



ACS N Newsletter

Dear ACSN members,

First I, Amanda, would like to announce that from now on we are with two editors for the ACSN newsletter. The new editor is Evelyn Ersanilli. In this issue, Evelyn is telling us about her research project. As always, there are also a couple of upcoming events that we would like to announce to you. An important event for graduate students is the 13th European Student Seminar on Graduate Work in Canadian Studies, for which we invite all students to submit an abstract. A call for papers with conference details can be found on our website. Other worthwhile upcoming events are the Summer Explorations at Trent University and the ICCS Summer Seminars; you can read all about these summer courses in this issue. Thanks are due to Conny Steenman-Marcusse for her contributions on Canadian Literature and to Pauline Sarkar for her contributions in French and on Quebecois literature and film. Speaking of film, we would like to pre-announce our **annual seminar theme for this year: Canadian Film**. It will be titled **Cine-Canada** and **it will be held on October 29, 2004**. Please mark the date on your calendars! More about Canadian film can be found in this issue in Conny Steenman-Marcusse's contribution on the International Film Festival in Rotterdam this year. We would also like to ask your attention for our ACSN programs and one government program in particular. In this newsletter we once more briefly announce these programs. Please feel free to contact us for more detailed inquiries. For more details on news items -and more recent information- keep an eye on our website (www.acsn.nl) and the website of the Canadian Embassy (www.canada.nl).

Happy reading and have a great summer,
Amanda Helderma n & Evelyn Ersanilli
(E-mail: A.C.Helderma n@uva.nl)

Research project of... Evelyn Ersanilli

Hi, my name is Evelyn Ersanilli. In 1998 I started my studies in Interdisciplinary Social Science at Utrecht University. During my courses on immigration policies in several countries I got interested in the Canadian model. It sounded much like what I would like to see in the Netherlands; respect for and accommodation of diversity. The Graduate Student Research Award allowed me to go to Toronto to research Canadian Multiculturalism. From September 2002 till March 2003 I researched the Iranian community in the Greater Toronto Area and examined much literature, newspapers and magazines. During my time in Canada I learned a lot; not only on immigration policies, but also that people living in a Cosmopolitan city can still treat each other kindly - contrary to Amsterdam residents - and that a city where 42% of the population is born abroad can still function without clashes between population groups.

Immigration is one of the major issues of our time. It's important to know more of the effects of migration on migrants, sending and receiving countries and to exchange best practices in dealing with diversity. I believe international comparisons are very valuable, not only because they teach us about different practices in other countries but also because they contribute to a better understanding of our own country. I found several similarities between Canada and the Netherlands, many more than I expected. Fear that the (large) inflow of immigrants undermines national identity, critique that multiculturalism fossilizes cultures and strong myths of tolerance.



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However a clear difference remains; in the Netherlands immigrants are guests, in Canada new citizens. This has its effects on the investments immigrants and the receiving society are willing to make in each other and consequently on the incorporation of immigrants.

In March of this year I graduated. And in April I have started my Ph.D. at the Free University in Amsterdam. Though there is no direct link to Canada (I will be researching Turkish guest-worker immigration and subsequent incorporation in Germany, France and the Netherlands), I am certain that the knowledge I gained in Canada will be of great use.

If you want more information or a copy of my thesis you can reach me at: evelynersanilli@hotmail.com or ef.ersanilli@fsw.vu.nl

Call for papers:

The 13th European Student Seminar on Graduate Work in Canadian Studies

The Centre for Canadian Studies at the University of Szeged, Hungary is organizing the 13th European Seminar for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies 2004, 7-9 October 2004. European students working on master's or doctoral theses in Canadian Studies are invited to present their current research and to meet and exchange ideas with students from other countries. Anyone interested in participating should apply by submitting via email (canad_seminar@jgytf.u-szeged.hu) before **15 June 2004**. Please send the application form including a (max.) 1-page abstract indicating the nature and topic of the research and containing a brief summary of the findings. More information: www.acsn.nl or the above E-mail address.

