Editor's Remarks

I am honoured to address you for the first time as Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation (CJPE)*. As a former Book Review Editor and Associate Editor of the journal, I am tackling my new responsibilities with a solid sense of all that has been accomplished thus far and great enthusiasm for what is to come next. I want to thank Robert Schwartz for his leadership during his 7-year tenure; his influence and impact on the Journal's quality and reach will be felt for years to come. I have the privilege of being accompanied on this journey by a skilled and dedicated editorial team made up of Emily Taylor, Astrid Brousselle, Jill Chouinard, and Jane Whynot, four women with considerable combined experience in evaluation, academia, government, and consulting. Two student volunteers have recently joined our team: Hélène Lévesque and Michelle Naimi. Their contributions are already much appreciated. We are grateful for the support and advice of our continuing and new Editorial Board members who have all made a 3-year commitment to the *CJPE* starting this year. Thank you!

Like all transitions, this is a period of opportunity, change, and growth for the Journal. As evaluators, we are assessing our administrative processes to see where we can make improvements, and we are looking at our own theory of change to determine how we can best meet the needs of CES members as well as the academic and evaluation communities. We will continue to work diligently with authors and reviewers to ensure that *CJPE* maintains its high level of quality. I encourage you to submit your articles, practice notes, and book reviews to share your work and insights with your fellow evaluators.

I am pleased to present this special issue on spending reviews, guest edited by Jim McDavid, Astrid Brousselle, Robert Shepherd, and David Zussman. Our special issues are planned several years in advance; when Jim asked me to contribute an article to this particular issue in 2016, I had no idea that I would be introducing it as Editor. The articles included in this issue reflect varied viewpoints, experiences, and practices related to international, federal, and provincial spending reviews. Written by senior government officials, academics, and practitioners, they provide a comprehensive view of pan-governmental reallocation exercises, highlighting their particular effects and impacts. Upon reading these papers, you may conclude that evaluation has played different roles in spending reviews and that it could contribute significantly more to organizational or government-wide decision making. I challenge you, as an evaluator, a researcher, or a student, to consider how best to support organizations in applying evaluation knowledge to improve programs and make critical decisions.

Isabelle Bourgeois
Editor-in-Chief