



CRKN New Year's Message – January 2010

Hello, I'm Deb deBruijn, Executive Director of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network.

Welcome to 2010!

This is a milestone year for CRKN, marking our 10th anniversary and the start of a second decade of service to Canada's university research community.

Thinking back to 2000 and CRKN's beginnings with the Canadian National Site Licensing Project, we began with the essentials:

- an emphasis on the provision of digital content and services as a fundamental component of state-of-the-art research infrastructure in Canada;
- a national commitment to collaboration, and to the building of "serious interdependence" among our members and other parts of the research community;
- attention to good governance, sound management, and the application of best practices to all our endeavours.

In 2010, these same essentials are at the core of CRKN, and continue to animate our planning and assessment.

But times have changed.

What were leading edge services in 2000 are now everyday expectations of students' and researchers' in 2010.

The political climate has changed, with organizational accountability more important than ever.

And the financial challenges facing our universities, now and for several years to come, are unprecedented.

So what is CRKN's strategy going forward?

First of all, we look to our community of members to drive CRKN's priorities and focus our activities.

We have recently completed a major Communications Outreach with you, to build better lines of communication, identify issues of greatest importance, and inform our strategic planning process.

A draft strategic plan for 2010 – 2012 is in development, and will benefit from further consultation with members before going to our Board for approval later this quarter.

Secondly, we will implement a strategic communications plan. This will draw on the work of a member task group that is addressing how best to measure progress and communicate CRKN's value, influence and impact for its members and stakeholders.

And finally, we will be on the forefront of forging partnerships and exploiting opportunities with other organizations, so we can not only survive in constrained times, but thrive.

In the immediate term, we will be working closely with the Canadian University Council of Chief Information Officers (CUCCIO), to help develop and implement the Canadian Access Federation.

We will also be preparing actively for another funding opportunity with the Canada Foundation for Innovation, expected to take place in late 2010 or early 2011.

This opportunity will again demonstrate the centrality of libraries in our knowledge economy, and the need for large-scale collaboration among diverse partners in order to develop Canada's cyberinfrastructure.

It's going to be a challenging year. Thank you for being part of it, and best wishes for health and happiness along the way.