

Dear friends of Canadian Kendo, Iaido and Jodo,

On the 27th of June 2014, I was elected President of the CKF, succeeding to Mr. Hirokazu Okusa who had oriented our organization into a democratic structure. I would like to thank him for his hard work over the years.

We are currently in a transition period. We must tidy up the CKF house, archive our papers, rebuild the committees, classify our priorities, and consolidate our regulations that let us function efficiently as a non lucrative organization.

The newly elected CKF team possesses the skills to carry on the work of the previous one, and the creativity to plan new projects and directions: education and communication, both working hand in hand.

## **Education**

Kendo, Iaido and Jodo are not only sportive martial activity. They are grounded on rich cultural traditions that complete regular practices and a continuous learning path all lifelong.

The written exam, implemented three years ago, was a modest step in that direction, but we must go further.

### *Education of our juniors*

We must create youth development programs to prepare our collective future. We must support children, youth and adults exposure and initiation to Kendo, Iaido and Jodo in our schools, dojos and universities. We will encourage the participation of our youth to tournaments abroad, in Japan, in the USA or perhaps elsewhere. The Canadian Junior National Championship could be held more often than the Canadian Kendo National Championship, offering more opportunities to our children.

### *Education of the professors*

Continuous education is mandatory in Kendo as it is in many professions. Kendo in Japan is constantly evolving, and its internationalization has created numerous changes over the years. The acquisition of martial competence does not end with the obtention of a grade. To learn and to perfect is a lifelong project.

In the long term, we will have to think of certification programs for instructors, grading judges and tournament shinpan, like it is done in many sport associations. We will have to begin from scratch and ponder the possible plans.

## **Communication**

To support our education programs, we will need tools to not isolate ourselves from each others. What happens in Vancouver stimulates practices in Toronto, Montreal, Saskatoon, Calgary and Halifax. The opposite is also true. Fortunately, we have various online platforms to exchange between members as well as between the directors, including myself, and the members.

The Development Fund budget, to be used for educational purposes and to help communication between us, will be re-evaluated and reorganized in order to meet the needs of our short term and long term programs.

But the regular practice in our dojos, under the supervision of a sensei, remains the *raison d'être* of our federation. Our strength is rooted in our Japanese heritage, enriched by our various cultural and martial perspectives, the quality of our sensei's' teachings and the passion within each one of us. These are what bond us and is the beating heart of the CKF. The most efficient administrative organization cannot exist without this immutable reality.

As your new President, I will remain, before anything, an ordinary practitioner, united with all men and women of Canadian dojos through our common passion. This is the very core of our federation.

And it is not written in our by-laws.

Sincerely yours,

Christian D'Orangeville  
CKF President