



Report of the CSC President (2010-2011)

1. International Year of Chemistry & Outreach

IYC 2011 is now well underway with many international, national, and community-oriented initiatives. Planning began early in 2010, and the affiliated committees have been meeting frequently. IYC in Canada is headed by CIC Past Chair David Dolphin, O.C., FCIC, and supported by Roland Andersson, CSC Executive Director, and his staff. The committee comprises of volunteers from academia, industry and trade associations. Dwayne Miller, University of Toronto, chairs the activities sub-committee, Greg Wilkinson, Canadian Plastics Industry Association (CPIA) chairs the communications sub-committee, and Bernard West, Westworks Consulting, chairs the fundraising sub-committee.

There has been a tremendous range of activities, including Science Rendezvous, which had record participation in 2011, an "It's Chemistry, Eh!?" YouTube Contest, release of an IYC 2011 commemorative stamp, the Canadian Chemistry Olympiads, Canadian Chemistry Milestones, a public lecture series featuring Joe Schwarcz and Pierre Beaumier, and Canadian participation in the Global Water Experiment. In addition, as CSC President, I was also able to represent Canada at the Year of Science event in Paris on "Chemistry and Health: From molecule to society."

In other news, I was able to organize and along with the CIC Vancouver local section a forum to discuss the recent Fukushima nuclear crisis. A panel of professors gathered in downtown Vancouver to address questions and issues relating to the crisis; the event generated great discussion and was regarded as a success.

The CIC has put in great amounts of sponsorship effort for IYC, and has had great success with trade associations, companies and chemistry and chemical engineering departments, resulting in \$231K as of May 16, 2011. There have been difficulties with government, whose only support came from NSERC, and also from foundations (40 applications were sent out with no response).

2. Conferences

Pacifichem

The congress, hosted by the CSC, conference chair Howard Alper, O.C., HFCIC, and technical program chair Steven Holdcroft, FCIC, was held in December 2010 and drew over 12,000 delegates. The CSC is expecting to see a \$100K plus surplus. Roland Andersson, CSC Executive Director and Cathy Crudden, CSC incoming Vice-President, were also on the Pacifichem Organizing Committee. The committee meets in July to review the 2010 congress and to put forward a recommendation for Pacifichem 2015.

CSC 2010 Toronto

The conference, led by conference chair Ronald Kluger, FCIC, and technical program chair Doug Stephan, FCIC, saw the largest gathering of chemists (over 2,300) at a national conference in Canada to date. A very strong scientific program was presented, fronted by plenary speakers John C. Polanyi and Richard B. Silverman.

CSC 2011 Montreal

This year's conference, led by conference chair Robert Prud'homme, FCIC, and scientific program chair Ann English, MCIC, has already received a record number of 2,400 abstracts and



is expected to significantly surpass any previous national Canadian chemistry conference. More than \$175K has been raised in sponsorships.

3. Journals

The CSC has partnered with the *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics (PCCP)*, a Royal Society for Chemistry (RSC) publication with a rising impact factor of 4.12. This generated a \$5K surplus for the July-December 2010 period. The CSC will be meeting with the RSC in London, UK, in June to explore other potential journal partnerships.

The CSC has also met with the newly created Canadian Science Publications (branded as NRC Research Press) to review the current MOU and any future partnership opportunities regarding the *Canadian Journal of Chemistry (CJC)*.

4. Chemical Profession

In 2010, the National Advisory Committee on the Profession of Chemist in Canada (NACPPC), made up of members from provincial associations and the CSC, produced The Bordeleau Report, a document outlining the commonalities and differences between participating organizations. This document is meant to help facilitate the transferability of professional status across Canada. The group is actively working with the Moore McLean insurance group to implement Errors and Omissions Insurance, which will have significant impact on Canadian chemists as they can be covered for professional liabilities.

The natural science community was met with challenges in the latter half of 2010 as revisions to Bill 68 altered the Ontario Engineering Act, removing the exemption of natural scientists from the definition of practice. The CSC was involved in the opposition, encouraging its members to participate in a letter writing campaign to the Attorney-General. A joint task force is now working with the Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO) to formulate an acceptable regulation falling within the Act. The issue resonated strongly as it could set the tone for the rest of Canada.

5. Accreditation

Prior to June, Canadian universities that have completed the accreditation cycle in 2010-2011 include Carleton, Memorial, Mount Allison, and St. Mary's while York and McMaster have had their first visits. In addition, Laurentian, Guelph and Lethbridge have now completed their 2nd cycle.

After inquiring to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade about an international accreditation visit to the American University in Cairo, it has been strongly suggested by the federal government that travel to Cairo is avoided until the unrest has settled.

6. International Activities

CSC vice-president Karen Burke attended the American Chemical Society (ACS) Spring Meeting in Anaheim, who spoke on a number of subjects at the ACS Open Board Meeting. These included Canadian involvement in the International Year of Chemistry, international accreditation, and the professional status of chemists in Canada. The CSC and ACS Executive also met Honolulu in December 2010 to discuss potential avenues for collaboration. The first considered participating in the Chemical Sciences and Society (CS3) meetings that currently involve the U.S., China, Germany, Japan, and the U.K. with a particular focus on the involvement of chemists in the future of energy. Secondly, the CSC would like to work with the ACS on improving their career services, in particular in advising chemistry students *and* professors as how best to prepare for a globalized professional and research environment.



Furthermore, the CSC met with the RSC in regard to *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics*, also in Honolulu, to discuss how the two societies can work together in the future.

7. Membership and Finances

2010 brought an increase in CSC membership, rising from 3,891 in 2009 to 4,064. 2011 also looks very promising with the CSC 2011 Montreal conference. The CSC had 2,815 members as of April 30, and this number is expected to increase significantly in June. A considerable effort has been put into membership marketing for 2011 by Bernadette Dacey, Marketing Manager, and Luke Andersson, Marketing Co-ordinator. Connecting with students continues to be a challenge.

In 2010, the CSC ran a deficit of \$24,867, which was favourable to the approved budget, forecasting a deficit of \$29,890. Accreditation revenues were almost double the budget amount due to extra work in the Mideast. The CSC 2010 Toronto conference surplus generated a surplus 40% higher than budgeted. However, membership dues were almost \$40K below budget.

2011 is expected to generate a surplus due to the receipt of Pacificchem funding from 2010 and a record number of attendees at the CSC 2011 Montreal conference.

8. Government Relations

The CIC/CSC continues to represent the interests of its members and the chemical community to the federal government. The CSC is well represented and provides leadership to the Partnership Group of Engineering and Sciences (PAGSE). This group presents regular breakfast presentations to parliamentarians, senators, their staff, and bureaucrats, helping them understand scientific issues. The CIC/CSC is also a partner in the Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR), an umbrella organization in Canada whose primary concerns are the funding of basic and applied research in all sectors, and support for post-secondary education.

This year the CIC/CSC plans to submit recommendations directly to the federal government on issues important to our membership and the chemical sciences community.

B. Mario Pinto
Sunday, June 5, 2011