



caem CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
of EXPOSITION MANAGEMENT

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de GESTION D'EXPOSITIONS

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
TO THE CAEM
AGM**

June 24, 2019

Presented by:

Kyle Dugan, CEM | CONEXSYS Registration Ltd.
Dominique Gagnon, CEM | Centre de Foires de Sherbrooke
Heather MacRae | Landscape Ontario

Better Together 2018

LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Co-Chairs:** Heather MacRae, Landscape Ontario
Dominique Gagnon, CEM, Centre de Foires de Sherbrooke
Kyle Dugan, CEM, CONEXSYS Registration Ltd.
- Education Co-Chairs:** Kristen McIntyre, CHT, CEM, Landscape Ontario
Julie Pike, SME Canada
- Social Co-Chairs:** Rita Mendyski, CEM, The International Centre
Nancy Milani, CEM, CMP, Informa Exhibitions
- ExpoCan Co-Chairs:** Lerna Gurunluoglu, CEM, Restaurants Canada
Ken Jattan, CEM, The International Centre
- Board Liaison:** Jennifer Allaby, Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows
- Goals for 2018 :**
- i. Five stars Education
 - ii. Financial success
 - iii. Being different

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

CAEM's 2018 Conference in Blue Mountain received very positive feedback from our members. While keeping the finances within budget, the committee created one of the most jam-packed itineraries in CAEM conference history, providing an outstanding delegate experience.

Attendance figures were strong with 172 members in attendance. The Conference finances were also strong delivering \$77,025.00 to the Association.

On Sunday night, back by popular demand, and included with full delegate registration, was the **CAEM Conference Kickoff Dinner!** sponsored by the show producers. Monday evening, the International Centre took us to **Rusty's, the Coolest Place in Town** for a night of great food, live music and dancing. And to cap it all off on Tuesday night, the Metro Toronto Convention Centre invited us to **Oliver & Bonacini's** for the traditional CAEM closing night dinner and networking reception.

Our keynote presentations were inspiring and motivating and left a long-lasting impression. The **Opening Keynote Address** (Winning Strategies to Build Your Excellent Team with Becky Kellar and Cheryl Pounder) received high marks and was the perfect way to start the conference off.

The 2018 CAEM Annual Conference schedule was also full of variety and choices; the committee was pleased to offer three focused breakout streams on Tuesday: **The Sales Track, The B2B Event Breakout** and **The Consumer Show Stream**.

Monday was **ExpoCAN – The Show of Shows!** Including the popular networking luncheon. Our attendees enjoy some lunch while meeting the best suppliers this industry has to offer!

The *Social* Committee did an excellent job organizing all the special events. Feedback from some of the social events provided the 2018 conference committees with the opportunity to introduce improvements like reintroducing pre-conference golf to the registration options, and revamping the Sunday night opening reception.

The First-Time Attendee Reception was a low-key reception allowing the First-Timers in attendance to meet the CAEM staff in a beautiful room overlooking Niagara Falls. With 25 First-Time Attendees in Blue Mountain, this proved to be a valuable meeting.

The 2018 CAEM Conference App was provided by EventMobi and was used primarily as a conference schedule tool to avoid creating any printed conference program this year. Social interactions and photo sharing in the app was down from previous years, but overall the app is still a valuable tool to conference attendees and seems to be preferred to a printed program.

Our dream-team of volunteers was a pleasure to work with, and the conference as a whole would not have been what it was without their time and support. Thank you as well to all of the supporting organizations who gave their time and money, allowing us to create an unforgettable experience for the event and exposition industry!