



FMI – Victoria Update

The Victoria chapter has had another successful year. In uncertain times we delivered professional development, enjoyed social engagement and moved forward with partnerships and scholarship actions. We did struggle with a loss of leadership midway through the year but that challenge became opportunity as our volunteers continued their commitment to FMI and its success.

Membership

Victoria Chapter membership continues to show strength with 132 members. The diversity of the membership continues to expand into the federal, municipal and private sector workforces. Although satisfied with overall numbers, our challenges moving into 2010 include ensuring that our student members continue to find value in membership. To this end we have introduced a scholarship program and will continue to hold social events such as pub nights. Our surveys suggested that our membership valued networking opportunities. With zero PD credits for our designated accountants, attendance still provided great conversation as a counter balance to a world that continues to demand an immediate output and screams for a measurement.

We also, after piloting an automated registration system for our chapter, returned to a manual process based on cost and effectiveness. FMI National then took up the challenge and ran head on into virtually the same issues. A year later, we are back to square one.

Professional Development Events

When we delivered our luncheons and a ½-day session last season and the participation rates were good. This also held true for our 3-day workshop with the CGA's and CMA's. Luncheon topics for the year covered a wide range of topics and interests. Highlights included the provincial Budget 2009 with the Minister of Finance and our annual update from the Comptroller General, Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland whom we are proud to have on our chapter board. Overall our hours of professional development delivered were on track with our strategic plans. We had planned one May event that would have put delivery hours much above our goals but the timing and fiscal restraint measures ultimately led us to abandon the quest.

Victoria Chapter will continue to look for the best value for your PD dollar. Venues are passing their increased costs on to us and we are doing our

best to keep the cost as low as possible for our members. Our policy of using a breakeven approach to luncheons still put the price for a luncheon at around \$30. We will continue to look at ways to balance cost, value to membership while providing a decent meal. We even had suggestions to do brown-bagger lunches in Beacon Hill Park. This is food for thought in the future and would surely be supported by local Tupperware suppliers. We congratulate and thank all our speakers that this year, many of whom donated the value of their speaker's gifts to charities of their choice.

Partnerships Committee Summary for 2007/08

Our partnership with the UVic School of Public Administration completed its first year. This partnership recognizes the importance of the Masters of Public Administration program and associated certificate programs for our membership of the future as well as for members chipping away at their formal education. Our new membership category, Student Member, drew encouraging numbers and introduced future government employees to our organization from this partnership.

The UVic model was used to expand our strategic partnerships to another great contributor to the public sector – Camosun College's School of Business. Their certificate, diploma and degree programs have been ensuring the Victoria workforce is always on the cutting edge. These collaborative ventures with UVic and Camosun certainly aid in the board's quest to broaden its capacity, awareness, and potential membership base of the Victoria Chapter of FMI. Now we need to ensure that our partners continue to find benefit and to introduce their students to professional development that can compliment formal coursing.

The Chapter continued its relationship with the APA (Alliance of Professional Associations). The APA continues to host an electronic events calendar that allows community members to see what training is being offered in the Victoria area.

FMI Journal

The chapter submitted two articles for the FMI Journal and our annual chapter update. Our board member, Lynda Gagne added Basic Economics and Governance Issues for Privatization and Contracting Out. The theme of this piece continues to add to professional discussion and controversy throughout the business world. Shyrl Kennedy provided insight into compliance controls and monitoring in her British Columbia Office of the Comptroller General Internationally Recognized as a Leader in Corporate Compliance. It is always satisfying when members can both contribute to FMI Journal thus contributing to professional development at the national level.

Future Endeavours

What does 2009/10 hold for Victoria Chapter Members?

- This year we continue focusing on innovation – both in what we do and how we do it.
- Our exciting line up of events for the year can be found at <http://www.fmi.ca/pages/victoria/Events.shtml>
- We plan to continue trying longer PD sessions to maximize learning to food and venue cost ratio.
- We plan to more actively promote FMI and the benefits of membership
- We plan to utilize our partnerships with the University of Victoria and Camosun to promote networking, idea sharing and expand our speaker circle.
- We will present a scholarship to a worthy student. This \$1,000 award will be given annually as we share our future with our partners. The recipient will be assessed on a financial focus, past achievement, commitment to the public sector, and character such as volunteer activities.

Thanks to everyone that attended our events. Further acknowledgment must go to those supporting FMI Victoria through sponsorship and volunteering on the chapter board. We could not have done it without you.

Paul Cumberland, CMA
FMI Victoria Chapter
President