



Professional Development

Work Is About Life, Life Isn't About Work

Early this month our Canadian Chapter of PCMA came together for an event featuring guest speaker, Tom Schellenberg, Chief Operating Officer at Marine Drive Golf Club. Tom is committed to his responsibilities as a club leader, but also to living a life inspired by his priorities, which led him to trek to Mt. Everest Base Camp and start a non-profit, [The Weight We Carry](#).



He shared stories and wisdom from his journey and encouraged the professionals in attendance to acknowledge their own listing of priorities. Tom offered a sample set for consideration by the group, noting that work should never place higher than number three within the list.

1. Loved Ones
2. Self (the things YOU need to be your best, such as regular time for exercise and meditation/self reflection)
3. Work
4. Hobby (the things you enjoy doing such as volunteering)

Tom is new to his role at Marine Drive, however they are actively working towards a culture where "work is about life, life isn't about work." They are recognizing staff not just for extending great service to members, but for kindly serving each other. For example, awarding someone from the golf staff who gladly returned a banquet table from the golf course for the food and beverage team after an event. They have also developed a staff social committee with representation from each department tasked with designing activities that promote relationship building within the team.

When considering a culture where "work is about life, life isn't about work, just a few interesting points of reflection that came from his talk include:

1. What if there was a "wellness" component to every employee compensation package, physical or mental?
2. What if the club provided all employees with a FitBit?
3. What if the club employed a therapist specifically to support team mental health?

Tom is an energetic and vibrant person. It was inspiring to learn how he is balancing a demanding industry notorious for long hours and his passions for people, the outdoors, and wellness.