

19 January 2023

Dr. Emily Elfner
Treasurer, Canadian Linguistic Association

Dear Dr. Elfner:

On behalf of the Linguistics Program, as one of the organizers of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Provinces Linguistic Association (APLA), I would like to give you a brief update on this event, held at Saint Mary's University on November 4 and 5, 2022.

This was the first APLA conference held in a hybrid format with both in-person and virtual presentations. Faculty members affiliated with the Program in Linguistics – Daniel Hall, Elissa Asp, Eric Henry, Natalia Brambatti Guzzo, and myself – contributed to this conference in various roles, as event organizers, conference participants, session chairs and discussants. We had 22 presentations in total, five of which were delivered virtually. In addition to the hosting institution and universities from around the Maritime provinces and Atlantic Canada (Université de Moncton, University of New Brunswick, Cape Breton University, Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent University, and Memorial University), the following universities were represented at the 44th APLA meeting: American University of the Middle East, MIT, Lamar University, University of Waterloo, University of Toronto, York University, Carleton University, Université de Montréal, Université du Québec à Montréal, and Université de Sherbrooke.

This conference gave an opportunity to graduate students to present their work: we had four graduate students who attended this conference, and one of them presented her research virtually. Among the attendees, there were five undergraduate students from Saint Mary's University.

This edition of APLA had a special focus on sign languages. Thanks to the funding we received from various offices within the university and the financial support from the Canadian Linguistic Association, we were able to bring in a travelling exhibit on Sign Languages in Canada and to host an invited presenter, Dr. Beverly Buchanan from Lamar University (Texas), who delivered a keynote address on Maritime Sign Language, as an endangered language of Canada. The travelling exhibit from the Canadian Language Museum was installed in the Patrick Power Library, where it was on display throughout the month of November. We are grateful to the University Librarian, Suzanne van den Hoogen, for making space available in the Library for the exhibit, and to Bronwen McKie for logistical assistance.

The funding we received also made it possible to have American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters for presentations given in English and/or ASL, including the keynote address. The ASL/English interpreting service was coordinated by Brenna D'Arcy, a former SMU student, now

working at Nova Scotia Community College as an ASL instructor, who was also a co-author of one of the conference presentations. Ashley Campbell, who is an affiliated ASL interpreter at SMU, also provided assistance in communication with the invited presenter before and during the event.

The conference in general, and the keynote address in particular, was a platform for discussion engaging both professional linguists and non-researchers alike, including the members of the local Deaf community. Jim McDermott (President of Nova Scotia Cultural Society of the Deaf) and Dr. Linda Campbell (Professor of Environmental Science at Saint Mary’s University) expressed appreciation for this opportunity for Dr. Beverly Buchanan to come to Halifax and present her research to the community. This conference would not have had the same scale of community engagement without the sponsorship that was provided prior to the event. We are also grateful to Marla Cranston, the Communication Officer in the Faculty of Arts, for her help in raising awareness of the public events at the conference through posters and social media.

To give you an idea of the distribution of the funds received and the expenses incurred, the following tables provide a summary of the numbers following the event:

Sources of funding:	
Conference fees (including APLA membership)	2,190
Office of the President (SMU)	1,000 (+ room rental waiver)
Office of the Vice-President, Academic and Research (SMU)	1,000
Office of the Associate Vice-President, Diversity Excellence (SMU)	2,200
Office of the Dean of Arts (SMU)	1,000
Department of Languages and Cultures (SMU)	200.00
Interdisciplinary Linguistics Program	100.00
Canadian Linguistic Association (CLA)	400.00
Total	8,090.00

Expenses:	
Credit card fee (1.75%) and online registration fee (\$4 per member)	139.97
APLA membership (to be sent to APLA)	672.75
Catering service (Aramark)	769.35
Invited presenter (flight, hotel, per diem, honorarium)	2,509.07
ASL/English interpreters	2,469.75
Student honoraria (for assistance during the conference)	120.00
Exhibit fee (Canadian Language Museum)	700.00
Shipping costs (Canadian Language Museum exhibit)	380.00
Total	7,760.89

The conference was advertised online through the distribution email lists of the Atlantic Provinces Linguistic Association and the Canadian Linguistic Association, appropriate listservs (Linguist List), publicity materials distributed by email, and the SMU conference website at:

<https://www.smu.ca/apla/>.

The Organizing Committee recognizes that the financial support from the Canadian Linguistic Association contributed to the success of this event. Acknowledgment of this support was made during the conference and on the conference website.

Once again, thank you very much. If you would like to receive more information about the conference, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Egor Tsedryk', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Egor Tsedryk
Department of Languages and Cultures
Linguistics Program