

Canadian Society for  
Civil Engineering



Société canadienne  
de génie civil



**Reg Andres, P.Eng. FCSCE**

President, Canadian Society for Civil  
Engineering

[president@csce.ca](mailto:president@csce.ca)

Tel: 514-933-2634, ext 2

## WELCOME

A little more than one year ago I had no idea that in June 2013 I would find myself writing my first E-letter as the President of CSCE. Unusual circumstances led to this being the case and I look forward to an interesting year, albeit with some anxiety but also with much anticipation. CSCE has a new vision and it is my goal to be active in moving the Society into the implementation of this vision. With all of your help this can be an exciting time for CSCE.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

The most recent and only activity I can personally report on as President at this point in time is the now completed 2013 Annual Conference in Montreal. I would like to congratulate the Local Organizing Committee led by Jean-Pierre Pilon (SNC Lavalin) and his army of volunteers who made this a most successful conference.

The conference is a complex logistical event with a large number of papers, sessions, meetings, competitions, social events and ceremonies that need to be coordinated into the overall experience of our annual conference. Arranging the 'time and space' requirements of such a large conference would challenge many engineering projects and I would say the team did an excellent job. Being in

Montreal our head office staff undertook a more “hands-on” participation in the planning side of the conference. This experience for Doug Salloum and his staff will benefit future conferences.

The record number of papers in the general and specialty conference proceedings certainly reinforced CSCE’s status as a “learned society”. The significant effort in the technical programming is a foundation for the society providing an important and on-going service to its members. We need to be mindful of the relevance of this effort in terms of CSCE’s Strategic Direction related to enhancing member services and to the importance of CSCE’s profile and reputation to the rest of Canada. I would like to thank the Technical Committees and Divisions supporting this strategic activity.

I was most impressed with the profile of our Young Professionals and Students at the conference. The Young Professionals’ Reception, the soft skills and project management workshops, the social activities, the first annual Capstone competition for students, the awards dinner and the many program activities throughout the year is a testament that we are on our way to the focus on Young Professionals and Students embodied in our Strategic Direction of growing with youth. I would like to extend my thanks and congratulations to Amie Therrien (CSCE YP/Student Program Coordinator) and Katelyn Frecon (Walker Projects), the conference coordinator for these events. I would also like to reinforce the challenge to our Young Professionals and Students to build on this profile and engagement to be part of “world changing” activities through the Society. Many thanks to all those who support our youth.

“Savoir Faire / Know How” was a fitting theme for Montreal. We now look forward to 2014 in Halifax and the challenge to our Atlantic Region family in preparing for “Sustainable Communities”.

The first Board of Directors’ meeting after the conference identified a number of important initiatives. Finalizing By-law updates to ensure CSCE complies with current “Not-for-Profit” legislation and a review of some operational processes have been initiated. Developing specific activities to dig into the implementation of CSCE’s new Strategic Vision adopted in 2012 will be a key initiative for the Board.

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

As I begin to understand the activities that face the President I wish to acknowledge the many individuals who have approached me with words of encouragement and more importantly, offers of help. In taking on this role earlier than planned I have not had time to prepare for all of the expectations and therefore, will definitely take you up on some of these kind offers.

I hope to be able to meet with as many of the Regions and Sections as my travel plans will allow. In some cases these will be coordinated with my business travel in my day job as a consulting engineer. Based on some existing commitments in

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Eastern Canada this fall I hope to include some contact with the LOC of our next Annual Conference in Halifax. A formal invitation to attend the Hong Kong Branch in fall (2013) has already been extended. I appreciate this offer and need to consider what is possible with all of these opportunities. I am aware that various other conferences and meetings across Canada are in the offing as well. I look forward to meeting as many of our members in this process as I can.

### **VISION 2020: Our plans for the future**

Many know that my day job relates specifically to infrastructure. In this context the issue of sustainability is a 'passion' that fits into CSCE's Strategic Direction – sustainable infrastructure. We are entering year 2 in terms of implementing our Vision 2020. I hope to represent the Society well to many external organizations, senior levels of government and Canadian citizens at large in the context of our sustainability vision. CSCE has made good strides in terms of our recognition as a national leader in this area through our involvement in the National Round Table for Sustainable Infrastructure several years ago and more recently in a leadership role in the inaugural National Report Card on Infrastructure published last fall.

The development of an "action plan" that will involve virtually every aspect of CSCE's organization is a goal for implementing our vision. One of the initial challenges is to develop a communications plan. This has been put at the feet of our Administrative Coordinating Committee with direct link to our Communications Committee. There are many activities and opportunities going forward that would become part of our overall implementation plan.

- Utilizing our current publications and partnering with external publications to get our message out
- Empowering CSCE members to speak out on issues impacting our society where civil engineers have a role in solutions, including our young professionals and students
- Partnering with other national associations with like-minded goals
- Engaging with senior levels of government
- Developing CSCE approved position papers
- Issuing press releases on specific topics related to sustainability and infrastructure

... the list just scratches the surface of the challenges in front of us. There is much work to do. It will not all happen in one year. It is a long term vision and an important one for Canadian society. CSCE has a duty to be a national leader. I call on all members to embrace the vision, not only for sustainable infrastructure but for our entire Vision 2020.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers was formed in 1887 with 288 member engineers. This was the first step toward making engineering in Canada a

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profession with strict licensing standards. In 1918 the name of the CSCE was changed to the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) so that it could represent all the engineering disciplines and in the 1920s the EIC encouraged the provinces to set up self-governing groups of professional engineers.

The EIC started encouraging the formation of technical divisions within the Institute and eventually recommended that these technical divisions become self-governing. The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) was approved in 1972 and more recently changed its name to the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, as we know it today.

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