

## **ED Caucus Corner**

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The 2009 EDC annual Conference took place at Durham College in Oshawa on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February with well over 100 people attending. The theme of *Facilitating Change* was very timely and the program was packed with some really significant new ideas and resources being shared to the benefit of all of us living in “interesting times.” A number of firsts were achieved including the fact that this was the first time a college hosted us autonomously and that we achieved local TV coverage! I encourage you to look at the web site for the conference documents as well as the conference photos <http://durhamcollege.ca/edcconference/>.

Amongst the special memories we were able to capture was the official launching of the new EDC logo selected by the membership. What a treat it was for me to be able to proudly use our new logo on our letterhead when I wrote the official thank you letters to the conference organizers. Janice MacMillan and Ruth Rodgers together with their colleagues at Durham College did an extraordinary job, as did Alice Cassidy who of course supports the entire conference program development including overseeing the peer review process. The modest profit that resulted from the conference should allow us to supplement our very popular EDC grants program next year.

At the professional development (ProD) section of the General Meeting (GM) at Durham we shared an assessment that Executive had conducted regarding the first EDC 5-year plan and then asked the meeting participants to help us establish new and revised priorities for ProD for EDC members moving forward. We are now in the process of updating the plan accordingly and turning it into a “living document” that can be used via our website as an ongoing resource and planning tool. At a Special Meeting held directly after the GM, Jeanette McDonald also presented to members the significant review she had conducted of the Caucus bylaws. Members then voted on her recommended changes and amendments in order to bring our bi-laws in line with the Society ones, as well as to address some areas where there was previously a lack of clarity.

All in all it was a very productive conference and thanks to our website we can share the outcomes with everyone even those who could not attend. The final highlight was the announcement of the conference location for 2010 with a warm and welcoming presentation by Gary Hunt. Thanks to the excellent organizational skills of the Thompson Rivers University (TRU) team, the conference website is already up <http://www.mcmaster.ca/stlhe/edc.2010.html> and preparations are underway for what promises to be a spectacular event in absolutely beautiful surroundings. Although TRU is in Kamloops and should not be overly affected by the Olympic traffic, we nevertheless encourage you to book your tickets early and have already set the conference dates (18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February) to facilitate this.