Inside This Issue
(TOC entries hyperlinked to articles)

Outgoing President’s Report ................................................................. 2
VP Report from the Incoming President .............................................. 3
Secretary’s Report ............................................................................. 4
Treasurer’s Report ............................................................................. 5
CSEE Awards .................................................................................... 5
Students & Postdoctoral Members ...................................................... 7
Outreach and Regional Conferences Report ....................................... 9
E. Chris Pielou 1923-2016 ................................................................ 9
Report on CSEE 2016: St. John’s NL July 7-11 ................................. 10
CSEE 2017: Victoria, May 7-11 ........................................................ 11
Latest News for the NSERC Discovery Grant Ecology & Evolution Evaluation Group ................................................................. 11
Policy News and Opportunities .......................................................... 13
PAGSE Report .................................................................................. 14
SWEET ............................................................................................... 16
Communicating Science with a Difference: Canada’s Liber Ero Fellowship Program ................................................................. 17
Canadian Institute of Ecology & Evolution (CIEE) ............................... 17
Membership News & Views ................................................................. 18
Award-winning Limericks from the Closing Banquet in St. John’s .......... 21
Your Current CSEE Council ................................................................ 22

The bulletin is published twice per year by the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution to disseminate news and information to members. All members are invited to submit articles, news, reports and announcements of upcoming events. Short summaries of new research initiatives are also welcome. Please submit your contribution by email, in either language, to the Editor.
–Andrew Simons, Editor (andrew_simons@carleton.ca)

Translation:
Mélissa Lieutenant-Gosselin, U Laval
Outgoing President’s Report
Judy Myers, UBC

This year was the first time in the ten-year history of CSEE that the presidency changed hands at the end of the AGM. Thus, I welcome Jeremy Kerr to his new position as president. I am certain he will do an excellent job shepherding the society through activities in the next two years. The society is in excellent shape financially partially due to profit made on last year’s meeting and also because of the care and attention given to the books by outgoing treasurer Julie Turgeon. I want to thank Julie and outgoing council members Locke Rowe, Heather Proctor and Anne Dalziel for their contributions to the society over the last 3 to 5 years.

The meeting in St. John’s was very successful and I thank the organizing committee—Tom Chapman, Ian Fleming, Carissa Brown, and Eric Vander Wal—for their work. Carissa in particular played a major role in the success of the meeting even while on maternity leave. We welcomed baby Emmett to his first CSEE meeting. I was particularly pleased at the attendance of members at the AGM as it is a sign of a healthy organization when members take part in the business of the society. And I would like to thank Dawn Bazely for her enthusiastic role in organizing the SWEEET conference this year.

Please note Dawn’s suggested readings on issues of women in STEM in this Bulletin, as this is an issue that we should all be well informed about.

The Minister of Science, Dr. Kirsty Duncan has requested input from the community on their views on the Fundamental Science Review. I encourage members to consider having an input to this important process at the site below.

http://www.sciencereview.ca/eic/site/059.nsf/eng/home

CSEE has also been asked to make suggestions in regard to themes for the next Discovery Frontier program. This program supports a small number of “major new transformative and integrative activities”. This may be an opportunity for making major advances in research on biodiversity, long-term monitoring, and research related to species at risk. Suggestions are welcome and if you are interested in being involved, get in touch with Jeremy (Jkerr@uottawa.ca).

Support for regional conferences – Members should be aware that up to $500 support for conferences or outreach activities can be applied for by members in good standing by sending a proposal to the outreach committee – Chris Eckert (chris.eckert@queensu.ca) is now chairing this committee. Students organizing local meetings should consider this source of potential funding. Please see the report, below, by the outgoing committee chair, Mark Vellend (thanks, Mark).

Finally I thank the members of CSEE for the opportunity to have served as President. It has been a wonderful opportunity to interact with members from across the country. I encourage all members to keep up their memberships. Send any suggestions and comments to the new president, Jeremy Kerr.
CSEE council bids farewell to members who have put in so much valuable service. Anne Dalziel (PDF Councillor, with a new position at Saint Mary’s), Locke Rowe (Councillor, University of Toronto), and Heather Proctor (Councillor, University of Alberta) have been continuously helpful. Julie Turgeon, CSEE’s outgoing Treasurer, helped bring us back to a balanced budget, and CSEE is in strong financial shape for the coming year. Outgoing President Judy Myers has put CSEE on firmer, stronger footing. Her leadership strongly improved society finances and we are now set up for impressive annual meetings until 2018.

