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PMI-CTT Chapter News is published 5 times a year in February, April, Summer, October and December.

Upcoming Events

Interested in Upcoming Events? Check out our new website at www.pmi-ctt.org to register now!

Message from the President

So, how are those New Year's resolutions going so far? Well, if one of yours was that you must get involved with my PMI chapter, then this is your lucky day!

And depending on how involved you want to be and what you want to pursue as personal goals, we have a few volunteer positions available that might suit you. Feel free to check your website (www.pmi-ctt.org) to see what's there; then send a note to volunteer@pmi-ctt.org to apply to any of them, if you have questions or would like more information.

Now, for those of you looking for more responsibilities and more challenging roles, we currently have 1 director position open and we have 3 VP positions coming up for election (read the article from Venkat on that topic and/or follow the link on the [home page](#) of the website).

What else is going on...

- We're growing! We now have over 675 members, thank you!
- We have started the planning for our 9th annual Symposium; ideas and volunteers are welcome!
- We keep delivering quality events such as PM Connect, evening and dinner meetings
- We're currently putting the final touch to our 10th Anniversary Event
- We're just about to start the 2011-2012 Mentoring Program
- We have another study group underway

Keep in mind that we're doing this to help you achieve your professional development goals, and to help promote the advancement and growth of our project management profession.

I also recommend you read the article from Carol Baker about our Strategic Plan for this year. It also has a link to the document directly if you would like further information. I encourage you to take a look at your Chapter strategic plan and feel free to ask questions; come up with suggestions, ideas and even better come on board and become an active member.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

Cheers!
Marc Blanchette
President

PMI-CTT Board of Directors

Marc Blanchette- President*
Carol Baker - Vice President, Communications and Publicity*
Vartkes Peltekoglu - Vice President, Professional Development*
Lorraine Ziegler - Vice President, Membership & Community Affairs*
Rick Black - Vice President, Treasury and Finance*
Venkat Ramachandran - Past President
* elected positions

Kim Eccles - Director of Communications
Vacant - Director of Events
Cyndi Seifried - Director of Publicity and Marketing
Derek Atkins - Director of Certification
Andrew Pearen - Director of Re-Certification
Vivien Dadds - Director of Mentoring
Heather Leblond - Director of Membership & Recruiting
Melody Zapanta - Director of Volunteer Coordination
Dave Bright - Director of Community Affairs
Tony Pimenoff - Director of Sponsorship
Trish McNeil - Director of Website Administration
Shyreen Ferreira - Secretary



ESI International is the recognized leader in innovative project management, contract management, business analysis, sourcing management training and business skills training. We have served Fortune Global 500 companies worldwide and nearly every major agency of the U.S. government. ESI provides complete integrated solutions designed to help clients improve business performance. Our services include:

- Classroom Training
- On-site Training
- e-Training (distance learning)
- Professional Services

Find out more by visiting our website at www.esi-intl.ca.

Strategic Plan for 2011: An Update

In the December 2010 newsletter, I summarized our planning process with the overall goal of having our 2011 Strategic Plan in place for the New Year. The process included accessing several sources of input:

- Member Feedback
- PMI's catalogue of Core & Extended Services
- Assessment of Supportability and Affordability of our Programs & Services

We have looked at these input sources to develop our Strategic Plan for this year. Each action item was aligned to our four strategic initiatives, as summarized by PMI:

1. Increase value of the chapter to current and potential membership
2. Maintain long-term viability (financial, succession planning, membership and retention)
3. Promote the project management discipline in the region
4. Facilitate professional development and collaboration

You can still count on specific membership programs and services, such as our annual Symposium, PMP Study Groups, Mentoring programs, free webinar offerings, and bimonthly evening/dinner events and other special events. We will continue to deliver regular communications to you on topics of interest to you as project management professionals, through our twice-monthly email blasts and bimonthly newsletters.

As well, you have available our new www.pmi-ctt.org website. We provide helpful information on our services and programs, and will continue to build on that member-specific content over the coming year.

As you know, these programs and services are supported by our dedicated group of volunteers. But we can only do so much, and could really use your energy and enthusiasm to continue to bring valued programs and services to our membership.

We have several volunteer positions open now. I encourage you to pursue a volunteer role of interest to you; details can be found in the Volunteer section of our website, as well as in the Volunteer article within this issue.

Check out our 2011 Strategic Plan's Initiatives and Goals & Tactics items [here](#). And here's to another great year for our Chapter!

