1. 2020 Year In Review

The challenges of 2019, reduced membership and lack of CSCT member and student events, carried over to 2020. Additional challenges associated with the COVID-19 global pandemic further added to the challenges faced by the CSCT, other Societies, and the CIC National Office.

The priorities defined for 2020 are 3 fundamental requirements for the growth of the CSCT and are paramount for the benefits of our members:

1) Grow our student and full-fee membership groups
2) Work with the CIC National Office to engage the membership to provide valuable information and programs to assist them in advancing their careers
3) Engage industry to understand emerging issues relevant to the CSCT membership

The CSCT is an important component to the Canadian chemical profession and our members contribute to the discovery, development, education, and application of their diverse knowledge and skill set across Canada and multiple industries. We must continue to promote and support our membership and grow awareness.

Our membership increased by over 5% compared to 2019, but we are still well shy of our strong and active membership group of a decade ago, with half of the numbers of those in 2008. Though the membership has declined over the last decade, the resolve and commitment of our long-term members and our Board remains strong. This resolve is demonstrated by the commitment of our current Board to strive to engage students, industry, and our colleagues in the other Societies and the CIC National Office.

Our world has changed – and the CSCT must adapt to these changes and identify new ways to attract members, deliver programs, and support our members in their journey.

2. Looking Forward to 2021

2021 will continue to present challenges to the CSCT and the other Societies of the CIC. The partnership and collaboration with the other Societies is what will allow us to not only continue identifying new ways to attract and engage members, but also use the extensive and diverse knowledge of the expanded membership to showcase Canadian chemistry.

We are seeing many of these changes already beginning to take shape. Stronger communication and collaboration between the CIC and the Societies’ executives allows for enhanced engagement and information sharing. New ideas and a commitment by all for continuous improvement and collaboration will result in stronger relationships and resiliency.

The CIC National Office has adapted to the new realities and are facing those challenges head-on. Though many of the faces have changed how we interact, renewed excitement and ideas from the team are both refreshing and inspiring.

The CSCT priorities for 2021 will continue to focus on growing our membership and providing value to our members.
As noted previously in the report, the stability of the CSCT Board provides a strong foundation of experience and commitment. We also recognize that adding new Board members to the CSCT Board is both a catalyst for new ideas and evolution. We must continue to promote bringing on new and inspired Board members. This is a priority for the Board, and we encourage new and long-standing members to consider joining our Board or becoming a contributor to CIC committees.

The Membership is the engine that drives us forward, grows our voice, and celebrates in the successes of our members.

All of us can and should share why the CSCT is important to you. This conversation can result in providing valuable information and support to a new member and can also reinvigorate existing members to share ideas and be more involved.

I hope our membership has a healthy and prosperous 2021.

Tony Ciarla, MCIC
President, CSCT