have been calling for, and I know that other initiatives from our Saint John's conference will also bear fruit over the next few months. I have often spoken of the need for us to think strategically about our role in the legislative process, and to focus increasingly on our need to serve the membership through enhanced communication and professional development. With this document, we begin to fulfil those goals.

Believe it or not, it is also time to begin thinking of our 1998 conference, just a few short months away. Peter Robbins' invitation to Beautiful British Columbia is in the newsletter and I'm confident that our August meetings in Victoria will continue to see the association evolve. I expect us to continue to push ahead with the editorial standards project now being spearheaded by Edith McLure of Manitoba. I look forward to continuing the discussions of the role of the association as advisor to legislatures in matters relating to the production of the official record of debates as we pool our common knowledge and expertise. I anticipate more exchanges between Hansards in the technological sphere, and I am eager to see presentations that address our shared interest in professional development. Most of all, I look forward to seeing everyone again and participating in the dialogue that is so vital to the health of our organization and to the service we provide to our legislatures.

One of the most important changes to our mandate was to have the association act to serve all of its members, not just management and the voting delegates at conferences. There are so many skilled and talented people working in Hansards from coast to coast, and we'd like to tap into that tremendous resource for the benefit of all. To that end, I'm asking all Hansardians to be involved: through the newsletter, through the conference and through your managers. Bring your thoughts and ideas forward, and while we can't guarantee that all contributions will be endorsed, I know that most will be given consideration, and many will end up being incorporated into our agenda.

As we move into the second year of our reconstituted association, I am encouraged by our progress and look forward to working with an active and involved membership.

Regards,  
Richard Copeland.

