

Dear Friends of Kendo, Iaido and Jodo;

Chers membres de notre fédération de Kendo et des Arts associés ;

You are kindly invited to be part of this democratic exercise, the second electronic AGM moderated by Mr. Neil Gendzwill, Vice President.

Vous êtes invités à vous joindre à ce bel exercice de démocratie active qu'est la seconde réunion annuelle générale, modérée par M. Neil Gendzwill, Vice Président.

Veillez prendre quelques minutes pour nous faire connaître votre opinion qui touche à votre organisation, à votre vision de nos arts martiaux, de leur développement et des meilleurs outils à mettre à la disposition de nos membres pour faciliter les apprentissages, de l'élève débutant jusqu'aux experts de plus haut niveau.

Please take a few minutes to let us know of your input about our federation, your vision of martial arts, their development and the education of our members, from beginners to teachers.

We, CKF elected Board members, are little monks of a small temple. We all volunteered our time to serve on the board because we value every single member of the federation. In reciprocity, we are expecting to receive some opinions and advice from our three communities of Iaido, Kendo and Jodo, in order to establish our priorities and to clarify a doable "mission statement" of our Federation.

Since June 2014, much was done to modernize the CKF governance. The Grading Certificate Committee was finally settled. More than 5000 paper certificates were digitally archived. The CKF also has managed to get the complete copyright properties of our digital sources and system. These important changes will bring unique opportunities to improve communication and to clarify a national agenda for educational projects, under our three ethical mottos of action established in June 2014 (communication, governance transparency and education for all members).

The first mission of the CKF is to reinforce the credibility of our grading system, nationally and internationally. The Canadian Kendo Federation, as a respected affiliated country adheres strictly to the rules and regulations of the International Kendo Federation (FIK).

Some of our experts and teachers from our Kendo, Iaido and Jodo communities have been courteously invited in 2014 and 2015 in some South American countries and in some cities of the United States. They have been sitting on national grading panels or teaching in seminars. CKF is planning an active exchange agenda that can benefit all of our members.

Our immediate international objective is to strengthen links with these countries but also with European and Asian Federations in a near future.

More locally, the Iaido and Jodo leaders were very active. They have organized many seminars from the West coast to the East Coast. The first Canadian National Iaido championship was a success. For the first time too, our leaders have organized an impressive Iaido Grading event in the East that should become an annual winter tradition (the Montreal Iaido seminar and grading). The Guelph Iaido and Jodo seminar since 25 years was as usual a great national and international event with invited experts from Japan from US and Canada. The negotiations to establish the US and Canada Iaido grading partnership are still a CKF Agenda item priority and certainly an official agreement is imminent.

Certainly our Team Canada kendo activities play a great supporting role in martial art promotion. In the World Kendo Championships in Tokyo this May, our teams gave to all of us and in front of the world a demonstration of team discipline, personal elegance and kendo perfection as one of the best kendo team in the world.

We have also to realize that a large group of our active members are attracted to Budo values inherent in the Japanese culture and not so much by tournaments. Unfortunately, CKF never had any project of formation for this dedicated group of "Japanophiles". We are also expecting some propositions about that situation.

L'acquisition de compétences martiales ne s'arrête pas avec l'obtention d'un grade ou avec un succès éphémère en compétition. Apprendre, se perfectionner, enseigner est l'oeuvre d'une vie.

Le Kendo du Japon, de la Corée et de des autres pays évoluent rapidement.

L'internationalisation fait bouger des règles autrefois immuables. Le Canada a certainement un rôle de premier plan à jouer dans cette évolution.

En conclusion, nous ne pouvons négliger ces idéaux de vie martiale, inspirés des valeurs morales du budo qui animent nos pratiques du Jodo, Iaido and kendo. Elle doit être la préoccupation de tous et doit transparaître dans la gestion du CKF et dans nos relations avec les autres fédérations.

With your active cooperation with our AGM, I truly believe that we can make the CKF a world-class organization promoting and enjoying the "Canadianity" of your martial arts.

Sincerely,

Avec mes sincères salutations,

Christian D'Orangeville
CKF President/ président de la Fédération