

Mastering the supply chain

Launch of new national accreditation program raises the bar for supply chain management in Canada

A NEW STRATEGY-FOCUSED accreditation program that will develop Canada's next generation of supply chain leaders launches across the country this month, meeting demand for highly skilled professionals who can operate in a global marketplace. Candidates who complete the 36-month program earn the respected certified professional purchaser (C.P.P.) designation.

"There is no other executive development program like this being offered in North America," said Robert Dye, president of the Purchasing Management Association of Canada (PMAC). "It's like earning a master's level degree in supply chain management. Our program sets the gold standard for professionalism in the field."

Called Strategic Supply Chain Management Leadership, the competency-based program is delivered in partnership with universities and colleges coast to coast, and is

instructed by top academics and senior practitioners. The program shifts the emphasis from purchasing to comprehensive, strategic supply chain management.

"With an increasingly competitive business environment, the supply chain has become more complex and strategic," said University of Alberta School of Business's Dr. Edy Wong, who led the accreditation renewal. "From our research it was clear that employers are looking to C.P.P.s as innovative, strategic leaders with a 360-degree view of business. The new accreditation program will build this unique competence."

Balanced to provide advanced supply chain management knowledge and high-level business skills, the program stresses integrative thinking, strategic analysis and communication throughout. The requirements of the program are:

- **eight modules** that cover the foundational knowledge of strategic supply chain management;
- **six interactive workshops** that deliver high-level management and general business skills;
- **an in-residence week** that consists of an intensive one-week live-in session where candidates integrate the knowledge learned throughout the accreditation program;
- **a final written examination** that tests the candidate's ability to apply knowledge gained in the program, and also skills acquired through practical experience; and
- **three years of practical experience** in any aspect of the field from procurement to operations to logistics that is full-time and demonstrates progression from an operational to a managerial level of responsibility.

According to the Canadian Supply Chain Sector Council, the supply chain sector has approximately 150,000 positions at the professional and managerial level. The sector is

growing at an estimated 10 per cent per year, requiring knowledge workers with both business and technological skills.

The new accreditation program is expected to be popular with both private and public sector supply chain professionals. One module, Supply Chain Management for the Public Sector, is dedicated to exploring the unique characteristics of procurement in the public sector. The module examines a variety of public sector settings, including Public Works and Government Services Canada, military procurement and logistics, Crown corporations, and provincial and municipal governments. Candidates will learn how purchasing consortias work, as well as how to undertake a competitive bidding process. Ethical issues in public sector procurement are also discussed. *MM*

PMAC is the leading professional association in Canada for supply chain management professionals. The association has more than 40,000 members and program participants working in all sectors of the Canadian economy. It is the principal source of professional development for supply chain management professionals in Canada. For more information, visit www.pmac.ca.

