



November 1, 2010

To: The Board of Directors, CHIMA

From: The Executive of the Saskatchewan Health Information Management Association

RE: CANCELLATION OF 2011 CHIMA CONFERENCE

I am writing on behalf of our association to convey our disappointment in the decision to cancel the upcoming CHIMA conference. We acknowledge the importance of focusing on the new CHIMA and Strategic Directions, but the CHIMA conventions assist with the four strategic plans laid out.

This year's Past-President for SHIMA attended the conference last year in Halifax when she served as our President. She stated the conference was very well attended which seems to indicate that there is interest in the conferences. She thought perhaps if there needed to be cost savings it could come in the form of shortening the conference to two days and not having a preconference workshop, in turn allowing for smaller registration fees.

Another concern raised is that the convention will be cancelled indefinitely, affecting the association's goal of promoting our profession. Another member of our executive feels that members of CHIMA will be disappointed in belonging to 'an organization that does nothing for its membership other than take dues and monitor CPE credits'.

As you can tell from the comments above this issue has struck a cord with our organization and executive in particular. As for myself, when I had read the news I had considered what that would mean for the SHIMA organization and whether or not we should follow in CHIMA's footsteps and continue on with our annual conventions. However I am aware of members who rely on our annual convention to gain CPE credits because they do not work in traditional HIM positions and it is very difficult for them to obtain CPE credits without the convention. It would seem these conventions are more important than we might realize.

We are wondering whether this issue was discussed with the Presidents of the provincial associations across the country and if so; were they given an opportunity to respond before this decision was made. In Saskatchewan we were not contacted. We feel this is a huge change and all members should have a say in this decision.

I do want to conclude by saying that I do feel that it is important to network with our colleagues from different parts of the country and that the knowledge we can gain from these colleagues can be invaluable. Unfortunately we might only realize the scope of that opportunity once it is lost.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns.

Yours truly,

Kathy Braaten, CHIM
President, SHIMA