



Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering | *For Our Future*
Société canadienne de génie chimique | *Pour notre avenir*

CSCHE President's Report

James Diamond, MCIC, Environment and Climate Change Canada

I am pleased to be able to gather our membership today, but of course, this meeting, as with so many other activities over this past year, is a reflection of the challenging social conditions we face with the COVID pandemic. This meeting would be a departure from tradition in any case, as we call this meeting in June to address the need to ensure membership support for the financial report earlier in the fiscal year, so are unable to align this meeting with the October conference.

Much of the transition associated with an October meeting will occur at that time, so this report, reflecting an abbreviated timeframe, will be short. I defer most of this time to the next agenda items, providing us with first a review of the financial situation for the organization, and then a report about potential changes flowing from a substantial effort to look at the governance structure of the CSCHE in the context of the Chemical Institute of Canada.

Membership It would be unfair to draw conclusions about membership numbers today, given the annual cycle of registrations associated with conference attendance. However, declining membership is a recurring message over the past several years, and remains a focus for the board of directors, particularly in regard to making the society relevant to a greater cross-section of chemical engineers across Canada and throughout careers.

Canadian Chemical Engineering Conferences The specter of the pandemic has been most visible at the largest event of the Society. Last October, the 70th Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference was organized in Ottawa, but delivered virtually, posing significant challenges to pivot to this format in real time. Certainly a smaller effort than expected, but able managed by the conference committee and national staff to bring the meeting together at almost break-even numbers.

Et, cette année, nous restons attentifs aux impacts de la pandémie. Mais, avec des indications que les restrictions sociales touchent à leur fin, je suis heureux d'annoncer que l'équipe de la conférence travaille à un événement en personne à Montréal en octobre. With the theme 'molecules to enterprise', we look forward to getting back on track in Quebec in a few months, bringing together the chemical engineering community to celebrate successes and share experiences after a difficult time.

We hope to realize the contribution of subject divisions to the conference, seeing technical sessions, subject division meetings and relevant awards for chemical engineering programs presented.

The Canadian Journal of Chemical Engineering publishes cutting edge chemical engineering research relevant to Canada, including original research articles, new theoretical interpretations or experimental findings, and critical reviews in the practice of chemical and biochemical processes. It continues to realize strong performance with a high impact worldwide and makes significant financial contributions to our Society. It is also a vehicle to recognize authorship with the Lectureship Award and Best Graduate Student Paper.

Awards are also managed by the society to recognize professionals who have made outstanding contributions to chemical engineering through innovation, industrial design, systems and control engineering, and process safety management in Canada. We will bring attention to the award winners in October. I would like to mention today that the the R.S. Jane Memorial Award, presented to an individual who has made an exceptional achievement to the field of chemical engineering or industrial chemistry while residing in Canada, will recognize Dr Peter Englezos from the University of British Columbia.



I would also highlight the return of the Jules Stachiewicz Medal in 2022, sponsored jointly by the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering and the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering. It will recognize contributions in the field of heat transfer, including design, research, manufacturing and teaching in Canada.

Board Transition Executive member transition will occur at the end of October to reflect the traditional historical cycle centered on meeting each other during the chemical engineering conference. I expect that we will have a special meeting of members at that time when we can again recognize the activity and accomplishments over the past year. Throughout the rest of the year, the Board will focus on supporting staff and volunteers who are currently planning the Montréal meeting, and engaging in the process to address society governance.

I encourage you to provide your input to the society as we reflect on potential changes. And, I hope we see you in person in October!

James Diamond, CSChE President 2020-2021
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