



Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering | *For Our Future*
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2023 CSChE President's Report

September 1, 2023

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

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It is my pleasure to meet with you all, in person again, as we finally emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering (CSChE) Board has been active, with new initiatives underway including a major restructuring of our annual conference. A summary of the Board's major activities for the year is provided below. While all Board members have worked hard on your behalf this year, I would like to offer special thanks to our two previous Presidents, Dr. James Diamond (2020-2021) and Dr. Todd Pugsley (2021-2022) who provided the leadership that guided the Society through two very difficult years and ensured we emerged from the pandemic strong and healthy as an organization.

Executive Director. Dr. Josephine Tsang, appointed last year as our new Executive Director, had an extremely busy and productive first year rebuilding the National Team (CIC office staff) and forging relationships with the CIC, CSC and CSChE Boards. As Executive Director, Dr. Tsang is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations and administration of the Society. We look forward to continuing to work with Josephine in the coming year.

Board Meetings. Six CSChE Board meetings were held between October 2022 and June 2023. In addition to the regular business conducted at the meetings, key items related to the Society budget and to the restructuring of the annual CSChE conference.

Membership. Several discussions were held concerning Society membership, amidst recurring concerns over slowly declining membership numbers. This situation is not unique to the CSChE among professional societies. The concern has resulted in reflections among Board members about the nature and value of what we offer the chemical engineering community across the span of their careers and across various industries. In particular, attracting early-career members is a priority. The roles of the two Industrial Liaison Director positions are being reviewed with increasing membership as a key objective.

Canadian Chemical Engineering Conferences. CCEC 2022 was held in person from October 23 to 26, 2022, in Vancouver with the theme "Imagining a Healthy and Prosperous World". The Conference Chair was Dr. Naoko Ellis and the Co-Chair was Dr. Savvas G. Hatzikiriakos. This year's conference will be in Calgary from October 29 to November 1 with the theme "Transitions: Materials, Energy and the Environment". The Conference Chair is Dr. Anil Mehrotra and Dr. Harvey Yarranton is the Technical Program Chair.

Substantive changes are underway for the structuring of our annual conference to address longstanding concerns about the timing of the conference, the lack of consistency in programming, and its financial viability. Highlights of the new conference structure include:

1. Venue: Limit future CCECs to a small number of cities (~4-5) that are easily accessed by direct flights from most of Canada, and that have adequate conference centres and hotel options to fit different budget requirements.
2. Change the overall organizational structure as follows to ensure that conferences have consistent technical content from year to year, to provide smoother transitions between the current and subsequent organizing committees, and to prevent loss of institutional memory from year to year:



- An organizing committee consisting of conference chair, vice-chair, past chair, sponsorship/finance chair, various members representing general subject areas (possibly drawn from the CIC Subject Divisions), and the CJCE editor.
- New future chairs begin as vice-chair, then become chair the following year, and stay on one year as past chair.
- Membership of the organizing committee will not be determined by where the conference is held, although local involvement will be encouraged when selecting future conference chairs.
- A balance between industrial and academic members on the organizing committee will be encouraged to re-establish interest in the conference with more industrial members.
- Subject Divisions will be encouraged to participate actively in the conference organization.

After much planning and discussion, the Board approved the new structure conference. In addition to the organizational changes, the original conference name, “CSCHE Annual Conference” will be restored as it better reflects the identity of the conference than the recently used and somewhat generic “Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference”.

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. We are pleased to share that authors may be eligible to publish open-access articles (free to read, download, and share) in CJCE at no cost via one of [Wiley’s transformational agreements](#) (TA), enhancing research accessibility and knowledge exchange on a global scale. Earlier this year, Wiley signed its first TA within Canada with Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) Member Institutions for 2023 and 2024. The CRKN includes [70+ institutions](#) in Canada. In 2023 the Journal also implemented a new submission platform, [Research Exchange \(ReX\)](#), designed to simplify and improve the submission experience for authors through metadata extraction.

After encountering several challenges in 2022, the CJCE editorial team has significantly reduced online and hardcopy production times in 2023. We wish to extend our gratitude to João Soares, CJCE Editor-in-Chief, and his team for their dedication to the continuing success of the Journal. We recognize the importance of encouraging engagement within the national and international communities, and any opportunities to increase reach and meaningful impact.

CSCHE Awards recognize the achievements of students and professionals who have made significant contributions to the chemical engineering profession in Canada through innovation, industrial design, systems and control engineering, and process safety management. The 2023 award winners will be presented at 2023 Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference in October. An item of concern for the Board is that 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, and the Society’s flagship award, is no longer funded. The Board is seeking alternative routes to secure funding so the award can continue.

Board Transition. Executive and Directors transitions will revert to the traditional time of the October Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference. My predecessor Dr. Todd Pugsley will be leaving his role as Past-President, a position that I will assume. Todd, thank you for your wisdom and ongoing contributions during the past year. Dr. Pascale Champagne (National Research Council), currently Vice-President, will be the incoming President. I have had the pleasure of working with Pascale for many years and look forward to her leadership as we pursue new initiatives. We will announce new and retiring Board members at the AGM.

It has been an honour to serve as the CSCHE President, and a pleasure working with our dedicated Board and National Team who have persevered through challenging and rapidly evolving times as we emerge from the global pandemic. I look forward to working with the Board in my role as Past-President in the coming year and hope to see many of you at the conference.

Michael Cunningham
CSCHE President 2022-2023