



World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine Opens at the Victoria Conference Centre

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA –His Honour, Lieutenant Governor Stephen Point and Mayor Dean Fortin opened the 16th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WCDEM) today before 840 emergency medicine professionals from around the world.

The WCDEM is a biannual event convened by the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, a congress devoted to equipping health professionals to prepare for and respond to disasters and health emergencies around the world. It is the premier event for the discussion of disaster and emergency health.

"I am delighted they have selected Victoria to have such a valuable and timely discussion about emergency and disaster medicine," noted Mayor Dean Fortin. "With the recent focus on global pandemic, the congress could not be happening at a better time."

Despite the health and economic global conditions, the Victoria Conference Centre expects to end the year about 10% ahead of 2008 in delegate day numbers.

"The VCC is fortunate to have built a solid base of professional association business over the last 20 years. These associations must meet annually to meet the requirements of their own constitutions and we are here to play proud host to these types of events. The WCDEM is a wonderful example of this", said Jocelyn Jenkyns, General Manager of the VCC.

The World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) is an academic, international, humanitarian association dedicated to improving the everyday delivery of pre-hospital and emergency health care and enhancing disaster health and preparedness. Fostering international collaboration, the organization is inclusive, culturally sensitive, unbiased, ethical, and dynamic in its activities.

For more information please visit the website at <http://www.wcdem2009.org/>

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