Summer Explorations at Trent University

Summer Explorations in Canadian Cultures (SECC) is an annual summer program hosted by Julian Blackburn College in partnership with the Canadian Studies Program and the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Native Studies at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. The 5, 7 and 14 day programs cover a wide range of topics related to Canada's rich social, political and cultural diversity. It is for individuals and groups, including educators and researchers, scholars and students who are interested in expanding their knowledge of Canada. Experiential learning is an integral part of all SECC programs. The programs include many excursions to culturally significant sights and landmarks.

More information: <http://www.trentu.ca/secc/home.htm> or secc@trentu.ca

ICCS Summer Seminars

The International Council for Canadian Studies offers two five-day, multidisciplinary, international summer seminars during the month of August.

*Ottawa Seminar: Monday, August 16, 2004 - Friday, August 20, 2004 at University of Ottawa Campus and Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario

*Western Seminar: Monday, August 23, 2004 - Friday, August 27, 2004 at University of Calgary campus, Calgary, Alberta

The number of participants at each seminar is limited to 28. Preference is given to individuals recommended by a Canadian Studies association. Interested individuals must send their application to the ICCS before **May 15**. More information and application form: http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/pages/4_ICCSprogs/e_seminar.html



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Interview with 'Cool Canadian' Jane Jacobs on creative cities

One of Toronto's most well-known inhabitants is urban planning guru Jane Jacobs. This 'little old lady in tennis shoes' who is in her eighties now has changed the way we think about urban issues. As an urban economist influenced by her work I had the chance to interview Ms. Jacobs about the creativity of cities. In her house in the Annex we talked for more than four hours on what makes cities flourish. Just as in her books she stressed the importance of diversity for the socio-economic development of cities. When many different types of people live and work in one spot, she said, there is sufficient critical mass for a variety of local facilities. Moreover, in such a diverse environment the chance that creativity and innovation emerge is increased. Holland and particularly Amsterdam have this diversity and small-scale character, she argued, and therefore she loves the country. But one thing she still did not understand: why do the Dutch close their shops so early? For a Torontonion who can buy everything 24 hours a day, shopping in Holland indeed must have been a weird experience! For me, the memorable interview with Jane Jacobs has been a boost for my mission to further disseminate the ideas of this 'Cool Canadian'.

Toronto/Enschede, March 2004, Gert-Jan Hospers

CBC's Canada reads 2004

CBC recently held its third edition of Canada Reads, a week-long discussion of Canadian literature, which culminates in a selection of one book that their panel decides that all Canada should read. This year "The Last Crossing" by Guy Vanderhaeghe was selected. The five books discussed this year: *The Love of a Good Woman* by Alice Munro; *Barney's Version* by Mordecai Richler; *The Heart is an Involuntary Muscle* by Monique Proulx; *Green Grass, Running Water* by Thomas King. More information: <http://www.cbc.ca/canadareads/>

Pauline Sarkar

Canadian literature in English

Working in Anglo-Canadian literature, I'd like to recommend the following books.

The Ash Garden, Dennis Bock, 2001, Toronto, HarperFlamingoCanada.

When the atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, the world changed. *The Ash Garden* explores the reverberations from that moment of mass destruction and moves from Japan and Europe to the USA and Canada. The Japanese girl Emiko survives the disaster but faces lifelong suffering. Later in life she questions Anton, the brilliant German scientist for his role in history. His orphaned part-Jewish wife Sophie has to redefine herself in the wake of World War II.

Garbo Laughs, Elizabeth Hay, 2003, Toronto, McClelland & Stewart Ltd.

Hay is known for her great sense of humour and *Garbo Laughs* is no exception. In this dark and funny novel, set in Ottawa in and around the ice storm of 1998, Harriet Browning is enamoured of old black and white movies. The screen can show friendship, marriage, adultery, revenge and loathsome relatives, but so can real life.

Beatrice Chancy, George Elliott Clarke, 1999, Victoria, B.C., Polestar Book Publishers.

Clarke, poet and playwright and known for his polemics on Afro-Canadian literature, has produced this poetic play on slavery in Nova Scotia. The year is 1801, Beatrice is sixteen and has come home from a convent school where she copied "white ladies' ways". She faces her white father who raped her mother, a black slave woman.



