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Paul Markle, C.I.M., P.Mgr. CIM National President

What goes around comes around. And Paul Markle is a fine example of this adage: by returning to his roots after years of toing and froing; and by combining the leadership skills and the compassion that he has developed to give back in a rather special manner.

Toronto, Ontario is Paul's birthplace and he lived there until the age of five, when the family moved to Cuba where his parents served as missionaries. They relocated to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia when Paul was 17. Paul completed Grade 11 at Morrison Glace Bay High before heading off to study electronics at DeVry Technical Institute, in his native Toronto.

Once qualified, Paul returned back east and worked for the next 11 years as a craftsman for Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Co. Ltd., before gaining promotion to a managerial position.

Paul was then appointed to work in Ottawa with Trans-Canada Telephone System (TCTS). It was upon his return to Halifax three years later that Paul first became acquainted with the Canadian Institute of Management, when he enrolled for Institute courses at Saint Mary's University. He served as the university's class representative on the Halifax-Dartmouth Branch Board from 1982-1984, before being voted Director of Education at the Branch for a two-year period. Paul received his C.I.M. designation in the spring of 1985, following completion of the required eight courses.

Paul was assigned by his employer for a second three-year term in Ottawa. Although, at this stage, Paul was unable to commit to being involved directly with the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Institute of Management, he did maintain his membership with the Institute.

Upon completion of his contract, Paul once again became involved in CIM, at the branch level, where he served as Director of Membership on the Halifax-Dartmouth Board of Directors. He went on to become Vice-President of Membership and Education, followed by President-Elect.

Unfortunately, Paul was unable to commence his term as President, as his employer again required his services in Ottawa. "While on my third visit...and still working for Stentor Canada (*previously TCTS*), I was asked by the CIM National Executive to assist in the rebuilding of the CIM Ottawa Branch, which had fallen on hard times," says Markle. "I was elected Executive Vice-President of Education in order to accomplish this task." Paul progressed in the rebuilding effort from 1993 to 1995, at which time he made the decision to retire from the



telephone company, at age 52. Shortly thereafter, Paul was elected President of the Ottawa branch of the Canadian Institute of Management, where he remained in office for three years.

Paul's years of managerial experience, both through his work in the telecommunications industry and his commitment to CIM, led him to be offered employment by Health Canada, where he spent five years in the strategic planning section of the Health Protection Branch.

It was during this time that Paul was first elected to the National Board of CIM when, in 1999, he was elected Director of Membership and Marketing. A year later, Paul was conferred the designation of Professional Manager (P.Mgr.) by the Institute.

Following Paul's resignation from his position at Health Canada is when the phrase "what goes around, comes around" really comes into play.

First, he returned to his roots. Paul and Joanne, his wife of 35 years at this stage, moved to the Toronto area, where all three of their children were living.

Secondly, during the course of his professional and CIM career, Paul "developed a passion and care for seniors and shut-ins", resulting in him making a substantial change in leadership direction - from a career as a business manager and leader in the corporate world, to offering spiritual leadership to those residing and working in a long term care facility. Paul has been the Pastor of Bethany Lodge for the past nine years where, he tells us, "I am responsible to lead hymn sings and morning devotions five days a week. I provide pastoral visits to those in hospitals, and conduct funeral services as requested by the departed resident's family." Paul is also a member of the administrative team, helping to ensure the best possible care for the residents.

But Paul did not follow this new path at the expense of his CIM family. He was re-elected to the CIM National Board as Director of Marketing at about that same time. Three years later, he felt that his service with CIM was over, but this proved not to be the case as he was elected President of the Ontario East Region before, in 2009, he began the first of his two terms as CIM's National President.

Paul and Joanne enjoy travelling as often as possible to visit their children and grandchildren who are now living in Toronto, Yarmouth and Zambia.

You can reach Paul by email at president@cim.ca, or feel free to give him a call at 416-756-3871.

Sheila Sproule

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