Carol Baker
VP, Communications & Publicity

ProjectWorld*BusinessAnalystWorld

ProjectWorld* BusinessAnalystWorld is the Project Management and Business Analysis industry's leading conference. We uniquely empower Business Analysis & Project Management professionals with the resources and tools necessary to ensure that projects are clearly defined and flawlessly executed; enabling you to make the right decisions at every level in the organization and increase professional success.

We look forward to seeing you this year. Mark your calendars and tell your colleagues and friends about the event. Be sure to register soon - workshops are filling up!

Metro Toronto Convention Centre
May 16-19, 2011
www.projectworldcanada.com

PMI CTT members receive special Group Discount pricing. Your Group Discount code is: PMITT

- Over 60 Symposium sessions, panel discussions and roundtable sessions
- Interactive Workshops - Learn the critical skills and techniques necessary to achieve maximum project performance.
- One and two day workshops are delivered by professional trainers.
- Groups of 5 or more? Please contact Merry Clayton at: mclayton@divcomevents.com or 905-948-0470 ext:2228

PMI-CTT 10th Anniversary Celebration

Wednesday 06 April 2011

Join us for an evening of networking, reminiscing and professional development as we recognize the chapter's achievements, honour our volunteers and thank our sponsors for a decade of commitment and support. You can glimpse into the past through the historical displays while extending and renewing your professional connections with current and past chapter members.

Guest Presenter from PMI

Peter Monkhouse PMI board member

You will hear from Past Presenters such as

Keith Farndale	Project Risk Management
Dave Barrett	Project Management in the 2000's
Rob Straby	The Most Important Thing about Careers
Julie Grabb	Enhancing Project Performance - Asking the Right Questions
Gina Davidovic	Project Health Checks
John Estrella	Social Networking Strategy

(In 10 minutes or less these presenters will give a synopsis of the key points previously delivered for quick "take away learning")

Location:	Whistle Bear Golf Club
Date:	Wed 06 April 2011
Time:	6:00 PM to 9:30 PM
Fee:	\$25 before registration deadline 04 April 2011 for members and non members
	\$30 at the door for members and non members
PDU	1

Hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout the evening and a cash bar will be available.

For more details and to register visit us at www.pmi-ctt.org .

Margaret Charles
10th Anniversary Event Chair

Beyond PDUs: Why Volunteer for the PMI-CTT Chapter

Did you know that every one of our Committee, Board and Executive members are volunteers? Yes, they are. They give their time and expertise freely and willingly.

Why do they volunteer? What have they learned from the experience? Would they recommend volunteering to others? Read on to see what some of our valued volunteers had to say, and think about how it may relate to you.

		Photo not available		
Volunteer Name	Dave Bright	Trish MacNeil	Tracey Schneider	Jennifer Engels
Current Volunteer Position	Director of Community Affairs	Director, Website Administration Events Coordinator outgoing	PMP Study Group Coordinator	Marketing & Publicity Lead – Annual Symposium
How long have you volunteered with the PMI-CTT Chapter?	3 ½ years	Just over three years.	Since Sept 2009	Since Apr 2010
What volunteer position(s) have you held?	Symposium PM Director of Community Affairs	Event software support, Events Coordinator, Events Committee, now Director, Website Administration	PMP Study Group Coordinator	Symposium Marketing Team member, and Symposium Marketing & Publicity Lead
Why did you choose to volunteer with the PMI-CTT Chapter?	I started the Conestoga College PM courses in 2006 and signed up with the PMI with the goal to get my PMP which I did in 2008. I met a class mate who mentioned the symposium and the local chapter in the fall of 2007.	I wanted the opportunity to connect with others in the PM field and expand my knowledge. I also wanted to stretch myself and learn new skills. Volunteering with PMI-CTT offered all of that.	To earn PDUs & keep up my PMP knowledge	To meet people in the community, have fun, and pursue more responsible positions within the Chapter.
What have you learned as a volunteer?	I have learned a tremendous amount about our local PMI-CTT chapter, the 5 other chapters in Ontario, and recently at the LIM in Washington about the entire world-wide organization. In working with over 50 volunteers at many great events, it has really helped develop my leadership skills, and we have had a lot of fun along the way. You really learn a lot more about project management when you attend these events and get such a broad perspective.	Volunteering has improved my critical thinking skills, team collaboration and communication strategies, enhanced my project management knowledge by working on PMI-CTT initiatives with other PM's, taught me valuable Event management skills that I've been able to apply elsewhere and has increased my confidence and abilities to take leadership and initiative in other endeavors.	It is great to help people and see them succeed. It is also a good way to get to know new faces to the profession. It is also a big time commitment	I've taken on challenges that I wouldn't normally encounter and I've learned that they're not as scary as I thought.

