



The Anna Lee Chabot Scholarship: Setting Standards for the Industry

One of MPI Foundation Canada's proudest achievements to date is the establishment of the Anna Lee Chabot Scholarship Fund. Each year, the fund will provide up to \$600 CAN for each of eight MPI members to complete their Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation, and up to \$2,500 CAN for each of two MPI members to complete the Global Certification in Meeting Management (CMM).

"I firmly believe that continuing education is crucial to this industry," says Janet Victor, CMP, the Foundation's Vice President-Projects. "By awarding funds for completion of both the CMP and the CMM, we are targeting all layers of professionals in the industry."

Since the fund was announced in 2006, Ottawa Tourism has come forward with a donation of \$10,000 per year for the next several years. The gift honours Anna Lee Chabot, CMP, manager of meetings and events for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, whose efforts were pivotal in making the Foundation a reality.

"It's one thing to practice the profession," Chabot said in a recent interview. "It's something else to undertake the whole validation process that the CMP and CMM designations represent, to be measured against one's peers and a body of knowledge. I don't know anybody who has gone through the CMM or the CMP without being humbled by how much there still is to learn."

"It's great to see someone with so much passion and innovation in our industry, and we strongly support the Foundation's vision," adds Tom Price, director of meetings and conventions sales and marketing for Ottawa Tourism.

"We really appreciate their support," says Victor. "Without it, we would only be able to give out one of each scholarship for all of Canada. Ottawa Tourism's generosity allows us to support more of our members in their professional development, and that can only be good for the whole industry."

The scholarships cover a portion of the cost of both programs, so that the CMP and the CMM become a matter of a working partnership between the Foundation and each successful candidate.

"We want candidates to demonstrate a personal commitment to their education," says Victor. That commitment will be evaluated objectively, through a points system, and subjectively, through short written statement in which the applicants explain their interest in their chosen program and how they will use their learning to help colleagues and elevate the profession.

While geographic distribution across Canada would be ideal, Victor says, the selection process will not be conducted strictly by region. “The ability to meet the criteria and geography will both come into play.”