

MEET **Leslie Stewart**

First procurement professional to be federally certified

BASED IN OTTAWA, Procurement Specialist Leslie Stewart works for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in the National Monitoring and Control section of the Asset and Procurement Branch, Corporate Management and Comptrollership.

He is the first to graduate as a Certified Federal Specialist in Procurement (CFSP) – Level I under the new certification program for the federal government procurement and materiel management community, a component of the government-wide Professional Development and Certification Program (PDCP) managed by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat. (www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/certpers/index-e.html). He received his certificate at the 2008 Materiel Management National Workshop.

Leslie was part of the pilot stage of the PDCP, taking the pilot exam in June 2005. He had developed (mostly through his own efforts and some mentoring) a learning plan that identified the courses he needed offered by the Canada School of Public Service, PWGSC and online. He persevered through waiting lists and, as he neared completion in late December 2007, he began to work with Fleurette Larente at the Canadian General Standards Board (the certifying authority) to ensure he had submitted all the paper work to become certified. His final classroom course was on January 29, 2008. He was certified officially on February 29, 2008.

Some of Leslie's current responsibilities include:

- contract quality assurance (pre-solicitation and post-award reviews);
- responding to ATIP (access to information) requests;
- responding to parliamentary questions;
- pro-active disclosure of RCMP contracts valued over \$10K;
- employee training: he provides internal clients with an overview of procurement in the RCMP so they understand the rules, policies and procedures of procurement in the public sector;
- being involved in the national post secondary recruitment campaign: this campaign will compile a list of fully assessed candidates that any department can draw from to staff entry level (PG01) personnel;
- regular attendance at the Continuous Learning Working Group meetings at Treasury Board where he is in touch with his colleagues about learning strategies and ongoing training updates such as: the Procurement, Materiel Management and Real Property (PMMRP) Community Management Office (CMO) – Colleen Post and her team; Required Training – TBS; new course development – Canada School of Public Service (CSPS); updates from the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) – Martin Desnoyers and team; and, Post Secondary

- Recruitment Campaign and Collective Staffing – Micheline Brunette and her team;
- ad-hoc reports when requested;
- providing advice and guidance to procurement and contracting officers; and,
- playing a leading role for the Procurement Process Improvement Project (PIIP), an internal RCMP initiative that is to:
 - improve the interaction between our financial and material management system and the procurement process;
 - facilitate accurate and timely procurement reporting; and
 - improve the nature and quality of information for budget forecasting from the procurement process.

Before taking his position at the RCMP in March 2005, Leslie worked in the private sector for many years in a client service oriented job. Then in the winter of 1998, a friend of his told him about an opening in an entry-level position at his workplace (Canadian



Leslie Stewart receiving his certificates at the 2008 Materiel Management National Workshop. With him is Daphne Meredith, Associate Deputy Minister, PWGSC and Wayne Wouters, Secretary, TBS.

Food Inspection Agency). Leslie applied and says that “through luck and a great personal reference, I was hired on as a term employee in January 1999, where I was able to learn through on the job training. I was extended and eventually, through applying for competitions, I was successful in obtaining an indeterminate position. I like to think it was luck and timing that got me in, but proving myself is what kept me in.” With that attitude, Leslie has succeeded in a variety of procurement and contracting work.

Leslie was born and raised in Ottawa and was the youngest of three boys. Commenting on his family life, Leslie likes to say that it is his parents, who will be married for 44 years in September 2008, who instilled in him over the years “the morals and values” that make him the type of public servant and person he is today. Leslie is single and does not have children . . . yet. He says he “would love to have some in the future. I have two adorable God children (Justin 5 and Jeremy 2) that I love to spoil.”

Leslie enjoys reading, camping, traveling, and obviously, family and friend time.

When it comes to future challenges, Leslie would like to maintain his Level I certification and obtain Level II certification, as he continues to grow, learn and advance in his career as a member of the federal government's PG (purchasing group) community. *mw*