



Representative to IFLA 2008

Early in this decade, APLA supported Canada's application to host the World Library and Information Congress in Quebec City in 2008. In 2004, APLA nominated me as the representative to the National Advisory Committee and in August (14-18) 2008, Quebec city welcomed the library community to the 74th IFLA General Council and Conference.

For me, a personal member of IFLA since the meeting in Montreal, it was the culmination of many years in the profession. Having attended ten meetings over the years, I hoped that many in Canada could appreciate the experience I had in 1982.

As one of the coordinators of the volunteers at the conference, I did not attend many sessions but I met many of you in the halls or the receptions at the Centre des Congrès de Québec.

A few statistics: over twenty-five people representing Canadian associations and institutions were members of the national committees chaired by Claude Bonnelly. The 21 recommendations made to IFLA Governing Board were favorably received. Three others joined Diane Polnicky and I as coordinators of 270 volunteers to serve close to 4000 participants, presenters, exhibitors, organizers from 125 countries. The largest contingent came from Canada: 1,099.

Statistics explain the activity but not the excitement, the overall atmosphere, the spirit of cooperation, the exchange of ideas, the meeting of colleagues, the sharing of information, the joys and challenges of the profession.

An innovation in Quebec city was the webcast of the opening, plenary and closing sessions. Webcasters Claire Giroux and Aline Néron set up office in the volunteers coordination center.

Since the Fall, the conference won two awards: the "Fidéide" award for "Business Event of the Year" from the Quebec City Chamber of Commerce and the "Événement de l'année 2008 - hommage aux ambassadeurs" from the Quebec City Tourism Bureau.

Thank you to APLA executives, presidents Maclean, Groen, Richard, Douthwright, Bourne-Tyson and Cleyle, for the opportunity to serve. Thank you for the opportunity to represent you and to participate in such an event. My recommendation to all members of APLA would be as follows: if ever you have the opportunity to serve your profession and colleagues, take it - it is worth the effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurette Mackey

APLA representative to IFLA 2008

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