

### **Departure of a pioneer**

The National Executive of the APS was held in Montreal on the weekend of May 25<sup>th</sup>. All members were present: Michael Ho for the Western region, Donald Le Blanc for the Maritimes, the three nationally elected officers: Mario Poudrier, Emilio D’Orazio and Hervé Lamarre. Representing Montreal and Toronto were Stéphane Desautels, Yves Ledoux, Andy Libby and Gabriel O’Brien, as well as Luc Lajoie from Ottawa for whom it was his final APS meeting. Luc is one of those who have been affected by this latest round of cuts at CBC. He was the guest of honor at a heartfelt farewell dinner where the APS founder, Jean-Jacques Bérard, attended as a surprise guest. Jean-Jacques took this opportunity to donate to APS the minutes from the first ACMA meeting that was held in 1974. Topics on the agenda? Performance evaluations and salary reviews – the same topics we discussed earlier that afternoon. Luc was also surprised by a token of appreciation in the form of a letter from APS ex-president Réal Jean, read by Mario Poudrier. Along with Réal, Luc was a member of the first APS collective agreement negotiation committee and he now ends a longtime involvement with APS. We wish him a happy retirement.

### **The next negotiation**

In addition to salary increases and PMSD, the National Executive reviewed several issues of importance to our membership at its meeting in Montreal. With the launch of our redesigned website, APS will be exploring new ways to increase member involvement in its decisions. Notably among these will be the preparation that we are undertaking ahead of the next collective agreement. The survey section of the site will surely be put to use as part of this preparation. In fact, the Executive hopes to use the next milestone of the 2013 collective agreement negotiations to explore new ways of improving communication and thereby continue its tradition of transparency with the APS membership.

In this same spirit, Mario Poudrier announced to the group that the APS by-laws will be re-examined with an aim to modernize our practices. The results will be submitted to the whole APS membership once they’ve been endorsed by the Executive. Also, Gabriel O’Brien, from Toronto, was mandated to determine how we will execute the consultation process with regards to the next collective agreement. He will be reporting back to the Executive on how this will be accomplished.

### **Pension plan contributions**

Mario also updated the group on the latest developments around the employee pension fund contributions. Following the announcement by the employer to increase the payments made to fund by employees, the unions within CBC-SRC have come together to present a united front in their response to this intended change. These discussions are ongoing at present. The most recent exchanges took place in Ottawa on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Consultative Committee on Social Benefits (CCSB) meeting where participants were invited to a statutory meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Mario joined the other union presidents in Ottawa on June 4<sup>th</sup> to address this issue. Discussions are ongoing and we will provide an update once a course of action has been decided.