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The Way the Crow Flies, AnnMarie McDonald, 2003, Toronto, Random House.

This book is as haunting as McDonald's earlier novel *Fall on Your Knees*. Although *The Way the Crow Flies* covers more than 30 years of Madeleine McCarthy's life, the greater part of the novel is devoted to her childhood at an air force base in rural Ontario where her father is caught up in secrets of the Cold War in the early 60s. What does a local murder have to do with global forces? McDonald evokes the ambiguities of loyalty and human morality in a whimsical but deeply disturbing way.

Conny Steenman-Marcusse

On Quebec-literature, in Dutch!

Dutch Journalist and literary critic Margot Dijkgraaf regularly publishes articles on French and Francophone literature in NRC Handelsblad. Publisher De Geus in Breda published a compilation of these articles in December 2003. The title of the book is "*Franstalige literatuur van nu*", subtitle '*een vreemd soort geluk*'. Part of this book is on Québec-literature. The title of this part is: *Québec: een jonge literatuur op weg naar volwassenheid*, with articles on Anne Hébert, Marie-Claire Blais, Louise Dupré, Nancy Huston, Sergio Kokis, Gaétan Soucy and Yolande Villemaire. Perhaps a nice occasion for those of you who are not so fluent in French to read about these authors!

Pauline Sarkar

Naïm Kattan in Amsterdam

On March 12, 2004, Stichting Fonds voor de Letteren invited Naïm Kattan for a panel discussion on literature published in French by writers whose original language is not French. The Jewish-born Kattan had to flee Bagdad in 1946, eighteen years after his birth. He studied law and literature in Paris and emigrated to Canada in 1954. He has written extensively for *Le Devoir* and numerous literary magazines and is the author of 15 novels and 12 works of criticism. His two most recent publications are a novel *L'anniversaire* (2000) and non-fiction *L'écrivain-migrant* (2001). Over lunch we talked about the reprint of one of his earlier books *Adieu Babylone* (1975) last year, *Farewell Babylon* in English, about collective and individual lives in cities that have a multicultural population, of which Bagdad and Montreal are good examples. It is not surprising that this book demands much attention in many countries one year after the American presence in Iraq. Similarities are noticeable between the events in Bagdad during the Second World War and the present situation.

Conny Steenman-Marcusse

Journée de la Francophonie 2004

Le 18 mars dernier, le Département de Langues et Cultures Romanes de l'Université de Groningen a célébré la Journée de la Francophonie en invitant cinq auteurs qui nous ont parlé de leur oeuvre. A la grande joie des organisateurs, plus de quatre-vingts personnes se sont donné la peine de venir assister à cet événement.

Les auteurs étaient Jean-Philippe Toussaint (originaire de Belgique), François Bon (de France), Yasmina Khadra (d'Algérie) et Gaétan Soucy et Sylvie Massicotte (du Québec).



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Du côté officiel, le Canada était représenté par M. David Gill, Conseiller de l'Ambassade à La Haye, M. Marcel Louwman, son attaché culturel, M. Marc Drouin de la Délégation Générale du Québec, et Pauline Sarkar (de l'Association des Etudes Canadiennes aux Pays-Bas).

Les auteurs nous ont parlé de leur relation à l'écriture, des circonstances dans lesquelles ils travaillent, etc. A la fin, une question posée par un habitant du Bourkina Faso a donné lieu à un dernier échange très harmonieux et très positif. Il a demandé à tous les cinq de nous dire ce que représente pour eux la Francophonie; ils ont répondu tous, en termes différents, que la Francophonie dans son acception politique n'existe pas pour eux et que c'est une véritable joie de voir comment des auteurs de régions très différentes se servent tous de ce magnifique outil, la langue française.

Le soir après le dîner (ou souper, c'est selon!), ils se sont rendus à la Librairie Athena's, où on a lu des fragments de leurs romans traduits et publiés en néerlandais, après quoi les auteurs ont lu les mêmes textes en original. Ici la virtuosité de Gaétan Soucy a impressionné tout le monde. Dans son roman *La petite fille qui aimait trop les allumettes*, il s'agit d'une fillette qui a été élevée dans l'isolement quasi-complet, avec comme seules lectures les livres du XVIIIe siècle qui se trouvaient dans la bibliothèque paternelle. De cette donnée résultent un vocabulaire et un style extraordinaires! Il faut dire que le traducteur Han Meijer a fait du bon travail pour recréer cette ambiance linguistique dans sa traduction *Het meisje dat te veel van lucifers hield*. (Querido, 2002)... La journée a vraiment été mémorable.

