

site Canada



David Stempowski, DES
Destination Meetings Manager
Victoria, BC

We asked David to share a WOW event he planned for an incentive group:

"Our last incentive group involved a whale-watching tour off the coast of Victoria. It was timed perfectly. At first, we waited a while but there were no sightings of whales. Suddenly, almost on cue, an entire pod of whales appeared and did a spectacular show for the entire group for almost 30 minutes! We didn't even have to pay the whales extra!"

As part of our Member Snapshot initiative we conduct short interviews with our members about their industry, career, etc.
See below for David's full interview.

Members Name: David Stempowski, DES
Title: Destination Meetings Manager
Company: Destination Greater Victoria/Business Events Victoria
Location: Victoria, BC

Tell us about one of your favourite SITE events (and why it's a fav).

I attended the holiday mixer back in December 2021 and it was so nice to see so many familiar faces and meet some new people after such a long hiatus over the last two years. You could feel the energy in the room at Steamwhistle Brewery and got a sense that we are all ready to get back to business – suppliers and clients alike!

Quick overview of your role and where you see your organization headed.

Proud to represent the beautiful and picturesque location of Victoria, BC! My official title is Destination Meetings Manager and I take great pride in highlighting why clients should bring their next conference and incentive group to our little oasis on the West Coast! It's been a challenging two years, but I can confidently say that Destination Greater Victoria/Business Events Victoria is finally on the road to recovery. Only dynamic things to come out of our destination as we move forward to 2022 and beyond!

What are you most excited about 2022?

Most excited about attending industry events once again and seeing clients in person. There is no better way to connect with people than in person, especially for salespeople.

Can you share with us a WOW event that you planned for an incentive group and some of the key components?

Our last incentive group involved a whale-watching tour off the coast of Victoria. It was timed perfectly. At first, we waited a while but there were no sightings of whales. Suddenly, almost on cue, an entire pod of whales appeared and did a spectacular show for the entire group for almost 30 minutes! We didn't even have to pay the whales extra!

What is the best piece of advice you ever received about our industry?

The most important piece of advice is to stop and listen to your clients. It's often easy to get ahead of ourselves with excitement but it's even more important to stop, breathe, and listen to the person you are speaking with in that moment.

What career advice would you give to your younger self?

I would without a doubt tell my younger self to walk into a reception and meet as many people as possible. To not feel intimidated by the crowd before you but rather embrace it.

What do you do for fun?

Most of my fun time is spent with my four-year-old Weimaraner, Harlow. Usually involves walks, hikes, runs, and lots of treats. She sometimes lets me join her.