

# For The RECORD

Volume 2005 No. 2

Summer - 2005



## CONVENTION TIME!



### Court Reporters' Association of Ontario

#### *Code of Ethics*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A</b> ttain and maintain a high standard of reporting. | <b>R</b> espect for all others   |
| <b>C</b> onformity of decorum and dress with dignity.     | <b>E</b> xercise courtesy & integrity  |
| <b>O</b> pen mindedness and professionalism.              | <b>P</b> unctuality, perfection and pride                                      |
| <b>U</b> tmost devotion to professionalism.               | <b>O</b> ffer only honesty of purpose  |
| <b>R</b> ecord verbatim and                               | <b>R</b> eputation and   |
| <b>T</b> ranscribe accurately.                            | <b>T</b> rust above all  |
|   | <b>E</b> xcellent quality of service   |
|   | <b>R</b> eflect merit upon our profession with the constant desire to improve. |

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... For The Record

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# ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

We hope everyone had a great summer. Ourselves, we cannot believe that it is over. Probably all you moms out there are really glad it's over! Now "I'm bored" has been replaced with "help me with my homework".

This is an exciting newsletter because we can tell you about two great developments. Your executive has been working hard over the summer. We have news for you on two fronts. Firstly, your president has negotiated a rate increase from Carswell for transcripts. Secondly, your new website is up and running with a lot of really exciting features including membership enrolment, renewal and payment on line for your convenience, as well as newsletters, breaking news and a forum (chat room).

Look through the newsletter for assistance navigating your way through the website.

It is our hope to have a feature for all those members who are registered with a personal e-mail address, to receive your newsletters electronically.

This will represent a savings for your Association and will cut down on the 'paper war' in your house. Past and most recent newsletters will be posted on the website and all members who are registered will have access to them.

October is fast approaching!! Our convention plans are coming together. The Convention Convenors have been busy planning for an interesting, informative and successful convention. Look for the inserts in this newsletter and plan to attend. Why not sign up right away? One component of the convention is always the annual general meeting. This is where you can bring your concerns about the court reporting profession and ideas about how your association can better assist you.

This is the last newsletter before the convention. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ruth & Fatima  
Newsletter Committee

## SOME IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

This C.R.A.O. Newsletter is published quarterly by the Court Reporters' Association of Ontario. Please address all correspondence concerning the Newsletter to:

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**SUBMISSIONS:** Anyone wishing to submit articles for publication are encouraged to do so. Please submit articles in IBM compatible (Word or WP - preferably RTF, or ASCII not DOC) or typewritten prior to publication deadline dates found below. Additional copies of the CRAO Newsletter can be obtained for \$2.00/issue to cover postage & handling costs.

**\*\*\*Next Publication Deadline:**

Submit by November 15/05  
Issue Fall/Winter/05

## WEBSITE & EMAIL

**www.crao.ca • courtreportersao@hotmail.com**

**Thanks to our Webmaster, Lisa Cumber**

With the new website up and running, many forms that would generally have been mailed out are now going to be web-based and e-mailed or available on the website. Members can access their member information, sign up online and pay directly through a Paypal account that will be set up. Visa, Mastercard, and Amex (as well as e-Checks) will be accepted to assist with payment of Membership as well as Convention, etc.

Thanks to our Webmaster, Lisa Cumber, for moving us into the 21st Century where our members will become experienced and savvy Cyberweb Court Reporters!! Lisa has spent countless hours of her time to ensure the details of the website are accurate and up to date. Thank you, Lisa.

(See page 4 for more information on your new and exciting www.CRAO.ca website!!)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 29, 2005

*I hope everyone had a good summer. It was long and hot and not very conducive to staying inside and typing. However I'm sure we all did our best. This has been an extremely busy year for a lot of reporters, and for the CRAO as well. We have made strides into the 21st century and I hope reporters across the province are taking advantage of our hard work. We have a new updated website which has secure sites for registration online, as well as a secure forum site for us to put our thoughts in writing without the fear that someone who is not a member will see it.*

*We have also been able to negotiate new transcript rates with Carswell Publishing for \$3.20/page instead of \$0.55/page.*