Pauline Sarkar

Les Invasions barbares (The Barbarian Invasions)

Ce film canadien de la main de Denys Arcand a été présenté au Festival du Film de janvier 2004 de Rotterdam, et donc aussi dans les deux « succursales » du Festival, à Groningen et à Maastricht. Au mois de mai dernier, le film avait remporté au Festival de Cannes les prix du scénario et de l'interprétation féminine. En outre il avait obtenu le prix du jury.

Par hasard je me trouvais à Montréal au moment de la remise des prix à Cannes. Le Québec était en délire et totalement surpris, la lauréate du prix de la meilleure interprétation féminine, Marie-Josée Croze, avait déjà quitté Cannes, car elle ne s'attendait pas du tout à cet honneur. Nous l'avons donc surprise sur le petit écran de la télévision québécoise où elle était en direct dans un programme sur le cinéma, apprenant la bonne nouvelle et s'écriant : « Quoi ! Moi !? Ce n'est pas possible ! Je n'y avais même pas le plus grand rôle féminin ! Et je suis navrée pour Nicole Kidman ! » (Tout le monde avait pensé, et les journaux avaient prédit, que le prix irait à Kidman, pour son rôle dans *Dogville* de Lars von Trier.)

Dans la même interview Marie-Josée Croze s'est extasié sur le fait que le film a tout de suite été acheté par le distributeur Miramax. Pour vous donner une idée, ce distributeur aux Etats-Unis a, dans le temps, acquis les films *La vita è bella* de Roberto Benigni, *Hable con ella* de Pedro Almodóvar et *Il Postino* de Michael Radford.



Depuis, le film a été nommé pour l'Oscar du meilleur film étranger, tout comme le film néerlandais *De Tweeling*. Nous devons patienter jusqu'à la fin du mois pour connaître la suite... (Voilà ce que j'avais écrit en février, mais depuis, nous connaissons tous le résultat: Les Invasions Barbares a remporté le prix Oscar du meilleur film en langue étrangère. Maintenant il va être distribué aux Pays-Bas et tout le monde pourra donc aller le voir.)



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Qu'est-ce qui plaît dans *Les invasions barbares*? Ce sont les émotions. Rire, pleurer, réfléchir un peu (mais pas trop) au sens de la vie, de la mort, de l'amour filial et de Dieu. C'est un film qui fait du bien, qui nous bouleverse sans nous déchirer l'âme et qui permet une autocritique sans que nous ayons pour autant à renoncer au bien-être.

L'anecdote du film est l'agitation d'un fils qui veut adoucir les derniers jours de son père malade. Celui-ci recherche moins le confort physique que le réconfort moral. Il n'exprime aucun regret pour la vie qu'il a vécue et dont il a tellement joui. Sauf un, celui de n'avoir pas réussi à y trouver et à y donner un sens. Le fils, riche, lui arrange une chambre d'hôpital somptueuse, graisse la patte de quelques étudiants pour qu'ils rendent visite à leur ancien professeur et fait procurer de l'héroïne à son père pour que ce dernier souffre le moins possible. En outre, il fait venir les amis d'antan, qui se souviennent avec humour et joie de vivre, nostalgie et ironie de leurs idéaux et de leurs exploits sexuels des années soixante.

Si vous avez l'occasion de voir le film, ne le ratez pas !

