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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Celebrating Spirit and Determination



January 10, 2005 - Last month, I had the great honour of presenting an AC Excellence to one of our union's founding members, Mr. Lloyd Bochner. TI took place at an elegant function held at the Canadian Consul General's re Angeles. Mr. Bochner - who's been a performer for 70 years - gave a movi speech about his pioneering days as an actor in Canada. He reminisced a and a handful of colleagues took some 61 years ago when they collectivel performers' rights and were told, of course: "You'll never work in this town a conversation over dinner, Mr. Bochner expressed deep affection for the helped to found, and amazement at the powerful, impressive

union ACTRA is today. He offered to do whatever he could to help the cause.

In 2004, ACTRA scored a number of significant victories because our members were prepared to stand up and help. Some of our most articulate, hard-working commercial performers stepped forward to help negotiate our National Commercial Agreement and made considerable gains. Our drive to restore the Canadian Television Fund and our goal of putting culture on the agenda during the federal election in June were both achieved as a result of our collective effort. And our all-out battle to get Canadian dramatic series back on our television screens was joined by many of ACTRA's most successful performers for important meetings in Ottawa.



Left to Right: Thor Bishopric, Gordon Pinsent and Massi of the Standing Committee on Finance, MP Saint-Leona

Gordon Pinsent and I went to Parliament Hill in November to testify at the federal Finance Committee's pre-budget hearings. We took a place among a panel of speakers from the cultural community and the Committee was visibly i Gordon's eloquence and knowledge of our industry. Also in November, I had the honour of joi my fellow performers for a dinner meeting with Liza Frulla, the Minister of Canadian Heritage. landmark occasion - three hours of uninterrupted time with the minister, during which our mem with her on a personal level, sharing anecdotes about their professional lives and their passior Canadian stories in dramatic programming. I can say with confidence that it was a unique mee minister will not soon forget.

I am encouraged and humbled to see that the unrelenting spirit and determination that drove M our founding members continues today. I am always impressed by the sacrifices that member: make to serve their fellow performers; our union would be nothing without your efforts.

I send you all wishes for a wonderful holiday season, surrounded by family and friends creatively and professionally fulfilling 2005!



**Thor Bishopric
ACTRA President**