

Speech delivered by *Dr. Valentin Naumescu*
Consul General of Romania in Toronto

4th Edition of the AREC Dinner Gala

October 23rd, 2009

Toronto

Honorable Jim Karygianis,

Distinguished guests,

Mr. President,

Mr. Vice-president,

Dear friends,

It makes me a real pleasure and honor to join you at the 4th edition of the AREC Annual Dinner Gala. It is indeed a privilege for the Consul General of Romania to address a message at such a distinguished event within the Romanian community in Canada.

Even we do not have, of course, any competition between associations, cultural and professional organizations or other form of Romanian representation here in Ontario or elsewhere, it is for the second consecutive year when my appreciation goes honestly to the AREC as the most active, well structured and prestigious Romanian professional association in the *maple-leaf country*.

The success you have had in the last two years is obviously the success of the wise and hard working leaders you have as well as of the proud and first-class members of your organization. It is in fact the success of the human quality you' re incorporating here and as a diplomatic representative of my country I 'm proud to notice that you have been educated basically in Romanian schools and universities. I understand that from all

the perspectives of analysis, including new programs, new members, seminars, networking and communication, fund raising, recognition of the prestige of Romanian origin engineers in Canada and especially in the province of Ontario, the AREC have had a spectacular growth in 2009.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The role of the ethnic professional associations in Canada as well as everywhere else in the world is not limited to one of an information – provider for the new – comers in the field or a job opportunity seeker. They also have a significant cultural, symbolic and integrative mission. Let me explain in a few words what you are actually representing in my view. In a generous multicultural frame but in the same time extremely competitive societies such as Canada, organizations like the AREC are welcome to reaffirm, in a modern and pragmatic manner, the highest and most sophisticated identity, values, assumptions and skills a nation can proof nowadays. Among the assets of the modern culture, knowledge and skills are more and more valued and esteemed. I do not mean, of course, that the values and fundamentals of the classical culture are less important in contemporary society, but people around the world are facing tremendous challenges in their lives and jobs that are really pushing them to be more competitive and to develop continuously their own potential.

The image of a country, of a nation or community is always given by its expertise. I believe that top professional achievements, competitive specialists and solid expertise means good national reputation! That's why I would like to congratulate one again the Association of Romanian Engineers in Canada for being an excellent agent of Romanian modern culture and also a reliable partner of the Consulate General of Romania in Toronto in its endeavor to promote the interests and image of the local Romanian community.

I wish all of you a wonderful evening and all the best for the year to come! Thank you.