*Watch our website [www.crao.ca](http://www.crao.ca) for developing news.*

*See you all at convention!*

**Linda Fudge, CCR, CVR**  
President, CRAO



## NEW NEGOTIATED RATES FOR TRANSCRIPTS DELIVERED TO CARSWELL EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

The Court Reporters' Association (CRAO) has successfully negotiated with Carswell for an increase in the per page rate for transcripts they receive that HAVE ALREADY BEEN ORDERED BY ANOTHER PARTY. It is as follows:

- \$3.20 per page - for all transcripts (originals and copies).
- \$15.00 minimum flat fee (for those transcripts that come to less than \$15.00).
- Postage or Purolator administrative fees are to be billed to Carswell.
- E-mail fee - \$5 delivery charge to be billed to Carswell

PLEASE FORWARD TRANSCRIPTS VIA E-MAIL, FACSIMILE, COURIER OR MAIL TO:

Attention :Sandy Riley  
Carswell  
One Corporate Plaza  
2075 Kennedy Road  
Toronto, Ontario M1T 3V4

416-609-8000 FAX 416-298-5094  
[sandy.riley@thomson.com](mailto:sandy.riley@thomson.com)

Carswell is interested in receiving all civil and criminal Reasons for Judgment, Reasons for Sentence, Rulings, Charter Rulings relating to 11B of the Constitution Act and any Divisional Court Judgments from September 7, 2005 forward.

PLEASE REMEMBER - DO NOT SEND ANY YOA, YCJA OR ANY TRANSCRIPT THAT IS UNDER A COURT ORDERED PUBLICATION BAN.

THIS NEGOTIATED FEE IS ONLY FOR ORDERS FOR CARSWELL PUBLICATIONS and was negotiated with Sandy Riley from Carswell. Reporters may choose to provide these at the above rate if they desire to do so. There is no obligation on the part of the reporter to provide same if they wish to decline to do so in the course of their independent transcript business. \*\*\*PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL TRANSCRIPTS

ARE CERTIFIED BY THE REPORTER WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE PROCEEDINGS.

PLEASE NOTE: FEES FOR COUNSEL AND OTHER PARTIES REMAIN AS PER GUIDELINE RATES.

Any questions, please feel free to contact Linda Fudge, President, CRAO, at [linda.fudge@crao.ca](mailto:linda.fudge@crao.ca)

*(Editor's Note: THANK YOU!!)*

*This issue was brought to the attention of the CRAO by one of your fellow reporters, Tracy Lanctin. Thank you to Tracy Lanctin, Linda Fudge and all other CRAO executive and members who supported and encouraged this issue be dealt with.*

*If you have a concern you think needs to be addressed, put it in writing and send it to the CRAO executive. You might be surprised to learn of the positive outcome!!)*

*(\*\* See page 7 for Update on in-court transcript fees)*



# 2005 CRAO CONVENTION

## WHO IS INVITED:

**COURT REPORTERS AND COURT CLERK  
MONITORS – MEMBERS OF COURT  
REPORTERS' ASSOCIATION**

**WHEN:** OCTOBER 14 & 15, 2005

## WHERE:

**FRIDAY NIGHT** – PROVINCIAL  
OFFENCES COURTS

*The Regional Municipality of Durham*  
605 Rossland Road  
(Regional Headquarters)  
WHITBY, Ontario

**SATURDAY** – HARMONY HALL,  
*Holiday Inn - Oshawa*

**CONVENTION FEE:** \$80.00

**CERTIFICATION TESTING FEE:** \$40.00

*(Contact Gwen Grubb at [Gwen.Grubb@crao.ca](mailto:Gwen.Grubb@crao.ca) for  
further information)*

## HOW TO REGISTER:

on-line registration [www.crao.ca](http://www.crao.ca)

*Visit our website to keep informed as more details are  
confirmed*

**\*\*Exhibitors will be on display throughout  
Saturday in Harmony Hall, Holiday Inn, Oshawa**

## Friday, Oct. 14

- 9:00 a.m. Certification Workshop & Testing  
– optional
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner - Courtesy of Novo  
Technologies Inc.
- 6:00 p.m. Demonstration of Novo Digital Audio  
Court Recording and Tour of Durham's  
New Provincial Offences Courts
- 8:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite, Boardroom #116,  
Holiday Inn, Oshawa - Courtesy of  
Novo Technologies

