



Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (B.C.) Inc.

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The Swiss Canadian

Business Focus

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Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (BC) Inc.

Building business links between Switzerland and Western Canada

 Please consider the environment before printing this communication

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2009 ~ 2010 SCCC Board of Directors

We are pleased to present you with the Directors for 2009~2010



To see the complete list of our Directors, please visit http://www.swisscanadianchamber.com/about_board.htm

Our newest corporate members:

 **Vifor Pharma** - a fully integrated global speciality pharma company

www.viforpharma.com

Vifor Pharma is a fully integrated speciality pharma company of the Galenica Group. Vifor Pharma Rx focuses on research, development, production and marketing of its own pharmaceuticals and on potential in-licensed products in the three main therapeutic fields of anaemia, nephrology (kidney diseases) and autoimmune diseases.



- practical solutions to the world's environmental problems.

www.globe.ca

See our **GOLD** Corporate Members here:
See our **STANDARD** Corporate Members here:

<http://www.swisscanadianchamber.com/gold.htm>
<http://www.swisscanadianchamber.com/standard.htm>

Upcoming events:

- **June 3, 2009** Summer Night Reception (SNR 2009)

Many more exciting events to follow... Please visit our website regularly for a list of upcoming events:
<http://www.swisscanadianchamber.com/events-upcoming.htm>

Our platinum corporate members:



Swiss Private Banking
Bank Vontobel AG
Representative Office Vancouver

&



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver

Some interesting articles written for the SCCC:

Do you or your company have any interesting topics to share? Please contact us by email for further information.



Let's walk the wood way...

- *Innovative wood building products & solutions*

The forest industry has been hit hard by the current economic situation. The construction industry in BC has also been struggling, and layoffs in the architectural and engineering fields were common over the last several months.

As a firm offering structural engineering and energy consulting services, we see an opportunity in these difficult times. The growing social awareness and political pressures all point in the same direction: sustainable building solutions. Innovative wood building products have typically played a large role in achieving these solutions in Europe, and should in Canada as well.

Wood frame construction is to Canada what the puck is to the hockey stick. But it is time for the Canadian construction industry to explore new routes. Innovative wood building products and solutions are required and available. One only needs to be willing to use them. Architectural and structural timber products (pre-fabricated), are particularly appropriate in the design of energy efficient buildings, both when looking at the construction and life cycle of the building.

Mid-rise projects such as the one shown above in Steinhausen, Switzerland, offer an innovative example of alternative wood frame solutions. Wood based insulation, wood-based fuels and alternative structural building products such as solid wood panels are only a few of the products that we anticipate will become popular in Canada in the near future. By using wood and all its by-products, we can create an efficient and nearly waste-free cycle that will allow us to decrease our impact on the environment. But this can only be achieved if all involved parties pull towards the same goal.

More information? Contact: Bernhard Gafner, Dipl. Ing. FH/STV at bgafner@eqcanada.com

Risk Management Education

- *Empower you Organization with Skills and Tools Needed for Healthy Growth & Development*



SCCC corporate member Oboni Riskope Associates Inc. & parent company Riskope International SA (ORA) have been active in the arena of Risk and Crisis Management (R&CM) Education since 1997, prior to the current economic turmoil, 9/11, the internet bubble, and other major world-wide problems. In the last decade ORA has delivered courses, seminars, workshops at industries, international organizations & universities world-wide using texts and case studies which then were compiled into a book: "Improving Sustainability through Reasonable Risk and Crisis Management".

Meanwhile, innovative concepts and ideas promoted by ORA were adopted by large and prestigious mining industries, UNDP, in the "Risk Sectors" of transport & logistics, go/no-go decisions, alternative transportation systems, humanitarian demining, operational, information warfare and many more. Among these concepts and ideas their clients can define and use quantitative risk tolerability criteria, use risk as an alternative discriminant in the decision making process, replace NPV as a project cost evaluator, and more importantly bring Risk Analysis at inception of any project, thus transforming Risk Assessments into proactive tools for project management.

ORA believes that the time has come to overhaul R&CM educational programs, especially now in the current global financial crisis. To help define contents that would suit practitioners and students, a poll was circulated among their network of professionals world-wide. The participants expressed needs for discussion in:

- Qualitative vs. Quantitative approaches in Risk Assessment,
- Links between the financial and non financial risks,
- Representative real life case studies,
- General requirements for honing skills in presenting/understanding Risk Assessment results,
- Developing risk tolerability curves for their businesses, leading to enhanced decision making processes.

Using the results of the poll, ORA adapted their R&CM course to match the new requirements for the present environment. Numerous real life case studies were selected with the intent to appeal to a broad group of professionals. Courses in English, Italian, French & Spanish through classroom instruction, seminars, workshops and of course, e-education.

More information? Contact: Cesar Oboni at coboni@riskope.com

SCCC recent event summary

May 4 & 5, 2009: AEF

Alberta Economic Forum in Geneva Switzerland

Please find Premier Stelmach's keynote address at the following link:
http://www.premier.alberta.ca/speeches/2009_25862AlbertaEconomicForum.cfm

Apr. 29, 2009: AGM

SCCC - Annual General Meeting

Please find the SCCC President's report at the following link:
http://www.swisscanadianchamber.com/pdf/2009_April_29_-_SCCC_AGM_Presidents_Report.pdf

Apr. 26, 2009: WIHCB

World Ice Hockey Championship (Brunch) Switzerland vs. Germany

Kindly sponsored and organized by the Consulate General of Germany and the Consulate General of Switzerland, this unique viewing was held at Bridges Restaurant, the location of the House of Switzerland Canada 2010, where our members enjoyed a complimentary delicious brunch, and mingled with other hockey fans and business people alike.

<http://www.swissworld.org> and the new Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver website <http://www.sciv.ca>

Apr. 1, 2009: OBS1

SCCC - 2010 Winter Games Business Breakfast

Ken Veldman, Manager of Business Connections, of the "2010 Commerce Centre", and Betty MacLeod, Vice President, Olympic Business Development RBC delivered a fast-paced overview of the 2010 Business Network, the 2010 Opportunities Workshops, the Centre's comprehensive database of procurement opportunities and other tools within your grasp.



<http://www.2010commercecentre.com>

Mar. 4, 2009: EFTA

European Free Trade Agreement

A well attended, organized event (Calgary & Vancouver) promoting trade with the 4 EFTA countries. This event provided excellent networking opportunities and business information.

<http://www.efta.int>

Feb. 19, 2009: DIN 6 2008

Dinner & Drinks w/ Guest Speaker

Guest speaker, Werner Augsburger, Chef de Mission Switzerland, Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games & his team introduced Switzerland's representation of the upcoming olympic games.

<http://www.swissolympic.ch> (In german or french only)

Jan. 22, 2009: DIN 5 2008

Dinner & Drinks w/ Guest Speaker



Guest speaker, Paul Dube, Canada's Taxpayers' Ombudsman, Government of Canada visited us here in Vancouver from Ottawa and delivered an excellent presentation which was of benefit to everyone who files or will be filing taxes.

<http://www.taxpayersrights.gc.ca>

SCCC volunteers / staffing?

Starting July 2009, a part-time opportunity (approx. 1 year in duration, 10 ~ 20 hours / week) is available in a project / administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be well organized, communicative, marketing oriented and ideally speaks Swiss German / German and English and has experience in an administrative capacity. (Ties to Switzerland would be preferable) The position is based in the Greater Vancouver Area (GVA). Interested candidates should forward their resume to the SCCC email address, including compensation expectations and a brief cover letter as to why they are an ideal fit for the position. We thank all applicants in advance, and only selected candidates will be contacted.