



## Funeral and Cremation Services Council of Saskatchewan

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Reminder to all Owners the Annual Reports on Prepaid Contracts must be received at Council Office by March 31, 2011.

## FCSCS News and Update

### 2011 Spring Symposium

The 2011 FCSCS Annual General Meeting and Spring Symposium will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon from May 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. Normally the AGM would have been held in Regina, but FSAC has announced it is holding its Annual Convention in Regina in 2012, and it is intended to combine our 2012 AGM with the FSAC convention.

The Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 FCSCS Annual General Meeting will begin with greetings from the Honourable Don Morgan Q.C., Minister of Justice and Attorney General and conclude with two licensees being elected to Council. Should any licensee be interested in seeking a position on Council please contact one of the following member's of the nominating committee:

Phil Fredette at (306) 764-2727;  
David Grambo at (306) 955-1600; or  
Jeff Ofstie at (306) 693-4550

This year's Continuing Education commences at noon on Saturday and concludes 12:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon. The presentation line up will include:

**Alan Creedy**, author, speaker, strategist and coach;  
**Saul Jacobson**, International Mentor/Master Presenter;  
**Nicholas Cann**, Lawyer - McKercher LLP; and  
**O'Lynda Lovas**, Manager Primary Prevention - Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan

Saturday evening will wrap up with the banquet dinner. Following dinner there will be a presentation of long term service awards and the intern awards.

Stay tuned for further information coming your way in the latter part of April 2011.

### 2011 License Renewals

Once again the 2011 license renewal year has drawn to a close. This year was the second year the new "on-line" renewal process was in place. By all accounts the hiccups and growing pains experienced last year were rectified.

Council administration would like to thank those licensees who provided further suggestions as to how we could better streamline the on-line renewal process. Council administration along with their website provider are currently in the process of working on implementing a number of these suggested changes for the upcoming 2012 licensing year.

#### Items of Interest

- 2011 Spring Symposium
- 2011 License Renewals
- From the Desk of the Last Post Fund
- Compliance Update
- Council Administration Update

## From the Desk of the Last Post Fund

It appears many funeral homes, and even some Veterans and their families, are unaware of the existence of the Funeral and Burial Program administered by the Last Post Fund in close contact with Veteran Affairs Canada. The aim of this program is to recognize the achievements of those who valiantly served our country, particularly those who pass away without the necessary means to get decent funeral and burial services.

For the past 100 years, the Last Post Fund, a national non-profit organization, has provided services to over 145,000 Canadian and Allied Veterans, with particular attention to those with limited financial resources.

In order to reach all eligible Veterans, we call on funeral directors to help the Last Post Fund in informing the deceased Veterans' families/executors about the financial assistance for funeral services they may be entitled to.

We ask that upon meeting with the family/executor of a deceased person, you ask the straightforward question: *"has the deceased a military past?"* If the answer is "no" then it ends there, however if the answer is "yes" the funeral director should ask the following questions in order to determine if the deceased Veteran is eligible for assistance under the Funeral and Burial Program:

1. Has the deceased served during the Second World War or the Korean War? or;
2. Has the deceased served in the Merchant Navy or Allied Forces during those same conflicts? or;
3. Was he or she receiving a service disability pension from Veterans Affairs Canada?

If the answer to any of those questions is "yes" then the family/estate of the Veteran may be eligible for the financial benefits provided by the Funeral and Burial Program. In that case, the surviving spouse or estate should contact the Last Post Fund Branch of the province where the Veteran passed away. The deceased Veteran's military service number or Veterans Affairs client number will be required.

You may also wish to inform the family or estate about the existence of Fields of Honour or military sections in several cemeteries where a Veteran could be interred.

For further information or a complete listing of Canadian branches of the Last Post Fund visit their website at: [www.LastPostFund.ca](http://www.LastPostFund.ca)

### Compliance Update

As of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 there have been 27 compliance reviews completed since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. One complaint from a consumer has been received for 2011.

### FCSCS Council Administration Update

A special thanks to Jennifer Benning who started her role as Administrative Assistant for Tanya's maternity leave in February 2010. We wish her all the best at her new job with the Cosmopolitan Learning Centre.

A big welcome back to Tanya Chernick-Aldridge who will be returning to her function as Administrative Assistant on Monday March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Welcome back Tanya!