Pauline Sarkar

International film festival Rotterdam

This year's highly successful 33rd IFFR took place from January 21 - February 1. I tried to learn as much as possible about the Canadian component of this festival. There were not only Canadian films but also Canadian filmmakers, scriptwriters, directors and people connected to the world of film. Oscar winner Denys Arcand's *The Invasion of the Barbarians* was shown. You might have read more about this film in Pauline Sarkar's contribution to this Newsletter. Guy Maddin, whose films were highlighted last year, was present with his latest feature film *The Saddest Music in the World*. "It might be the best-ever Super 8 mm melodramatic musical that speaks out against American cultural imperialism," to quote the Canadian film critic Mark Peranson, who has been coming to Rotterdam since 2000. Every evening there were debates on "What (is) Cinema?" and interviews with filmmakers. I liked the film *Twist* by the young filmmaker Jacob Tierney. It is a modern variant on Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*. This young Canadian *Oliver* finds himself in the world of male prostitution, paid sex, manipulative games and true friendship. Demetri Estdelacropolis, whose film *Shirley Pimple and the Doom of John Wayne* was shown at IFFR in 1999, has made Rotterdam his present home. With a Canada Council grant he is writing his next script.

Conny Steenman-Marcusse

Ingrid: 'I still feel as one with Canada' (Abbreviation of story published in "De Twentsche Courant/Tubantia" on February 3, 2004)

Everyone who truly knows Canada is familiar with the magnificence of its wildlife and natural scenery; crystal clear lakes, prairies, and roads where you rarely even see a car. Ingrid Koenderink (46) migrated to Canada with her parents as a baby in 1958. Her parents saw very limited career possibilities for her father, a carpenter, at that time in the Netherlands. Ingrid knows that at first it wasn't easy for her parents in. They had to be satisfied with a simple existence. They also struggled with language problems. They eventually moved to a farm in Penbroke, a two-hour drive from Ottawa. Ingrid remembers this region as a very beautiful area with lots of forests, mountains and rivers and even bears right outside the door! They spent a lot of time together as a family. She remembers pick-nicks by the river, an absence of hurry and



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stress, and never having to lock the door. But she acknowledges that living in Canada has its disadvantages as well; the extremely harsh winters and her mother's homesickness made them return when Ingrid was fourteen. She and her siblings didn't know The Netherlands at all, and had problems learning Dutch. Among themselves they continued talking English. Ingrid still hasn't lost her Canadian accent, which she cherishes as her last connection with Canada. This year, Ingrid Koenderink will return to Penbrooke with her own family. She rented a house there, to show her own children where she grew up.

This spud's for you: homeless project spearheaded by University of Toronto student

By Tammy Thorne (Abbreviation of story published in "The Varsity" on February 9, 2004)

While researchers at U of T are busy developing new treatments for stroke patients and the technology to make bendable computer screens, one U of T student has come up with an ingenious way to provide warmth and food to homeless people. The idea is simple and affordable. It involves potatoes and socks. Iris Halbert says the idea of hot potatoes in your pockets came from a story she read as a girl about European peasants coping with harsh winter climates. The potatoes would be a nutritious snack after it cooled. Halbert took her idea of giving homeless people hot baked potatoes wrapped up inside socks (to be worn after the potato is eaten) to the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee. A radio reporter happened to see them on their first night out, and since then their potatoes have been a hot topic in the media. The program has been well received in the streets. Last year there were a total of 40 extreme cold weather alerts in Toronto. The hot potato program is reaching out to the "hardcore element" - people who, for whatever reason, don't want to use shelters.

University of Vermont program promoting Canadian studies to U.S. students

Wilson Ring from Canadian Press reported on Saturday, February 14, 2004

For several years, Andre Senecal has been trying to get Americans to understand that Canada is more than just polar bears, red-coated constables, hockey and long winters. He introduces students to Quebec literature, he leads delegations to Ottawa where they visit the Parliament building and learn some of the intricacies of government. The ties between the United States and Canada are many. Yet the Canadian outlook on the world is distinct. Canada has universal health care, strict gun control laws and the country is defined by multiculturalism. "It acts as a mirror for understanding the United States", said Stephen Hornsby, the director of the Canadian-American Center at the University of Maine. Across the United States about 50 colleges and universities are members of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States. They have about 825 individual members. Elementary school teachers are encouraged to teach young students about Canada's geography and at the masters and doctoral level, students examine why Canadians have held on to more of their European heritage than have residents in the United States and the inner workings of Canada's main political parties, for example.