Members have elected a group of very strong, new council members. Isabelle Côté (Simon Fraser University) will serve two years as Vice-President followed by two years as President. Yolanda Morbey (Western University) is the new Treasurer. Julie Lee-Yaw (UBC) is the new PDF councilor, and Alison Derry (UQAM) and Chris Eckert were elected as councilors.

We had an extraordinary slate of candidates for council this year and CSEE is lucky to have a very deep bench of talent. Council would not have been any less effective had a completely different group been elected, and we owe thanks to Marc Johnson, Megan Frederickson, Tom Iwanicki, Jana Vamosi, and Graham Thompson.

Service to our science and to our members is not contingent on being elected to council. Members of our research community have not been shy about making their voices heard by bringing the best scientific information to policy and public discussions. The choice to make such contributions sets an important example. Whether such contributions come in the form of testimony as expert witnesses, to Parliamentary committees, service as a reviewer and evaluator at NSERC, preparing briefing notes, or by speaking with the next generation of scientists, CSEE members have a proud tradition of using their expertise and experience in service to a broader community. CSEE welcomes this service.

Our annual general meetings bring us together each year. We owe the organizing committee for CSEE2016 – Tom Chapman, Ian Fleming, Carissa Brown, Eric Vanderwal, Mary Garnier, and many volunteers and assistants – our thanks for making this meeting such a success.

Next year’s Annual General Meeting will be in Victoria in early May. CSEE2016, in St. John’s, will be an incredibly hard act to follow, but CSEE2017 (http://www.csee2017.ca) sounds like it will be wonderful. AGM 2018 will be in Guelph and will likely line up with the North American meetings of the Society for Conservation Biology, which will take place in Toronto directly after our AGM in nearby Guelph.

We do not yet have plans for the 2019 AGM, but now is the time to begin to think about proposals for that meeting. This task will fall to my distinguished successor as VP, Isabelle.
At the General Membership Meeting in St. John’s, I gave my usual report about CSEE membership. As of 5 July, CSEE had 532 members, including 45 Lifetime, 204 Regular, and 283 Student/Postdoc members. These numbers are actually a little higher than at this time last year, which is encouraging. When I send the annual reminder out in November, please do renew! If you are not sure whether you are due to renew, simply drop me an email at CSEESecretary@gmail.com.

At the GMM, I also provided some preliminary results from the Membership Survey. We have had about 145 responses to the survey, but would love to hear from each and every one of our members! The questionnaire only takes about 5 minutes to fill out, but the information will be very useful for several reasons. We want to better understand our membership: which provinces and territories are represented? What kinds of institutions do they work in? What kinds of research do they do? Where does their research funding come from? What kinds of things can the Society do for its members? The survey was distributed as an email link – https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PYZPK3ZY.

I hope everyone enjoyed the conference in St. John’s as much as I did (except for the weather, which seemed to be more appropriate to July in the southern hemisphere). The 2016 meeting was the 10th official meeting, but really the 11th meeting if we include the initial 2006 meeting in Montreal at which the Society was created. At least four people have been at every one of these meetings: Andrew Simons (the editor of this newsletter), Doug Morris, Andrew Hendry, and myself. This is now a longevity contest!

One of my favourite things about CSEE conferences is the mix of evolution and ecology. I really like this dual perspective, because it gives me all sorts of ideas for both teaching and research. This year my talk was on bee demography in restored habitat - and I was congratulated on becoming an ecologist at last!

