

Subject: Message from the President of CAEAL

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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

October 21, 2003

I hope this finds everyone well and getting ready for the first winter blasts!

CAEAL has been very busy since my last communication in August. On Monday October 6th, 2003 the SCC convened the second meeting of all of the PALCAN laboratory program partners. The meeting was held at BNQ's Offices in Quebec City. Present for CAEAL were Russ Calow and Rick Wilson. The SCC was represented by Stephen Cross and David Dulmage, who has replaced Stephen Cross in the PALCAN program. Representatives were also present from the NRC CLAS program, BNQ and the Ontario Medical Association.

Rick Wilson presented a white paper outlining the creation and role of the proposed PALCAN Partnership Advisory Council (PPAC). The PPAC would have broad responsibility for policy and program oversight within PALCAN. A list of recommendations, roles and accountabilities for the PPAC has been formulated and will be presented at the TG Labs meeting in November.

The SCC presented more detailed financial information from the PALCAN program. However, the issue of cross subsidizing other SCC departments and appropriate financial control of overhead within SCC are still a sore point. Discussions in this area centered around the role and responsibilities of the PPAC with regard to approving expenditures, overhead and direct, for the PALCAN program. We expect this topic to remain without resolution for quite some time. Once again I am hopeful that we will be able to find enough common ground within PALCAN to address our membership's valid concerns about SCC costs and service. A lot is riding on the new PPAC and its ability to influence SCC cost allocations and costs in general.

One issue that has been raised by many members in the last two months has been Ontario MOE's access to laboratory files at CAEAL. We need to remember that Ontario's Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) codifies in law the MOE's legal right to obtain accreditation documentation

pertaining to the testing of drinking water for the Province of Ontario. This access issue was a key one during the formulation of the CAEAL/SCC/MOE agreement. CAEAL's solicitor, Allison Sutherland, worked hard to include appropriate language and protocols in the agreement that would limit the MOE's ability to access documentation outside of their right under the SDWA. As your President I am happy with the agreement and the MOE access provisions. I am confident that the agreement we signed ensures that the MOE will not have unfettered access to CAEAL files and will not be able to access non-drinking water accreditation information without appropriate legal instruments in place.

Finally I would like to announce to our membership that CAEAL is about to break the 200 lab mark for accredited labs! As of October 2003 we are sitting at 199 labs and fully expect to break through the 200 lab milestone by year end.

I would once again encourage you to contact Rick Wilson, or myself with any questions and concerns. 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