

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The 1995 elections of the Council of the Institute aroused unprecedented interest amongst the membership. The election of seven new Councillors out of a body of 12 tended to support the impression gained by me from my discussions with many members, that there was a general desire amongst the membership for significant changes in the policies and practices of the Institute.

Some of the changes for which the members were looking were in fact already on the way. For example, the comprehensive review of our educational policies had been initiated under the previous Council. However, there was a wide spread perception that nothing was happening, as a result of the failure of communications and a lack of information getting to the grass roots membership.

It is my sincere hope that members who voted for change at the last election can now perceive new and beneficial policies are in fact being implemented and that our lines of communication are more open than ever before. It is not enough for things to be happening, they must be seen to be happening.

The new Council is imbued with a very progressive and active spirit and is prepared to contemplate quite radical changes to long standing practices. This active spirit is evident not only at Council level, but also amongst the various Chapters I have been visiting.

These are difficult times and there are many people outside the Institute who are not well disposed towards the methods of alternative dispute resolution which we espouse, but with renewed determination and enterprise, the Institute can advance and prevail.

LE James
President