

CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ
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DE PSYCHOLOGIE

Convention Committee

November 2008

The convention committee had several e-mail exchanges in the past few months in order to discuss/address and resolve the issues summarized below.

Reduction in # of Parallel Convention Sessions:

At the 2008 AGM in Halifax, the CPA board mandated a significant reduction (10%) in the number of parallel sessions at our annual convention. Toward this objective, the convention committee resolved to change the manner in which conversation sessions will be offered/arranged in 2009. The Halifax convention program included 42 conversation sessions, many of which were more like 1-hour presentations, with only a few people in attendance. In order to encourage conversation, and to reduce the number of sessions, a number of conversation sessions will be offered in the same room in Montreal. In a large ballroom equipped with about 12-15 large round tables, we will schedule one conversation session for each table (a big sign on each table would identify the speaker or session #). This manner of holding conversation sessions should reduce the number of parallel sessions by the desired percentage, without significant cuts to the program hours allocated to any of the sections.

In an August 2008 e-mail, all section chairs were appraised of this new manner of offering conversation sessions in 2009. The e-mail elicited 3 positive/supportive comments, and no negative responses. Additional supportive E-mails were received from section chairs who earlier had expressed grave concerns about plans to reduce the program hours allocated to sections.

Invited Speakers:

The convention committee reviewed and rated the individuals proposed as invited speakers for Montreal. Committee members expressed concern about the fact that the initially proposed list of Category 2 invited speaker list did not include any women (the final list includes 1 woman), and that most invited speakers are not members of CPA. To change the optics of the latter situation, we recommend that all non-member invited speakers are offered a 1-year honorary membership in CPA. To address the former, it may be necessary -- with input from the section chairs -- to update the convention procedures manual in a manner that that increases the opportunity for inclusivity.

CPA/Foundation Social Event:

Social event plans are still evolving. The front runner is an event that Kathy suggested calling it the "Streets of Montreal Buffet", which would consist of a series of stations each offering unique food delicacies. The aim is to hold this event at the Queen Elizabeth, at a cost of no more than \$90 per person.

Ribbons for Special Members:

In Halifax, we talked briefly about honouring invited speakers and CPA fellows in some manner. According to the convention staff, this option is feasible. In Montreal, ribbons will be used to honour our special guests.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Graf, Chair