Same-sex marriage

(This article is based on Maclean's March 29 issue's articles on the subject.)

Both the Netherlands and Canada pride themselves on their liberal tolerance. This tolerance includes the rights of gays. Since 2001 same-sex couples in the Netherlands have been able to



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get married. In June 2003 the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled that excluding same-sex couples from marriage was unconstitutional. Since then two other provinces (Quebec and British Columbia) have legalized same-sex marriage.

Whereas in the US banning same-sex marriages is becoming a big election issue, with 59% of the population favouring an amendment to the constitution to allow for this ban, 47% of Canadians want Paul Martin to change laws to allow same sex marriages. Chrétien had already asked the court to confirm that the proposed law to let gay and lesbian couples marry was constitutional. Most legal experts viewed this as a mere formality because the new legislation reflects what Provincial courts had ruled; not allowing same-sex marriage violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Martin, however, added another question: is the traditional requirement that a marriage be between a man and a woman consistent with the Charter? It amounts to asking the Supreme Court to refute, or support, the Ontario and B.C. court decisions. The court will hear arguments on the reference for three days early in October, and could take several months to issue its opinions. In the US same sex marriages are only possible in a number of cities, causing a 'marriage flight' to Canada. By the end of last year, 733 same-sex marriages were performed in B.C. Almost two-thirds were couples from elsewhere in Canada, the U.S. or other countries.

Evelyn Ersanilli

Ontario plans smoking ban by 2006

Smoking in all public places and at work will be banned in Ontario within three years under legislation to be introduced this year. Health Minister George Smitherman wants to have a law in place within three years. There is not an exact date to introduce the legislation but it is considered a priority. The government wants a full ban on smoking at work and in public places. This could mean the end of smoking rooms that have cropped up in restaurants across the province.

Throne speech on higher education

Last February, the throne speech was read in Ottawa. The throne speech, similar to the Netherlands throne speech, lays out priorities in a general way and the budget fills out the details that will implement them later. This March, the realization of the throne speech with regard to higher education -despite allotting \$251 million- got a lot of negative attention in the press. Some of Mr. Martin's promises are said to have only been outlines and this budget is not taking them into reality. Still, the government maintains that the budget makes good on Throne Speech promises to increase funding for student loans and for low-income families trying to save for their children's education. Both national newspapers as the *Globe and Mail* and local university papers like *The Varsity* (University of Toronto), however, remain highly critical about the policy for higher education.

The *Globe and Mail* (March 16) reported that federal and provincial governments assume that parents contribute a certain amount toward their children's education. Many, however, cannot meet this expectation. Parents, in fact contribute less than their counterparts 40 years ago. At the same time, undergraduate tuitions went up last year (from \$3,749 to \$4,025) while students have fewer savings generated by summer jobs than they used to. The Throne Speech promised to improve the student-aid program by increasing loan limits. But the Canadian



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Federation of Students, long-time advocates for freezing tuitions, said this will just push student debt higher. They suggest, instead, increasing grants to low-income students and transferring payments to the province for postsecondary education. This March, The Varsity wondered whether increasing loan limits, together with raising the tuitions, isn't simply putting more of the costs on the students. The Varsity suggests grants or reducing tuition fees would be the best route to alleviate the shortage of skilled workers and face the needs of present students.

The budget does provide some relief for children from low-income families and those with disabilities, \$3,000 and \$2,000 respectively, will be reserved for them. A grant is for the first year of university only. The government will now match 40% of contributions for families earning \$35,000 or less, up from 20%. Families with incomes of \$75,000 and under will see an increase to 30%. Research at universities will see a \$20 million boost. Nevertheless, the budget has been deemed conservative by many media outlets, with the lowest rate of new spending since 1998.

