

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to address this assembly with this occasion, on the celebration of the National Day of Romania.

I know that each one of us did not forget for one second where our roots are. Even if we are thousands of kilometres away from our former **home**, the National Day of Romania is an exceptional occasion to celebrate together the country where we were born and grew up, and the mother language we speak. For all the good and the bad in our lives, **home** signifies a meaning that resonates love, faith and hope.

As one of the founders and current president of the Association of Romanian Engineers in Canada (AREC), I was invited to speak tonight representing our Association. In a few words I would like to tell you how this association started - and the roles it represents in the Romanian community, here in Canada.

In 2003, a small number of engineers began meeting on a monthly basis in order to create a network where engineers educated in Romania could be brought together. The purpose was: to help each other succeed in our careers, by understanding cultural differences, building a better name for ourselves and our community in Canada, where we were welcomed with open arms.

Today AREC has more than 350 paying members, growing daily!

AREC is a network of people; a platform for contacts between students, engineers, industry and society. The network gives support to students and engineers, opening borders and minds. Our goal is to make positive changes in our lives, and support each other in those changes.

Over the years I have met numerous Romanian engineers through AREC, a great "brain" treasure, with different professional backgrounds, working in different hierarchic levels, and with different interests.

I want to say that all of them have one thing in common: they are very fine people! **And I truly believe that Together We Are Stronger.**

AREC represents thousands of Romanian engineers in Canada, promotes their contributions to the success of Canadian economy, and establishes relationship with other technical and professional organizations.

AREC is committed to enhancing the reputation and standing of the engineers of Romanian origin in Canada.

Through these events we would like to show the world that we can work together in order to achieve common goals and promote our shared culture in a positive way, wherever we find ourselves.

La multi ani, romani din Canada si de pretutindeni!
Happy birthday Romania!

Thank you!

Daniel Cheoreanu
President AREC
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