



BCHIMPS Update

- THERESA ROBERTS - PRESIDENT BCHIMPS



- THERESA ROBERTS -

www.bchimps.bc.ca



President:

Theresa Roberts
TC Roberts & Associates
Consulting Inc.
West Vancouver, BC

Vice President:

Ruth Yeo
Vancouver Coastal Health
Authority
Vancouver, BC

Secretary-Treasurer:

Lisa Marsh
Intrinsic Systems Inc
Victoria, BC

Past-President

Elaine Sawatsky
E. Sawatsky & Associates Inc.
Victoria, BC

Directors:

Doug Hartry
The Hartry Systems Group Inc
Vernon, BC
Jenny Karim
Health Informatics Consulting
Vancouver, BC
Jim Hawes
EMC
Vancouver, BC

Healthcare is dominating the news in BC ... again. News of the consolidation and restructuring of health facilities across the province is being eclipsed by daily updates on physician job action. Health industry managers are saying farewell to displaced colleagues while planning for service reductions, relocations, and even total closures of some facilities. Amidst this turmoil, health information managers are doing what they do best: maximizing limited resources while anticipating the next curve in the road.

The BC Health Information Management Professionals Society continues to support our members' contributions to effective health information management as we have since our inception in 1986. We provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and developments in health informatics, with a focus on hosting semi-annual education sessions for members and other industry representatives. An important secondary benefit of education sessions is the opportunity for members to share expertise and to network.

The society's Annual General Meeting this year was especially successful due to our members' enthusiasm for attending yet another social event scheduled around e-Health 2002 in Vancouver this June. By linking the AGM to a social event hosted at one of our member's homes, we attracted more than 50 members and guests.

Our newly elected Executive is listed on the sidebar. We salute Elaine Sawatsky, our departing President, who will now serve as Past President. Elaine's hard work and commitment to our members was evident in the high quality of education sessions during her term. Mike Nusbaum, our former Past President, will enjoy a well-deserved rest from Executive duties.

Our most recent Education Session in March responded to the industry's growing interest in security management with a day devoted to the subject of *"The ISO 17799 Security Standard: Think Globally, Act Locally."* The session was co-sponsored by BCHIMPS and the Ministry of Health, with the objective of educating health information stakeholders about the security standard being considered for application throughout the BC health system. The day featured five guest speakers including Ross Fraser, President of Sextant Software, who spoke on *"ISO 17799: A Minimum Standard for Maximum Security."* The session was well attended, with more than 60 registrants representing health authorities, the Ministry, vendors, provincial associations, and private health service providers.

Always committed to "walking the talk," a significant project for BCHIMPS this year was redevelopment of our website, complete with online membership tools and session registration for members and non-members alike. The publicly oriented site also features members-only sections for authorized users, who enjoy the benefits of streamlined administrative processes and access to our membership list. We will continue to promote use of the site, with the near term objective of processing all membership and registration activities online.

Our enthusiastic Executive looks forward to serving our members through a demanding year. A planning retreat is scheduled for the summer, during which we will identify strategic priorities for the society for the coming year. Regardless of the shifting winds of restructuring and change, however, BCHIMPS will continue to focus on promoting health information management in BC and providing value for our members.

