

# Executive Director's Report

*Susan Dayus*

Canadian Booksellers Association (CBA) depends on the generous contributions of unpaid volunteers to assist in the vital work of the Association. You may not be aware that your Board of Directors receives no compensation for the many hours of work they carry out on behalf of the membership. CBA does not have the budget to cover travel expenses for directors to attend the Annual General Meeting and Board meeting in June. To keep expenses down throughout the year we communicate by teleconference and email. Directors meet in this way regularly, sometimes as often as monthly, to discuss the issues that concern our members and determine solutions or next steps. While most directors will tell you that they get as much out of those meetings as they put in, it's not an easy task to put aside your own considerations for the good of the whole.

Throughout my tenure with CBA I've worked with dozens of volunteers on our Board. Each year a new mix of directors brings a somewhat different viewpoint to the Association. Drawing on the expertise each director brings to the Board, the Association is able to deal with industry issues as they arise. Directors deal with current issues facing Canadian booksellers on a daily basis. They also discuss and strategize on issues with far ranging and long term implications to the book industry. Digital technology, copyright legislation, returns policies are just a few of those issues being discussed.

This year rather than setting up committees that are not always effective, we are organizing task forces to review specific issues and recommend action to the Board. For example, a Membership Task Force will be asked to review the current fee structure for our various membership types and categories. The Marketing Task Force, already in place, is working on the fall Independents Matter campaign, including the enviro-friendly bag design. A task force will be organized to review our by-laws to ensure they are still relevant and another will review the draft Copyright Legislation and the Parallel Importation Regulations. Once the date and format for BookExpo Canada 2009 is set, a task force will be organized to work on professional development, including CBA Super Saturday. If you are interested in serving on any of our task forces please let me know by email ([sdayus@cbabook.org](mailto:sdayus@cbabook.org)) how you would like to contribute or if you have ideas on issues that need to be addressed, please pass those along.

CBA relies on volunteers for much more than serving on the Board and task forces; volunteering information, completing surveys and responding to questions for Canadianbookseller are all instrumental roles that each member can play. Keeping us informed about what is happening in the field is important; keeping your fellow booksellers informed is essential. To that end, our new website, to be launched early Fall, will have a Bookseller Members Only area where you can communicate with each other in an open forum. Sharing of information is the key to an effective Association.