Amanda Helderman

Turks and Caicos: a Canadian paradise? Danielle Smith, in the Calgary Herald of February 07, 2004, reports that most self-respecting countries have a tropical island paradise to call their own. France has Martinique, the Dutch Aruba and the Antilles, the U.S. the Virgin Islands. Canada has a host of Arctic territories too cold even to visit in the summer. But among the dependencies associated with the United Kingdom, there is a tiny chain of islands known as the Turks and Caicos, which is about to become of particular interest to Canadians. Canada attempted to unite with this tiny chain of islands back in 1987 when two T&C businessmen came to Ottawa to see whether there was any appetite to discuss forging closer economic and political ties. Ottawa took it seriously enough, but ultimately rejected the concept. Although the report raised many areas of potential conflict -the island's status as a tax haven, Haitian illegal immigrants- the biggest barrier seemed to be a fear among officials that Canada would appear neo-colonialist. The report concluded the matter should be left in the hands of the islanders and since there was such obvious goodwill toward Canada among the islanders, Canada should give them development assistance anyway. How Canadian. There emerged a massive interest in the island on the part of Canadians. Not only do 16,000 Canadians a year trek to the islands for a winter getaway, 30 per cent of the hotels and resorts there are owned by Canadians. The island boasts the third fastest growing economy in the region, it runs a balanced operating budget, and financially it is self-sufficient. Governor James Poston stated that Canada would not create an international incident if it pursued closer ties with the T&C. In fact, it's something islanders want. In May, the islands elected a chief minister, Michael Misick. He wants to see the T&C develop a "free association" with a North American partner, either the United States or Canada. Under this arrangement, the island would become responsible for all internal matters and thus gain full autonomy over making laws that affect its citizens. As for financial support, the T&C's needs are modest. They need infrastructure grants to build a \$25-million hospital, \$150 million to expand the highway and build bridges linking the six largest islands together. They also need money to upgrade their deep-sea port to facilitate greater trade. A couple hundred million all told -a rounding error in the Canadian federal budget. So politically and economically, it's doable.



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ACS N programs and Government programs:

ACS N student research award

This award is designed to assist students of higher education, whose M.A. theses or doctoral dissertations are related in substantial part to Canada, to undertake research in Canada in topics within the social sciences and the humanities. The deadline for applications is March 31st and October 31st of each year. The purpose is to increase knowledge and understanding about Canada and to support the development of Canadian Studies in the Netherlands. More information: www.acsn.nl/programs/student.html

European Speakers Program

In order to promote European co-operation in Canadian Studies, the ACS N has established this program to give financial support to teaching faculties at Dutch universities to bring in expert Canadianists from Europe as guest lecturers. We also have a **seminar support program** and a **conference participation program**. More information: <http://www.acsn.nl/programs/index.html>

Faculty Enrichment program

This is a program of the Government of Canada to increase knowledge and understanding of Canada abroad by assisting academics in higher education institutions to develop and teach courses about Canada in their own discipline, as part of their regular teaching load. The program enables academic award holders to come to Canada and gather the necessary information and material to devise a new course on Canada, or to modify or extend significantly the Canadian component of an existing course(s). Deadline is October 31 of each year. More information: http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/pages/5_govprogs/b_FEP_countries/netherlands.html

The next newsletter will appear in **September** 2004; deadline for contributions: **August 15th**, 2004. Anyone is most welcome to contribute! So if you have any news or have a book review for us, please let us know!!!! Please send contributions to Amanda Helderma n, preferably by e-mail: A.C.Helderma n@uva.nl or by regular mail: AME/UvA, Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130, 1018 VZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

THE ACS N NEWSLETTER

The "ACS N newsletter" appears three times a year and is a publication of the Association of Canadian Studies in the Netherlands ("Canadees Studiegenootschap"), exclusively for members, with a circulation of 130.

Editors: Amanda C. Helderma n (E-mail: A.C.Helderma n@uva.nl) and Evelyn Ersanilli, with contributions from Pauline Sarkar and Conny Steenma n-Marcusse in this issue.

The individual membership is only €27,- a year (€100,- for institutions). New members will now receive the book "Images of Canadianness, visions on Canada's politics, culture, economics" as a welcoming present. Members will be informed of and invited to all kinds of activities relating to Canadian Studies. The form to become a member can be found on: <http://www.acsn.nl/extra/memberform.pdf>, otherwise please ask Amanda for the form via E-mail: A.C.Helderma n@uva.nl or via mail: A.C. Helderma n, UvA/ AME, Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130, 1018 VZ Amsterdam and she will send it to you.