

President's E-Letter - November 2016

Canadian Society for
Civil Engineering



Société canadienne
de génie civil



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Greetings,

My year as President is flying by and I have been remiss in not writing a President's e-letter sooner.

Since beginning my term in London, Ontario, I have been fortunate to work with many dedicated CSCE volunteers and also to meet many leaders from other organizations involved with infrastructure of all types. It is absolutely amazing how passionate everyone is about our drive to achieve SUSTAINABLE infrastructure around the world!

The CSCE remains focused and committed to our three key strategic directions:

1. Enhanced services to members
2. Growing with youth
3. Leadership in sustainable infrastructure

Sometimes progress is slow, but I believe we are moving in the right direction. Everyone should have received at least one email from the technical divisions in which they expressed interest as part of their membership application. The plan is to continue this communication periodically and grow stronger connections between the civil engineering innovators in Canada and those who want to learn more about these innovations. If you have not received any emails, please contact the national office so we can update your contact information.

Student membership continues to be very strong because the Board decided to make student membership free last year. This presents the CSCE organization and its members (individual and corporate) with an opportunity to enhance student engagement and to improve the student retention as members after they graduate. I am particularly excited about the opportunities that have arisen this year related to leadership in sustainable infrastructure initiatives. A key component of developing sustainable infrastructure is understanding how infrastructure is operated and maintained after it is built. This past spring, the CSCE signed an agreement with the Canadian Network of Asset Managers (CNAM) to pursue initiatives of mutual interest. This has recently resulted in the formation of a working group to explore how asset management can be incorporated into the undergraduate civil engineering curriculum.

Most importantly this year, the CSCE has partnered with the Canadian Construction Association to develop a Canadian Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System. Endorsement of this initiative has also been given by ACEC-Canada, and Engineers Canada has expressed interest in this worthy objective. On November 1, 2016, the CSCE was able to present this initiative to Infrastructure Canada in Ottawa. During this presentation, a request for InfraCan funding was made to cover the costs of developing this system and a response to this request is expected in the coming weeks. With so much interest from other Canadian engineering organizations, I am optimistic that we will be successful in moving this initiative forward. The CSCE has already started researching what factors should be incorporated into a Canadian sustainable rating system, including presentations at previous CSCE Annual Conferences. The CSCE will announce further developments as they unfold.

With limited resources, government and engineering leaders around the world are focused on developing their knowledge of what sustainable infrastructure means in the real world. The CSCE is now part of this movement and continues to promote sustainability in Canada. Based on the level of interest expressed by other organizations in what the CSCE is doing, I know we are on the right track.

I wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season, and I hope to see everyone in Vancouver at the next Annual Conference.

Cheers!
Jim

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