I hope many of you took some time to see the sights of St. John’s and maybe also ventured farther afield. The conference field trips were wonderful! Our first day in St. John’s we walked downtown, then to Signal Hill, and on to Quidi Vidi, following almost the same route that the official conference tour took a few hours later. We ended up at the Inn of Olde pub. It was a bit too early to sample the rum, so we drank Qudi Vidi beer. The next day we took the conference tour to the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve, two islands covered with literally thousands of seabirds, especially puffins, auks, razorbills, and kittiwakes. Cold, rainy weather and big waves made hardly any impression on us, because the bird colonies are fantastic. From a distance, the thousands of birds flying around the islands looked like clouds of mosquitoes that you see in the Arctic. My favourites were the puffins, of course; they are so droll. The day after the conference, we took the tour to Cape St. Mary’s Ecological Reserve to see the gannet colony. It was raining so hard that we were soaked by the time we got the bus, but the weather gods smiled and the skies and fog cleared just as the bus arrived at the reserve. Another fantastic place – with the added bonus of a humpback whale and a minke whale just below the birds. This was a wonderful start to an extra 10 days spent at Gros Morne, L’Anse aux Meadows, and points in between. What a magnificent place Newfoundland is! CSEE meetings are often in fantastic places – it’s great to get out and see them, instead of heading straight back to our computers and labs. Thanks so much to the LOC for organizing the conference and all the other activities.
Treasurer’s Report
Yolanda Morbey (Western U.) on behalf of Julie Turgeon, outgoing Treasurer (U. Laval)

Many thanks to Julie Turgeon (U. Laval) for her outstanding work as Treasurer over the past three years, and for leaving the books in such an excellent state!

In 2015, CSEE revenues ($38,974) came mostly from membership dues and higher-than-expected profit from the 2014 CSEE Meeting in Montreal. Our investments in Cashable ($20K) and Climbing rate (60K) Term Savings netted $760 in interest in 2015. Expenses related to 2015 activities totalled $32,321 and are shown by type in the pie chart. The approved 2016 budget is shown in the table, and shows the higher-than-expected profit from the 2015 CSEE Meeting in Saskatoon.

Financial Statements of the CSEE, prepared by a professional accountant firm as required by law, are available upon request to the Treasurer (ymorbey@uwo.ca).

2015 Expenses

![Pie chart showing expense distribution]

CSEE - 2016

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CSEE Awards
Heather Proctor (U Alberta) outgoing Chair, Awards and Recognition Committee

The CSEE Early Career Awards recognize outstanding accomplishments and promising future research potential in ecology and evolution by scientists early in their careers. There were many excellent nominees for the ECAs this year, and the selection committee had a hard time picking just two. The recipients for this year’s competition were Dr. Isla Myers-Smith, currently at the University of Edinburgh, and Dr. Njal Rollinson from the University of Toronto. The 2016 award consisted of a ten-year membership to CSEE, a $500 cash award, up to $1000 allowance for travel and accommodation to attend the CSEE meeting in St. John’s, Newfoundland, and an invitation to give a keynote lecture there. Dr. Rollinson presented an ECA talk entitled "Maternal effects and the evolution of body size." Dr. Myers-Smith was unable to physically attend the meeting but she sent a video presentation entitled "The greening of the Arctic: climate as a driver of tundra vegetation change." Congratulations again to both recipients, and thanks to the adjudicators for their hard work (Mélanie Jean, Jeremy Kerr, Locke Rowe, Mark Vellend and Jeannette Whitton).
As usual, there were many strong competitors for student talk and poster awards at the conference. The winners were:

**Best oral presentation (three-way tie for first!)**

Rebecca Batstone, University of Toronto: "Root foraging and mutualism-stabilizing traits in the model legume *Medicago truncatula*"

Kira Hoffman, University of Victoria: "A human-driven and climate-influenced fire regime over the past seven centuries in a coastal temperate rainforest, British Columbia, Canada"

Ruth Rivkin, University of Toronto Mississauga: "The role of sexual system and latitude on insect herbivory rates in *Sagittaria latifolia* (Alismataceae)".

**New Phytologist Prize:**

Kenneth Thompson, University of Toronto: "Urbanization drives parallel adaptive clines in plant populations"

**Poster presentation:**

First place - Hayley Alloway, Memorial University: "Physiological evidence for alternative reproductive strategies in men"

Second place - Jesse Hoage, Laurentian University: "Developing a metabarcoding strategy for soil mesofaunal communities to monitor the ecological impacts of intensified biomass harvesting in forestry".

A new competition this year was the Excellence in Doctoral Research Awards. Winners received $750 each and were given a 30-minute presentation slot in the Doctoral Student Showcase at the St. John’s meeting. Thanks to Anne Dalziel, Leanna Lachowsky, Julie Lee-Yaw, Judy Myers and Jeannette for adjudicating this competition. The winners were:


Krista Oke, McGill University: "(Non)Parallel evolution in fishes: investigating potential drivers of nonparallelism in stickleback and salmon"

Rachel Germain, University of Toronto: "The spatial structure of metacommunities: a multiscale decoupling of distance and environment"

Diana Rennison, University of British Columbia: "Survival in a cutthroat world: estimating natural selection on armor phenotypes and genotypes in threespine stickleback".

