

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Learning from Our History: With the PMAC Annual General Meeting coming up June 3 in Quebec City, I wanted to take the opportunity in this space to reflect on the history, structure and governance of our organization. While this subject may not be top-of-mind for most members, it is key to the effective functioning of your professional association and, ultimately, the value that you receive.

This is a time of transformation for PMAC as we lead the way in a changing marketplace and embark on replacing our C.P.P. with a new designation that is more reflective of our redefined field of practice of strategic supply chain management. However, as we chart our future, it's appropriate to remain respectful of where we've come from.

At the same time, I know from my interactions with members that there is some degree of uncertainty over just how PMAC and its affiliated Provincial and Territorial Institutes operate and interrelate. Since this is too much ground to cover in one take, I plan to address it in a series of columns, starting now with some historical context for how the association is organized.

While PMAC can trace its roots in Canada back to 1919, the national association was first incorporated in 1931. Under the national association, districts, chapters and branches formed as the vehicle to deliver products, programs and services at the local level.

When the organization decided to get into the business of delivering educational programs, the Provincial and Territorial Institutes were formed since responsibility for education in Canada is a provincial matter. Most Institutes were incorporated during the mid to late 1980s, with the Nova Scotia Institute of PMAC the first. This marked the beginning of a delineation of the roles and responsibilities between the PMAC National office and the Institutes.

The key role of the National office was to focus on the development of programs used on a national basis and to provide support for the Institutes in their role as delivery agents. Institutes had responsibility for program and service delivery. Delivery of some programs and services were delegated to districts, chapters and branches by the Institutes.

However, in cases where Institutes have identified that they don't have the human resources capability to fully carry out their role, the National body has undertaken to support them. For example, at present, the PMAC National office provides program administration support to two Institutes that are run solely by member volunteers.

The Institutes and the National association are bound together by affiliation agreements. Each Institute is separately affiliated with the National body and, through that affiliation, Institutes become affiliated with each other.

The primary intent of the affiliation agreements is to ensure that designated professional members have portability of their designations across Canada. This means, regardless of which Institute grants the designation, that designation is recognized by each and every other Provincial and Territorial Institute.

The National body as well as each of the Institutes is incorporated separately. The National association is incorporated under Ontario legislation and the Institutes are incorporated under their respective Provincial and Territorial legislation. Each is governed independently, with its own set of bylaws and Board of Directors.

Our organizational structure at PMAC continues to evolve to allow us to best manage our association and its change agenda. In upcoming columns, I will look more closely at the nature of the partnership between the National association and our Institutes, as well as our governance processes. Moving forward, we remain committed to operating more like a business and achieving a coordinated effort across the organization in order to best serve our members.

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Yours truly,

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