## Saturday, Oct. 15

- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast  
Harmony Hall, Holiday Inn,  
1011 Bloor Street East, Oshawa
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & special guest speaker  
Justice Payne on *"How can Judges  
make the court reporter's job easier in  
the courtroom?"*.
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee, Tea & Juice Break and  
commencement of CRAO Business  
Meeting
- 11:30 a.m. Group Photo Shot
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Luncheon – Holiday Inn - Courtesy of  
CRAO
- 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Dynamic Accident Re-construction  
Scene by Ottawa Police Officers
- 2:30 p.m. Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks & Sweets  
Break – Courtesy of CRAO

Join us once again for the annual CRAO convention in Whitby. This year's convention is one you will not want to miss! Convention convenor, Chrystal Young and CRAO Convention Committee members have planned an exciting and informative agenda for members of the Association. Chrystal and her team have worked hard on making your day a success and we sincerely hope that all members show their support and come together to partake in the 2005 CRAO Convention! The convention will be exciting, informative, and 'delicious'. Novo Technologies will be hosting the evening at Durham Headquarters and also at our hospitality suite at Holiday Inn. At this point in time we are anticipating a 'delicious' meal with details to follow.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14** - Join us on Friday night at the Durham Regional Headquarters and enjoy a buffet dinner and take a tour and see a demonstration of the Digital Audio Court Recording courtrooms. Later, enjoy the camaraderie of your colleagues at the Hospitality Suite. **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15** - Saturday's Convention CRAO members General Meeting and speaker presentations will be held at the Holiday Inn at 1011 Bloor Street East in Oshawa. Test your skills using Procat's Voice Recognition system, WinnerVR.

The Convention Committee has a great day planned - listen to guest speaker Honourable John A. Payne, and also view an amazing accident reconstruction demonstration by the Ottawa Provincial Police. If you have not attained your certification designation as a Certified Court Reporter, register and attend the Friday certification and testing seminar. Visit the Certification and Training page for more details.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be served on Saturday. Looking for a room partner or to carpool, visit our forum convention area by clicking on "Members" and post your request. Register online today! (Please contact the Holiday Inn at 1-800-HOLIDAY or 905-576-5101 for directions and room rates are \$115 per room per night. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT MEMBERS ARE TO BOOK THEIR OWN ROOMS. BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT! (also look for the inserts in this newsletter for maps and directions)

- OR -

VISIT [WWW.CRAO.CA](http://WWW.CRAO.CA) for a map to Durham Regional Headquarters on Friday Night - click on the link and enter your starting address for driving directions **DURHAM REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

VISIT [WWW.CRAO.CA](http://WWW.CRAO.CA) for driving directions to the Holiday Inn Oshawa, click on the link and enter your starting point for driving directions **HOLIDAY INN OSHAWA**

# 2005 CRAO CONVENTION (CONT.)

## 20-YEAR PINS

20-Year pins will be presented at the CRAO convention. 20-Year pins are presented to reporters who have been reporting for 20 years and who have been members of the Association for the previous five consecutive years. These reporters are also entitled to life membership in the Association upon their retirement. If you or a fellow court reporter qualify for your 20-year pin, please contact Janice Zufelt at [Janice.Zufelt@crao.ca](mailto:Janice.Zufelt@crao.ca).

## WHAT'S NEW WITH THE CRAO WEBSITE

**HOME PAGE:** This page features the latest hot topic and/or news article posted on the "News" page.

This page also includes the Members Login section for members to sign up online, as well as links to other pages, including Convention, Certification and Training, and News within the website. Note that once you have signed up and are a paid member, you can access your personal information page (also referred to as your "profile"). It will be up to the members to keep their personal information current, including e-mail address, personal snail mail address, etc., otherwise you may not receive all the correspondence sent out by the CRAO. Your password can also be changed on this profile page. If you have any difficulty signing on or making changes, please contact Janice at [Janice.Zufelt@crao.ca](mailto:Janice.Zufelt@crao.ca)

## MEMBERS' PAGE

There is a page set up exclusively for members. Here you can access the latest newsletters as well as the Forums page. Go ahead and try it. As a registered member, you will have access to all newsletters posted on the website. On the Forums page, you can post comments and concerns or respond to notes already posted. What a great venue to communicate with and contact fellow reporters across the province.