Stilianos Louca, University of British Columbia: "The ecology of microbial metabolic pathways".

[Photo: CSEE Doctoral Research Showcase. From left to right are Anne Dalziel (outgoing CSEE Student/Postdoc council member); five showcase winners—Kyle Artelle, Krista Oke, Rachel Germain, Diana Rennison, Stilianos Louca—and outgoing CSEE President, Judy Myers.]
The 2016 annual meeting was a great success and we would like to thank the local organizing committee for all of their hard work. Here is a quick wrap-up of student-related news from St. John’s:

**Student Workshop & Mixer:** We reprised the popular mixer-style format for our 2016 student workshop. Students were able to move from topic to topic during the evening to discuss the following topics with our faculty volunteers: 1) Finding scholarship opportunities and writing great scholarship applications, 2) Where to next? Deciding where to do your MSc/PhD/PDF, 3) Expat scientist - Advice for students hoping to do a degree/post-doc abroad, 4) From PDF to Professor – Job applications and surviving your first year as an assistant professor, 5) Non-academic careers - Finding a job in government/industry, 6) Almost there - Writing up your MSc/PhD thesis, 7) Creating work/life balance, 8) Advice for academic parents - How to juggle kids and academic careers, and 9) How can scientists engage policymakers and influence policies? Thanks to all of our volunteers for making this such a great event. If you have feedback, ideas to improve next year’s workshop in Victoria or would like to get involved please contact us (cseestudent@gmail.com).

**Student Travel Grants:** Due to our record profits from the Saskatoon meeting in 2015, CSEE was able to increase our student travel grants from $500 to $750 and also add five postdoctoral travel grants for members travelling to St. John’s this year. We provided 20 student and five PDF travel grants to randomly chosen applicants from 15 different Universities. The travel grant should remain the same for the 2017 meeting in Victoria.

**CSEE Doctoral Research Showcase Winners:** We would like to congratulate the five winners of our inaugural ‘Doctoral Research Showcase’ ($750). (Please see report of the Awards & Recognition Committee in this Bulletin.) These students did a wonderful job of highlighting the exceptional research in ecology and evolution that is being conducted by graduate students across Canada. If you are a finishing PhD student, be sure to check the updates on eligibility on the CSEE website and apply for this award next year!

**CSEE Student Presentation Awards:** We would like to extend our congratulations to the six winners of our student oral and poster presentation awards (Please see report of the Awards & Recognition Committee in this Bulletin).

**Elections – New Student Councillor & another position open in 2017**

Julie-Lee Yaw was elected as our new Student and Postdoctoral Councillor (2016-2018) and will join Mélanie Jean (2015-2017 Student and Postdoctoral Councillor) on council. Julie is an NSERC PDF currently working with Dr. Loren Rieseberg at the University of British Columbia. Julie is looking forward to representing of our student and post-doc members on council and is particularly interested in building the council’s capacity to help young investigators navigate the job market (both academic and non-academic careers) and address mental health issues. Don’t hesitate to contact her if you have any questions or suggestions.

Note that Mélanie will end her term in May 2017 so we will elect another student member this year. If you are interested in running, or have a nomination suggestion, be sure to complete the nomination process ASAP (see VP’s Report). Feel free to contact us at cseestudent@gmail.com if you would like to discuss what this position entails.
NSERC News – Scholarships and Fellowships

Scholarships and Fellowships workshop, St. John’s CSEE 2016: Natalie Weiskopf from NSERC came to CSEE 2016 and presented an overview of the Scholarships and Fellowships programs and a number of Application Tips. If you missed this workshop, you can view videos for Scholarships and Fellowships Tips (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) on the NSERC youtube channel. Don’t forget that you can email NSERC directly (schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca) or talk to your local NSERC on-campus representative if you have any questions.

Parental leave: A reminder that NSERC has increased parental leave to 6 months for all graduate and PDF holders and also those that are being paid from an NSERC grant by their professor, see NSERC’s website for more information.

