

Speech delivered by Dr. Valentin Naumescu
Consul General of Romania in Toronto
5th Edition of the AREC Dinner Gala
November 5, 2010

Honourable Tony Ruprecht,
Honourable Mircea Lubanovici,
Distinguished Presidents and Vice Presidents,
Dear friends,

It is for the third consecutive year when I have the opportunity to join the AREC Dinner Gala and to address such an outstanding audience. I am therefore deeply honoured and humble for having the privilege to represent the Consulate General of Romania in Toronto at this remarkable annual event.

During the last three years, the Association of Romanian Engineers in Canada became a highly prestigious organization, due to its numerous and consistent programs and events. But, most of all, what really generate the public profile of any association is the quality of its members and the dedication of its leadership. Once again I have the pleasure to affirm that AREC has plenty of both competitive and largely respected human resources as well as a dedicated and trust worthy President. I would really like to congratulate Mr. George Oprea for his steady and wonderful work he has done these years, inspiring you and the whole organization with competence, generosity and modesty. Thank you, George!

Ladies and gentlemen,

Constructing an identity for a local ethnic community in such a competitive and multicultural society is not just a matter of asserting its language, religion, history or fundamental cultural values. These are undoubtedly important assets but they are not enough anymore. Identity and profile in the contemporary world are more and more about professional skills and achievements, about Know-how and expertise, about education and qualifications. Branding or rebranding communities, nations or countries is about what their people are actually doing rather than what they would like to define themselves. This is in fact the tough lesson of a competitive and globalized economy. From science and technology to arts and culture, from universities to companies, and from business and management to sports, what really matter nowadays are the results, the performances, the global competitiveness and international recognition.

From this perspective, the AREC as well as the Association of Canadian – Romanian University Professors in Ontario and the League of Romanian Students Abroad, whose representatives are also proudly joining the Dinner Gala this evening, are good examples of what the Romanian contemporary identity should be, in Canada or anywhere else. A technical, highly educated and skilful nation is a nation with significant potential and encouraging perspectives for the world of “tomorrow”.

Your programs, your targets and aspirations, your day-to-day activities are the clear sign of a gifted Romanian community, well integrated in the largest city of Canada. I therefore express my profound gratitude for all of you, as well as for those colleagues and members of the three organizations who couldn't attend this event, for the whole work and dedication. I am proud of you, dear Romanian friends!

Coming to an end, I warmly congratulate the brand-new Romanian “professional engineers”, wishing all the participants a great evening and the best for you and your families. Thank you!