### NOTE:

TO: All who have paid 2005 CRAO Membership

RE: Signing yourself onto CRAO.CA website

Please go to the website [www.crao.ca.CA](http://www.crao.ca.CA) and join as new members. This will be the easiest and most accurate way to get your information to the CRAO.

When you are asked about paypal - choose "no". Once you have signed up, e-mail me at [janice.zufelt@crao.ca](mailto:janice.zufelt@crao.ca) and I will activate your account. Anyone having trouble, please e-mail me and I will get you signed up. I will also be contacting some members for whom some information has been updated and they will have to update their profiles.

*Janice Zufelt*

*(CRAO Membership)*

## ProCAT - CATHY LOGAN

We are pleased that Cathy Logan from ProCAT will be in attendance at the Convention on Friday and Saturday as an exhibitor. She will be available to demonstrate the voice-recognition system WinnerVR from ProCAT. You will have a chance to try your hand at this technology. Cathy will be available to provide you with information and answer any questions you may have about the system. Founded in 1982 by Robert Bakva, ProCAT provides software, electronic stenotype, and hardware to the court reporting and closed-captioning industries. They introduced the first IBM-PC based Computer-Aided Transcription (CAT) software, which marked the beginning of a new era. For over two decades, ProCAT has continued to develop more innovative products to enhance productivity and increase demand for court reporting services. Please visit their website [www.procat.com](http://www.procat.com) for more information.

## MEMBERS' E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Attention all members: Important - we need your personal home e-mail address when registering, NOT your business e-mail! (Note: an exception will be made for members who are sole owners of small private court reporting firms). Otherwise, if you have registered and provided us with your business e-mail, we kindly request you edit your profile on-line at [www.crao.ca](http://www.crao.ca) and change your e-mail to your home computer e-mail address. Government and municipal and/or large company/business computers have rules in place to protect the technological property of the court and/or place of business and to preserve the confidentiality of electronically stored information and ask their employees to abstain from personal use of court computer systems and hardware. If you are a member of the CRAO, we can only e-mail your announcements/ general information and newsletter to your home address. Thank you for your co-operation and for supporting your professional association.

*Lisa Cumber*

*(Vice-President)*

## CRAO E-MAIL

A number of changes/additions have been made to assist membership in contacting executive members.

The following email addresses are now available. The email addresses are easy to remember and are not case sensitive (you do not have to worry about lower and/or upper case letters). First name, period, last name and then add @crao.ca.

General information ..... [info@crao.ca](mailto:info@crao.ca)  
(mail will be redirected to appropriate executive member)

President ..... [Linda.Fudge@crao.ca](mailto:Linda.Fudge@crao.ca)  
Vice-President ..... [Lisa.Cumber@crao.ca](mailto:Lisa.Cumber@crao.ca)  
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Past President ..... [Martha.Russell@crao.ca](mailto:Martha.Russell@crao.ca)  
Training/Certification ..... [Gwen.Grubb@crao.ca](mailto:Gwen.Grubb@crao.ca)  
Membership ..... [Janice.Zufelt@crao.ca](mailto:Janice.Zufelt@crao.ca)  
Newsletter ..... [Fatima.Conceicao@crao.ca](mailto:Fatima.Conceicao@crao.ca)



(Following are concerns and comments addressed by fellow reporters. Registered members of the CRAO can go onto [www.crao.ca](http://www.crao.ca) website and post similar concerns and/or comments on the "FORUMS" page. The "FORUMS" page can be found by first going onto the home page and clicking on "MEMBERS".)

## ORIGINAL OR COPIED TAPES?

Reporters from Owen Sound have reported that as a result of networking and receiving assistance from executive members of the CRAO, they are happily transcribing from the original tapes. Let us know what you are doing in your area. (Thanks to Linda Fudge for this info.)

## ORDERING PARTY PAYS FOR TRANSCRIPT. REALLY?

IN OSHAWA ....

