



February 19, 2010

Dear INPEA members and supporters,

It is now almost three weeks since the results of the election were announced and in my capacity as the newly elected President of INPEA, there are a number of activities have taken place that I want to tell you about.

1. The INPEA Secretariat is now located at the Gerontology Research Centre, Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada

As is the practice with many organizations, the INPEA Secretariat is located in the same city as the President, whenever feasible. Thank you Lynn McDonald and NICE for hosting the Secretariat for the last several years at the University of Toronto. Thank you SFU Gerontology for your offer to host it during my tenure as President.

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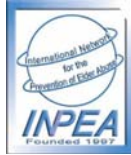
E-mail: INPEA@sfu.ca

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2. The Executive Committee has held two meetings

With the assistance of the BC Network for Aging Research, which coordinated and funded the calls, and the wonders of modern technology (Meeting Wizard, the Global Meet international phone network and Webex), on each of February 11 and February 18 the five members of the Executive Committee held lively discussions of approximately 2 hours each. The next meeting will take place in approximately 3 weeks and after that on a regular once a month basis. If there are items you would like to draw to the attention of the Executive Committee, please forward them to the Secretary, Susan Somers or to the Secretariat using INPEA@sfu.ca and we will be sure to put them on the agenda for the next meeting.





3. We have begun the process of policy, procedure and by-law review

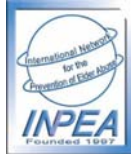
As we are all aware, an organization's needs change as it grows. Two different external consultants, in sessions held at GSA in 2006 and in Ottawa in 2008, advised us to take the time and make the effort to re-examine policies and procedures that have evolved over the years to make sure they meet the current needs of the organization. The same applies to the organization's structure. It is clear that some aspects of INPEA will need to be tailored to meet current needs, some discarded and some formalized so that they will be apparent to all and not have to be reinvented from one administration to the next.

For example, as currently written, the by-laws have many contradictions and inconsistencies as regards what are Board functions, responsibilities, powers and tenure and those of the elected officers, there is no mention in the by-laws of regional or national representatives, and there is archaic language (e.g. the secretary is called a clerk). While Membership, Fundraising, Education/Research, and Conference Committees are mentioned several other key committees are not.

As a first step towards rectifying the situation, the members of the Executive Committee have committed themselves to closely scrutinizing the by-laws before the next Executive Committee meeting and sending suggested revisions to the Vice-president. The next step will be to reactivate the By-laws Committee and, under the chairmanship of the Vice-president, task it with preparing revisions for approval by the membership in a mail ballot. The timeline we have given ourselves is 2 months. If you wish to participate in the process, be sure that you have paid your dues because the by-laws are quite explicit that only members in good standing – i.e. paid up members may vote. ..

4. Establishment of a Publications Committee

For many years, the INPEA *Newsletter* was the primary vehicle for communicating INPEA's global agenda and activities as well as the activities of members in INPEA's six Regions. More recently, a separate *Bulletin* has communicated information to the organizing committee and beyond about World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), the flagship activity of INPEA. This year, *I-News* was introduced. The Executive Committee will shortly establish a Publications Committee that will be chaired by the Vice-President. Its first task will be to recommend policy and procedure with respect to selection and tenure of the *Newsletter* Editor, frequency of its publication, objectives with respect to content, methods for soliciting contributions that will ensure ample and regular opportunity for information from all INPEA regions, etc. The Executive Committee and/or Publications Committee will also have responsibility for oversight of the *Newsletter*, *Bulletin* and other publications displaying the INPEA or WEAAD brands. On behalf of the Executive Committee and the membership



of INPEA I want to thank Elizabeth Podnieks for the years that she has served as Editor of the *Newsletter/Bulletin*. The back issues that will remain archived on the INPEA website will provide a permanent record of her hard work and dedication.

5. WEAAD projects

The Executive Committee wishes to publicly thank John Connolly, Director, Seniors and Pension Policy Secretariat, Dept. of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada with respect to the contract awarded to INPEA and IFA to redevelop INPEA's Community Resource Tool Kit so as to assist Canadian organizations to plan and develop activities around WEAAD.

