

**TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES  
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**ROLES OF THE CANADIAN  
INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES**

What are the roles of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, and how should they be developed? Reference to the charter shows the purposes and objectives to be (a) to advance and develop actuarial science; (b) to promote the application of actuarial science to human affairs; and (c) to establish, promote and maintain high standards of competence and conduct within the actuarial profession. From these purposes and objectives, it would seem that one role of the CIA is that of a learned society. A learned society usually has a body of professional literature built up by the members, principally through the writing of papers. A learned society holds regular membership meetings for the presentation and discussion of papers and for other business related to its purposes and objects. A learned society carries out technical studies and research and generally tries to provide leadership within its fields of competence.

The purposes and objects of the CIA also relate to the competence and discipline of the actuarial profession. An integral part of this role relates to education and examinations, professional qualifications, and accreditation. Moreover, this role generally carries with it an obligation of the Institute to be attentive to the interests of the profession and its members in Canada.

In summary, it would seem that the purposes and objects of the CIA require it to play the role of the national professional body for actuaries in Canada.

How is the Institute to meet the demands of these various roles? It is fundamental that the Institute represent a strong, vigorous, and growing profession and professional body. What can the Institute do to motivate and encourage such growth?

The membership meetings can be a most important motivational force for the growth of the Institute. The CIA is not "another actuarial club." Therefore, its meetings should be well planned and carefully staged. Each meeting should be a full two days. It is regrettable that circumstances compelled this year's annual meeting to be limited to one day. Because of lack of time, it is difficult, to the point of being impossible, for the Institute to give proper consideration to all the important matters that should be discussed. As it is, there are two important and timely papers ready to

be discussed at the annual meeting but unavoidably held over for the autumn meeting.

The submission of papers by the members should be encouraged, and the discussion of these papers should be staged in such a way that interest is stimulated among the full membership attending the meeting. Toward this end, it is essential that each member feel free to discuss the paper in the language of his choice, secure in the knowledge that the other members, through simultaneous translation, will be able to follow his contribution. (I hope that the President-Elect is paying attention to these comments about the meetings.)

There is already some evidence that the papers to be written by the members will not be limited to topics in Canada. This is to be expected, because many of the members are engaged in businesses whose activities extend beyond Canada, even beyond North America. It is to be hoped that the papers will embrace nonlife actuarial topics, as well as topics related to life insurance, pension funding, and all the other activities of the profession. To the maximum extent possible, it would be desirable for papers to be available in both French and English, so that members may study the papers and discuss them in the language in which they are most articulate. If the trend toward more papers continues, it will lead to such an increase in the work of the editorial committee that the Institute will probably have to make some changes in its editorial policies. For example, it is the policy of the Institute to produce a soft-cover *Record* very soon after each meeting and at a later date a much more stringently edited *Proceedings* in a hard cover. It is evident that, even with prodigious efforts on the part of our editorial committee, it is impossible to meet these requirements at the present time. Should the Institute adopt a policy of editing the material from each meeting only once, and that for permanence in hard-cover *Proceedings*? Should the Institute consider making the position of Editor more permanent in nature?

The creation of a body of actuarial literature, in the *Proceedings* and elsewhere, should lead to the use of some of this literature for examination purposes. For example, various papers from the *Proceedings* could find their way into the syllabus for the joint examinations, as could some committee reports, such as the Report of the Committee on Financial Reporting for Life Insurance Companies.

Should the Institute explore the possibilities presented by the use of certain universities on an accredited basis for early examinations? It would tend to cause actuarial students to attend a few universities, which would have the advantage of making their actuarial courses more viable economically. It would serve the Institute by reducing the amount of

direct involvement in the early stages of the education and examination process, thereby enabling the Institute to concentrate on the development of a well-rounded set of later examinations leading to Fellowship.

To provide leadership in research and technical studies, the Institute needs to continue the work of its various committees devoted to such activities and to continue publishing their reports and other material. Moreover, no opportunity should be missed to increase awareness among the general public of these activities by the profession.

What may be some of the ramifications that will result from these developments? Has the Institute reached the stage in its growth at which it needs its own full-time staff? Should the Institute have an Executive Secretary? The ways in which such a person could be helpful to the Institute are almost too numerous to list. However, to mention but a few, besides the usual administrative jobs of collecting and recording fee income, paying bills, conducting routine correspondence, maintaining membership records, and so on, the Executive Secretary could render great assistance in arranging and staging membership meetings, in producing the *Year Book*, in producing the *Proceedings*, and in expediting the work of the various committees of the Institute.

These developments, along with the current general trend toward higher costs in Canada, will almost certainly lead to an increase in membership fees. To what extent is the Institute inhibited in this matter of increasing fees by the knowledge that almost all its members pay fees to more than one actuarial body? The Institute's fees are still substantially less than the annual dues required by most labor unions.

All these developments will, no doubt, gradually change the relationships between the Institute and other actuarial bodies in the world. Is it possible that the Institute will emerge eventually as the national professional body for actuaries in Canada, with an educational system such that its Fellowship will be recognized as an excellent actuarial qualification for all types of insurance activities?

The possibilities outlined in these few remarks present a great challenge, especially to the younger members of the Institute, both anglophone and francophone. It is to be hoped that they will rise to this challenge, so that the CIA may play its full part in all its various roles as Canada's national actuarial body.

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