**PROBLEM:** Defence counsel ordered 2 excerpts, that being cross-examination of two witnesses. The reporter prepared and, knowing that it was coming up, allowed it to be released without payment. When the matter was next before the court the judge decided to order, on the record, the entire proceedings to date because of the complexity of the matter. Defence counsel, who still had not paid the reporter, jumped up and added on the record that she had ordered excerpts. Further, went on to add that Legal Aid would not cover the cost of \$3.20 per page and only .55 per page and she, defence counsel, had to pay personally. Counsel then requested that the judge order that she, defence counsel, be reimbursed for her order seeing that the judge was ordering the original. Guess what!! The justice said she did not see a problem with the request and counsel be reimbursed her own out of pocket expense.

How would you handle this situation? Following are comments from fellow reporters.

**COMMENT:** If defence counsel put in a *bona fide* order, she is responsible for it. Reporters cannot be in the position of looking behind an order to see how the payor is being compensated. The excerpts being ordered and prepared, an order for the entire transcript is at the original rate with the exception of the excerpts already prepared and should be billed that way. Whatever billing arrangements the parties want to make with each other are of no concern of the court reporter. Just whose pocket expenses are they talking about -- it surely can't be the court reporters as she does not have any. That is just my opinion. We don't need to be making things more complicated than they really are. As far as we are concerned, we do the work, we get paid. Legal Aid rules are of no concern to us.

**COMMENT:** Legal Aid will pay \$3.20 per page if lawyer orders first copy. Secondly, if the lawyer has not even paid the account, how can she be reimbursed? Thirdly, I would approach the justice and diplomatically set out that transcript is a contract between ordering lawyer and reporter, private business, although there is page rate set out by Ministry. The reporter should also be armed with regulation that sets out first copy \$3.20 per page et cetera. The court has no jurisdiction over who pays what, or what your contract is with ordering party. Our contract is with the ordering party and it is not our concern where the ordering party gets their money from. Lawyer orders, lawyer pays. Perhaps in future, it is a good idea not to release transcript until paid. That would save so much grief.

## COMPENSATION FOR COPIED TRANSCRIPTS?

**PROBLEM:** Members have reported that their original transcripts are being reproduced without receiving compensation.

(Following are comments, as voiced from fellow reporters)

**COMMENT:** It is strongly suggested that if these "uncertified copies" are being used in court, that the reporter go to the judge involved, advise him/her that these copies are not certified by the reporter and that he and anyone else using these transcripts may be relying on a transcript that may have pages missing, portions of the proceedings missing, etc.

**COMMENT:** It is the same old tale. Do not forget, transcripts are your work product. You prepare them in your home, with all the expenses that come with being self-employed. Any and all parties who photocopy transcripts are interfering with YOUR income. If reporters leave this issue unattended, it will snowball.

**COMMENT:** This is really getting annoying. I don't believe the "Rules" that they love to quote to us say anything about "electronic copies". Also, the Rules say a reporter shall be paid 55 cents per page for a copy of a previously produced transcript. The Reporters Manual is merely a guideline - not a RULE, even the illustrious Mr. Counsel would have to admit that!!! IF we are to produce transcripts for the Court of Appeal at copy rate because they have been previously produced, THEN at a minimum it should be 5 x .55 so they pay for every copy.

## CRAO SURVEY

Thanks to all reporters who returned the survey sent out to you by Lisa Cumber on behalf of the CRAO. Here are some comments and concerns sent in by fellow reporters.

### COMMENTS:

- Under "training manuals" question, the reporter lists: the Transcript Manual, May 2004 and then comments "My book of knowledge is Gwen Grubb!"
- Addressed to the CRAO is: "Bring back the integrity of the record and respect for the court reporting profession".
- After faxing a survey out to a reporter, she responds: "Thanks. ... I also intend on becoming a member and will mail the cheque to Janice Zufelt. I think it is time we all ban together and get things happening. We need to gain back our integrity and credibility. I will make a point of sending the pages. Thank you for letting me know and I appreciate all your efforts. If there is anything I can do for the Association at this end, please feel free to let me know. We all need to work together."

## SYMPATHIES SENT OUT TO FAMILY OF JULIE BRANDAU

Linda Fudge sent out condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Julie Brandau on behalf of the Court Reporters Association of Ontario, Canada. Julie Brandau was a Court Reporter.

