

**CAMWS – Report for 2016-2017 – Canada**  
**Christina Vester – reporting as Regional VP**

Membership for 3 Canadian CAMWS regions – including all 2016-17 and 2017-18 members.

Saskatchewan	Manitoba	Ontario
3	2	67

Membership numbers in Saskatchewan and Manitoba remain low and stable. Ontario numbers took a substantial upturn in 2016-17 on account of the annual meeting taking place at the University of Waterloo.

**Membership Numbers**

There is scope for member retention, perhaps even for modest growth. Quite a few of those who joined CAMWS in order to present or attend the 2017 meeting in Kitchener have let their membership lapse. A letter from me or from Fanny Dolansky – detailing all the benefits of CAMWS – might catch some of these lapsed members (approximately 10-13) before they slide into the second year of non-membership. A bit of effort on the part of university faculty in Ontario to engage more deeply with the high school teachers of Latin and/or Classical Studies – especially in Ontario – might generate another 7 or 8 members.

**Classical Studies – Canada - trends**

In Canada, most study of Latin and Greek begins in universities. We do not have a great number of private schools and most of our high schools do not teach Latin. I have no solid numbers for high school numbers as we are not given those. All that said, there are some shining examples of Classics flourishing in high schools. In Manitoba at Winnipeg's Sisler High School, attendance in Latin reached 165 students in the current academic year. There are approximately 8 schools in Toronto teaching Latin, one of which also offers Ancient Greek (North Toronto Collegiate Institute). Despite the efforts of high school teachers, many students do not continue their language studies at university. Furthermore, the trend for language study of Latin and Greek at universities is decidedly downward with first year enrolment remaining strong but second year – and

onward – taking a deep drop. In general, the numbers of Classical Studies/Classics majors at universities also continue to slow.

### **Outreach efforts - Canada**

Significant awareness of CAMWS as an organization representing Classics, Latin, and Greek in three provinces in Canada was achieved by holding the annual meeting in Kitchener, ON. In particular, awareness of CAMWS as representing and advocating for Classical Studies in the US and Canada was raised among the following:

- the Ontario Classical Association - it was invited to participate in a panel. Phil Snider, its president, worked with the organizers from the University of Waterloo, remains a member
- high school teachers – approximately 5 attended, of whom 3 are Latin instructors. They are a close knit group joined by their commitment to the OCA
- graduate students – approximately 8 joined. These students often become strong advocates of organizations that help their discipline
- Canadian academics – some probably became members in order to present or attend. That does not matter as much as the fact that they came and attended, and saw a range of papers, pedagogy, advocacy, etc. that CAMWS takes on
- the general Classical Studies population in Canada – seeing an annual meeting take place in Canada went some distance to dispel the notion that CAMWS is solely an American organization
- many expressed their gratitude for the warmth, helpfulness, notion of shared purposed, that they saw as characteristic of CAMWS
- one provincial representative expressed her gratitude for the package of information and calls for awards that is sent out annually

### **Concerns voiced – Canada**

Having spoken to colleagues and queried them about CAMWS in Canada, and having drawn from the two provincial reports I received, some concerns reappear. They are:

- the timing of the annual meeting is a real challenge for Canadian faculty as their entire academic year is wrapping up as the meeting takes place

- the missing archaeological/material culture piece. Several colleagues in Ontario expressed the opinion that CAMWS is largely an organization for philologists. Further, the meeting is held at a time when many are setting off on their fieldwork
- several expressed the opinion that CAMWS is largely an American organization
- two advisors commented on the expense associated with the Latin exam

### **Future Plans - Canada**

This is my first year representing CAMWS in Canada. I think there is scope for strengthening and growing CAMWS here. These are some of the ways I think growth can occur:

- ensure that CAMWS members, especially institutional members, give CAMWS credit when awards are won. For instance, Fanny Dolansky was nominated this year for a CAMWS teaching award. One MA student at Brock University and one undergraduate at UWaterloo won CAMWS awards. I will encourage all CAMWS members, especially those in an advisory role, to put these awards online so that CAMWS is seen as a support of Canadian students and the discipline in Canada
- support Ontario teachers more deeply to encourage CAMWS memberships *and* the growth of students taking Classics in university. This past February 3 CAMWS members gave lectures to a group of Ontario teachers. Allison Keith, Sarah Blake, and I each gave a talk to a group of approximately 35 students. I will follow up with the organizer and see if there are ways that we could have made this yet more helpful – in a more functional way. We three did not go as representatives of CAMWS – a distinct oversight given the resources that CAMWS provides to teachers, both at the high school and university level
- I will create a package for members of the Ontario Classical Association, and for Pauline's high school teacher, detailing in specific the pedagogical benefits of CAMWS. I will do all of the above in conjunction with Fanny and Pauline so that we are consistent in our efforts to publicize the strength of CAMWS

If there is anything you wish me to address, please let me know. This is my first report and I am not completely sure what should be in – or not – this report. Best wishes, Keely, as you compile all these reports.

Christina