

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

January 13, 2005

What a spectacular way to start the New Year:

- Nine of the ten members of the Accreditation Council survived their training and completed the accreditations for all labs that had identified by November 30 that they wanted CAEAL Accreditation;
- Accreditation Certificates for those labs were completed and mailed by January 4th;
- Scopes of Accreditation for all those labs are on the CAEAL website;
- At this point 140 labs have indicated a desire to obtain accreditation from CAEAL, far surpassing the target of 120.

All this happened because of the effort and enthusiasm of the CAEAL staff, and the willingness and dedication of the members of the Accreditation Council. The daunting prospect of ensuring that those labs that chose to stay with CAEAL would have certificates of accreditation at the start of the new year required considerable extra effort, and they made it. Congratulations to you all. CAEAL has reached a major milestone in its evolution.

It's not over yet, though. The Accreditation Council is currently working on the files of labs that identified after November 30 that they wanted to stay with CAEAL. There are new labs applying to the CAEAL program. And the staff is sorting out those files that are to be transferred to the SCC.

The two agreements that CAEAL has with the SCC – one dealing with the continuation of the Ontario Safe Drinking Water requirements, and the other with the termination of the CAEAL/SCC partnership – have been signed and are posted on the CAEAL website. A third agreement that deals with refinements to the tripartite agreement that includes the Ontario Ministry of Environment, has been signed by CAEAL. Once the other two parties have signed, it too will be posted to the CAEAL website.

CAEAL's application for full membership with APLAC has been submitted, and is making its way through the APLAC process. CAEAL staff are in communication with the APLAC MRA Council concerning the upcoming evaluation of CAEAL.

With the transition from a partner in accreditation to a full accreditation body, the CAEAL Board of Directors will review the CAEAL Strategic Plan. The process will include opportunities for input and comment from members of all CAEAL Councils and Committees, as well as from the Assessors, followed by final review and comment from the membership. This document will be the Board's guidance for directing the ongoing evolution of CAEAL.

The Executive has endorsed the development of a policy that will allow CAEAL-accredited labs to use the CAEAL logo. At the moment this action is being reviewed by the CAEAL lawyer because the logo is trade-marked.

The CAEAL website is being rejuvenated. Perhaps the most significant change is the inclusion of the Directory of Laboratories. The Directory includes both accreditation and PT, and is searchable by parameter, method, and matrix, as well as by geographic area. Andrew Morris, Data and Information Manager, demonstrated to the Executive on January 10 how the public pages for scopes can be used: it is most impressive. Its comprehensiveness, and its broad-based search features should make it invaluable for regulators and for prospective clients. Try it, and if you have any comments please send them to CAEAL at caeal_directories@caeal.ca.

A reminder that the CAEAL Annual General Meeting will be held June 17, 2005, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Details, including the venue, will be included in an upcoming newsletter.

It is with regret that I note Russ Calow's resignation from the Ontario for-profit seat on the CAEAL Board. Russ's position with his company, SGS Lakefield, has taken him out of the environmental field and he feels that he can no longer represent adequately that area on the CAEAL Board. Russ joined the CAEAL Board in October 2000, and was elected President of the Board for the 2003-04 period – a year of intense discussions with the SCC. Russ has been a very strong and active supporter of CAEAL. On behalf of the Board and the members, I thank him for the time and effort he has devoted to CAEAL and wish him well in his new position.

The elections for the two vacant seats on the CAEAL Board are currently under way and I encourage all members to participate.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

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