



International Baccalaureate Organization
Organisation du Baccalaureat International
Organizacion del Bachillerato Internacional

December 2004

Dear Colleagues,

Standing Tall at Thirty Years

The year is 1975.

Pierre Elliot Trudeau is Prime Minister of Canada and Gerald Ford is President of the United States. North Vietnam takes Saigon, ending the Vietnam War. The beaver becomes an official national emblem of Canada. Generalissimo Franco of Spain dies. Queen Elizabeth II knights Charlie Chaplin. English football star David Beckham and US golf star Tiger Woods are born. Both Larry and Moe of *The Three Stooges* die. Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov wins the Nobel Prize for Peace. The Captain and Tennille release *Love Will Keep Us Together*, and the Bee Gees and John Denver are at the height of their careers. Robertson Davies publishes *World of Wonders*. Environment Canada switches to degrees Celsius, and Ontario schools begin to teach using the metric system exclusively. *Saturday Night Live* premieres from New York City. Wayne Gretzky, at age 14, is still two years away from his first season of junior hockey. The IBO began charging its handful of schools an annual subscription fee of 2,000 Swiss francs. This year, 1975, marked the end of IBO's "six year experiment" to see if the IB programme would be viable.

Throughout 1974 and 1975, a steering committee of North American IB supporters had been meeting in New York City to plan how best to ensure the widespread growth and acceptance of IB throughout the US and Canada. The decision was made to incorporate the operation as a not-for-profit organization, and in March 1975, IBNA, Inc. was born.

The first Board of Directors was named, with Desmond Cole as its president. Other members included Harlan Hansen, from the College Entrance Examination Board; Dorothy Goodman, head of the Washington International School; Blouke Carus, head of Carus Corporation (and currently a fundraiser for IBO); John Bruce, head of the United Nations International School; and Alec Peterson, the IBO director general. Charles Rose was appointed as the IBNA executive secretary (regional director).

From these tentative beginnings, IBO has grown into the world's leading provider of international education. The vision and tenacity of these IB pioneers helped to establish a secure and dynamic home for IB in North America and the Caribbean.

In 2005, we mark the 30th anniversary of IBNA's founding. At our annual regional conference, 7-10 July in Montreal, we plan to organize a special celebration. We will invite many of the IBNA pioneers and organizational leaders to join us and share their stories. It will be a special time for our IB family to come together.

From all of us at IBNA New York and Vancouver, we wish you and your school community a holiday season full of renewal. We look forward to serving you in 2005.

Warmly,

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