

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

Ontario chapter's high hopes become reality with second President's Award win

Winning the President's Award is no small feat. Since its creation in 2014, CHES chapters have competed yearly to capture the coveted prize, which includes a trophy engraved with the victorious team's names, as well as two CHES National conference registrations and expenses to a maximum of \$2,500 each. This year the Ontario chapter was triumphant, making it the first two-time and back-to-back winner. What's more, the chapter was bestowed the honour on its home turf.

"Even though we improved our score over last year's, we knew it was going to be tougher to win," says Roger Holliss, who accepted the award on behalf of the chapter at the 2017 CHES National Conference in Niagara Falls, Ont. "Every chapter is ramping up their game to improve services to their membership."

The President's Award is presented annually to the CHES chapter that demonstrates its commitment to education, administration and representation in the activities of the chapter and national board. Each chapter is scored on accounting practices, conference/education day, membership, chapter executive practices, committee work and additional offerings (from submitting articles to *Canadian Healthcare Facilities* to providing extra member benefits). Specifically, points are given for activities that benefit members and the work of CHES, such as number of meetings attended in the course of committee work and special education sessions.

After the crowning of last year's award, the chapter executive doubled down on its commitment to participate in committee work. The chapter has a representative on all six CHES National committees and subcommittees, of which Ontario members Richard



Trane's Guy Bourbonniere with now past Ontario chapter chair, Roger Holliss.

White and Larry Erwin are chair of the partnerships and advocacy committee and vice-chair of the communications committee, respectively.

"We're trying to increase our voice and be part of a bigger process that goes beyond Ontario," says Holliss, who acknowledges this is a difficult feat for chapters like Newfoundland & Labrador that have far fewer members. "If you're a bigger chapter, you not only have the numbers to draw upon to get involved but you should be playing a larger role."

On the education front, the chapter spent the past year gearing up for the 2017 CHES National Conference. Held Sept. 17-19, at the Scotiabank Convention Centre, the event was by all accounts a huge success. It attracted more than 750 attendees and boasted a sold-out trade show floor with 154 exhibitors. The educational program

covered a variety of topics and included a wide range of high-end speakers, two of which travelled from abroad to take part in the esteemed event.

"It didn't hurt to have the Falls in our backyard, too," adds Holliss. "It made for a nice backdrop."

Over the course of the last year, the Ontario chapter has continued to extend financial support to the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care. The organization has received \$30,000 in the past three years to assist with programs that will help healthcare facilities across the province participate in energy-saving initiatives.

The chapter is also part of a coalition of 17 hospitals that applied for funding from the provincial Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change/Ontario Centres of Excellence to assist with reducing/eliminating greenhouse gas emissions linked to anesthetic gas

waste. Despite the team’s valiant efforts — it was one of more than a dozen selected to give a presentation to the judging panel as part of the final stage of the review/approval process — the coalition didn’t receive the grant. Be that as it may, the chapter will continue to support this greenhouse gas emission reduction measure and is actively seeking funding from other sources.

“Healthcare facilities are a significant contributor to greenhouse gases through anesthetic gas emissions so we need to do something,” says now past chapter chair Holliss, who recently assumed the position of vice-chair on the CHES National board.

Having “graduated on” from the

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chapter executive, Holliss will not be directly involved in this cause as part of the Ontario chapter (although he will still be part of the coalition as an Ontario hospital member). However, he is confident the team that’s currently in place will work hard on behalf of the membership to advance the chapter’s agenda.

“We had a succession plan in place to ensure the executive team was well-positioned to continue growing and performing as I transitioned to CHES National,” explains Holliss. “Now that I am changing roles, I’m going to miss everyone but I’m proud of what we have accomplished as a chapter.” ■

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