We also want to publicly thank Susan Crichton, Senior Policy Analyst – Federal Abuse Initiative, Division of Aging and Seniors, Public Health Agency of Canada for her efforts with respect to a contract awarded to INPEA and IFA to redesign INPEA's Community Resource Tool Kit for use in educational/school settings, to be available in both of Canada's official languages and to be culturally appropriate for aboriginal and multi-cultural school communities.

Thanks to Elizabeth Podnieks, WEAAD founder and project partner Greg Shaw from IFA for writing the proposals for these two exciting projects.

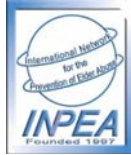
6. INPEA global WEAAD event

When World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched by INPEA five years ago, it definitely was an idea whose time had come. Activities that raise awareness about the evils of elder abuse and/or that celebrate the resilience and contributions of seniors now routinely occur around the world on June 15. WEAAD has caught the imagination of and has been embraced by NGOs, government agencies and individuals in many countries.

In 2008, INPEA in partnership with the Canadian Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse, hosted a very successful 2-day conference in Ottawa. Last year the official INPEA WEAAD event was held in Paris, in partnership with ALMA, the French national elder abuse prevention organization, just prior to the World Congress of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics. In early March the WEAAD 2010 planning committee will be holding a teleconference to discuss this year's official event. A Youth Forum to take place in Ottawa may be an important component of it. Stay tuned for further information.

7. United Nations NGO activities

INPEA is well established and recognized for its leadership in matters of policy action and regularly intervenes before UN departments and bodies such as the



Economic and Social Council (EcoSoc), the Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Social Development, the CONGO substantive Committees on Ageing in New York, Vienna and Geneva and the Sub-Committee on Older Women. Most recently, INPEA has been working with 9 other international NGO's (AARP, IFA, HelpAge International, ILC Global Alliance, IHASA, AgeConcernUK, IAGG, GlobalAction) and the New York NGO Committee on Aging - to develop a resource to promote a dialogue on the possibility of a New UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. It was launched this month at a side event of the UN Commission for Social Development meeting hosted by the New York NGO Committee on Aging. A copy is available on our website. Thanks to Susan Somers, INPEA's UN NGO coordinator and our excellent UN main representatives Pat Brownell (New York), Ursula Barter-Hemmerich (Geneva) and Ulrike Waginger (Vienna) for their contribution to the document and on-going work in monitoring UN activities relating to the rights and well-being of older persons.

8. Strategic planning for the organization

The Executive Committee has begun thinking about where we wish to be in one year's time and how best to get there. A broad membership drive is one goal. Clarifying the rights and responsibilities inherent in our relationship with IAGG is another. In my past role as President of IAGG, I sought to support INPEA at a critical time in its history, thus the "Standing Committee" designation, which I used as a vehicle for forging a relationship between INPEA and IAGG. This designation has caused some confusion. I have this week written to the current IAGG President Bruno Vellas encouraging the development of a new membership category called "Affiliated International Organizations". I have offered INPEA's aid in drafting terms of reference that would be attractive to us and to other special interest NGOs.

Concluding remarks

In closing, I want to thank the many people who sent congratulations at the time the election results were announced. Please note that while many changes are taking place in INPEA, our mission and objectives remain the same and are as cogent today as when they were originally written by Rosalie Wolf, Gerry Bennett and the other founders. I remind you, the mission of INPEA is to increase society's ability, through international collaboration, to recognize and respond to the mistreatment of older people in whatever setting it occurs, so that the later years of life will be free from abuse, neglect and exploitation. INPEA's objectives are four-fold: 1) to increase public awareness and knowledge of the issue; 2) to promote education and training of professionals and paraprofessionals; 3) to further advocacy on behalf of abused and neglected elders and 4) to



stimulating research into the causes, consequences, prevalence, treatment, and prevention of elder abuse and neglect. We have much work yet to do.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gloria Gutman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gloria M. Gutman, PhD, FCAHS, OBC
President, INPEA