

Dear CSSE colleague,

As a long standing CSSE member, who has served at the chapter, regional and national level in various capacities since 2003 I feel I have a good understanding of what the CSSE is all about and what it needs to be successful. As a former chapter Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair; emcee for the National NAOSH Week launch; National PDC Planning Committee Vice-Chair; and having represented Atlantic Canada on the National NAOSH Week Committee, I have worked with members all across the country in my various CSSE leadership roles.

In addition to my direct CSSE experience at all levels, I hold a Bachelor of Technology degree from Memorial University, which included course study in business, accounting, engineering economics and human resources. I also hold a Diploma of Electrical Engineering Technology from the former Cabot Institute of Applied Arts and Technology, have successfully completed all (6) required courses for the CHSC program and I am registered as a Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP) - certification #06-2808. All this, along with over 25 years' experience in high-risk environments including electrical utilities, health care and transportation, has put me in a position to have a good understanding of the safety landscape in Canada.

As a process oriented individual I see an opportunity for the CSSE to further improve its position as a leading OHS organization by conducting a formal review of its governance structure, re-evaluating current financial processes and systems, and developing and implementing a marketing and communication plan, including a social media campaign to better understand the needs of the organizations most important asset - the membership.

I also believe it important to be clear that while we are at a crossroads in terms of regulating our profession, success in this area will only occur with the involvement of all stakeholders. Again, significant decisions in this respect must have the support of you the members. As a CRSP and having completed all required CHSC courses, I have seen the benefit of both and feel that each must be protected and promoted as viable options, particularly for employers when making hiring decisions.

In short, there are many opportunities ahead and perhaps some difficult decisions to be made to ensure the sustainability of our organization. Financial accountability must be a top priority and strong responsible fiscal planning will be needed to make sure we can support the profession, our organization and most importantly, you our valued members.

Barry Fitzgerald CRSP, B.Tech.
RVP Atlantic Canada