

Canadian Society for
Civil Engineering



Société canadienne
de génie civil



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Welcome

This is my last e-Letter for 2014. It is hard to believe another year has come and gone. At a time when events locally, nationally and globally seem unexplainable this is a time for reflection of the good things that have taken place over the past year, a time for reflection of achievements that have met and exceeded goals from the start of the year and a time to be thankful for family, friends and freedom. To the CSCE family I offer my warmest well wishes for the holiday season.

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

During the last weekend in November CSCE held its fall workshop and Board Meeting. Thanks to the efforts of Tony Begin, our President-Elect and Tom Brown, Sr. Vice-President, we had a most successful workshop. The workshop focused on the Administration Committees with the goal of endorsing and strengthening these committees and the support they provide many of the activities undertaken by CSCE.

Based on results of a series of group discussions the workshop identified a series of priorities that would support our corporate vision. These were summarized and prioritized the following day in the Board meeting discussions for the annual budget. The result of this process provided a budget discussion that was focused on supporting our Vision 2020 directions and has set a precedent for future budgeting processes. The workshop and Board meeting weekend, held in Toronto provided an opportunity for good discussions and, as usual, an opportunity for

bonding the leadership group that will benefit the on-going business of the society.

One of the important discussions at the Board meeting related to the 2015 Annual Conference in Regina. Our local organizing committee has been working hard in the face of some unusual challenges and requested Board support for the planning activities – sponsorships, attendance, etc. I would like to highlight this important event in the annual life of CSCE and ask everyone to put this in their 2015 calendar with plans to attend and support the work of CSCE. If there is one theme I have been pushing it is “be seen, be heard and be relevant”. Your support of the conference is an important vote of confidence for CSCE’s on-going leadership efforts to meet this overall objective. Come and help CSCE in this effort!

One of the new features of this conference is the introduction of a new applied science stream - the 1st Annual Conference on **Innovation in Engineering Practice**. This stream provides an opportunity for a non-juried submission format for civil engineering practitioners, planners and industry leaders. If there is one important aspect to address sustainability for infrastructure, it is “innovation”. When I attended the 1st International Conference for Sustainable Infrastructure in Long Beach California earlier this year I was amazed at the innovations that have been introduced by government, institutional and private sector organizations around the world. CSCE must be in the forefront of these innovations, supporting them nationally across Canada in the name of our sustainable infrastructure focus. I am very excited by this new stream of presentations and the opportunities it provides those who are “innovating”. You cannot afford to miss this opportunity in Regina!

The definition of CSCE’s work plan for 2015 is shaping up. Based on the fall workshop and a many of the current activities on-going here is a short summary of activities for the new year.

- Continuation of bi-annual Strategic Initiatives Report Card as a reporting mechanism to CSCE members. The next report is scheduled for January 2015
 - Continuation of the weekly e-Bulletin initiated in 2014
 - Continuing efforts to improve communications between Regions / Sections and Divisions / Committees. This activity had a slow start in 2014 and will continue into 2015
 - In addition to specific Young Professional and Student programming, we will continue to enhance the integration of this sector of CSCE into our annual conference
 - Publishing of the next iteration of the Canadian Infrastructure Report Card. CSCE continues its partnership with CPWA, CCA and FCM for this endeavour. The survey for the 2015 issue of this report card is currently active. For those members who are employed at municipal government organizations I would encourage you to ensure your municipality is included in the survey submission. Information about the survey is available on the Report Card website at: <http://www.canadainfrastructure.ca/en/>
 - Preparation of specific CSCE policies for ‘sustainability’ and for “sustainable development of the Arctic’. A process for initiating, preparing, reviewing and approving formal CSCE policies is being developed in parallel with the development of the above 2 policy proposals.
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- Development of a Canadian sustainability rating system for infrastructure. CSCE has led this initiative in several national discussions with partnering organizations (CCA, CPWA and ACEC).

In addition to these on-going initiatives the fall workshop identified some 30 additional strategic activities for 2015 along with some 20 operational activities. We will report further on these early in the new year. Your society is very busy. We need more members to engage! We need more members to achieve all we propose! CSCE is going to be seen, to be heard and to be relevant!

Did You Know?

It is important that I let you know there is a positive sense among CSCE leadership that we are making progress in our mission and our goal. I came across the following quote from Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple computers...
"Everyone here has the sense that right now is one of those moments when we are influencing the future".

Thank you to all and best wishes for the holiday season!

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