



International Pressure Equipment Integrity Association

March 2017

To: All Delegates (aka friends, comrades and colleagues);

This was the 21st annual IPEIA Conference which, since its inception in 1996, has continued to grow not only in size but in stature and is now recognized worldwide as “the” Pressure Equipment Integrity Conference to attend.



Just a few short weeks ago we all came together... over 400 conference delegates and at the Exposition being held in conjunction with the conference there were close to 100 exhibiting companies representing major industry suppliers from around the world.

On behalf of the 2017 IPEIA Steering Committee and all the subcommittee members, we would like to extend a heartfelt ‘thank you’ for your support of IPEIA and the industry.

I personally also want to express my deepest gratitude to over 60 volunteers of the various committees for their time, effort and dedication. Your incredible commitment paid off in the execution of a very successful conference.

Some of the **key highlights** (and of course a few challenges) of the conference I would like to share with you include:

- ❖ Our overall attendance approached and may have topped 600. Final numbers are still being tallied.
- ❖ From the feedback we have received, the quality of the papers was excellent. Thank you to Izak Roux and the entire **Program Committee** for their diligence.
- ❖ The shuttle bus (once we ensured the driver knew the schedule ;)) was an incredible addition and eased the parking burden at The Banff Centre. Perhaps morning coffee and afternoon happy hour could be sponsored for 2018.
- ❖ Ensuring ample space was given for both the banquet and the casino was very well received. By allowing each event to be treated separately it catered to a variety of people and their entertainment desires. For those wanting to continue their conversations in a quieter, more comfortable space, they were able to remain in the dining room.

For those who wanted to let it all “ride on red” and accrue their fortune, the addition of more casino tables allowed everyone to participate and have a great time. Thank you to Jim Yukes and the very creative members of **Public Relations Committee** for making this all happen.



❖ The **Preconference Training and Workshops** were well attended and well organized. Bryce Parkinson and Dave Corbin led this effort and they did an outstanding job. Thank you.

❖ Our **Education Committee** has expanded its' role into bringing IPEIA into the schools across Alberta to further students' knowledge of Asset Integrity as well as promote Asset Integrity as a viable field. Thank you Greg Murray and the **Education Committee** for your continued passion to inspire and promote the industry to our next generation.



❖ Marc Fransen and the **Finance Committee** deserve great praise. Their diligent and responsible approach to all of the association's financial aspects enabled us to continue to provide you an exceptional conference as we have always delivered in the past. Thank you for keeping us in the black.

Some areas for us to focus on in 2018 in the spirit of *continuous improvements* are:

❖ The lack of available rooms at The Banff Centre due to construction was an issue. Fortunately with many other hotels available and the proximity of the town, the shuttle solved many concerns we initially were worried about. This will not be a concern in 2018 as construction will be completed.

❖ Parking - having all the construction workers show up early and each take one the precious on-site parking spots was also an issue The Banff Centre should have foreseen. The institution of the shuttle bus was coincidental so sometimes everything works out in the end. This will not be a concern in 2018 as construction will be completed and we will continue to utilize the shuttle program going forward.

❖ The biggest challenge we had this year, which has been the same challenge we have experienced for a number of years and one that will continue to grow if not addressed... *is profitability*. While IPEIA is not in the business to "make money", for many years profits from the conferences have gone into any number of worthwhile endeavors: scholarships, endowments, refurbishment of historical pressure equipment just to name a few. IPEIA has not increased delegate fees or exhibitor rates for a number of years yet the cost of the conference has steadily increased year to year. With this model we are less able to respond to the needs of our institutions, institutions that breed our future Asset Integrity Inspectors, Engineers, Operators... Unless this is corrected, at some point even the excellent efforts of our Finance Committee will not be able to save us from slipping into the red.



A very important item is the change Administration made just after the conference. Our long time contractor Kelly Jaskow will not be returning for IPEIA 2018. We are incredibly grateful to Kelly for her many years of dedication and effort. We wish her well for her future endeavours.

We engaged the services of professional Conference Consultant, Christi Marcine, CMARC INC. Christi has many years of experience in project management specializing in conference coordination. She is presently and has been supporting The International Pipeline Conference (IPC) since 2006 and as the Conference Coordinator since 2012. She is also involved with the Banff Pipeline Workshops and other non-profit organizations. As the conference continues to grow and evolve, Christi will bring new ideas and possibilities to IPEIA. Christi can be reached at admin@ipeia.com or (403) 651-4364. Welcome Christi!

We are listening to you!

We took away a few items we heard from delegates directly or through the survey, for starters:

- ❖ Who is IPEIA? During many of the months between conferences not much is heard from IPEIA and what IPEIA is all about. We want to change this!! We are available and want to hear from you. Please contact any one of us on the Steering Committee, the Subcommittees and of course you can always reach Christi, with your suggestions and ideas. Our goal is to keep you abreast of what is happening so please ensure we have your current contact information and that you accept to receive emails from IPEIA.



Passing of the Baton!

Izak Roux will be the **2018 IPEIA Chair**. He will officially be taking on the role in mid-April; believe it or not that is when the planning for 2018 starts! I wish him all the best and will be available to help wherever I can.

See you all in 2018!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Marx', written on a light-colored background.

Nick Marx, IPEIA 2017 Chair

c. 403 318 5010

e. nick@irml.ca

