

**AIS Ad Hoc Committee to Study
The Canadian Iris Society Request for Cooperating Society Status**

November 1, 2008 Report

This committee was appointed by AIS president Roy Epperson and consists of Jim Morris, AIS Section Liaison as chairman, Jeanne Plank, past president of AIS, Bob Plank, AIS Legal Counsel, Jerry Coates, Region 4 RVP, and Kate Brewitt, Region 16 (Canada) RVP. Canadian Iris Society president Ed Jowett appointed member Chuck Chapman to be the CIS liaison to this committee.

Fact-finding correspondence was begun in September 2008 and continues as the committee tries to assess the CIS request and its historical relationship with AIS and Region 16. It appears that CIS began in 1955 while Region 16 (originally Region 6 [1920 – 1927] and then Region 15 [1927 -- ?]) has been around since the founding of the American Iris Society in 1920. As CIS liaison, Chuck Chapman has been searching out information about the Canadian Iris Society for this committee while Region 16 RVP Kate Brewitt has been assembling information about Region 16 from various sources including 52 years of minutes. There are 70 AIS members in Canada while the Canadian Iris Society has 132 members of which only 27 are members of AIS.

It appears that the genesis of the current CIS request dates to a CIS exploration of AIS affiliation in 1991. After correspondence with then AIS Affiliates chairman Dave Niswonger, CIS chose to take no further action at that time. Then in 2004 the Canadian Iris Society began a lengthy process of developing a constitution for their society to be similar to that of AIS. This process was completed in 2007 and the new CIS constitution can be viewed at: <http://www.edn-iris.ca/CISconstitution2007.pdf>.

After this committee completes the fact-finding phase, we will begin serious review of the many factors of this CIS request. It should be pointed out that AIS Board review of possible realignment of AIS Regions may have impact on this committee's deliberations. Considerable interest in north-south alignment of parts of Canada with parts of the United States was expressed openly at the April 2008 Section/Cooperating Society meeting at the AIS Convention in Austin, TX. Minutes of that meeting were distributed to members of the AIS Board in September 2008.

In conclusion, we believe that a reasoned and thorough review of this Canadian Iris Society request will be a lengthy process. We are early in this review and have no recommendations at this time. We plan to have a short meeting sometime during the November AIS Board deliberations in Las Vegas, NV.

Jim Morris
Committee Chairman