Changes to Scholarships and Fellowships: Over the past few years there have been a number of changes to the application procedure for NSERC MSc scholarship selection (now via the University) and post-doctoral fellowships (one time application instead of two). Many CSEE members have expressed concern that these new procedures will prevent deserving trainees from receiving awards. At present, NSERC is not planning to reverse these changes, but the CSEE council will continue to discuss these topics and voice our members’ concerns during our annual meeting with NSERC in December. If you (as a student member) have concerns/comments about scholarship/fellowship issues, please contact us at cseestudent@gmail.com so that we can present them to our CSEE council.

2016 Competition Results - Scholarships: In 2016 NSERC awarded 701 PGS-D/CGS-D scholarships [with 44 PGS-D and 33 CGS-D scholarships (of 175 applicants sent to NSERC after university selection and from external applicants) going to Ecology and Evolution and a similar number going to males and females]. This is an increase compared to 2015 (662 total).

If you are interested, you can see more detailed scholarship and fellowship results from 2016 online. Note that because the MSc scholarships are now administered by the universities, this information is not available from NSERC for 2015-2016, but allocations to each university can be viewed here.

2016 Competition Results - PDFs: The number of PDFs awarded in 2016 held steady at 180 (579 applicants), with 15 in Ecology and Evolution (of 48 applications). This is the same as the total offered in 2015, and up from the low of 98 in 2012. However, this number is still much lower than the 200-286 awards given annually from 1996-2010.

Don’t forget that you can also apply for PDF funding via the Visiting Fellowships (PDFs) in Government Labs & industrial PDFs program and Industrial PDFs via Mitacs (also available to graduate students). You can apply at any time for these fellowships up to 5 years post-PhD!

Supplements and other sources of funding: Check out other funding sources such as Collaborative Research and Training Experience Program (CREATE), Aboriginal Ambassadors in the Natural Science or Engineering supplements (AANSE), L’Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science (NSERC PDF supplement), Canada-China PDF supplement, summer program in Taiwan, and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science postdoctoral Fellowships (JSPS).

CSEE on Social Media:

Be sure to follow CSEE on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/58815627374/) and twitter (@CSEE_SCEE) to keep up-to-date with society news. If you have questions or ideas for new initiatives, or would like to become more involved, please contact us at CSEEstudent@gmail.com.
Outreach and Regional Conferences Report
Mark Vellend (U Sherbrooke), outgoing Chair

Since taking over this committee from Fanie Pelletier (thanks to Fanie for helping with the transition!), we have provided awards to several exciting outreach projects and regional conferences related to the goals of the CSEE. The following awards have been granted in 2015-2016:

- Association for Canadian Universities for Northern Studies Student Conference
- University of Guelph Dandelion Evolution Outreach Project
- Pacific Ecology & Evolution Conference
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan's Gone Wild for Wildlife event

We thank the leaders of these projects and conferences for helping promote the CSEE, and we invite new proposals twice per year, with deadlines of 31 May and 31 October. However, we will consider strong proposals at other times on an ad hoc basis. Awards are each worth $500, and more information can be found at http://csee-scee.ca/?page_id=25 (this page is for Outreach, but the same basic rules apply to Regional Conferences). Chris Eckert is now chairing this committee.

E. Chris Pielou 1923-2016
Judy Myers (UBC), based partly on information provided by Kathy Martin

I am sad to report the recent death of one of our Lifetime Honorary Members, Dr. Chris Pielou. Dr. Pielou was one of Canada’s pioneering and internationally renowned ecologists who was known for her foundational work in mathematical ecology. She wrote six books in the area of Mathematical Ecology and Ecological Diversity between 1969 and 1984. After her retirement in 1986, she wrote five popular books on ecosystems and environmental topics.

Dr. Pielou had many accolades. She received the George Lawson Medal of the Canadian Botanical Association (1984), the Eminent Ecologist Award of the Ecological Society of America (1986), the Distinguished Statistical Ecologist Award of the International Congress of Ecology (1990), an Honorary LLD from Dalhousie University (1993), and an Honorary Sc.D. from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. She also was an Honorary Life Member of the British Ecological Society, a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. The Ecological Society of America named a graduate student award in the Statistical Ecology Section in her honour.