<p>Would you recommend that other members volunteer? If so, why?</p>	<p>I would recommend that any project manager or person interested in the profession start out by attending our events and see where they may like to help out. It is a great way to network and develop your career.</p>	<p>Absolutely. The Directors of the various teams have been great mentors and I've worked with such terrific people on every initiative. Volunteering with PMI-CTT stretches your hard and soft skills in so many ways. To be able to gain so much while making a contribution at the same time is a great win-win.</p>	<p>Yes – we need volunteers to help others achieve their success. The study group was very helpful to me in achieving my PMP designation – it is good to return the favor.</p>	<p>Definitely. It's understandable that everyone is very busy and pressed for time, especially project managers. Yet I've found that the rewards I have received towards my professional development far exceed the time that I have invested.</p>
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These comments are consistent with a recently-published article by Mary V. Merrill of Merrill Associates, who is a recognized leader in the field of volunteerism. In her article, called “*Ten Professional Development Benefits of Volunteering*”, she identified reasons why anyone would volunteer their time and energy to an organization. The following are those reasons that align well with volunteering for our PMI-CTT Chapter.

First, the opportunity **to learn or develop a new skill** was highlighted. A volunteer group gives you a relatively safe environment to attempt something you have never done before but want to try. And **developing new interests** as a result can be a welcome by-product of developing that new skill.

Next, **being part of a person’s community** was cited as a benefit. We have a large, vibrant, project management community in our Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph region. Helping shape what goes on in that community is very appealing to many who volunteer with our Chapter.

Providing a sense of achievement was another benefit noted. Setting out goals, plans and engaging others to help realize the benefits of your initiative can be highly motivating and satisfying.

With any group activity, there are a range of people and personalities involved. That is no different in a volunteer organization, where you can benefit from **meeting a diverse range of people**. This helps you expand your network as well as enhance your interpersonal, leadership and social skills.

Possibly one benefit of key importance to you is related to **boosting your career options**. Associated with career benefits is the opportunity for **sending a signal to your employer, mentors, and colleagues** that you are willing to develop yourself beyond your current job.

Some impressive statistics, based on a survey carried out by TimeBank through Reed Executive, on 200 of the United Kingdom’s leading businesses, illustrate the point. In that survey, the researchers found that:

- **73%** of employers would recruit a candidate with volunteering experience over one without
- **94%** of employers believe that volunteering can add to skills
- **94%** of employees who volunteered to learn new skills had benefited either by getting their first job, improving their salary, or being promoted

You can benefit too, if you choose to volunteer with us. Consider starting with participating on a committee, or even better, apply for a Board or Executive position.

- To volunteer, find current [Volunteer](#) postings on our website. And if you have any questions on the roles, send them to volunteer@pmi-ctt.org.
- To put your name forward for an elected position, find our [Elections](#) information on our website. Forward any questions to elections@pmi-ctt.org.

Many project and program managers have supported our Chapter since its inception in 2001. As much as we have benefited from their contributions, they too have benefited from their involvement - and not just by earning PDUs.

We hope you will make the decision to volunteer, and from that, reap similar benefits to our current volunteers.

Get involved in our Chapter's services and programs; you'll be glad you did!

Melody Zapanta
Director, Volunteer Management

Carol Baker
VP, Communications & Publicity

The PMP Exam Changes on 31 Aug 2011 What This Means For You



By Cornelius Fichtner, PMP - Making the [PMBOK®](#) Guide fun.

Every five to seven years, the Project Management Institute (PMI)® performs a Role Delineation Study to determine authority (“the role”), responsibilities & duties of project managers today. The findings are then used to update the Project Management Professional (PMP)® Exam. In this way, PMI ensures that the PMP Exam is a reflection of what project managers actually do in the field. If PMI didn't regularly go through this process adding new elements and removing old ones, then you would still be tested on outdated methods that were used in the 1980s when the first PMP exam was given.

PMI completed their latest study at the end of 2010. The findings will lead to an update in the PMP Exam on 31 August 2011. Let's look at what this means to you.

**** The *PMBOK® Guide* Is Not Changing**

First of all and most importantly: There is NO change to the *PMBOK® Guide*. The PMP Exam is currently based on the *PMBOK® Guide* 4th Edition. The 5th edition is scheduled for publication at the end of 2012. This means that the PMP Exam will continue to be largely based on the 4th edition until sometime in 2013. Therefore, everyone preparing for the PMP Exam can continue to do so using the *PMBOK® Guide* 4th edition until 2013.

