



Annual Report - Conference Committee

May 2008

The Conference Committee continues to be very active during the past year. We met in Nanaimo this Spring to finalize this year's conference and to plan for 2009 and beyond. The Vancouver Island Convention Centre is an amazing venue and will more than suit our meeting needs for the week of conference in 2009. The Fire Service Expo will be offsite at the Nanaimo Ice Centre facility just a short drive away.

The early registration package continues to be a huge success and has greatly helped in planning the conference again this year. It has also assisted in assuring Ann gets the help she needs to have everything ready in the short period leading up to conference.

Gord Schreiner has designed our Education Program with great variety and applicable to a wide audience and this year is no exception to the fine quality of education we have some to expect. The outstanding program speaks for itself. We hope that the delegates will see the value in having more than one person attending.

The fantastic response from the Trades saw the show sold out in April with a waiting list established shortly thereafter.

The Partners program has been changed somewhat this year to try and keep the partners together more, but still provide the two tiered programming.

Rather than putting all the information that we distributed on a CD as we did last year, we decided to put it on a travel drive. Please be sure to look at the information provided, a lot of time and effort has been expended to make this a useful tool for you.

Future locations for Conference will be Nanaimo for 2009 and Penticton for 2010 for sure. We are waiting to evaluate the effectiveness of the offsite Fire Service Expo this year before we commit to any particular location in the Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley in 2011 before returning to Nanaimo in 2012. It is our long term plan to find a schedule of rotation between these three geographical areas that works for the majority of the delegates.

The Committee discussed the issue of succession planning and the following has been recommended to the Board:

Gord Schreiner has agreed to stay on as the Education Chair for 2 more years. Norma Claus will remain as Partner Chair until 2010 with Tammy Raynor co-chairing in the interim and taking over in 2010.

The Trades Director is decided by election.

The Contractor position is decided by the Board, although Ann has indicated that she would like to carry on for the next three years.

After 8 years as Conference Chair I feel it is time to hand the Chair over to Tom DeSorcy. This will be the last conference that I will Chair. I will continue to serve on the committee as Tom's deputy for 2 years or until he has had enough of me.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire committee for all their hard work and dedication. Special thanks to Tom DeSorcy for being our Co-Chair and agreeing to continue the tradition of excellence into the future as our new Chair, and to our Administrator, Ann Hancock and her sister Pat Cooke for their tireless work. Thank you all for the time and effort you bring to make this the success it truly has become.

At your service,
Respectfully submitted,

Ric Raynor

Committee Chair Ric Raynor

Co-Chair Tom DeSorcy

Education Chair Gord Schreiner

Trades Director Dave Mitchell & Deputy Marcel Syens

Partners Chair Norma Claus & Co-Chair Tammy Raynor

Administrator and Conference Contractor Ann Hancock and Pat Cook