

## IT'S STARTING TO TAKE SHAPE!

This is always when it gets nerve wracking and exciting. It's the start of 2017. Everyone is trying to get their year off to a great start and we are no different. Since you are already here, you can gauge some of our progress in making the 2017 Banff School the best experience yet.

If you check the sponsor page, you can see the sponsors we have secured to date. We can never thank them enough for their support. They do so much to help keep the school affordable for all of us. In this super competitive environment, please join me in acknowledging their investment in us.

Our Faculty Chair has been hard at work with his committee and selections are being made almost daily. There will be some familiar faces but a ton of new ones too. We are striving for a balanced educational offering covering as many aspects of our industry as is practical. There isn't much there yet, but I encourage you to keep checking back to see regular updates on the faculty page. We were hoping for some bios to go along with the names but these folks are busy! Hopefully we will have more for you soon!

Based on your feedback, we are retaining the Welcome Reception, the Connection Zone, the Baseball – okay, are they really games or just suppliers continually proving to advisors that they play sports all the time and are in better shape so we are going to crush you 29-8- AGAIN! Oh yeah- oops, the BBQ is back again with entertainment and “dancing” to follow.

**It's only 3 months to the end of Early Bird pricing.** That might sound like a lot but that goes by quickly. If you intend to join us, do it now! Make sure you reserve your spot and don't miss this incredible experience called the Banff School! While you are at it, you should also book your room at the Banff Centre. As with every odd numbered year, we share the Banff Centre with another conference and rooms are in really short supply. If you think staying in town is an option, I would book now- availability is in short supply and prices are sky high. Tourism is at an all-time high and demand for rooms is too. There is something about the early bird getting something that comes to mind.

Now what we have made a large dent in this phase of planning our school, we need you. Last year's attendance was the highest since 2008. By any measure, the school was one of the most successful, educational and fun events in recent memory. Go ahead- click on the registration link and join us in August.

Last year, we made an appeal for new volunteers to help build Banff School now and into the future. Please be patient- we will get to you. Life happens sometimes and plans don't always go the way we want. This year is another year of change for the school and we will need your help going forward.

Thanks for making Banff School a part of your professional development.

Peter F. Cote

2017 Advocis Banff School Chair