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**Annual Report 2012-2013**

Dear CIPS Provincial Societies,

In early 2012, CIPS members from across the country came together to create a plan for a renewed and enriched CIPS. Through February to June of 2012 the transformation plan was fleshed out with the help of the coalition, the Strategic Planning Committee and Michael Schiel of Western Management Consultants. The Strategic Planning Committee and Executive Council believed that the highest priority was the immediate need to raise funds. CIPS was not in a financial position to implement the strategic plan to the extent that was desired and as a result, the Executive Council recommended the following:

1) a capital campaign be initiated,

2) priority be placed on raising funds, through the Corporate Partnership Program,

3) all activities requiring Society resources over the next 3-6 months be focused on revenue generation, that included continuing with many of the projects already underway such as exploring a role for CIPS with respect to foreign credential recognition and the discussions with ACS for the use of their CPeP program.

4) alternate sources of funding through grants, subsidies and government programs be explored.

Through the end of 2012 this was the focus and the CIPS staff worked tirelessly to plan and prepare, not one, but six proposals. Two were recently submitted to the Human Resources and Skills Development, Canada (HRSDC) under the **Sectoral Initiatives Program (SIP). One was submitted to** the Status of Women Canada. In the summer of 2012 the National office provided assistance to CIPS Alberta in preparing two proposals and in the fall the National office submitted a proposal to the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada for foreign credential recognition. While the latter three proposals were not successful, many lessons were learnt. No definitive response has yet to be received on the more recent proposals submitted. As you can imagine these projects will have a huge impact on how CIPS functions operationally in the upcoming years. All projects are 3 years in length and will require a large commitment for staff and volunteer hours to deliver.

Of course since this government program funding is not a guarantee CIPS also had to direct efforts to other avenues of raising awareness and value to members and the public at large. Once such effort is the Advocacy Committee. Pat Glenn Hon. FCIPS, I.S.P., ITCP as the Director of Advocacy has led the Advocacy Committee to create position papers and being an unrelenting supporter of CIPS. The Advocacy Committee and Professional Standards committees are working together to also look at roles for CIPS with respect to immigration, foreign credential recognition and helping Canada retain foreign students after graduation. The SFIA competency framework is an important aspect of this and may potentially lead to CIPS becoming an accredited partner with the SFIA Foundation. A number of meetings have been held this year with government officials to look at how CIPS can deliver value. For example a request came from HRSDC to hear from the youth of CIPS on the pre-budget consultations. CIPS staff coordinated 17 individuals under the age of 30 to participate in a one hour discussion with Dr Kellie Leitch MP.

Another area that continues to grow and expand awareness of CIPS, is the social media channels. Jonathan Elias has continued to provide great value to members and also utilize member input from LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter. The job board has been a resounding success due to Jonathan ‘s guidance as well as the fresh new look of the now weekly CIPS Connections e-newsletter. Other staff initiatives for revenue generation included negotiating contracts for website advertising, newsletter advertising, renegotiating more favorable terms for the job posting agreement. Also a contract is already in place with ICTC to develop training for non-IT professionals in Ontario. Jonathan and MJ have been working on this since Feb and is worth $20,000 to CIPS, you will have seen the first phase of this as the survey that went out to Ontario members.

Also you will soon see notifications about the cut over to a new membership system that will enhance the member experience. Also next year the hope is to add to member products like the Google Hang-Outs on Professionalism and Ethics.

In order to create more partnerships and opportunities for exposure, CIPS National did continue to promote the CIPS Corporate Partnership Program, with the goal of addressing the strategic priorities of improving employer recognition of CIPS and its members. However the uptake on this program was not as good as expected and we seek your feedback to determine better ways of promoting this to the Provincial Societies and our partners.

A number of the provincial representatives have voiced a loud message that CIPS National should bolster the assistance provided to provinces to deliver quality programs within their areas. There are some basic communication changes that can be made, probably through the marketing committee to increase speaker sharing between provinces. Another avenue is to recruit a volunteer to lead a National Professional Development taskforce or we may need to consider other options for moving forward in this area. Again I will seek input from the National Board to ensure priorities are communicated appropriately.

The Professional Standards committee has done great work on updating the re-certification criteria that you recently have seen emails on. This has updated the recertification criteria in line with the industry in general but also has delivered IFIP IP3 accreditation criteria, needed to ensure CIPS continues to deliver the internationally recognized ITCP designation. You will be seeing results also from the Ethics Exam Committee, whose objective it is to develop and implement an online CIPS professionalism and ethics exam. In the area of accreditation, two programs at Simon Fraser University became the first to be accredited under the BTM criteria. BTM accreditation is a joint initiative between CIPS and the CCICT. Also CIPS celebrated 30 years of accrediting programs at Canadian Universities and Colleges in Canada in the fall of 2012.

Moving forward whether or not CIPS receives the government program projects and funding, we will continue to allocate time within a taskforce for the re-engineering of the CIPS Certification Program to keep up with the changing world of IT and provide our certified members with increased value and professional recognition. While the current certification program recognizes a practitioner's current capabilities, experience, and responsibilities, CIPS will look to enhance its certification program to recognize new specializations in the industry and continue to deliver certification related courses, like the CPEP course to fill specific skills and/or knowledge gaps identified in this market.

Following on this work, CIPS is continuing the partnership with the IEEE-CS to create an international Guide to the common IT Body of Knowledge. Also we continue to be represented within organizations like IFIP, IP3, FEAPO, ICCP and the Seoul Accord all of which enhance the awareness of CIPS internationally. This past year, Ken Metcalfe, I.S.P., ITCP became President of the ICCP and Leon Wagschal, I.S.P., ITCP now heads the ICCP Education Foundation.

CIPS will continue to be a leader in the fields of accreditation and certification. This year has been a challenge but I know this upcoming year will continue to see huge change for CIPS and ICT in Canada and the world.

Sincerely,

Brenda Byers, I.S.P., ITCP

Chair National Board