

Sandra Williams

Calgary Zone / Mountain Division

The NDS contains many of the recognitions imparted to Sandra since receiving her CSP. What is missing is the thanks she received from her patrol at year end BBQ's, the thanks she has received from participants in her CIS classes and the thanks received following CIS defusing and debriefing sessions.

1. Sandra led Mountain Division (MD) to secure Alberta Government Standard First Aid accreditation. Sandra was actively involved in compiling, categorizing and presenting the case of the CSP to Alberta government authorities. MD was one of the first divisions to attain accreditation. It was a critical step towards achievement of national accreditation; moreover it paved the way to an Advanced First Aid certification level. 2. Sandra developed a strong relationship with the SmartRisk Foundation and represented the CSP on the Board of the Thinkfirst Foundation. Their primary goal was to promote safety for all sports with history of brain injury/concussion incidents. The CSP was a perfect fit to participate actively in the foundation. It produced the video "A Little Respect: Think first!", the first of its kind in the sports industry which was rolled out across the country via ski area associations, ski patrols, special interest groups, etc. generating heightened awareness of the devastating effects of concussions. The foundation developed concussion cards, a version of which is still in use throughout the CSP. Our logo appeared on all collaterals emanating from the SmartRisk Foundation spreading our visibility and reputation within and beyond the ski industry. 3. During Sandra's leadership as national VP Safety, she created and led the first national safety team by recruiting safety officers in every Division. She hosted the inaugural safety stream at the NAC. This team increased the visibility and impact of Safety by rolling out to every Division a toolkit: the Safety Now program, a Tony the Toque mascot, and small safety give-aways. She coordinated regular safety articles in the CSP's national newsletter. In MD she held an annual safety message contest and the winning entry appeared on a magnet and stickers distributed to patrol throughout the System. Sandra's programs affirmed our commitment to safety in our mission statement. 4. Sandra has been actively involved in CIS for 30 years and leads CS in Calgary Zone (CZ) and MD. Her reputation as an extremely capable debriefer has been acknowledged by our ski partners. She has led debriefs following significant events with paid patrollers and has been asked to consult in starting CIS programs at resorts. She coordinated training for CIS team in Calgary with the result that every patrol in CZ has members trained in CIS. The team has grown with inclusion of younger members who are being mentored to increase their confidence level. Sandra developed a CIS brochure. She established a process for continual growth of the team, has evolved the team focus and improved the accessibility of CIS within the zone. The services and training offered by Calgary Zone has been extended to include all of Mountain Division. Sandra represents MD on the national CIS team. 5. As Patrol Leader Sandra directed the successful completion of several capital projects demonstrating to Norquay management the CSP's allegiance to the ski area

and its willingness to contribute to its success beyond the act of patrolling. She re-established active APL positions within the Norquay patrol to encourage involvement, leadership and succession. She successfully strengthened the CSP's close relationship with the paid patrol: the area delegated race duty to the CSP, the CSP assists in training new paid patrollers, the CSP offers spots to the area in avalanche training courses, the CSP joins the paid patrol in on-snow Avalanche training, the CSP and paid patrollers worked together in development of an avalanche beacon basin.

In addition to the impacts outlined in the programs, initiatives and actions above: Throughout her patrol career, Sandra has been an active member on organizing committees for significant ski patrol events. A noteworthy characteristic of her participation is taking each event to a higher level. (a) She received a Calgary Zone Presidents Recognition award for her involvement on the organizing committee of FIPS in 1993 - first in Canada and financially successful. (b) member of the organizing committee for the NAC in Calgary in 2002, demonstrating that conferences could be financially successful and held first ever Patrol Leader's and Safety streams attracting more patrollers to the event. (c) negotiated with the Calgary Board of Education to roll out the Safety Now! program to school children before their ski field trips, reaching in excess of 150,000 children and their families in the Calgary area thereby creating greater awareness of the CSP in the region; (d) Sandra received a Calgary Zone Presidents Recognition award for her work on the organizing committee of the Calgary Zone's Women's Ultimate Edge Ski and Toboggan clinic. The impact of the program was to negate self-doubt and increased toboggan handling confidence and skills of the females in the zone. This program provided a model for an Ontario division program; (e) negotiated an excellent price for the initial order of new red jackets for Nakiska and Norquay patrols. The impact was that the patrollers wear a good quality jacket at an affordable price; (f) Sandra is a member of the organizing team for the zone annual meeting and recognition ceremony. She liaises with the venue, coordinates all refreshments, performs duties as the election chair before and during the meeting, and creates take-away awards booklets. The "cocktail" format which Sandra introduced to the zone has led to a greater attendance at the awards ceremony. As you review her CV you will have noticed that Sandra has been active and a leader at patrol, zone, division and national levels. Her contributions at each level of the System have had a positive impact and have led to the growth to the CSP.

Beginning in her second year with the CSP, Sandra has held and continues to hold leadership positions at patrol, zone, division and national levels. Sandra has never been content with the status quo, rather accepted the challenge to actively grow each position beyond expected parameters through innovations as evidenced in safety logo and sticker contests, in extracting elements of CIS training to develop an immediate care program for patrollers. As a leader she encouraged and excited patrollers to take on challenges and provided tools for success. Sandra shared her vision to the Norquay patrol transform a run-down storage room into a patrol "lounge" and renovating an abandoned mouse-infested building into a warm-up hut during patrol duty. She organized materials, human resources and refreshments for the project. She excited the team with her visions and they went to work on remarkable renovation projects. In CIS training, she has provided opportunities to practice to create more

confidence within her team. Sandra deflects credit from herself and places it upon the team. In fact "team" is a very important word for her. Whether PL, Mountain Div President or national VP Safety, Sandra always gave credit to her team and took none of it for herself. Sandra established the Mountain Division Life Member Award while Division President. As Norquay's PL Sandra made sure that patrollers involved in very serious accidents were recognized for life saving actions.

The CSP has benefitted from Sandra's leadership. We have gained visibility and enhanced our reputation within the ski industry and beyond through her involvement in safety and CIS. We can trace our success in national first aid accreditation to her early efforts. At her ski area, she has positioned the CSP to provide distinctive roles at the area. She left every position in good shape and has provided strategic direction allowing her successor to springboard from her achievements. Just because Sandra's name is not familiar to everyone on the awards committee does not detract or diminish the significance and depth of her accomplishments. In almost 30 years her commitment has never wavered and she has continuously contributed to the organization in a very quiet way. Her actions have built a stronger organization.

Beginning in her second year of patrolling, Sandra has held leadership positions at every level of the system. Her efforts have created greater visibility for the CSP and have enhanced our reputation. Our success as an organization can be traced to her outstanding efforts in each of our pillars: education, safety and operations. Sandra strongly believes in the power of a team and attributes success to the commitment of her team. Specific accomplishments include attainment of Alberta provincial accreditation for the CSP helping to position the organization for national accreditation and advanced first aid status; working closely with the Thinkfirst Foundation in the creation of the video "A Little Respect: Think first!", the first of it's kind in the sports industry highlighting the severity of concussions and creation of concussion cards still in use in the ski patrol today; bringing visibility to the Safety portfolio and upholding our mission statement by executing the first safety stream at a NAC creating and inspiring a national safety team. Her extensive work in CIS has gained the CSP respect from the emergency responder community. As a leader, Sandra is very modest about her accomplishments and attributes her success to her team.