



Gerry Matte Receives Peter Bennett Award 2009

June 15, 2009 -- Gerry Matte, one of the hardest-working builders of MISA organizations in Canada and British Columbia, has received the 2009 Peter Bennett Award.

The presentation announcement was made in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, during the Lac Carling Congress by Daya Pillay, president of MISA/ASIM Canada.

“Gerry is a strong advocate of municipal cooperation and continues to provide leadership, demonstrate commitment, and encourage participation of all municipalities in MISA activities,” Pillay said.

Matte is manager of information technology for the District of Saanich, BC. He is a founder of MISA BC as well as MISA/ASIM Canada. He is active in both the provincial and national associations and has initiated many ideas and projects that have helped municipalities work together to improve efficiency and service to the public.

The Peter Bennett Award is the highest honour in Canada for municipal information-technology leaders. It is presented annually by MISA/ASIM Canada to a volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to the municipal IT environment.

Matte is the fifth person to receive the award. The first was Peter Bennett himself, posthumously. He was manager of systems for the City of Winnipeg, a pioneer in the use of eGovernment technologies and a founder of MISA/ASIM Canada. He was co-chair of the Lac Carling Congress in 2004 and 2005, but died suddenly just days before the 2005 Congress was to begin.

Matte was a colleague of Bennett’s in bringing together the five regional associations that eventually formed MISA/ASIM Canada in 2006. He recently retired as the national association’s founding secretary but continues as a member of its Board of Directors.

Matte served for many years as a municipal representative on the Public Sector CIO Council (PSCIOC), working with federal and provincial officials to develop and coordinate policies and practices related to electronic service delivery.

From 2005 through 2008 he was a member of the PSCIOC’s XML Subcommittee and a member of the Steering Committee for its Task Force for Identity, Authentication and Authorization. He retains a keen interest in security and privacy issues and how they relate to making online transactions efficient and coordinated among governments.



Matte originated the idea for MISA special-offers programs, first provincially and then nationally, under which vendors offer special municipal pricing and services to municipalities in member associations. He is also a supporter and builder of open-source standards for municipalities.

All told, Matte has been involved with information technology for local governments for more than 20 years, in Saskatchewan and BC. Since helping to establish MISA BC in 1992 he has held the positions of webmaster, treasurer, vice-president and president, and is now past-president. He was co-chair and host for the 2000 MISA BC annual conference in Victoria.

Today Matte coordinates a monthly meeting of Capital Region IT managers, which identifies potential ways to gain economies of scale on projects and share experiences.

“Gerry is a tireless and inspirational leader in local government and a worthy recipient of the Peter Bennett Award,” Pillay said.