



**Membership Committee  
2007-2008 Report to the Annual General Meeting**

September 2008

Submitted by  
William Maes, Dalhousie University  
Chair, Membership Committee

**Mandate**

The Membership Committee is established by the Board of Directors as a committee of the Board as per Clause 14 of the Corporation's By-laws, and is responsible for:

- Ensuring broad consultation with members regarding proportional sharing of CRKN costs and benefits, and policy issues to be addressed;
- Consulting with other committees, including the Negotiations Resource Team, on financial and evaluation metrics that should inform cost-sharing policy decisions;
- Recommending to the Board of Directors the cost-sharing model(s) and members' annual fee requirements.

The Membership Committee also advises the Board of Directors as required on general membership matters.

**Membership 2007-2008**

Members of the Committee are the university librarians who are the designates of the four regional groups on the Board of Directors. For 2007-2008, they were:

William Maes, Dalhousie University (chair)  
Linda Burridge, Brandon University  
Michael Ridley, University of Guelph  
Sylvia Teasdale, Bishop's University

Staff members Allison Kelley, Member Services Officer, Yves Jobin, Director of Content Programs, Bethany Tory, Director of Operations, and Deb deBruijn, Executive Director, serve as resource personnel to the Committee.

**Accomplishments in 2007-2008**

While the Membership Committee's workload in 2007-2008 was light with only one meeting in March 2008, the Committee considered important business referred to it from the Board of Directors regarding criteria for membership in CRKN. This review was prompted by

applications for membership from a private university and a university college, and the Board's desire to consider CRKN's "community of interest" and clarify membership criteria before proceeding with new applications.

The Membership Committee prepared draft recommendations in March 2008, and subsequently sought and received valuable advice from CRKN's Advisory Board. A recommendation was made to the Board of Directors in June 2008, calling for a by-law amendment for the Associate Membership category. This amendment, which retains the Associate Membership category but limits privileges to participating in programs (e.g. licensing programs for which the required fees are paid) will be presented for vote by members at the 2008 Annual General Meeting.

### **Objectives for 2008-2009**

For 2008-2009, the Membership Committee is already active in preparing for renewal of the core licenses (5 products originally licensed under CNSLP and currently offered to members as a bundle). This will be the fourth renewal cycle for these products, and advance planning and decisions on cost-sharing are required in the months leading up to the renewal both to provide predictability for participants in the agreements and to inform CRKN negotiations with vendors.

As a first step in this planning, the Membership Committee and the Negotiations Resource Team held a consultation meeting in June 2008, and focused on issues identified with the bundling of these license agreements. A discussion paper on this matter will be taken up with CRKN members at the 2008 Annual General Meeting and a decision sought from members to inform the Committee's future work.

