

Canadian Society for  
Civil Engineering



Société canadienne  
de génie civil



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## Welcome

This past month has been busy to say the least. I found myself at municipal Council meetings, at several project workshops, a wedding (the last of my three sons got married this month), and a national conference in Atlantic Canada. Did you catch the activity that seemed out of place in this list? At times I ask myself where the time goes. We are living at such a fast pace we often forget, as they say, to smell the roses. For obvious reasons, the opportunity to stop and reflect a moment occurred at my son's wedding. Now looking at a grown and mature man I reflected on his younger days and watching him grow in so many ways over the years.

In a similar way, as I reflect on the busyness of the work of CSCE it doesn't hurt to stop and reflect about CSCE – what it represents today and the growth that has taken place over many years and the hopes and aspirations we have for it. We are in the midst of planning for our annual Board workshop as a moment to reflect about these very things. And with that reflection, we want to lay out a plan for moving forward.

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

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I had a recent opportunity to attend the Atlantic Canada Water and Wastewater Association (ACWWA) annual conference in Fredericton, NB. While this was not an official CSCE President's visit I did take the opportunity to meet with a number of CSCE leaders in Atlantic Canada. With the assistance of our Regional VP (Susann Hickey) I was able to meet up with folks like Jeff Rankin and Lloyd Waugh from Fredericton and Carl Yates from Halifax to reflect on where CSCE is and where it is going. We talked about the 2014 Conference and some impacts it could have in terms of CSCE's vision. I also found some reflective times with Murray Jamer (Fredericton) and Guy Félio. I want to thank everyone who offered their time and in particular their insights. Shaping the future of CSCE is a daunting task and these and many other moments are influential in the process.

For those interested in the progress of the National Report Card, the next iteration of the report is beginning to be planned. More importantly, CSCE has taken a lead within the Report Card Steering Committee in going through a pre-qualification process and then developing a terms of reference for a proposal request from organizations interested in becoming the primary support organization that will work with the Steering Committee to create future iterations of the report card. With CSCE's lead through Nick Larson and his Infrastructure Renewal Committee the group is now waiting for the submission of proposals from the pre-selected organizations. Once the support organization is selected the process of beginning the next iteration of the report card will commence.

About the time this letter is distributed CSCE has a number of folks traveling to the far East to meet with CSCE members in our international Branch in Hong Kong. Tony Begin, Senior V.P., has kindly agreed to represent CSCE officially in my place and he will be accompanied by Todd Chan (VP – International) and Brian Burrell (VP – Technical Programs). I appreciate that these gentlemen have found time in their busy schedules to offer their services as our ambassadors. We look forward to their report on meetings with our members and other civil engineers in Hong Kong. I am counting on these insights to help bring home the importance and benefits of our international connections for the overall benefit of the Society and also in achieving the broader global sustainability goals by civil engineers around the world.

## **Vision 2020**

CSCE's annual Board workshop is being held at the end of November in Montreal. In 2012 the workshop included a facilitated brainstorming session identifying a wide range of actions that could be initiated to advance each of our three strategic directions. We are anticipating a structuring of these and other activities that may be identified in a Vision 2020 implementation action plan.

Over the course of a year there are literally hundreds of CSCE activities, large and small, that take place across the country. Think about the Divisional conferences and workshops, Section lunch / dinner meetings and technical tours in each of the

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CSCE Sections across Canada, student activities at Canadian universities, Program committee initiatives like the creation of CSCE's Guidelines for Sustainable Development, collaborations with other national associations in creating Canada's first Infrastructure Report Card and the Technology Road Map, life-long learning courses and workshop activities, CSCE's award program... the list goes on and on. A tremendous amount of volunteer time and energy goes into the planning and implementation of these countless activities.

The goal of the 2013 workshop will be to consider the totality of these activities to recognize how they collectively align not only with CSCE's Vision 2020 strategies but also with the broader objectives of CSCE's role in Canadian society. The more we recognize and align our activities with the broader responsibilities of civil engineers, the more we will influence the advancement of a sustainable Canadian and global society.

### **Did you know?**

If you Google "sustainable infrastructure" the eighth listing that comes up is CSCE. I was not sure how we might fare in terms of recognition in such a search. I was pleasantly surprised to see that we are in the top 10 list. What do we need to do to get the average Canadian citizen, politicians, researchers and advocates to recognize CSCE as of the first groups that come to mind when looking for insights and understanding with respect to global sustainability and sustainable infrastructure issues?

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