

President's Monthly E-Letter – November 2011



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Recent Activities of the President

As I noted in the October e-letter, I had the opportunity to join with the Korean Society of Civil Engineers, in Seoul, South Korea, as they celebrated their 60th anniversary. Also in attendance were representatives from the Japan Society of Civil Engineers, the Mongolian Association of Civil Engineers, Institute of Civil Engineers, the Taiwanese Civil Engineering Society and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations. The International Roundtable focused on the globalization that is occurring in the world today. The underlying issue in South Korea is the fact that their government has not reacted domestically to the economic conditions as has other countries, by introducing stimulus programmes especially in the construction of new infrastructure.

The weekend of November 11th – 13th, the Board of Directors, PCC Committee Chairs and a number of Section Chairs from across the country met in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario for the regular Fall Board meeting and workshops. The first workshop on Saturday morning dealt with strengthening the technical committees and divisions that are part of the Programmes Coordinating Committee. In the afternoon, we moved forward on the development of the new business plan for CSCE, before enjoying a group dinner that also included some team bonding activities.

On Tuesday, November 29th, I participated in a conference call, along with Doug Salloum, with staff from Infrastructure Canada. The purpose of the call was to advise CSCE of an announcement on Wednesday, November 30th, by Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Mr. Denis Lebel of the beginning of a process which will result in a new Infrastructure Plan for Canada. IC will be reviewing the accomplishments and benefits of the previous plans and using the analysis to determine a plan for long term economic growth.

This is the November e-letter which means December and the magic of Christmas is upon us. As we find time to be with family and friends, it is my wish to you that you and yours have a very Merry Christmas.

A time to say good-bye...

On Friday, November 25th, 10 Past-Presidents of the Society, one past Honorary Treasurer and me, along with National Office staff, got together in Montreal, for dinner, to honour and thank Louise Newman for her 19 years of service to the CSCE. Louise has been involved in all aspects of the Society over her years, from membership to publications to awards and other duties as assigned. Louise has worked with 19 Presidents, 2 Directors of Administration and 3 Executive Directors, 20 Boards of Directors in addition to providing support to the Chairs of the Administration Coordinating Committee, the Publications and Communications Committee and the Honours and Awards Committee. All that she was asked to do, she did, with a very high level of proficiency. With her retirement, we are losing a very valuable asset of CSCE and beyond that, a very good friend.

VISION2020:

At the Board workshop on November 12th, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Board members, PCC Committee Chairs and a number of Section Chairs participated in a session facilitated by the President-Elect, Jim Kells. The workshop focused on developing tasks to implement three Strategic Directions: CSCE needs to maintain its traditional role as a learned society, CSCE needs to attract, retain and engage more young civil engineers and CSCE needs to be the leader, in Canada, in sustainable infrastructure. The Vision 2020 Committee will be distilling the thoughts and ideas received into a comprehensive business plan to be presented to the Board of Directors for approval in June, 2012.

Comments, suggestions or offers to assist with the Vision2020 initiative should be directed to Randy Pickle (rpickle@morrisonhershfield.com).

PROGRAMS / CONFERENCES:

In March, 2012, the ASCE-CSCE-ICE Triennial Conference will be held in Washington D.C. and will deal with the state of the infrastructure within the boundaries of the three organizations and the development of sustainable infrastructure. An expected outcome from this conference is a position on sustainable infrastructure that the three associations, as a collective, can present at the Rio+20 conference in Brazil, in June, 2012.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT – ELECT (Jim Kells):

I had occasion to lead the recent Board workshop at Niagara-on-the-Lake (November 12), which was focused on advancing the development of our Vision 2020 strategic plan for the Society. The afternoon workshop was attended by about 40 people, including most members of the Board of Directors and notably all six of the Regional Vice-Presidents. Most of the members of the Vision 2020 planning team were also in attendance, and those present very graciously agreed to serve as sub-group leaders during the break-out sessions that comprised a significant part of the workshop. The key goals of the workshop were to develop agreement and better understanding around our three strategic directions and to further develop some of the action plans in support of those directions. The three strategic directions for the Vision 2020 plan include: (1) enhancing our current program offerings so as to better support our members, (2) developing an improved focus on our newer and younger members so as to both better serve their needs and retain them as members, and (3) growing our leadership in sustainable

infrastructure so as to better position ourselves in an area of importance to our profession and to our country. The engagement of the entire group present in active dialogue around these strategic directions and an array of associated action plans was impressive. In this regard, I offer kudos to everyone who attended the workshop. Moving forward, we will soon be developing some key messages for our members and others so that our work on the plan can begin to visibly take flight.

PRESIDENT’S WINTER MEETINGS & TRAVEL PLANS:

The President, President-Elect, SVP and/or Executive Director will be arranging to speak to local civil engineering students and local section meetings during their travels whenever possible.

“Did You Know?” “Did You Know?” Doug Salloum is the third person, and first civil engineer, to fill the Society's Executive Director position since it was established in 1999. Doug is a graduate of civil engineering from the University of Saskatchewan and an MBA from McGill. He also has a Project Management Professional certification.

Please send your comments or suggestions to Doug Salloum Executive Director (doug.salloum@csce.ca) or the President (president@csce.ca).

For additional information on the items contained in this E-Letter or email addresses of CSCE executives, please go to the CSCE Website: www.csce.ca.