

## Reflections From the Formation Chair



Fifteen years on, the AFP Greater Toronto Chapter is one of the most successful across our entire international professional association. As Formation Chair of the Chapter, this knowledge provides to me, a very special sense of personal and professional satisfaction. Surely this top ranking must also engender a real sense of pride of accomplishment amongst the current leadership and the membership alike. And so it should.

I remember a time before the National Society of Fund Raising Executives was established in Toronto. In the late '70s NSFRE agreed to charter a partner in Canada, the Canadian Society of Fund Raising Executives. I remember sitting on one of the early boards with a number of great Canadian fundraising pioneers such as Gordon Goldie, Anne Moore and Gord Durnan. These were the beginnings of the wonderful organization we have today.

The history of NSFRE/AFP in Toronto was bumpy in parts. In the 1980s, it became clear that running a parallel organization in Canada was not serving the members well and the decision was made to re-establish as fully accredited international chapters. I was asked to lead the formation of a new and vibrant chapter and in 1994, the inaugural meeting of the new AFP Greater Toronto Chapter was held with my good friend Bill Hallett in the Chair.

I remember clearly the first meeting at the old Inn on the Park Hotel. There was no group of fundraising executives anywhere in Canada more influential and experienced. It was magic! I remember the excitement in developing with them a vision of a new organization that would be attractive, responsive and relevant. We were determined to look, feel and be different.

I remember the serendipity of the Canadian Centre of Philanthropy discontinuing its national professional development conference and the brave decision of formation group to pick it up. Our Annual Fundraising Congress is the best of its kind anywhere. I remember the enthusiasm with which the concept of a Philanthropy Awards Program was taken up and the great support provided by the Hon. Hal Jackman. Today our program is the biggest and the best nation-wide. It was a privilege to serve as the first Awards Committee Chair.

Our profession and our association have experienced tremendous growth since the 1970s. Today, there is a wonderful array of chapter programs and services, the opinions of our leaders are regularly sought on issues surrounding fundraising and philanthropy, and the AFP Foundation for Philanthropy – Canada supports many research and program development activities. We have come a long way!

To have had the friendship and support of so many great Canadian fundraising professionals and the opportunity to contribute to the development of our profession and our association in the formation of the AFP's Greater Toronto Chapter is one of the great highlights in a long career, and an honour that I shall forever treasure.

**Daniel W. King**

*Founding Formation Chair 1994  
AFP Greater Toronto Chapter*