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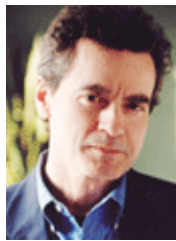
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### The strength of a unified voice



January 9, 2006

**Dear colleagues, fellow ACTRA members:**

With this first message of 2006, I offer wishes for a fine New Year full of prospects for good health and well being to all the members of ACTRA. In our challenging industry it always merits focusing on a clear perspective and on positive movement. A new year, as everyone knows, offers many opportunities ahead and the chance to reflect on what was learned in the year past. For ACTRA, 2006 has the promise of renewal on several fronts and maybe even a glance into a frontier or two.

What we start with is a freshly chosen National Council, elected by the members to serve in their interest for the next two years. There's an infusion of different energies and viewpoints coming in to work with the seasoned councillors that were re-elected from across the country. This is a display of organic and invigorating growth; and growth in many ways is what ACTRA is about.

We have been growing steadily over a very brief history into the foremost voice in our country speaking out for a strong industry and a vibrant culture for English-speaking Canada. A growing number of our members from St. John's to Victoria have been joining our cause. ACTRA has taken the lead in a coalition of the unions and guilds working in film and television. We have told all the federal parties competing for Parliament that they have an obligation to inform the voters how they plan to encourage and protect our autonomous culture.

Our growth takes us as well into the winter and springtime bargaining of the National IPA and the B.C. Master Agreement, the two big contracts driving the engines of film and television in Canada. In those we must make fair gains. We must strengthen our rights commensurate with what was just achieved for all the creative and technical guilds of our brothers and sisters working in the same industry, for many of the same employers representing the major global media corporations. We, the performers of ACTRA, know we have earned the right to the same respect as these, our American comrades.

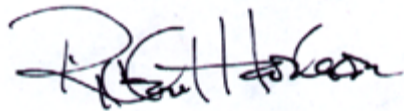
When we think of renewal our greatest opportunity is certainly upon us. For the first time since the 1996 Settlement Agreement between UBCP and ACTRA, we have the united will to move together in one direction – that of solidarity. Building trust and respect has been an enormous challenge for the leaders of both this national union and our autonomous second-largest branch throughout a decade. Many elected performers and senior staff have devoted untold months of their lives toward that goal. I believe that at this moment a delicate balance is being tried. We have begun the shift towards a new direction – that of all English-speaking performers in recorded media in Canada working together on the same ambition. That objective is admirable, and attainable. We will create the best industry possible for our culture and our members. We will build the environment in which we can prosper equally. We will get the best deal achievable for all our performers. And we will do it by being unified.

In our own house we've had more than a taste now of what strength and impact a unified voice can have. We have watched the federal party leaders sit up and take notice of our efforts to put culture and the rights of cultural workers on their agendas. We have been to Parliament Hill to tell them, and we will keep on doing that until it works.

This is a tough business we have chosen in this beautiful country. It can be as harsh as an eastern January, but as full of promise and life as maple buds struggling to survive the frost. In a world where you can depend on so little, you can depend on this: ACTRA, with the strength of all of us will maintain and tighten its course to reach the best results we possibly can. The operative word is 'we'. We have a place to take as ours. Let's stick together and take it.

With strong wishes for a successful year, I remain committed to the job at hand.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Hardacre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

**Richard Hardacre**  
**ACTRA National President**