**** The Exam Format Is Not Changing**

The PMP Exam will continue to be a computer-based exam, and you have four hours to answer 200 multiple-choice questions.

**** The Score Report is Not Changing**

PMI stated “At this time, PMI does not anticipate any changes will be made to the PMP score report”. This suggests that the way the passing score is determined will remain the same.

**** The Eligibility Requirements Are Not Changing**

The education and experience eligibility requirements for the PMP Exam will remain the same. Please read the eligibility section of the [PMP Credential Handbook](#) for the details.

**** The Exam Changes on 31 August 2011. Period.**

The new exam will be rolled out on 31 August 2011 and the last day on which you can take the exam under the current specifications is on 30 August 2011. No exceptions.

**** Professional & Social Responsibility Will Be Integrated**

In the current exam format Professional and Social Responsibility is tested as a separate domain. The Role Delineation Study showed that Professional and Social Responsibility is integrated into all of the work of project management and cannot be seen as separate. The Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct should therefore be viewed and tested as an integrated part of a project manager's day-to-day work.

For the new exam, students will have to understand the effects of Professional and Social Responsibility on their daily tasks. Exam questions will ask about ethical considerations during procurement, mix social responsibility with team management and test your application of professional responsibility in a written status report.

Studying, understanding and living the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct in your daily work as a project manager will have a much higher importance for the exam.

**** The Content Of Your Study Materials Will Change**

PMI has communicated the detailed changes to the new exam to all Registered Education Providers (R.E.P.s). It is their responsibility to ensure that the content of their training materials is updated. As a student, you should not worry about this. You have a right to expect that your provider ensures that your training materials have the right content for the exam you are taking.

**** Recommendations For PMP Students**

1.) Take The Exam Before The Change:

If you are currently studying for the PMP Exam then plan your studies in such a way that you can take the exam before 31 July 2011. The new exam comes into effect on 31 August 2011 and scheduling your exam one month before this date will give you 30 days to retake the exam in case you fail on your first attempt.

2.) Use Study Materials From PMI Registered Education Providers (PMI R.E.P.)

PMI R.E.P.s are working hard to update their study materials to the new standard and PMI is supporting them in this effort. PMP students should not worry about the changes of the exam content at all. Instead, make sure to purchase study materials from a PMI R.E.P. and ask them to confirm that the materials which you have ordered are right for you based on your scheduled exam date. You need current materials if your exam is scheduled on or before 30 August 2011 and you need updated materials if your exam is on or after 31 August 2011.

3.) Read The FAQ:

PMI has prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) page. Reading it will help you to better understand what's coming.

4.) Read PMI's Study Tips:

I recommend that you take a look at the [PMP Study Tips Page](#) that PMI prepared on their website.

About the author: Cornelius Fichtner, PMP is a noted PMP expert. He has helped over 12,000 students prepare for the PMP Exam with *The Project Management PrepCast* at <http://www.pm-prepcast.com> and *The PMP Exam Simulator* at <http://www.pm-exam-simulator.com>.

Do You Hear the Call?

Spring is coming (at least we hope) and it is that time of year for the annual PMI-CTT Executive Elections. The annual nomination/election process is part of the chapter's succession planning, and is mandated by our bylaws. Key leadership roles get filled, fairly and responsibly, for healthy turnover, garnish new ideas and to build on the Chapter's momentum.

In addition to supporting and contributing to the Chapter, these opportunities as an Executive of the PMI-CTT Chapter allow you to earn PDU's, expand your professional network and try something different that could benefit your career.

This year, three of the five elected positions that come open for the period September 2011 to September 2013 are:

1. [VP Finance & Treasurer](#)
2. [VP Professional Development](#)
3. [VP Membership, Community Affairs & Volunteer Management](#)

If you are interested the formal Call for Nominations is running this year from Monday March 7 to Thursday March 31. You can participate in this process and the Chapter in three ways:

- 1) Consider nominating someone, including yourself, in March. The nomination form and role descriptions will be on the site during the nomination period that starts on March 7 and ends on March 31.
- 2) Return your ballot promptly during the Election Period that runs from Monday April 11 to Friday April 29, if a vote is needed.
- 3) Support the new Executive Council that will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday May 18, 2011. You can support them and the Board of Directors by volunteering in some capacity over the coming year.

You can contact the Election Committee through elections@pmi-ctt.org, and find more details and updates on the [PMI-CTT Elections page](#) of the [PMI-CTT website](#). Let's use our collective skills to advance project management in Canada's Technology Triangle!

Venkat Ramachandran, PMP
Chair election committee