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Engineering Institute of Canada - ANNUAL REPORT

We collectively find ourselves in a unique and challenging position where the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have turned our world upside-down. Every aspects of our personal, social, and business lives have been impacted. In the face of these unprecedented circumstances, it is as important as ever that we maintain our sense of calm and resolve. It is essential that our engineering instincts remain alive and alert.

Like all organizations, we have been tracking the Covid-19 pandemic and its human, social and economic impacts. As we question our respective roles in this process, we are reminded that our obligations as professional engineers include public health and safety. A comparable global virus outbreak of cholera in the 19th century resulted in the engineering community developing water and wastewater treatment infrastructure systems. Over the years, the evolution of these engineering infrastructure systems has been credited with saving more lives than the medical profession specific to the cholera crisis. These systems are so entrenched now they are often taken for granted as one of the foundation blocks of society.

Is the nature of this new coronavirus the beginning of another seminal moment for engineering? Is “physical distancing” going to be a new normal? What new R&D is going to be needed to address the social interactions of our world in protecting communities from the spread of future health hazards like Covid-19? What new design criteria will be added to our already growing list of key considerations in engineering the infrastructure on which all of society relies? And lest we forget, climate change considerations are in their infancy. Engineering must be at the front line of these challenges!

We cannot predict what the future will look like, however, more than ever, an organization like the EIC will have an increasingly important role to play. We believe our mandate to support excellence and share knowledge on the practice of engineering, is essential in the face of these new challenges.

With that being said, we are pleased to report that the EIC is remaining active and growing, strengthening our ability to fulfill our mandate and our relevance as an organization. The activities of our continuing education program, wherein we accredit quality learning providers, remain strong as many are transitioning their offerings to online delivery. While our gala has been postponed to next year (24 April), the honourees for our awards program provide evidence of another outstanding group of engineers excelling in their fields of endeavour with world class leadership. The History and Archives Committee is actively pursuing an Oral History Interviews project to expand and retain important evidences of engineering excellence.

Opportunities to enhance our relevance are found in the endeavours of our Strategic Conference Planning committee to connect with external agencies of interest in our themed area of interest – sustainable development of infrastructure in the north. We are looking at the potential revival of the Canadian Engineering Leadership Forum, a representation of national engineering organizations exploring the concept of combining the expertise and voice of Canada’s leading engineering associations representing

all aspects of the engineering profession to work together in shaping the future of and advancing the engineering profession in Canada.

The EIC also offers an excellent engineering career site (EngineeringCareers.ca) that caters specifically to job-seekers within the engineering community and organizations that are seeking to hire quality engineering professionals. Attractive volume discounts are available for multiple ad placements. For details on how to place ads, click: <https://employers.engineeringcareers.ca/>.

And finally, we are pleased to announce that the EIC has grown this past year through the addition of two new constituent societies: the Tunneling Association of Canada (TAC) and the Canadian National Committee of the International Union of Radio Science (URSI Canada). This is a vote of confidence in the relevance that others see in the EIC.

The EIC federation is now made up of the following constituent societies:

- Canadian Dam Association ([CDA](#))
- Canadian Geotechnical Society ([CGS](#))
- Canadian Medical and Biological Engineering Society ([CMBES](#))
- Canadian National Committee of International Union of Radio Science ([URSI Cda](#))
- Canadian Nuclear Society ([CNS](#))
- Canadian Society for Bioengineering ([CSBE](#))
- Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering ([CSChE](#))
- Canadian Society for Civil Engineering ([CSCE](#))
- Canadian Society for Engineering Management ([CSEM](#))
- Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering ([CSME](#))
- Canadian Society of Senior Engineers ([CSSE](#))
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers – Cda ([IEEE Cda](#))
- Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers – Cda ([IISE Cda](#))
- Tunnelling Association of Canada ([TAC](#))

Yours sincerely,

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President 2018-2020

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