A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

JOCELYN LÉTOURNEAU is Canada Research Chair in Quebec's Contemporary History, Laval University (Quebec City, Canada). A member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J., he's also fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the Trudeau Foundation. A regular visiting professor in foreign universities, he was the principal investigator in a SHRCC funded Community-University Research Alliance (Canadians and their Pasts). In 2010, he was a Fulbright scholar at both UC Berkeley and Stanford University, and a visiting scholar at the Institute for the Study of the Americas (University of London). Dr. Létourneau is the author or editor of many books. Among his major works are *Les Années sans guide : Le Canada à l'ère de l'économie migrante* (Boréal, 1996); *A History for the Future: Rewriting Memory and Identity in Quebec Today* (McGill-Queen's U. Press, 2004); *Le Québec, les Québécois : Un parcours historique* (Fides, 2004), *Le Coffre à outils du chercheur debutant*. Guide d'initiation au travail intellectuel (Boréal, 2006; transl. in Spanish and Portuguese) and *Que veulent les Québécois ? Regard sur l'intention nationale au Québec (français) d'hier à aujourd'hui* (Boréal, 2006). In 2010, he published *Le Québec entre son passé et ses passages* (Fides, 2010). He's actually working on a manuscript tentatively titled *Je me souviens ? Le Québec dans la conscience historique de sa jeunesse*.

Dear friends,

It is with enthusiasm that I have accepted to act as President of the Association for Canadian Studies for the next two years.

I have known the ACS for a long time. I participated in many conferences and seminars organized under its direction. Each time, those were events that had significant impact, either because of the importance and relevance of the issues discussed, the seriousness and quality of scientific exchanges, the interactivity and intellectual exchanges or simply because of the number and professional background of the events' attendees. In Canada, the ACS is currently one of the most active organizations in the field of scientific event planning, organization and management of scholarly networks and dissemination of knowledge to a non-university public.

The activity of ACS manifests itself in different ways: by sponsoring surveys, by producing studies and reports, by holding a multitude of events, and the publication of journals, especially Canadian Issues and Canadian Diversity. We must consider these two magazines, aesthetically appealing and with a reach well beyond academia, as important vehicles for the transmission of new ideas in the public space. To flip through the pages of these magazines is to read pieces, either in English or French, by almost all the great minds of the country and others abroad, on subjects so significant to the past, present and future of Canada. Short and accessible, the articles appearing in these journals reach large audiences, including students, presenting them with unpublished data, with the most recent works, with bearing issues or with new concepts elaborated by people who all have in common the drive to combine the scientific rigor of their research and the social relevance of their questions.

The ACS is not only a place of free and diverse speech, but a place of diversiform and eclectic exchange in which people from all rootedness and all ideational all horizons can express themselves and expose themselves, in an environment of intellectual vivacity and respect for differing opinions. Through the forums organized by the Association – often in collaboration with public or private partners – I was personally able to extend my contacts with colleagues and stakeholders which I would not have met otherwise, for example education specialists, elementary or high school teachers, policymakers acting at the provincial or federal level, scholars or practitioners, idealists or pragmatists, anglophones or francophones, students or seniors researchers from across the country.

The ACS is a place where strong personalities devoted to serious reflection and challenged by the major social issues, have given themselves the objectives, without claiming to have found the Holy Grail, to inspire debate, to encourage discussion and, if necessary, to change the orientation of our questioning in order to open different perspectives on the past, present and future.

With the team in place and other members of the board of directors, my main promise is to ensure that this great work continues.