



Canadian Society for Chemistry | **For Our Future**  
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## 2021 CSC Director of Conferences Candidate – Mark Workentin

### Statement of Interest

I have found my service roles with the CSC in the past to be the most rewarding “administrative” opportunities of my career. The CSC is the critical partner in building the community of chemists in Canada and being our collective voice on issues of importance to us all. We still have much more to do to be known as more than the organization that runs our national conference and exhibition, and I am not afraid to “rock the boat” to encourage the Board and membership to think differently about what the CSC should and could be for the membership. Our conferences, in addition to being the key funding source to support the activities of the CSC, have been the places where we build community, find our collective voice and discuss issues that affect us all as chemists. Therefore, conferences remain one of our most critical missions of the CSC. As co-program chair of the 102<sup>nd</sup> CCCE I worked with the team to support the strong divisional programming but importantly worked to evolve the conference beyond the traditional programming: we elevated EDI to a keynote conference theme, we ensured a larger commitment to the growing chemistry education research in the programming, we initiated ChemiSTEAM to promote and highlight the creativity of our members beyond research, and supported the stronger professional development programming for the younger generation, the future of our society. If elected as Director, I promise to work with the Board, organizing committees, and younger generation of members to strengthen our conference programming, support and encourage innovative evolution in the programming and work with other Directors to further strengthen the chemical industry in the conferences. I will also explore strategic changes to our organization and conferences, and how we share our research and work that this pandemic has made us contemplate.

### Biography

Professor Mark Workentin has been at Western for 25 years, promoted to Professor in 2005. He is a multi-award-winning university teacher with honors including the OCUFA, Pleva and Marilyn Robinson Awards. His multidisciplinary research program is broadly described as the physical organic chemistry of materials and has supported the evolution of over 30 graduate students and over 100 undergraduate researchers. His research program has earned over 1.8 million dollars in individual research funding, and has contributed to over 18 million dollars in collaborative grants. He served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Society for Chemistry (CSC) as the Director of Accreditation and the Federation of Canadian Professional Chemists (FCPC). He currently serves on the Canadian National Committee of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (CNC-IUPAC). He was co-Program Chair for the 102<sup>nd</sup> CCCE meeting in Quebec City. In the past he has served on the executive committees of the Organic Division of the Canadian Chemical Society (Past-Chair, Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) and the Organic and Biological Division of The Electrochemical Society. Within the University he serves or has served on numerous Senate Committees, including the Senate Committee on University Planning, the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Admissions, Senate Committee on Program Reform-Undergraduate, Senate Committee on Program Reform-Graduate, Senate Review Board Academic, Senate Committee on Undergraduate Program Reform, and the University Discipline Appeals Committee. He also served on the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council’s (NSERC) AGENO Grant Selection Committee and the National Science Foundation Grant Review Panel in Organic Dynamics.