

## President's Report October 2023

It has truly been an honour to serve as President of CALL this past year. My term has been very rewarding and has certainly offered many opportunities for lifelong learning!

The other members of the Executive have made my job very easy. The committee chairs on the Board have taken the lead on many significant initiatives. And of course, the many Coordinators and Facilitators have continued to amaze me with their enthusiasm and creativity as they maintain existing programs and generate exciting new programs for our members.

Thank you for allowing me to work alongside such a wonderful leadership team. I would like to acknowledge those members of the 2022/23 Board who are stepping down as they have completed their terms.

- **Leslie Dort, Past President:** Leslie's advice on Executive was invaluable. On a personal level, her support and encouragement to me made my transition to President much easier. I have truly appreciated working with her.
- **Carrol Jaques, Operations:** As Chair of Operations she has overseen CALL's response to COVID lockdowns – assuming responsibility for the Zoom Help team that made it possible to move many of our programs on-line. Under Carrol's leadership the Operations team has "pivoted" from booking facilities to booking Zoom meetings and back again several times. And she did it all calmly and competently. Thank you, Carrol.
- **Cathy Martin, Treasurer:** Cathy has managed CALL's finances in a way that has inspired confidence. Under her leadership CALL has weathered the COVID storm and come through it stronger than ever. Her voice on the Executive team has been consistently positive, supportive and sensible. Thank you, Cathy.
- **Diana Bloom, Chair, Fundraising:** Diana worked on securing our New Horizons grant (for the Intergeneration Speaker Series at MRU). She took on many additional responsibilities, always stepping up as needed, including: liaising with the Volunteer coordinators, helping to set up Open House events and providing valuable input to our strategic planning process. Thank you, Diana.

### Highlights of the past year

- 885 active members (as of July 2023)
- "New Normal": Resumption of many in-person programs and opportunities for social connection
- 57 Interest Groups and Study Programs (as of Sept 2023)
- 4 monthly Speaker Series: Treks & Travels, Science & Environment, CALL Café and Health & Wellness
- Community Conference: "Whither Democracy", October 2022

- Flexibility of presentations: in-person, on Zoom or combination: 19 groups on Zoom, 34 in-person, 4 both (as of Sept 2023)
- Two Open Houses: December 2022 at cSPACE Marda Loop and March 2023 at Varsity Presbyterian Church
- Recording of some speaker events: Available to members for 30 days following the presentation
- Intergenerational Speaker Series: Partnership with MRU School of Nursing hosted 5 speakers to date
- Marketing initiative: more than 700 followers on Social Media
- New Location: Girl Guides Head Office in Parkdale
- Extensive Review of Policies and Procedures was undertaken
- “The Road Ahead”: Significant strategic planning process resulting in many recommendations based on feedback from CALL members and leaders

CALL’s continued success depends on the commitment and creativity of many volunteers. Recruiting new volunteers and maintaining a healthy membership level will be ongoing challenges in 2023/24.

I am confident that CALL’s Board of Directors, Coordinators, Committee Chairs and Facilitators will provide the leadership necessary to fulfill our mandate “to provide affordable, innovative and flexible learning opportunities for adults in Calgary and area”.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Flanagan  
October 16, 2023