Chris started her career as an amateur mathematical ecologist, home maker and mother and continued with positions with the Canadian Department of Forestry, Agriculture Canada, Queens University, Dalhousie University, University of Lethbridge, and several guest appointments at various universities including Yale University. Her research tackled
problems in community ecology and biogeography, including the paleo-record, and brought new mathematical rigor to quantifications of community structure, population dynamics, and later biogeographic range analyses. Her research ranged from boreal forests to intertidal marine algae, and her aim was to formulate ecological hypotheses in clear, mathematical form and to design rigorous tests specific for each hypothesis.

Dr. Pielou was a wonderful character. She was full of energy and enthusiasm and didn’t suffer fools gladly. While in her late 70s she went kayaking in Patagonia and hiking in the arctic. She had strong opinions. I first met her in Brookhaven New York in 1970 fighting to open a window while others stood and watched. This was typical – if there was a problem she would not hesitate to find a solution. In her presentation when she received an honorary degree in 2001 from UBC she said “scientific data don’t become scientific until they have been put into numerical form.... Until this happens, notions aren’t hypotheses – they’re just hunches”. Chris Pielou was a remarkable woman who made many contributions to ecology, and expected rigour in not only her work but in that of others.

Report on CSEE 2016: St. John’s NL July 7-11
“From Windswept Land to Spindrift Swirl”
Tom Chapman & LOC

It was with great pride that the local organizing committee welcomed participants to the 11th annual meeting held July 7th-10th in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. But just our luck, the weather turned foul as the conference neared. If we had forgotten the lively and plucky nature of the membership, we were quickly reminded; forty early-arriving participants joined Dr. Craig Purchase to ascend Signal Hill in the cold, rain and fog (some claimed there was hail) and then to descend into Quidi Vidi Village. There they were greeted by Linda, the owner/operator of the Inn of Olde, where they were warmed by her charming personality and woodstove. With delegates like this, that are keen to make the most of whatever they encounter, it is no wonder there has been a long streak of successful meetings for the society, and we would suggest that you all continued that successful string of meetings in St. John’s. The program began with the Symposium for the Society for Women Entering Ecology and Evolution Today (SWEENET). The discussions that the invited speakers stimulated among participants immediately had the conference’s hashtag (#CSEE2016) trending nationally. The afternoon workshop (mixed models) was so popular that the local organizers had to scramble to get rooms and sufficient power outlets to allow approximately 100 people to plug in their laptops in order to fully participate. The evening reception included the very stimulating public lecture, Human Super Predators, presented by Dr. Chris Darimont. Hundreds of the public joined conference delegates, including almost sixty teenagers from the SHAD program. The main scientific program was dynamic and diverse (as is usual), consisting of 286 oral presentations (lumping plenaries and shorter contributions together) and 53 posters. Members of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society contributed significantly to the scientific program including a plenary by Dr. Kathy Martin, CSTWS Ian McTaggart-Cowan Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. The conference concluded with a banquet and after-party, or in Newfanese: a scoff n’ scuff. The many honourary Newfoundlanders that were newly minted at the after-party will understand our parting wish: Long may your big jib draw.
The 2017 CSEE meeting will be held May 7-11, 2017 in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia. Early May is the biodiversity peak for southern Vancouver island, with Garry Oak meadows in glorious bloom, birds migrating offshore and on, and the wild west-coast tide pools busying up. Victoria is at its loveliest this time of year. The scientific program will run May 8th-10th at the downtown Victoria Conference Centre, with field trips likely to take place on the two days preceding and the day following the meeting. We are also working on putting together some exciting childcare opportunities for delegates visiting with their families. Please check the website (in French and English at http://www.csee2017.ca/) for updates and posters to download for your labs/departments. Follow us on Twitter at @CSEE2017. Looking forward to seeing you in Victoria in 2017!

Latest News for the NSERC Discovery Grant Ecology & Evolution Evaluation Group
Karen Kidd (U New Brunswick)

I was very pleased to take over the role of Group Chair last summer for the Ecology and Evolution Evaluation Group (EG 1503) in the Discovery Grants program. It is a three-year appointment and my main responsibilities are to oversee and assist the Co-Chairs and NSERC staff with the grant reviews each year (including as an observer during competition week), and to represent EG 1503 on the Committee on Discovery Research (CDR; formerly COGS). The latter is a Standing Committee made up mainly of Group Chairs, and at the semiannual meetings we learn about new initiatives within NSERC, review budget allocations to different programs, their success rates, and raise and discuss concerns related to grant and scholarship programs and policies with NSERC staff.

