Presidents Roundtable

March 8, 2017

Our very own Truus Souman has agreed to attend the PRT meetings by telephone and take minutes. I will not attempt to duplicate her task here as she does a superior job. What follows are my thoughts and questions for the Board arising out of this meeting.

The primary topic of discussion was led by Wendy Hassen regarding the progress of the MOU Task Force. They would appreciate feedback from the affiliates.

What is the position of ADRIA regarding corporate memberships and the desirability of standardizing corporate memberships across the country?

Does Alberta support an effort to standardize full membership and other categories of membership across Canada?

There are a variety of categories of membership across the country. Even within the full membership category, there is a lack of consensus on the criteria for membership.

The biggest issue is the following. Some affiliates take the view that membership should be indicative of a certain level of training and status. Accordingly, full membership is restricted to those who have attained that level of training or expertise. Other affiliates take the view that membership is wide open to anyone who practices in the ADR field and also to anyone else who is interested in becoming a full member. In my view, designations are there for the purpose of letting the public know whether someone has certain training and experience. Feedback to the MOU on this issue would be appreciated by them.

The mechanics of national versus affiliate membership is also a major issue. At a national level, individuals cannot directly join and become a member of ADRIC. They can only become a member by becoming a member of one of the affiliates. This automatically entitles them to the benefits and services of ADRIC. The question is whether that person is in fact a voting member of ADRIC or whether the only voting members of ADRIC should be the corporate members and the affiliates. Currently, there is confusion as each individual is a member of both organizations, however, they can only achieve this by becoming a member of a regional affiliate.

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