## CERTIFICATION: CRAO v. MAG

### Why is the CCR Designation Important to You?

**CONCERN:** Court monitors receiving Certification of Authorizations from the Ministry of the Attorney General seem to have the impression that they have been “certified” by the Ministry.

**RESPONSE:** CCR (Certified Court Reporter) is the designation bestowed by the CRAO upon successful completion of a series of tests, written and practical, to certify reporters as competent in court reporting. The examination is an indication to the CRAO of the candidate’s skills and whether the candidate will perform his/her duties in a manner that will be a credit to the profession. ‘CCR’ after a reporter’s name shows that the reporter has demonstrated his/her skills in a way that qualifies him/her to competently record and transcribe legal proceedings, public hearings, parliamentary sessions or any meeting considered important enough for an accurate verbatim record to be kept. By attaining the ‘CCR’, the reporter has committed himself/herself to excellence of work.

While CRAO certification is not a prerequisite in some jurisdictions in the Ministry of the Attorney General, it is widely recognized as a mark of excellence. The service you provide is not only for the government, but for the public and lawyers. It is increasingly important to be able to produce proof of competence by means of qualification established by a recognized professional body, not to mention the necessity of being a certified court reporter as demanded by the private sector. If you wanted to work in the private sector, you must have a professional designation to obtain your Commission of Oaths for swearing witnesses. The CRAO is authorized to grant such qualifications.

If you are a certified court reporter who has made a mistake (we hope that never happens), you are still a certified reporter who made a mistake. If you have no written credentials and you make a mistake, someone could argue you were never competent in the first place, and it would be hard to defend yourself. Any of us could one day find ourselves in the witness box in a perjury trial to verify the authenticity of our transcript. If you are standing there without any professional credentials, it could be a very uncomfortable position to be in. Wouldn’t you rather be a court reporter who takes the witness stand with credentials? Don’t leave yourself vulnerable.

An “Authorized person” to certify transcripts is bestowed on a court recording monitor by the Ministry of the Attorney General. This decision (or designation) by MAG management is discretionary.

‘Certified Court Reporter’ cannot be confused with ‘authorized person’ or a person who can ‘certify’ the transcript to be accurate. Obtaining your Certification of a Court Reporter from the Court Reporters’ Association is a certification of competence and an indication of professional standing in your job. Your Certified Court Reporter designation from the CRAO is entirely mobile within the Province of Ontario. It was not bestowed on a reporter by a supervisor in a particular jurisdiction. When you have a mobile designation, you are free to move within the profession because the CCR is known and respected throughout the province.

Keeping the CCR designation is dependent on continued membership in the CRAO. Furthermore, membership in the CRAO is a means of maintaining contact with fellow members through: the CRAO website, networking with other qualified reporters when needed and at our annual convention. You are never alone. Your Association is always there to support you. (Thanks to Ruth McIver and Gwen Grubb for this submission)

## TRANSCRIPTS:

### Do not “confuse access with dollars”

Here’s something from Nova Scotia re public free access to transcripts - Westray disaster.

“But Dean Jobb, author of *Calculated Risk*, a book about the Westray disaster, doesn’t believe this is a cut and dried problem of public access.

The transcripts cost money, he notes. It cost Verbatim a lot of money to produce them. If the commission had produced the transcripts, it would have cost taxpayers more money. Cost is a reality; somebody has to pay.

“We confuse access with dollars,” says Jobb. “Freedom of information — the freedom part does not mean that it is free of cost; access doesn’t mean right of access in any form. If I go to the library and photocopy something, I still have to pay,” he adds. “There is no free lunch in the information age.”

(Thanks to Lisa Cumber for this submission)

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## Article Library | DATE POSTED: 2005-03-16

### Dot-ca registry reaches milestone

#### SOURCE: The Great Library

More than 500,000 .ca domain names have now been registered. The rapid growth of dot-ca domain name registrations appears to reflect the increased interest of many Canadian businesses in establishing a Canadian presence on the Web.

On March 7, 2005, the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) announced that the total number of dot-ca domain name registrations had reached the half-million mark. This represents a phenomenal increase from the 60,000 .ca domain names that were registered when CIRA assumed management of the dot-ca registry in December 2000.

