



Celebrating 125 years since our founding in 1887 and 40 years as a constituent society of the Engineering Institute of Canada



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Nous célébrons 125 années d'existence depuis notre création en 1887 et 40 années comme société membre de l'Institut canadien des ingénieurs



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WELCOME

Greetings to all of our CSCE members and others that may have occasion to read this e-letter. Summer has now passed on to the cooler days of fall, although if anything there is a warming of all of the activities in CSCE-world. The past month has been rather busy for me with work on behalf of CSCE, much of which has involved travel away from home. Here is my update on the past month.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

In mid-September, I travelled to Toronto to attend the Board meeting of the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC). My membership on the Board is by virtue of my position as CSCE President. As most of you may know, EIC is the umbrella organization for 11 constituent society members, of which CSCE is one. Indeed, CSCE has the second largest membership of the constituent societies, exceeded only by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (Canada).

The day-long EIC Board meeting began with a dinner the evening before, which was a

great chance for me to meet those members that were able to attend in person. Aside from the more-or-less regular business of the Institute, this meeting served as the annual general meeting at which the EIC Presidency passed from Tony Bennett, who is the Director of Dam Safety & Emergency Preparedness with Ontario Power Generation, to Dr. Jean Zu, who is the Head of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at the University of Toronto. Dr. Om Malik, Prof. Em. at the University of Calgary, was elected to the position of President-Elect. EIC Presidents may serve up to two one-year terms.

While in Toronto, I attended a small gathering of the Ontario Region Council, which included James Garland, Regional VP, Nigel Parker representing the Toronto Section, and Tom Mara, Chair of the London & District Section. Over a four-hour lunch, we discussed a variety of matters pertaining to CSCE operations, including some initiatives related to our Vision 2020, with a few ideas coming forward for further consideration. I am grateful to the members for taking several hours from their Saturday to meet with me.

At the end of September, I was in Winnipeg to attend the annual general meeting of the Canadian Geotechnical Society. Although not a member of the CGS Board, CSCE is provided a place at the table of their discussions as we do for them at our Board meetings. Indeed, there are a lot of commonalities between us as one might expect. Two notable differences in our societies are that we have considerably more student members (>1800 this year vs. <100 for CGS) and that some sections of CGS have local members (i.e., members who are not members of CGS). I also gave welcoming remarks at the opening ceremonies to the 65th annual conference of the Society, at which there were some 350 delegates in attendance.

While in Winnipeg, I arranged to meet with Shawn Clark, Chair of the Manitoba Section, and the Section's Vice-Chair, Tricia Stadnyk. Over lunch at the University of Manitoba, we were able to discuss a number of matters pertaining to section operation. The Manitoba Section is in a rebuilding phase, with considerable progress having been made in this regard over the past two years under the leadership of past-Chair Dagmar Svecova. There is no doubt in my mind that Shawn and Tricia, and the rest of the Section's executive team, will continue to make great progress in the months ahead.

One of the matters of business for all not-for-profit (NFP) organizations, such as CSCE, EIC and CGS, is to address the requirements of the new (Federal) Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act that came into force on October 17, 2011. The government provided a three-year implementation period, after which those organizations that have not filed the appropriate documents (e.g., Certificate of Continuance) will be dissolved. In most cases, NFPs are encouraged to use the three-year window to ensure that their letters patent and bylaws are in compliance with the federal regulations. Our Executive Director, Doug Salloum, has this matter in hand and we anticipate completing the application process well in advance of the October 2014 deadline.

In early October, the senior leadership team referred to as the National Management Committee held its fall telecom meeting. A key item of business was reviewing the Society's financial situation, including the preliminary assessment of the fiscal year-end numbers and the budget proposed for the next year (i.e., beginning October 1).

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

I will be attending the ASCE annual conference in Montreal in mid-October. Aside from bringing welcoming remarks from CSCE at the opening ceremonies, I anticipate participating in various discussions with ASCE leadership team members and perhaps a number of others in attendance from other countries. From what I have been told, this is only the second time that ASCE has held its annual conference outside the USA, with the first occasion also being in Montreal.

At the end of October, I will be travelling to China to attend the annual conference of the Chinese Hydraulic Engineering Society (CHES) and to participate in an international forum at Tianjin University. Other meetings are also planned, although final details are yet to be confirmed. In China, CSCE has agreements with CHES, Wuhan University of Technology (WHUT), the China Civil Engineering Society (CCES), the China Highway and Transportation Society (CHTS) and Beijing Jiaotong University. We also currently have a participatory agreement for the 2014 International Water Conference. I have elected to co-sponsor my upcoming trip with the University of Saskatchewan.

The fall workshop and meeting of the Board of Directors will be held December 1 and 2 in

Montreal. The workshop, which will be led by President-Elect Yves Cadotte, will focus on the initiatives being undertaken as part of our Vision 2020 plan for the future. A key item for the Board agenda will be the approval of our 2012-13 budget.

VISION 2020: Our plans for the future

The three strategic directions that will guide and inform our decision-making over the next several years in realizing our mission and vision include:

- Strategic Direction #1: enhanced services to members (focus on improved programming for our members, including many of our traditional activities)
- Strategic Direction #2: growing with youth (focus on students and young professionals and their career development aspirations and needs)
- Strategic Direction #3: leadership in sustainable infrastructure (focus on the improvement of the planning, design, construction and maintenance of public infrastructure)

All members, and perhaps particularly those engaged in leading the Society, are encouraged to actively participate in helping us to take action to make the strategic directions come to life. It is the sum of all of our efforts that will result in meaningful impact on the vitality of our Society; please do not underestimate the importance of your contributions to our work!

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

The first leg of this year's first National Lecture Tour (NLT), with guest presenter Guy Felio, recently wrapped up with the last presentation given in Fredericton. This NLT was on the recently-released infrastructure report card for Canada. A total of 13 presentations were given over a two-week period, starting with the first one in Saskatoon on September 13. Attendance at the presentations ranged from 12 to 75, with the overall attendance being somewhat less than had been anticipated. We are hoping to continue our work on the infrastructure report card in the years ahead. A major vote of thanks is extended to Dr. Felio for his participation in this year's lead-off NLT; the significant commitment of time is greatly appreciated.

Next year's annual conference will be held in Montreal, May 29 – June 1. Aside from the general conference on a wide array of civil engineering topics, there will also be four specialty conferences and a forum on professional development. The abstract deadline for the conference has been extended to October 19. Details about the conference, including abstract submission procedures, can be found at www.csce2013.ca.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...CSCE now has 1865 student members! This is the largest number of student members the Society has seen since it's inception.