Nassif Ghoussoub CV November 2005

Born in Western Africa (currently Mali), Nassif Ghoussoub obtained a License en Mathématiques at the Lebanese University of Beirut in 1973, a Doctorat 3^{ième} cycle in 1975 and later a Doctorat d'état in 1979 from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, France. He held a postdoctoral position at the Ohio State University in 1976-1977. Since then he has been at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, where he is currently a Professor of Mathematics and a Distinguished University Scholar. He has also held several long and short-term visiting positions at various universities in Austria, Canada, France, Italy, and the USA.

His first research interests were in functional analysis and ergodic theory and originated from his thesis written under the supervision of his two advisors Gustave Choquet and Antoine Brunel. He then turned in the eighties to the geometry of infinite dimensional Banach spaces working with such distinguished mathematicians as W. J. Johnson (Texas), J. Lindenstrauss (Jerusalem), B. Maurey (Paris) and W. Schachermayer (Vienna). In the nineties, he switched to non-linear analysis, and partial differential equations, under the influence of I. Ekeland (Paris) and L. Nirenberg (NY). Nirenberg, in particular has been a great inspiration to him, both on the personal and on the academic level.

He has published over 90 research papers, including two memoirs of the AMS, and one monograph entitled Duality and Perturbation Methods in Critical Point Theory. He has, so far, supervised ten PhD and MSc students and about a dozen postdoctoral fellows. He served as co-editor-in-chief of the Canadian Journal of Mathematics from 1993 to 2002 and has been on the editorial board of a number of various Canadian and international journals. He has also given over 150 invited lectures all over the world. These talks included the following invited plenary addresses: Mons-Belgium 97, Strobl-Austria 99, AMS western regional meeting 93, Beijing Centennial Math. Conference 98, Santiago's Pan-American Summer Institute 03, Paris A-HYKE2 04, Erice-Sicily 05.

He was the recipient of the Coxeter-James prize in 1990, of a Killam senior fellowship in 1992 and was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1993. In 2004, he was awarded a Doctorat Honoris Causa by the Université Paris-Dauphine.

He was elected vice-president of the Canadian Mathematical Society for the period 1994-1996. He also served in 1995-1996 as chair of the Grant Selection Committee for Mathematics at the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

Nassif Ghoussoub is particularly renowned for his remarkable series of contributions to the Canadian mathematical community over the past decade. That decade was a seminal period for Canadian Mathematics. It witnessed the raising of the discipline to a new level. Mathematics began the decade in a position of considerable weakness, clearly ranking very low on the priority list of Canadian policy makers, university administrators and funding agencies. However, during the next ten years the discipline underwent a fundamental reassessment, developed a new strategy which was successfully realized in a number of new initiatives, and emerged as one of the most visible, most organized and most innovative on the Canadian scientific scene. Nassif Ghoussoub was one of a small group of Canadian mathematicians who displayed considerable leadership and vision during this decade of innovative transformation. He is personally associated with a number of the most striking initiatives in Canadian Mathematics during the past decade. He was a founder of the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS) and was its first Director during the period 1996 - 2003. He was also a founder of the MITACS Network of Centres of Excellence (Mathematics of Information Technology & Complex Systems) and was member of its Board of Directors for the period 1998 - 2003. He was the main driving force behind the creation of the Banff International Research Station (BIRS), the first chair of its executive committee for the period 2000 - 2003, and is currently the BIRS scientific director.

Nassif Ghoussoub is also a man with a strong international vision. During his tenure at PIMS, he spearheaded several regional and international partnerships in support of the mathematical sciences, including the Pacific Northwest Partnership, the two Canada-China congresses and other Pacific Rim initiatives, as well as the Canada-US-Mexico collaboration on the Banff Research Station. His future plans include a proactive role in developing the mathematical sciences in non G8 countries through UNESCO, the Francophonie, and other international organizations. He is the co-president of the Congrés Canada-France which will be held in Montréal in 2008 and will involve most francophone countries. He is also involved in the founding and the development of PRIMA: an emerging global network of mathematical institutions across the Pacific Rim region.

He has been a Canadian representative at each of the International Mathematical Unions since 1998 and will be so again in 2006. He already has a record of accomplishment in this forum. He advocated --from the floor of the general assemblies-- several reforms some of which have already been implemented by the IMU. Much more needs to be done for the world's mathematical community, however, and that is why he has agreed to allow his candidacy for the IMU executive to be put forward.