



Dear Local Association President:

Back in May, 2007, a group of football officials representing major associations across the country met in Winnipeg. This mini – Conference was funded jointly by Football Canada and the Canadian Football League and the focus was the issue of recruitment and retention, something that concerns all of us across the country. The development of an Action Plan with one year, three year and five year goals and initiatives was a significant benefit.

Out of all of the ideas and discussions, a decision was made to identify a Football Officials' Week in Canada this September, and a committee was formed to develop plans and manage the event. This group - Rick Carter from Edmonton, Steve Chisholm from Saskatoon, Dennis Abbott from Victoria, John Brenton from Halifax, Mike Groleau from Burlington, and myself, from the CFL office in Toronto have been meeting by teleconference and want you to join in a week to celebrate football officials in Canada.

The week we have selected is the week of September 10 – 16, 2007 and we 'd like to use it to raise awareness of football officials in general, and to encourage people to become involved. We have developed a website and are organizing a variety of media events to get attention. We hope that each of you and the members of your local association will use the week as a springboard for attracting new recruits into football officiating.

We'll be in touch over the next few weeks to alert you to events and media coverage we are going to generate through the CFL and TV broadcasts. We hope that you can work with local media people to develop their awareness of the celebration week and the important role of football officials in the game.

Sincerely,

George R. Black
Director of Officiating
Canadian Football League

