



President's Message 2010

Dear Canadian Skålleagues,

Welcome to a new decade. It is hard to believe that just 10 short years ago we spent New Year's Eve wondering about Y2K and the fate of the world. So as we start 2010 and a new decade we can only hope that we are on the economic road to recovery.

I would like to thank the 2009 SICAN Board for their hard work and dedication. Under the leadership of President, John Duggan we are entering the new year in a strong financial position. With our 2010 board we will be actively working on your behalf to grow the organization and provide value for your membership. Our National EST, Henry Kelly, continues to provide great support to our board and to each of the clubs.

At our fall SICAN Board Meeting we discussed the value of Skål membership. Are you getting the greatest value out of your membership? Did you know that you are welcome to attend a Skål meeting anywhere else in Canada or anywhere in the world? If you travel on business or for pleasure have you considered planning your trip to coincide with another Skål meeting? After all, our organization is based on amicable and doing business with our other Skålleagues. I know many members who have made excellent business contacts just by attending other Skål meetings. Perhaps this can be one of your 'new year's resolutions' – to visit one or more Skål club this year.

Quebec City will be the host to the 2010 NAASC Congress from May 6th to May 9th. The organizing committee, under the watchful eye of Brian Aube and Dick Copeman, are working hard to make this one of the best congresses ever. My first congress experience was in Quebec City in 2001 and I am looking forward to this congress being even better, if that is possible! Information can be obtained at www.naasc2010.com.

There are other exciting initiatives that you should be aware of for 2010. Skål International recently held a very successful International Congress in Budapest, Hungary. Our International Skål Councilor, Thom Vincent, has been appointed to the "Task Force for Change" so you will be hearing more about this in the coming year. I would encourage each of you to send Thom comments about how you see Skål changing and evolving.

I would also encourage and remind you that there is still time to submit your best travel stories for inclusion in a book to be published in support of the Florimond Volckaert Fund. A detailed e-mail outlining how you can participate will be sent out shortly. I know each of you has more than one excellent tale to share!

It is a great honor to represent the over 800 Skål members in Canada this year. I am looking forward to visiting many of the Canadian clubs and reconnecting with many friends that I have made over my years in the industry. Best wishes for a prosperous 2010.

Happiness, Good Health, Friendship, Long Life

Skål!

Jona Way

2010 President

Skål International Canada