



ACC's 2009 PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE AND POLICY SESSION

ACC's 2009 Provincial Conference in Grande Prairie was a tremendously successful event that offered a good balance of work, fun and networking opportunities.

Attendance – Registration for the 2009/10 provincial conference topped out at 146, one of the highest attendance figures in ACC's history. We are pleased to report that 35 Chambers sent representatives to the conference, and ACC registered its highest number of voters at the plenary policy session with 100 delegates carrying ballots on behalf of their Chambers.

- Host Chamber** – The Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce was a wonderful host Chamber for the May 28 to 30 conference. The local Chamber organized a classy and fun opening reception Thursday evening in the spacious Centre 2000 Trade and Tourism Centre. On Friday, the local Chamber provided delegates with an opportunity to take a bus tour of the region and then it hosted everyone at the Grande Prairie Stompede, where delegates had a hoof-level view of the chuckwagon races.



Perrin Beatty's address – Perrin Beatty, the president and CEO of the Canadian Chamber, travelled to Grande Prairie to speak to delegates Friday morning. Perrin's speech, however, was pre-empted by Grande Prairie's Dan Percy and Janice Chomik, who called him on a violation as he was wearing a tie, which wasn't in keeping with the casual dress code. After Perrin good-naturedly allowed them to snip off his tie and replace it with a bandana, Perrin gave a 40-minute address, during which he underlined the value of community Chambers to the national federation.

- **Education sessions** – ACC offered two education sessions Friday morning. The first one showed the benefits of teleconferences and the second saw a panel of experienced Chamber managers discuss event organizing.



Policy session – Ron Chapman masterfully chaired ACC's annual plenary policy session for the 28th time. The intense five-and-a-half-hour session saw the 100 voting delegates consider 29 policy resolutions. After almost 70 motions and numerous amendments, the delegates adopted 24 resolutions for inclusion in ACC's three-year policy book. As a reflection of the recession, the highest number of policies this year was directed at Alberta Finance and Enterprise. In recent years, most policies have been related to labour.

- **Board of Directors' meetings** – ACC held three Board of Directors' meetings Saturday – the last meeting of the 2008/09 Board of Directors, the 71st Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the first 2009/10 Board of Directors' meeting. Jack Grant of Calgary, ACC's Chair for 2008/09, moved into the Past Chair at the AGM, and Don Oszli of Red Deer became Chair of ACC. Kay Olsen of Medicine Hat became ACC's Chair Elect, Gordon Plewes of Edmonton is now First Vice Chair, and Tim Bolton of Airdrie is Second Vice Chair. Tab Pollock, the former president of the Grande Prairie Chamber, was elected Treasurer.

Recognition for Pamela Brace – Delegates gave ACC's Pamela Brace a warm ovation when Chair Jack Grant noted her pending departure from our organization. For 10 years, Pam has been ACC's senior director of chamber services and administration. She is leaving at the end of July to take a position with the Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan. We are pleased that her new duties will keep her involved with the Chamber federation.



- **Completed policy** – At the final 2008/09 Board of Directors' meeting, the board marked a policy – *Armed Forces reservist legislation* – as "complete." This policy, developed by Edmonton, was approved at the 2008 policy session. In its spring session of the legislature, Premier Stelmach brought forward job protection for reservists as Bill 1. The legislation passed third reading in April and has since been proclaimed.



Chair's Dinner – The Chair's Dinner provided Jack Grant with an opportunity to emphasize the pride he felt serving as Chair of ACC. His heartfelt speech was interrupted by a standing ovation from the 125 diners who recognized the sincerity of his commitment to our federation. Three awards were also presented during the dinner. Peace River and Medicine Hat won the 2008 Chamber of the Year Awards, and Cindy Petersen, the executive director of the Rocky Mountain House Chamber, was recognized with the Chamber Executive of the Year Award.

2010 in Lethbridge – The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce welcomed delegates to breakfast on Saturday morning and invited everyone to visit their sunny city next May when it becomes the site of ACC's 2010 Provincial Conference and Policy Session.

- The successful Grande Prairie conference prompted Chambers to ask ACC to **extend the deadline** for bids to host the 2011 event. ACC has agreed to this request and has set a **new deadline of June 30, 2009**. To view the host guidelines and responsibilities, please visit the following links:



www.abchamber.ca/Portals/0/ACCResources/Newsletter/2009/Hosting_Guidelines_2011.pdf
www.abchamber.ca/Portals/0/ACCResources/Newsletter/2009/AGM_Host_responsibilities.pdf