

Subject: Message from the President of CAEAL - November 14, 2003

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From: Webmaster <webmaster@caeal.ca>

To: CAEAL

Cc: CAEAL Board

Message from the President of CAEAL

Russ Calow, B.Sc., CChem

November 14, 2003

I am once again writing to our membership to keep you apprised of events and issues facing CAEAL.

I would like to first thank all of our members that took the time over the last three weeks to contact me, or the CAEAL staff to discuss the many issues that have been identified in my previous communications. We have done our very best to respond to these members as quickly as we could and I hope that you are satisfied with our responses. The issues and pressures CAEAL faces right now make it vitally important that the membership take the time to become more involved. I encourage all of our members to call, or email us with your concerns, thoughts and most importantly suggestions.

One issue that has generated a great deal of member discussion the last two weeks has been the Board's decision to ask for 100% pre-payment prior to delivery of any service. This issue comes down to what level of financial risk the Board and the membership wishes to bear. We have received many comments about this decision and in general it is clear that many members believe that CAEAL is punishing them as a result of the unfortunate PSC Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing. Faced with this member concern we have decided to postpone the implementation of the 100 % pre-payment policy, until after the PSC situation has been resolved. In addition, we intend to let the membership decide at the 2004 Annual General Meeting if CAEAL should adopt this policy.

I also need to advise the membership of the 2004/2005 financial forecast. I noted in a previous message that preliminary budgeting had forecast an unacceptable deficit for 2004/2005. I can now confirm that second draft budgeting has targeted a 2004/2005 deficit of about \$150,000. I am very concerned by this large deficit and have asked Rick to convene a special Finance Committee of the Board to look into the 2004/2005 budget in detail. The committee, comprising Louise Morin,

John Lawrence, Rick Wilson, Russ Calow and Don LaBerge met for the first time last week. Several more meetings are planned over the next two weeks to assess the second draft 2004/2005 budget and search for cost savings and ways to increase revenue. I would also like to alert the membership that I believe that cost savings alone will not eliminate the deficit. I am convinced that CAEAL will be forced to raise overall program fees for the first time in many years. I will be back in touch near the end of November once the committee has had time to fully analyze the 2004/2005 budget and to create a financial action plan.

Finally I am very pleased to announce that the SCC/CAEAL accreditation program has surpassed the 200 lab mark! Lab number 3403, the Yukon Environmental Health Services Water Laboratory in Whitehorse has the distinct honor of becoming CAEAL's 200th laboratory in the accreditation stream. Congratulations to the Yukon Government's Health and Social Services, and thank you for believing in the SCC/CAEAL program! Thank you also for allowing us to mention the name of your lab as we celebrate this milestone for CAEAL. Those of you who were at our AGM in May 2000 heard us report that there were 110 labs in the accreditation program including both accredited labs and applicants. The program now has 202, an increase of 83% in three and a half years.

I would once again encourage you to contact Rick Wilson, or myself with any questions and concerns. If you feel strongly about anything that we are doing, have said, or not said please email or call us. I promise that we will listen and respond in a timely manner.

Rick's and my contact details are listed below:

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Thank you and I look forward to hearing from all of you in the future.

Russ Calow

President CAEAL