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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### New Council Rolls up its Sleeves...



Dear fellow members,

February 5, 2004 - Last year's 60th Anniversary celebrations invigorated our union by stirring up our pride and reminding us how much we can achieve when we combine our energy and passion to a common end. We'll be harnessing this momentum as we charge ahead into 2004 to tackle a full plate of important challenges.

This past weekend I had the pleasure of chairing our National Council meeting, where ACTRA's elected representatives from across the country came together to chart our progress and set out our objectives. One of the many items on the agenda was electing a new National Executive. The result is an empowering blend of experienced councillors and new energy: Rob Morton (B.C.), Linda Kupecek (Alberta), Wayne Nicklas (Saskatchewan/Manitoba), Ferne Downey and Richard Hardacre (Toronto), Tyrone Benskin (Montreal/Ottawa) and Ruth Lawrence (Newfoundland/Maritimes). Wayne Nicklas was also elected as ACTRA's National Vice-President and Ferne Downey was elected Treasurer. ACTRA thanks our outgoing National Executive, especially Vice President David Macniven and Treasurer Jamie Bradley, for their invaluable service over the last several years. I am confident that the enthusiasm and vision of this new team will serve us well as we work toward the ambitious agenda we have set out for ourselves.

Regarding contracts, this year we'll be revising and implementing a new Audio Code in addition to renegotiating the National Commercial Agreement. It is our intention to complete Commercial negotiations with the best settlement possible prior to the agreement's expiry in June.

ACTRA is also prepared to fight a number of public policy issues threatening Canadian culture. The continuing crisis in Canadian TV drama, restoring funding to the CTF, securing changes to CRTC regulations and the looming menace of foreign ownership are our top priorities. In many ways, this is a make or break year. If drama and Canadian production are not restored, we risk losing our industry and our entire creative community. It is a difficult time, but it is also an exciting time. There will be numerous opportunities - including a Federal election sometime this spring - to forward our agenda and forge lasting change. There's a lot of work ahead, and we'll be counting on each of you throughout the year to join in and lend your creativity and your voices to our campaigns.

**ACTRA's story of great accomplishment through passion and perseverance continues.**

**Thor Bishopric**  
ACTRA President

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