



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Montreal meeting

Financial 'watchdog,' renowned author to be guest speakers

Two experts on important financial events will be guest speakers at the Society of Actuaries spring meeting in Montreal, June 19-20.

Michael Mackenzie, former Canadian superintendent of financial institutions, will bring his five decades of experience to his presentation, "An Overview of the U.S. and Canadian Financial Security Systems," at the opening general session on June 19. Mackenzie is known as Canada's "chief financial watchdog." He is executive-in-residence on the Faculty of Administrative Studies, York University, North York, Ontario, and a consultant to the Canadian federal government, provincial governments, and private industry.

Speaking at the general luncheon on June 20 is Rod McQueen, senior writer for the Toronto-based newspaper *The Financial Post* and author of the book *Who Killed Confederation Life? The Inside Story*. McQueen's address will offer insights into the



Michael Mackenzie



Rod McQueen

Confederation Life story. A journalist for 30 years, he is the author of seven books, including *Risky Business*, a look at Canada's insurance industry.

More than 60 educational sessions will be offered at the Toronto meeting. Financial reporting, investment, and product development are the main educational focus. Sessions also will be offered in areas including:

- Actuary of the future
- Computer science
- Education and research
- Futurism
- International issues

- Management
- Nontraditional marketing
- Reinsurance
- Smaller insurance company topics

The Queen Elizabeth, the "grande dame" of Montreal hotels, is the meeting site. Located in downtown Montreal, it is close to the financial district, Old Montreal, and many cultural and commercial centers.

Social events will offer opportunities for networking and relaxation. In addition, the monumental Parc des Îles near the hotel offers many attractions including the Biosphere, the David M. Stewart Museum, and an amusement park.

Dress for the meeting is business casual.

Further information is available from the SOA's Continuing Education Department (phone: 847/706-3545; fax: 847/706-3599; e-mail: sberg@soa.org). Information and a registration form are available on the SOA's Web site (<http://www.soa.org>) under continuing education.

NAAJ's July issue devoted to modeling

The importance of modeling is drawing new attention in both science and business. July's issue of the *North American Actuarial Journal (NAAJ)* will meet this rising interest with papers offering current, solid information on modeling.

The papers were presented at a Society of Actuaries conference, "Actuarial and Financial Modeling: Towards a New Science."

The July edition of *NAAJ* will be the first to feature articles and discussions on a single topic, modeling, in recognition of its increasing importance. The articles are:

- "Introduction to Actuarial Modeling," by James C. Hickman
- "Complex Dynamics, Market Mediation, and Stock Price

Behavior," by Richard H. Day, with discussion by Irwin T. Vanderhoof

- "Current Actuarial Modeling Practice and Related Issues and Questions," by Angus S. Macdonald, with discussion by Stephen J. Strommen
- "An Object-Oriented Design for Dynamic Simulation Models," by Stephen J. Strommen

Early-release copies of these papers are available for \$5 per article from the Books Department (phone: 847/706-3526; fax: 847/706-3599).

The SOA's 1996 modeling conference presented issues and raised questions about the development and use of models in actuarial and financial work. It was held December 16-17, 1996, at Georgia State University, Atlanta.

The *North American Actuarial Journal* is the SOA's new publication devoted to scientific exploration of domestic and international topics. This quarterly, refereed journal brings together authors from many disciplines in addition to that of actuarial science. It replaces the refereed publication *Transactions*, which was published annually.

Information about the submission of papers is available from Cheryl Enderlein of the Society's Communications staff (phone: 847/706-3563; fax: 847/706-3599; e-mail: cenderlein@soa.org).

Subscription information for non-members (the journal is free to SOA members) can be obtained from the Books Department.