

## NEWS RELEASE

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## Destination Halifax to host 2009 Annual Conference

**Ontario, Canada (November, 2008)** – The Canadian Society of Professional Event Planners (CanSPEP), the only association in Canada's event industry that offers an exclusive membership to independent event planner entrepreneurs, announces the 2009 Annual Conference. The 13th Annual Conference will be hosted by Destination Halifax and will take place on November 12 – 15, 2009 at The Westin Nova Scotian Halifax Hotel.

During this turbulent time there is an urgency to stay ahead of the curve. The CanSPEP conference will explore economic attitudes and dispel the pitfalls of retracting in this time of opportunity. The four day conference will provide educational seminars, discussions, workshops and social events to the Canadian event industry. Rita Plaskett, CMP, CMM of ASSET is the 2009 Conference Chair along with Co-chair Bettyanne Sherrer, CMP of ProPlan Conference Planners.

Previous years' annual conferences have been held across Canada and guest speakers have included leading event specialists and successful small business entrepreneurs who have lent their expertise to CanSPEP conference participants.

### About CanSPEP

The Canadian Society of Professional Event Planners (CanSPEP) is a professional network of over 100 entrepreneurs across Canada in the meeting, conference and event management business. Formed in 1996, the association provides a forum in which members meet to exchange ideas, develop skills through educational programs, and share partnership opportunities that foster business growth.

Our primary goal is to promote professionalism and create awareness of the many skills that independent meeting planners offer. Our [membership](#) represents a diverse group of experienced businesses that cater to [clients](#) in the corporate, association, government and not-for-profit sectors, as well as the special events market.

While membership is open to meeting planners only, the association offers industry suppliers opportunities to showcase their products and services to our members through our [Partner Programs](#).

CanSPEP continues to grow, with representation in the Greater Toronto, [Ottawa](#), Montreal, Calgary, and Vancouver areas.

### CanSPEP Mission

To promote, support and provide education to independent meeting and event planners and create public awareness around the profession of event planners.

*CanSPEP is formerly the Independent Meeting Planners Association of Canada.*