

Canadian Society for
Civil Engineering



Société canadienne
de génie civil



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Welcome

In my last e-letter the definitions for sustainability raised an active response from the readers. I appreciate all the commentary and have come to realize more people see and read the letter than I perhaps realized. The subject matter created more interest and varied opinions than normal. It suggests the need to further the conversation. Thank you to those that took the time to respond. I have been pleasantly surprised by people who come up to me fairly regularly, acknowledge my name and comment that they know me because they read the monthly letter. I also receive notes from individuals who I have had the privilege to meet at different events. Again, thank you. I try to respond to these and I simply ask your indulgence if the responses are not as immediate as they probably should.

What has happened? What is happening? What is going to happen?

I am in Montreal at the Transportation Association of Canada's (TAC) fall conference. This morning we presented CSCE's vision for a sustainability rating system for infrastructure to TAC's Chief Engineer's Council (CEC). We also reported on the results of the Infrastructure Report Card and the fact that the next iteration of the report is underway to be issued in 2015. I now have a couple hours of quiet time to "reflect" before the next activity, a VIP Welcome Reception to receive a plaque from TAC recognizing the long standing relationship between TAC and CSCE. As a celebration of its 100 year anniversary TAC is thanking the technical partners who have collaborated and supported the association's work to

advance the state of knowledge in transportation. Susan Tighe represents CSCE on TAC's Chief Engineer's Council and I have a much better appreciation of her role on our behalf with this influential group. It was a great celebration and CSCE was appropriately and publically acknowledged. This is one of those up-lifting events for CSCE.

The sustainable infrastructure message is getting clearer and more focused every time it is presented. I hope those who hear it, get it. The more we verbalize it the better the message is articulated. Doug Salloum is with me at the CEC to support the message. His insights and new ideas that come from those events are so appreciated. It seems we create more work for ourselves and CSCE every time we represent CSCE at some event. I guess that is how it should be. I am so pleased our Executive Director is supportive and helpful. We spoke to the Chair to discuss how a more formalized support of CSCE's sustainability position could be acknowledged by the Council. We have a plan.

It is the fall conference season and it seems everyone's summer planning resulted in requests to come and speak. Among others this has included the Ontario Municipal Waterworks Association education workshop, Premier Wynne's National Summit on Infrastructure, the TAC conference and a number of other opportunities made for a season busier than normal, but then again, what is normal? Needless to say it was all challenging but worthwhile. This goes along with bi-monthly Executive team teleconference calls planning for the fall Board meeting, annual workshop and addressing other management issues that need input.

What is going to happen is significant. More conferences to attend – ASCE Annual Conference in Panama, (October 2014, yes, a tour of the canal is included), another OMWA workshops presentation (October 2014), presentation to the First International Sustainable Infrastructure Conference in Long Beach, California (November 2014), CSCE Fall Board Meeting and Workshop (November 2014), and the list goes on.

A new process for developing white papers that lead to CSCE policy statements is being prepared. Advancing two new CSCE policies is being proposed and worked on. Efforts to strengthen the communication links between our Technical Divisions and Committees and our Sections and Regions are on-going. Conferences and workshops are being planned. Section meetings continue to take place.

I realize this E-Letter is more of simple activity reporting and less on trying to evoke opinion/response. That is okay. It is not a bad thing to stop and reflect every so often and check ourselves on what we are doing and its proper priority in meeting goals and objectives. CSCE's Vision 2020 is getting traction. Many CSCE volunteers are working hard across the organization. That being said we still have work to do.

From the perspective of the President's chair I believe CSCE is making progress in meeting our Vision 2020 objectives. One of the important keys is to make sure that each activity planned and executed by individual component groups of the Society are viewed not only for the benefit of the individual group but what larger contribution each activity makes in the broader perspective of CSCE becoming

recognized, acknowledged and affirmed for the value we bring to society. I would like to continue encouraging this perspective as you are each undertaking the work in your respective areas of activity. We have been trying to develop a feed-back mechanism for reporting strategic results or information from specialty conferences, for example to share with the Canadians in general. This is where our Communications Committee and our communications strategy engage with our technical committees to collectively gain the broader benefit beyond the information shared within the individual technical groups. With this approach the whole becomes larger than the sum of the individual parts. This is the goal of the strategic plan for CSCE operations.

Encouraging our Divisions and Committees to work on not only developing content for our message but finding way to get it heard outside the CSCE circle will move CSCE forward on achieving these objectives.

Giving our Young Professionals and Students the same encouragement will multiply rewards in coming years.

I am looking forward to our fall Workshop with a focus on ACC. The Administration Committees are in many respects enablers for some of the activities planned by CSCE across the organization. They are certainly important from the standpoint of facilitating the transfer and sharing of knowledge outside the walls of the CSCE membership circle.

Giving the encouragement and focus this fall will have the potential to yield amazing advancements in CSCE's vision.

I am excited!

Did You Know?

In light of my recent attendance at TAC, here is some information not all of us knew, at least not me. The Chief Engineers' Council (CEC) provides a forum for information exchange amongst Canada's leading transportation professionals. The Council is comprised of the chief engineers from the TAC member federal, provincial and territorial departments of transportation and from ten of Canada's larger municipalities, along with appointed members from the private sector and other agencies.

The Council is responsible for the development, approval, and maintenance of national technical transportation guidelines and best practices for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of the road infrastructure in Canada. The vision of the CEC is to be a centre of excellence and to foster innovation, technology transfer, training, research and development, highway safety, risk management, environmental sustainability and efficiency in the provision, operation and maintenance of the transportation infrastructure.

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