



Report from the Executive Director - AGM June 2024

As we reflect on the past 12 months, it is with a deep sense of pride that I present to you this update, showing the significant milestones and achievements of the National Team. We made remarkable strides in enhancing our strategic partnerships, planning, and conference organisation, all while advancing strategic planning, fiscal transparency and sustainability.

Strategic Highlights and Achievements (June 2023 – March 2024)

Membership and Outreach, Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration:

- Renewed Memorandum of Understanding with five sister organisations around the world.
- Fulfilled our commitment to increase bilingual communication to members.
- Launched an engagement survey to capture input from members about the Future of the CIC, providing invaluable insights to inform strategic planning efforts.
- Developed new conference sponsorship levels to lower barriers to entry for academic institutions, industry organizations and government bodies.
- Continued championing equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) initiatives in all aspects of our engagement.

Conferences and Membership Programs

- Achieved a 20%+ increase in attendees at CSC 2023 in Vancouver (2,565 attendees) compared to CSC 2022 in Calgary (2,140 attendees). CSChE 2023 (985 attendees) in Calgary experienced a 15%+ rise in attendance compared to CSChE 2022 (849 attendees) in Vancouver. Many thanks to the conference organising committee members and technical program volunteers.
- Provided more learning opportunities for members through strategic affiliate agreements.
- Planned the inaugural Transitions Programs (formerly known as Professional Development Program) at the CSC 2024 in Winnipeg, helping to prepare early career scientists for the next stage of their careers.
- Continued process improvements and testing new approaches to optimize large-scale conferences. Lessons learned will enhance the National Team's preparedness to orchestrate the inaugural concurrent conferences of CSC and CSChE.

Operations and National Team:

- Continued to implement operational and human resources procedures and best practices.
- Provided relevant conference data to advise the CSC Board and collaborated with the relevant stakeholders to restructure CSC conference fee waivers for Subject Division's symposium speakers.
- Undertook a comprehensive overhaul of financial reporting practices.
- Demonstrated fiscal responsibility by relocating the head office to a more cost-effective location.
- Provided cost analyses of conducting conferences and programs.
- Established prioritised professional development opportunities and responsible work-from-home practices for the National Team.

Governance:

- Collaborated with the CIC, CSC, and CSChE Boards to continue ongoing strategy development to develop tangible organizational goals, strategic actions, and key measures to monitor progress.

Looking Forward

As we move forward, our focus will remain on fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable community within the chemical sciences and engineering sectors. The foundations laid these past two years since my tenure with the CIC started are just the beginning. Our strategic pillars aim to better serve CIC members and expand member engagement. The organisation's guiding stars (vision, mission, and values), along with strategic priorities and operational plans will be in place by the end of 2024. We will be ready to implement our strategic plan and hit the ground running early in 2025. We look forward to continuing engagement with members, preparing for the pending concurrent conferences in 2026, hosting international conferences in 2025 and beyond. I am confident that the upcoming year holds great promise, and I am honoured to collaborate with the National Team, the Boards and the chemical sciences and engineering communities for continued success.

Acknowledgement

I extend my heartfelt thanks to members from the CIC, CSC, CSChE and CEF Boards for dedicating their time and sharing their expertise with the chemical sciences and engineering community in Canada. The invaluable support provided by Dr Deborah Nicoll-Griffith (CIC Past Chair, as of June 2024) and Prof Josephine Hill (CIC Board Chair, as of June 2024) have laid the groundwork for an even brighter and more inclusive future for the organisation. I am grateful for the National Team as it has demonstrated remarkable creativity, collaboration and commitment to the organisation and am very proud to be part of this team.

With sincere appreciation,



Josephine Tsang, PhD, MCIC
Executive Director
Chemical Institute of Canada