

Canadian Public Procurement Council Forum 2009

by Summit staff

Photo: Anne Phillips


EARLY IN NOVEMBER, MEMBERS OF the Canadian Public Procurement Council met in Victoria for their annual forum. The pre-forum workshops drew a select number of delegates and the concurrent sessions and plenary sessions held over the next three days were met with enthusiasm. Delegates peppered many presenters with questions and during the lively breakout sessions, shared their own experiences, challenges and solutions with each other. One such session was on the challenges of rolling out the federal infrastructure funds as quickly as was being demanded. Changes in signing authority, process and staffing were all required in varying degrees and everyone had different ideas and solutions. Relationships between governments at all levels needed tuning up so that everyone could take advantage of the economic stimulus.

At a special early morning event, the winners of the Leadership in Public Procurement Award and Leadership in Green Procurement were presented their awards by Summit magazine and the leadership award sponsor, BMO Financial Group. The winning submissions were described in greater detail at one of the morning sessions where delegates queried

the presenters on aspects of their submissions. BMO also had an opportunity to inform delegates of advances in their card services for the public sector.

As always, networking among the delegates is one of the strengths of the forum. One delegate told me that she had a challenge before her and did not know where to begin, but she met a delegate that had already been down that road and, not only would he share his documentation, he would personally help her work out her approach... now that is value for money from a conference! Some of the forum presentations are available at <http://cppcforumccmp.ca/program.php>.

Victoria's mild weather and the location of the conference centre location in the heart of downtown did much to allow delegates to interact socially as well. The banquet evening in the Crystal Garden was a great success with Sutcliffe, a Beatles tribute band, encouraging several delegates to linger over coffee and to dance.

Delegates are now anticipating next year's conference, which will be held in Ottawa in early October. Plans are already underway for a full and captivating program that will capitalize on the venue being our nation's capital. Stay tuned. 

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