



December 20, 2010

Kathy Braaten, CHIM  
President, SHIMA  
c/o Saskatoon Health Region  
Royal University Hospital  
103 Hospital Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W8

Dear Kathy:

**Re: Cancellation of 2011 CHIMA Annual Conference**

The Board of Directors (BoD) and the Executive Office appreciate hearing from the Provincial Associations and from our members. I want to assure you that the decision to cancel the Conference for 2011 was not taken lightly. We recognize the important benefits the conference provides the members and understand your disappointment. I would also like to assure you and your Board executive that there is and never was any intention in cancelling the CHIMA conferences indefinitely. CHIMA is currently in the process of deciding how best to conduct an AGM this year, as we must do this in accordance with our bylaws. As a result, alternatives are currently being investigated for 2011, with corresponding CPE credits applied.

The Halifax conference was fantastic, as have the last 3 or 4 regarding content, but again less than 1% of the CHIMA membership is able to attend a yearly conference. We have heard from surveys and emails that some CHIMA members do not support an annual conference for only the “elite” of CHIMA. The BoD weighed these issues, (low attendance over the last 5 years); and feedback from members who are not able to attend conferences.

As the BoD and executive office define and implement the strategic plan for the “New CHIMA” it was felt that the membership dollars for 2011 would be best spent in developing plans for a “transition strategy” for the current members, and the college and university students. As a result the BoD did take into consideration all of the strategic planning work ahead of us in order to ensure the Mission and Vision for the “New CHIMA” could be accomplished in the 2011 year.

Discussions regarding both the CHIMA annual conference and international conferences have been a point of discussion at past NHIMA meetings. Over the last several years, CHIMA executive has raised the

issue of annual conferences at the NHIMA meetings. This was in response to the low attendance (less than 1%) of the membership over the last five years. We asked the NHIMA members for advice on attendance should the conference be every two (2) years versus yearly, and have had discussions over several years. Unfortunately the issue was not raised at the 2010 NHIMA in-person meeting as the BoD had already reached a decision regarding the 2011 conference. In hind sight we should have put this on the agenda, and for that I apologize.

I personally brought to a NHIMA agenda item in 2007 the issue of CHIMA applying for the 2010 IFHRO congress and there was no interest (recorded in the minutes) from NHIMA to help support this. CHIMA then made the decision to bid for the IFHRO congress in 2013. We have been successful with that bid; and we do hope for NHIMA support.

I absolutely would not recommend that the Provincial Associations consider cancelling their AGM's or education days, as the decision to cancel 2011 is for one year only. Plans for 2012 will begin in early 2011.

As you know we are also conducting focus group sessions over November and December, and input from these will help shape the strategic and implementation plans as of March 2011. Again, we will be sharing those plans with NHIMA and hopefully developing communication packages for our membership.

Once again, I do thank you very much for your concern and your comments in regards to the 2011 conference. I trust I have answered your questions, but should you wish to have a teleconference with the CHIMA executive and the SHIMA executive to discuss this further, I would be more than pleased to arrange this. Please know that we value your comments and input very much.

Regards,

  
Val Alston, BA, MBA, CHIM  
Chair, CHIMA Board of Directors

  
Gail Crook, CHE, CHIM  
CEO & Registrar

c.c. CHIMA Board of Directors