

Pulse



Conference Reports

Below is a briefing on the conferences I have attended in the last few months.

Anne Phillips

Managing Public-Private Partnerships, The Canadian Institute, February 2008

A SERIES OF CASE studies were presented from municipal, provincial and federal governments. Guy Smith, Alberta Treasury Board, spoke on building a business in support of building of 18 P3 schools in the Edmonton and Calgary areas. Jack Kler, Penticton, showed why the P3 approach is not being used for their South Okanagan Events Centre. Other sessions took on negotiations with the private partner; assessing a government's internal capacity to



South Okanagan Events Centre, Penticton, BC

contract, manage and live with a P3; determining value for money; benchmarking; financing; and due diligence. ♪

Ontario General Contractors Association Symposium, April 2008

THE CONSTRUCTION industry plays a major role as a supplier to government. OGCA members heard about recent developments in bidding and tendering; the additional risks they will face in design/build contracts (and P3s); and learned about the CCDC 14 Design-Build Stipulated Price Contract being proposed for use with government owners. Members were encouraged to participate in the Gold Seal certification program; owners are encouraged to request Gold Seal certified professionals when contracting. ♪

Matériel Management National Workshop, May 2008

THE ANNUAL FEDERAL Matériel Management Institute conference highlighted new, streamlined policies



Robert Myers, Colleen Post, Micheline Brunet MMNW 2008

affecting federal procurement, which, according to keynote speaker Wayne Wouters (Secretary, TBS), is over \$70 billion in the last 5 years. Recognizing procurement's impact on government service and operations, Mary Chaput, Associate Secretary, TBS, said, "...that without this important area, services to Canadians come to a standstill." Staff were recognized as a key pillar in procurement. The new federal professional development program for the procurement and materiel management groups celebrated its first graduate, Leslie Stewart (see page 2). Colleen Post and Micheline Brunet were honoured as champions of the program over 10 years in the making. ♪

Purchasing Management Association of Canada, May 2008

DR. J.P. PAWLIW-FRY opened the conference, introducing private and public sector purchasing professionals to emotional intelligence and how it affects contract negotiations and management.

Keynote speaker, Sister Elizabeth Davis, enthralled the audience with her humour and experience delivering precise, frank commentary on the impacts of our economy and society on procurement and purchasing professionals. Closing with an Irish prayer, she was honoured with a standing ovation. A hard act to follow! But, TA Loeffler, a professor at Memorial University guided us on a climb of Mount Everest using her supply chain to illustrate the difficulties and ingenious solutions found to overcome them.

Sophisticated or primitive, obviously supply chain management is an integral part of program success.

Sample sessions: Presenter Cal Harrison followed his statement that, "RFPs are rarely functional when used to obtain professional services," with his solution – one designed to save both the buyer and seller considerable time and money. Wal-Mart presented its green program, discussing its revolutionary impact on



Shannon MacDonald, TalentMap Inc. at the PMAC Convention, St. John's, NF

its suppliers. As well, Shannon MacDonald (Talentmap Inc.) and myself (*Summit* magazine) presented more analysis of our joint national survey of public procurement professionals (*Summit*, June 2007). The looming crisis in staffing procurement positions encouraged the audience to actively participate. ♪

OCRI Government Opportunities, May 2008

KEN COCHRANE, chief information officer, TBS provided insights into the Management Accountability Framework that sets out the Government of Canada's expectations of its senior public service managers. He says, "Better management = better use of dollars, better service and a modern government," and the MAF is proving useful when defining expectations and benchmarking performance. Cochrane spoke about IM/IT, asset management, project management, security and business continuity. The MAF focuses senior management on not only their department operations, but on how it fits into the overall whole of government. ♪

GeoTec, June 2008

GEOGRAPHIC information systems technology is an enabler for making informed decisions – city planning, emergency response, labour mobility, water supply and source water protection, simulation of future events such as floods, fires, epidemics, etc.; and for mapping forest inventories and locating that new wind farm. And how about info to support the policy decisions such as development of the Canadian North?

3D imaging will soon be commonplace and assist decision makers and others to see things in a visual yet virtual way, allowing more informed input into decisions elected officials will make.

Governments not only use the technology, but set the standards and policy guidelines for the capture, storage, access and use of the information, and often its distribution as well. It appears that the GIS industry and government could work more closely to develop that regulatory environment and discuss challenges so that the industry can provide the right solutions for government needs. ♪



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