

## It's been a good time, not a long time . . .

*Shallen Letwin*

I write my final Presidential Officer's Report with mixed feelings. In August 2008, I will finish my term as a Presidential Officer of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists. Over the past 3 years, I have been rewarded with many experiences and relationships. The chance to lead a strong and vibrant organization like CSHP was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I could not pass up, and, in taking up the challenge, I have truly received more than I could possibly give.

As the Society's External Liaison, one of my primary roles has been to connect with outside organizations to address issues of common interest. Some of the most memorable interactions included lively discussions with the Canadian Medical Association related to pharmacists' scope of practice and prescribing. These discussions highlighted for me the fact that this influential group of physicians respects hospital pharmacists and the work that we do. Rest assured, hospital pharmacists will continue to lead patient care initiatives to ensure safe and effective use of medications.

Another highlight of my term was participation in the Executive and Council meetings. Many of you are probably wondering how attendance at meetings could possibly be a highlight. We've all heard the saying in real estate, "Location, location, location". Well, for me, as a Presidential Officer, it was "people, people, people". Never have I met a more dedicated, thought-provoking (and thoughtful), committed group of individuals. For me, those meetings were more than just time away from my regular work; they were times to connect with the issues that shape, influence, and direct hospital pharma-

cy practice. In fact, to prevent having to go "cold turkey" in terms of my interactions with the Executive and Council of CSHP, I may have to surreptitiously dial in to a few teleconferences and just listen, to hear about the current issues. I have become a better leader



within my work organization because of what I've learned through working with the Executive and Council, and for that I am extremely grateful.

Two other initiatives with which I will continue to be involved after my term in office are CSHP 2015 and the Blueprint for Pharmacy. These projects signal to me that pharmacy is in yet another phase of change; for some this may be troubling, but for others, myself included, it is stimulating. Exciting times lie ahead, and we all need to participate in any way we can. For those who have considered becoming involved, my advice is to just do it—you will never regret it.

To paraphrase the words of Canadian rock band Trooper, it has been a good time, though not a long time (well, maybe just a little long!), so have a good time, and the sun will shine on hospital pharmacy every day.

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