



Chemical Institute of Canada | *For Our Future*
Institut de chimie du Canada | *Pour notre avenir*

CIC Chairs' Report - AGM May 2026

This report covers the 2025 fiscal year in keeping with the financial report and other governance documents for the AGM and is a joint effort between the current Chair and the immediate Past-Chair, both of whom are in their roles until the 26 May 2026 AGM.

We are excited to be presenting this report at a concurrent conference of the CSC and CSChE. Combining the annual conferences of the two Societies was proposed several years ago and planning began in earnest after discussions at the 2023 CSChE conference in Calgary. We thank previous Board members, Michael Cunningham and Jennifer Love, for leading the organizing committee and seeing the conference through to fruition. The National Team (NT) has provided tremendous support for the conference and we appreciate their willingness to do things differently. We also thank the x2026 conference organizers, Subject Divisions (who coordinated many of the sessions), and other CIC members who have volunteered their time for the conference.

In 2027, the CSC will co-host an annual conference with IUPAC. This commitment was made in 2021, long before the concurrent conference discussions began. As such, the 2027 CSChE conference will be held separately in Edmonton 16-19 May 2027. In 2028, we are planning for the CSC/CSChE annual conferences to be together for x2028.

Canada was one of three organizing nations for the PacifiChem conference held in December 2025. It was a successful meeting, and the CSC hosted mixer was well-attended. We thank Laurel Schafer (conference chair) and Tom Baker (technical chair) for their hard work to make the conference a success despite many world events that affected the ease of travel for many participants.

Governance

Much of the work of the CIC Board involves the governance of the organization, which happens in the background. The Board has committed to ensuring that necessary policies and procedures that improve operations, transparency, and efficiency are in place and current. Despite these ongoing efforts, we learned of a policy deficiency during the independent investigation of an allegation of misconduct levelled against two Board members. While the investigator found no misconduct had occurred, they did identify a lack of a clear policy and procedure for handling such allegations. We thank Deborah Nicoll-Griffith for her efforts in addressing this deficiency by preparing appropriate documents that have been approved by the Board and will soon be fully implemented.

The auditor has suggested several ways to improve our financial transparency. We are indebted to Iryna Torrence on the NT for her outstanding work with the finances. We thank Kevin McCracken, CPA, for his input as the Treasurer for the CIC for the last three years. His accounting expertise was critical as we improved the CIC financial reporting structure and strengthened the coordination



between the CIC, CSC, and CSChE. Now that we are on a better financial footing, we can return to having a chemist/chemical engineer in the role of Treasurer on the Board.

Following our introduction of our first-ever Awards Policy in the Fall of 2024, the policy has been socialized and accepted by the stakeholder groups – subject divisions, sponsors and other groups. The policy governs how awards can be launched and discontinued; it also aims to make the awards portfolio financially sustainable while also ensuring that our awards remain a prestigious recognition of the accomplishments of our members. As a first step towards financial sustainability, an administration fee has been introduced to partially offset the expenses that incur due to the administration of the awards portfolio. We thank Peter Loock for the tremendous work he has done to streamline the Awards in his time on the Board over the last three years.

There has been building momentum to increase the outreach to, and support for, chemical scientists who work in French. We are a national organization and should operate in both official languages. While there is much work to be done, we are thrilled to have a technical session in French at this conference and to continue with a networking event for Francophones that is generating many ideas. We know that we need to increase the French capabilities of the NT and have this fact top of mind in our search for a new Executive Director.

The CIC Chemical Education Fund (CEF) is a registered charity set up to promote education in chemical sciences, engineering, and technology. In 2025, the CEF awarded \$24,000 in scholarships to high-achieving high school graduates with financial need to study chemistry, biochemistry, or chemical engineering at a Canadian university. It also granted nearly \$15,000 in funds to support educational initiatives, events, and outreach around chemistry and chemical engineering.

Ongoing

Discussions continue for the Strategic Plan 2030, which reinforces our commitment to serve our members through many activities including the conferences and awards mentioned above. Our focus over the next year will be to strengthen the work done by the Common Interest Groups that include Subject Divisions, Local Sections, Student Chapters, and Member Resource Groups, which are the heart of our organization.

We appreciate the support of our members - comprised of 3395 people in the CSC and 1253 in the CSChE, especially in these challenging times when finances are tight and world events unsettling. We also appreciate and thank the NT members, including our interim ED, for their hard work and dedication throughout the year and through all the changes.

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