



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

2023 CSChE President's Report

September 13, 2024

Fiscal Year 2023

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It is my pleasure to meet with you all and to present some exciting new projects we initiated this year. The Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering (CSChE) Board has been very actively engaged with the Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC) and the Canadian Society for Chemistry (CSC) Boards in modernizing our organizations to better serve our membership. 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 previous President, Dr. Michael Cunningham who provided the leadership that guided and continues to be engaged in the Society's restructuring of our conference model.

Executive Director. Dr. Josephine Tsang, our Executive Director, had an extremely busy and productive year rebuilding the National Team (CIC office staff) and building synergies 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 which serves you, our members. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Josephine and the National Team in the coming year.

Board Meetings. Ten CSChE Board meetings were held between October 2023 and October 2024. 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 model, exploring and elaborating a joint conference model with the CSC for the Spring of 2026, modernizing our Awards nomination process and Terms of Reference, as well as modernizing our CSChE Board nomination process and Terms of Reference. In addition, we actively reengaged with the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) to better represent and serve our members.

Membership. Several discussions were held concerning Society membership, amidst growing 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 sectors. In particular, promoting inclusivity and bilingualism, as well as attracting early-career members were a priority. This led to the modernization of our Terms of Reference and nomination processes for Awards and Board nominations.

Canadian Chemical Engineering Conferences. CSChE 2023 was held in person from October 29 to November 1, 2023, in Calgary with the theme "Transitions: Materials, Energy and the Environment". The Conference Chair was Dr. Anil Mehrotra and Dr. Harvey Yarranton was the Technical Program Chair. This year's conference will be in Toronto from October 6 to 9 with the theme "Chemical Engineering: Addressing Grand Challenges". The Conference Chair is Dr. Ning Yan, with Dr. Krishnan Mahadevan, Dr. Todd Hoare and Dr. Philip Chan is the Technical Program co-Chairs.

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 CSChEs 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.



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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, which was implemented for the 2024 and 2025 conferences.

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. The Board voted this past year to renew his term. 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 2024 award winners will be presented at 2024 Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference in October. We wish to extend our gratitude to our Director of Awards, Dr. Jennifer Littlejohns, for her efforts in modernizing our Awards Terms of Reference and nomination process. This work was conducted in collaboration with the Director of Awards for the CIC (Dr. Peter Loock) and CSC (Dr. Christina Bottaro). An item of concern for the Board is that a number of awards, including 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, are no longer sponsored. The Board continues seeking alternative routes to secure funding so these awards can continue. We are also developing processes to sunset old and initiate new CSChE, CSC and CIC awards to ensure that these reflect the broad range of activities and achievements accomplished by our membership.

Pascale Champagne
CSChE President 2023-2024