

Chair's Report - 2005

During the past year there were several notable events on our agenda.

A complete review of the council's procedures, with an eye to the realities of the internet, which began in 2004 was completed and ratified at our June meeting in 2005. An examination of procedures by all Canadian press councils and a few in other countries was included. Our new procedures description used much of the format used by the Alberta Press Council in 2004, along with our own methods.

In February we sent a written presentation to the Senate Committee study on media. We made a case for self-regulation and against government interference.

The submission to the senate committee is available on our new web site which was introduced in July (www.mbpress.org). The site gives background information on the Council, procedures for complaints and recent decisions. It also provides addresses for other Press Councils in Canada and will include other information of interest.

Two new citizen representatives joined the Council this year. **Rob MacNeil**, a Winnipeg lawyer, and **Miriam Browne**, Executive Director of the Manitoba Association of Social Workers, will add valuable experience to our deliberations.

Long-standing Council member, Mrs. Karen Elves of Brandon, resigned after seventeen years of excellent service on the board. A new member from Brandon will be introduced in the coming year.

The full Council deliberated on two major complaints this year. A complaint against the Brandon Sun was not upheld, with one small reservation. Another against the Winnipeg Free Press was dismissed. A third was still in progress at year end.

In November we presented a forum at Red River College on the topic, "***Protection of Sources and the Legal Implications***". Seventy-five were in attendance, a good many of them journalism students, to hear our speakers, **Harold Buchwald**, **Cecil Rosner**, and **Bob Cox**.

Respectfully submitted,
John Cochrane, Chair, Manitoba Press Council