

Per Kristensen of the City of Nanaimo, BC, a pioneering builder of municipal and IT organizations and a leader in establishing partnership status for municipalities in dealings with the British Columbia government, has been honoured by MISA/ASIM Canada with the 2007 Peter Bennett Award.

Kristensen was presented with the highest award in the Canadian municipal IT community on April 30 during the Lac Carling Congress at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. He was also honoured at a presentation ceremony May 28 at Nanaimo City Hall before the mayor and council.

Presenter Kevin Peacock, president of MISA/ASIM Canada, said, "Per has worked closely with his municipal colleagues, first in British Columbia and then nationally, to ensure that municipalities work together, that benefits are shared, and that municipal input is heard and contributes to the national strategy for governments' electronic service delivery."



The Peter Bennett Award was created in 2005, shortly after the sudden death of the greatly respected municipal leader from Winnipeg for whom it is named.

One of the first initiatives of the newly formed MISA/ASIM Canada Board of Directors, the award now is presented annually to a volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to the municipal IT environment in Canada.

Kristensen is the third recipient of the award. The first was Peter Bennett himself, posthumously.

The 2006 recipient was Debbie Barrett, now CIO of McMaster University, formerly director of information technology for the City of Mississauga and past president of MISA Ontario, who led the way for municipalities to join other levels of government in advancing citizen-centred service delivery.

Barrett was the first municipal representative on the Public Sector CIO Council and Kristensen succeeded her in 2000. A co-founder of MISA/ASIM Canada as a member with Bennett of the organizing "group of eight," he also participated for two years on the Public Sector Service Delivery Council Research Committee and remains active as a representative for MISA/ASIM Canada on various committees of the Joint Councils. MISA Canada

Municipal Milestone

Kristensen was responsible for achieving a milestone for MISA/ASIM Canada in 2006 when he organized the first-ever meeting of the Joint Councils with a municipal host. The meeting in the City of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island established a new standard for such meetings, including an additional educational program.

Kristensen was one of the founding members of the Municipal Information Systems Association of British Columbia (MISA BC) in 1994. He has served on the Board of Directors since that time and is a past president.

He has been instrumental in forging a close relationship between MISA BC and the provincial government and was a founding member and second vice president of the Integrated Cadastral Information Society of BC.

Kristensen is also a former chapter president of the Canadian Information Processing Society and serves on the Lac Carling Conference Steering Committee

As chief technology officer for Nanaimo for 20 years, Kristensen has ensured that the City, though a smaller municipality, has won several awards and is considered a Canadian leader in the effective delivery of municipal services through technology.

He has lead responsibility for the development of the new City of Nanaimo convention centre, to be opened in 2008 – with the MISA BC Fall Conference as its opening event.