



**ACTRA**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### President's Holiday Message...



Dear fellow members,

Our 60th year has been a bit of a roller coaster ride, marked by the lows of numerous challenges to our industry and the loss of beloved colleagues. But the highs have been exhilarating, with coast-to-coast celebrations and victories in collective bargaining.

Our strength was tested in 2003 - SARS, the rising dollar and devastating cuts to the Canadian Television Fund – but ACTRA rose to the occasion. Building on 60 years of tradition, our members demonstrated that they are prepared to band together and fight back. We joined with industry colleagues to successfully call for more monies for the CTF, and we made our mark in Ottawa with two highly successful lobby days. We scored a major victory when the CRTC answered our call for a review of its regulations and we're optimistic that our lobbying efforts will continue to bear fruit this spring with increased, stable support for the CTF.

Our bargaining team also had a busy year, renewing the IPA, NFB and the CBC Radio and Television Agreements. Once again, ACTRA negotiated the highest standards in the industry, including rate increases for members across the board.

We also paused to celebrate our union's anniversary, and celebrate we did as branches reinstated our treasured ACTRA Awards at events across the country. As a holiday gift for every member, you should soon be receiving our special 60 th Anniversary edition of *InterACTRA*.

I've learned a lot about our union this year - about the creativity and strength of spirit that have shaped the 21,000-member force that stands today. Mostly, I was and continue to be inspired by the sacrifices made by performers working to improve conditions for their fellow artists, often to the detriment of their own careers.

**I wish you all a happy and peaceful holiday with personal fulfillment and creative challenges throughout the New Year.**

**Thor Bishopric**  
ACTRA President