

## MCATA Overview

WHAT FOLLOWS ARE descriptions of some of the activities MCATA has engaged in over the years—not a scholarly history! The information has been gleaned mainly from executive meeting minutes since 1961 and from available annual meeting and presidents' reports. When gaps in the information appear, they are usually because the minutes are not very detailed on that particular topic.

After reading all those minutes, one has to be impressed by the time and effort put in by MCATA executive members—some members for many years. Any successes MCATA has had are due largely to the dedication of these people.

Over the years, "service to members" has been a major concern and topic of discussion at executive meetings. The most consistent and ongoing services have been the publications and annual conferences. Some discussion about publications (what kind, how many, editors, topics, reprinting and selling) has occurred at every executive meeting; conferences have taken slightly less meeting time.

In the early years, curriculum changes provided both a need and an opportunity for council activities in addition to publications and annual conferences. Summer workshops at every level were nearly a yearly event in the mid-1960s. Films were circulated throughout the province, and regional councils were established. Affiliations with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and the Canadian Association of Mathematics Teachers (CAMT) were formed. The first NCTM meeting in Alberta was held in Calgary in 1966.

In the 1970s, Math Kits replaced the films on circuit around the

province. The introduction of the metric system prompted another summer workshop and formation of the "Metric Missionaries" teams. Mini-conferences were promoted, display booths were organized for use at conventions, and two more NCTM meetings were held (in Edmonton and Calgary).

During the 1980s, mini-conferences continued to be sponsored. A good deal of service to members focused on publications and annual conferences. The publications were becoming longer and were appearing more regularly. Annual conferences also became longer and attracted more people; another NCTM meeting was held in Edmonton. Position statements on current affairs were prepared.

Also during the 1980s, the executive started to use telephone conference calls and to hold one-day meetings, with the exception of an annual two-day "Think Session" or "Thinkers' Conference." During this meeting, the executive met in small committees which held discussions and made recommendations to the whole executive. In 1982-83, executive committees were Conventions, Membership, Current Affairs and Publications. In 1987, the committees were Conferences, Membership, Publications, Future Projects and Position Statements.

In the 1990s, the Thinkers' Conferences have played an important role in establishing policy and direction for MCATA. The mini-conferences continue to gain popularity and cover a wide variety of topics. In 1995, the executive committees are Membership, Publications, Conferences and Issues.



Anyway You  
Figure It . . .



Membership  
in MCATA  
Adds Up!

