

Subject: Message from the President of CAEAL

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From: Webmaster <webmaster@caeal.ca>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CAEAL

CHRIS PHARO, Ph.D

JULY 13, 2004

As a result of the vote at the June 18, 2004, CAEAL AGM to not renew the current CAEAL-SCC partnership agreement, the CAEAL Board and staff are working hard to make the transition as smooth and as transparent as possible. I intend to keep you apprised regularly of progress we are making toward that end.

Our primary objectives are: to ensure that CAEAL's transition to an accreditation body is successful, and that CAEAL's role continues in the tripartite agreement with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and the Standards Council, dealing with the Ontario drinking water regulations. To accomplish this we have created a draft transition plan to guide the Board and the staff on actions needed to reach these objectives. For them to occur, I anticipate that we will have to develop a different arrangement with the SCC to that which we now have.

Rick Wilson and I met on July 5 with John Lynch, from Ontario's MoE, and Peter Clark, Pat Paladino and David Dulmage of the SCC. The meeting was requested by Dr Lynch to determine what the impact might be on the province of Ontario's implementation of the *Safe Drinking Water Act*. Rick and I assured Dr Lynch that CAEAL is committed to honouring its obligations as defined in the five-year agreement. We agreed to meet again on August 12th to begin dealing with the nitty-gritty of how this will work.

On July 12th Rick and I met with Peter Clark, Pat Paladino and David Dulmage of the SCC to try to scope out what the results of the CAEAL decision means to our relationship with the SCC in the near term, and how the two bodies might work together in the future. As expected this was a difficult meeting. We did agree, however, to meet again July 30th in preparation for the meeting with Ontario MoE on August 12th to deal with continued implementation of the tripartite agreement with Ontario, and to discuss specific actions needed between now and December 31, 2004, when the current partnership agreement between CAEAL and the SCC expires. We also acknowledged that much work, and several more meetings, would be needed over the next few months.

CAEAL has taken the following steps towards ensuring a smooth transition, and will follow them through to their logical conclusions. There have been discussions with representatives of the Canadian Council for Independent Laboratories (CCIL), with more scheduled. Letters have been sent to provincial and federal regulators informing them of the results of the AGM, and advising them of CAEAL's intentions. An application has been sent to the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) requesting consideration of CAEAL as an Associate Member, with the intention that CAEAL will seek recognition as an independent accrediting body in early 2005. CAEAL anticipates receiving full international recognition as an accrediting body by late 2005. I will keep you informed about progress on all fronts as events unfold.

My personal goal during my tenure as President of the CAEAL Board of Directors is at once both simple and challenging: to ensure that CAEAL's core values and vision are solid anchors for a reputable laboratory quality assurance program and that these attributes are maintained through the transition to an independent accreditation body. If the SCC becomes a cooperative and collaborative partner, the result could be a very strong national program for accreditation of environmental laboratories that would have world-wide recognition and credibility. That is the goal. Achieving it is the challenge.

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