

HISTORY OF THE MANITOBA CHAPTER, RISK AND INSURANCE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY INC. (MARIMS)

The idea for a Manitoba Chapter of the Risk and Insurance Management Society (MARIMS) began at a 1974 conference of the American Society of Insurance Managers held in Toronto. A small group of Winnipeg Insurance and Risk Managers met informally to discuss the possibility of forming a Chapter. The people present included Reg Pitchford, Joyce Sansome, Roland Vannan, George Lowe, Bill McCall and Al Swifte. Ten corporate members were required to form a Chapter, but this small group represented only half of that.

In November 1975 a meeting of interested corporate representatives was held at the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce to further discuss the formation of a Manitoba Chapter. Don Stuart, Risk Manager of Canada Packers (and the Risk Manager for whom Canada's Annual Risk Management Award is named) and a founding member of the Ontario Chapter, spoke to the group about the beginnings and developments of the Ontario Chapter.

Reg Pitchford of United Grain Growers continued in his efforts to get official RIMS chapter status for Manitoba. The RIMS headquarters in New York required 10 corporate members for official chapter status, and Manitoba took a few months to achieve that number. Don Stewart continued to promote Manitoba's cause. Ms. Emily Stamp, Manitoba's first female Superintendent of Insurance, also promoted MARIMS activities.

On February 24, 1976, MARIMS was born, becoming the fifth Canadian Chapter and the 50th overall Chapter of RIMS. At the Initial meeting of the Chapter, Al Swifte of Manitoba Hydro was elected President, Reg Pitchford of United Grain Growers became Vice-President, and Joyce Sansome representing the Hudson's Bay Company was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Four years later, Manitoba hosted its first Canadian National Risk Management Conference, with Allan Swifte of Manitoba Hydro as Conference Chair.

Some of the original members of the Manitoba Chapter: (with apologies for oversights)

COMPANY DEPUTY MEMBERS

United Grain Growers	Reg Pitchford, Roy Jenner
Hudson Bay Company	Bill McCall and Joyce Sansome
Cargill Grain	George Lowe
University of Manitoba	Bob Syme
Manitoba Pool Elevators	Don Nachtigall
Pool Insurance Company/ Canadian Pool Agencies	Marcel Beaulieu, Luther Heber
City of Winnipeg	Peter Kurushima
Manitoba Hydro	Allan Swifte
James Richardson	Roland Vannan

Several additional companies joined MARIMS in the early 1980's. These included Inter City Gas Corporation, Government of Manitoba, Great West Life, Transair, Manitoba Telephone Systems, and The Manitoba Association of School Trustees.

Reg Pitchford continued his role as the chief promoter of MARIMS activities, publishing the monthly Newsletter and running contests for the person that attended the most MARIMS meetings during the year. Generally that person was Reg himself. In 1984 John Rislanti, Inter City Gas Corporation, took over the role of MARIMS Newsletter Editor, following Reg's retirement.