

# Letter from the Editor



**Change. It's a word that conjures up feelings of something new, something different – of hope and of renewal.**

We have heard a lot about “change” lately as our friends, allies and neighbours in the United States marked a significant event with the election of the new U.S. President, Barack Obama. His campaign for change sparked an unprecedented grassroots movement that engaged U.S. citizens in the electoral process in ways we have never seen before. His speeches and campaign pledges left their mark here in Canada too, with thoughts of what “change” could mean for trade deals like NAFTA, or for U.S. foreign policy issues like the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Change” also made a surprising appearance here in Canada at the end of 2008. When the newly installed minority Conservative government delivered a budget that attacked the

democratic process and did not address serious concerns about the economic downturn, Canadians were quick to react. Calls for a new government came quickly, as political parties banded together against the Conservatives. If the near move to a coalition government showed anything, it was that our electoral process is in desperate need of a new system of proportional representation.

Finally, as you read this issue of *Canadian Perspectives*, you will notice that change has also come here. We wanted to capture the spirit of the word “change” and start 2009 with a renewed look for our magazine, which is distributed across Canada and provided free to every member of the Council of Canadians. You will notice a change to new fonts, a new cover style, more pictures and new content. We welcome any comments you might have about this new look.

Best wishes to all of our readers for even more hope, renewal and positive change in 2009.

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Jan Malek  
Editor, *Canadian Perspectives*



**Thousands of Canadians rallied across the country in support of a coalition government. The Council of Canadians continues to call for proportional representation so all Canadians are represented fairly in Parliament.**

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