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2025 CSCHE President's Report

Fiscal Year 2025 Ying Zheng Ph.D, P.Eng., FRSC, FCAE, FEIC, FCIC, FIChemE (UK), FRSC (UK), Western University

To the Members of the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering,

It is my distinct honour to present the first semi-annual report of 2025. Over the past six months, our primary focus has been twofold: elevating our footprint on the international stage and carefully managing a productive leadership transition to secure the Society's long-term future.

Elevating Our International Portfolio

We have significantly deepened our engagement with key international bodies, moving beyond mere participation to active collaboration. We have forged more strategic engagements with key international bodies, including the World Council of Chemical Engineering (WCCE), the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE), the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and the Society of Chemical Engineers, Japan (SCEJ). Presidents from these organizations were invited to join our CSCHE conference, held in May in Toronto, where a joint symposium with SCEJ also took place. These relationships are laying the groundwork for future exchanges, joint programming, and shared advocacy for chemical engineering worldwide.

Strengthening the Canadian Chemical Engineering Leadership

Domestically, our commitment to recognition and collaboration within Canada's engineering ecosystem has also yielded significant results.

- Engagement with The Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC): We have successfully deepened our engagement with The Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC). I am proud to report that CSCHE members have won multiple EIC awards, showcasing the exceptional talent and innovation within our Society. This recognition elevates the profile of chemical engineering across all engineering disciplines in Canada.



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- **Co-hosted Conference:** Preparations are well underway for a landmark event: the first-ever co-hosted CSC (Canadian Society for Chemistry) & CSChE Conference. This collaborative effort represents a major milestone in uniting the chemical sciences and engineering communities in Canada.

Building the Leadership Team

We have been diligently managing a transition focused on building a resilient and forward-looking leadership team. Three director positions on the CSChE Board were advertised. I would like to extend my gratitude to Past President Dr. Pascale Champagne, who is leading the transition of the leadership team. Her steady hand and strategic vision have been invaluable in steering the Society through this period of change.

Executive Director and National Team

Please join me in recognizing Ms. Katherine Prairine, our Interim Executive Director. She has played an exceptionally busy and productive role in building the National Team, creating synergies across the CIC, CSC, and CSChE Boards, and preparing for CSC & CSChE X2026. This flagship conference would not succeed without their dedication.

Membership

While our international portfolios have expanded, we must candidly address a challenge facing many professional societies today: a decline in membership renewals. This situation is not unique to the CSChE. Several discussions have been held, and we are actively seeking an appropriate way to offer meaningful value to our chemical engineering community across – across all career stages and sectors. Providing high-value networking, career-stage-specific resources, promoting bilingualism, and attracting early-career members have been identified as priorities.

Canadian Chemical Engineering Conferences

The 2025 fiscal year marked significant achievements and evolution for our conference portfolio, highlighted by the success of our fall gathering in Montreal and collaboration with



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the Canadian Society for Chemistry (CSC) on co-hosting the flagship conference in the fiscal year of 2026.

The CSChE conference was successfully held from October 5-8 in Montreal, under the theme “Chemical Engineering in an AI World: A pioneer of sustainability”. We extend our gratitude to Conference Co-chairs Dr. Nicolas Abatzoglou and Dr. Gervais Soucy, alongside Technical Program Co-chairs Dr. Ali Seifitokaldani and Dr. Rafael Santos, for their meticulous planning and vision.

In a significant shift for the community, the CSChE conference has transitioned from its traditional October to May. This move facilitates a historic co-hosting arrangement with the Canadian Society for Chemistry (CSC) in Toronto. Special thanks go to the Past President Dr. Pascale Champagne, Dr. Michael Cunningham (former President and current Interim Director of Conferences), and the CSChE Board for their strategic visions. Under the theme "Erasing Boundaries", CSC and CSChE X2026 aims to serve as a collaborative engine, addressing urgent global challenges through interdisciplinary partnerships. We project a record-breaking attendance of over 3,000 participants.