CIRA has also released other surprising statistics:

- a.. in 2004, the number of .ca domain names registered rose 24 per cent, from 389,216 in 2003 to 482,684 in 2004
- b.. in contrast, the number of .com domain names registered by Canadians increased only 10 per cent, from 1,043,043 in 2003 to 1,144,801 in 2004
- c.. since January 1, 2005, some 17,316 new .ca domain names have been registered, amounting to an average of 275 new registrations per day

The increasing popularity of dot-ca domain names can be attributed to several factors:

- a.. .ca domain names can only be registered by those who meet CIRA’s Canadian presence criteria, unlike .com domain names, which can be registered by anyone anywhere in the world
- b.. a dot-ca domain name signals that the organization has a solid connection with Canada
- c.. many businesses that offer a distinct Canadian product or service find that a unique Canadian presence on the Internet helps drive sales
- d.. Canadian consumers generally prefer to transact business in Canadian dollars and have their goods shipped from a Canadian address
- e.. a .ca domain name can provide that reassurance; it establishes a sense of trust through familiarity

(Thanks to Lisa Cumber for this submission)



# UPDATE ON IN-COURT TRANSCRIPT FEES

GERRY PHILIPS, CHAIR - MANAGEMENT BOARD OF CABINET REPLIES TO COURT REPORTER'S INQUIRY

A CRAO member/court reporter e-mailed Premier Dalton McGuinty on April 30th, 2005 regarding transcript fees that have not been increased for over 14 years!! When was the last time someone provided a service to you without increasing their rates in 14 years? Transcription is costly and taking into consideration the increases in paper costs, printers and ink, court reporting transcribers, computers, steno machines, stenomasks - it is a travesty and outright disrespect for our profession to be waiting this long for a page rate increase. Court reporters are tasked with producing a transcript of every single word spoken verbatim from the mouths of each and every individual in a court proceeding. Reporting and recording an accurate record of people talking with accents, speaking over each other at the same time, uttering medical and legal terminology is not a simple task. In fact, it's an art and it's something that only professional and trained reporters can do and are proud of being able to provide an accurate transcript to those who pass through the doors of a courtroom. We are impartial and as "Guardians of the Record" we are an invaluable and integral part in the administration of justice working alongside judges, lawyers and the public.

Did you know that fees for out of court proceedings are considerably higher than fees for transcripts of in court proceedings? Also, transcripts for in court proceedings are more lines per page and no expedite fees are allowed as they are for out of court transcripts which are less lines per page and reporters who type all night for a next day delivery are reimbursed for their hard work if they are fortunate enough to work for a private firm or freelance. Is this fair? No, not in the least. In fact, it's grossly discriminatory.

Transcript fees are a separate and independent portion of our business for all court reporters in Ontario who work with the Ministry of Attorney General on a contractual basis in Ontario and Superior Courts and are completed on a court reporter's own time. The CRAO does not agree with the position the government is taking in the reply received and will continue to speak with the Board of Cabinet on this issue. A review of transcript fees in an OPSEU grievance has absolutely no bearing on a request for an increase for present rates of fees for transcript which are not associated in any way with OPSEU as they do NOT fall under the Collective Agreement; therefore there is no reason that the Ministry cannot proceed to review transcript fees now - it's been 14 long years.

Again, the CRAO takes the valid and correct position that a grievance filed under OPSEU has no bearing whatsoever on present and future transcript fees which are the independent business and work product of a court reporter. Our president, Linda Fudge, will be replying to Mr. Philips in the near future.

The response from Mr. Philips is as follows:

"June 28, 2005

Dear (Court Reporter)

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario has forwarded to me your email dated April 30, 2005 regarding transcript fees for court reporters. Thank you for writing.

The Ministry of Attorney General (Ministry) had begun a preliminary review of the transcript fees. You may be aware that the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) has filed a grievance claiming that transcription work falls within the bargaining unit. Hearings are scheduled before the Grievance Settlement Board (GSB) through February 2006.

The Ministry has decided not to proceed with its review of the transcript fees until the proceedings before the GSB are concluded and a decision is rendered. In the meantime, there are no plans to change the transcript fees.

Should you wish to obtain any additional information about the GSB proceedings, please contact your OPSEU representative.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Gerry Philips, Chair, Management Board of Cabinet

c. The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier"

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*Articles Submitted Are Not Necessarily the View of this CRAO*