Before I briefly describe what has been happening over the past year, I wanted to extend a huge thank you to Hugh MacIsaac (U. of Windsor) for his impressive commitment and energy in his role as Group Chair for EG 1503. As you have seen in his previous reports, he worked very hard to raise the profile of several issues in the Discovery Grants program and to communicate NSERC happenings. A warm thank you also to the 2015-16 Co-chairs Jeannette Whitton (UBC) and Frédéric Guichard (McGill U.). I hope you and the other outgoing committee members are enjoying the well-deserved break! We had fantastic help from the NSERC staff members Brenda MacMurray, Tiffany Lancaster, Kenn Rankine, Dave Bowen, Elizabeth Boston, and Lola Causyn. They work like a well-oiled machine and make the competition and time in Ottawa much more enjoyable.

There is a lot of positive news for this year’s Discovery Grants competition. In EG 1503 we had very high success rates, among the highest since 2010. Within the Established Researcher (ER) category, a total of 99 and 37 grants were received...
from researchers renewing or not holding grants and their success rates were 87% (avg. grant $39,068; 82% across all EGs) and 46% (avg. grant $25,235; 37% across all EGs), respectively, for a total granted budget of $3.788M. The EG has made efforts over the past several years to improve feedback to unsuccessful applicants and this may be behind some of the increased success. The Early Career Researchers (ECRs) also did very well, with an overall success rate of 67% (27 applications; avg. grant $26,611; previous years were 50 and 52%); it was a bit lower than the overall rate (75%) across all EGs. As in other years, ECRs were funded to a lower bin (K) than ERs because the former are not expected to have an established HQP training program. We also saw 80.6 and 74.5% success rates for women and men, respectively (NB that ~30% of people do not identify their gender). The committee awarded 9 Discovery Accelerator Supplement awards. Congratulations to the recipients! All grants had at least 1 external review with 74% having at least 3; these reviews are very helpful to the EG members, and are incorporated into the assessments of the at least 40 applications they tend to review each year. The Research Tools and Instruments program was run by a quota system this year. For EG 1503, its success rate was 34.2% with an overall granted budget of $3.032M (avg. request was $108,515; total of 82 applications). Finally, the conference model continues to provide applicants with comprehensive and multidisciplinary reviews. In the 2015-16 competition, EG 1503 had 66 applications that were jointly reviewed by at least one other EG and we participated in the evaluation of another 35 applications submitted to other EGs.

I would be remiss if I did not mention some of the ongoing challenges within the Discovery Grant program and within EG 1503 more specifically. The first is that average grant sizes are not keeping pace with the cost of research. This issue has been raised for many years and NSERC is well aware of it. There is hope with the ongoing Government of Canada’s Fundamental Science Review that the budget for discovery research will increase. You are encouraged to submit comments on the value of discovery research, research stations, infrastructure (e.g. ships), etc. to this committee during their period of public consultation this summer (Canada’s Fundamental Science Review). Second, of the three main criteria that are used to evaluate Discovery applications, the one on HQP training remains the most difficult for applicants to understand and write to, and challenging and contentious for EG members (from all 12 EGs) to evaluate. Since I started with EG 1503 in 2008, there have been a number of improvements made to the instructions for applicants and peer review manual (including a Frequently Asked Questions document) and the CCV. I sit on a newly formed HQP committee with the mandate to discuss how the application and evaluation process can be improved. Some minor changes (mainly to document wording) are currently being made for the upcoming competition and recommendations for more substantive changes will be put forward at the CDR meeting in November. The third issue that I suspect you are well aware of is the one of lower success rates for applicants from small universities. Across all EGs, the success rates for ERs renewing a grant was 85, 77, and 67%, for ERs not holding a grant was 43, 33 and 20%, and for ECRs was 80, 74 and 49% for large, medium and small universities, respectively. Very sobering numbers. Across all applicant categories, the average grant size was lower (by 3-7K) for applicants from small than large institutions. While there are likely many reasons for these results, they are concerning; this is a topic that needs more discussion (see Murray, DL et al. 2016 PLoS One for some recommendations). The last issue I want to raise here is one of declining numbers of grants submitted to EG 1503. NSERC staff are examining whether applicants previously funded by 1503 are
submitting to different EGs or not returning to the program. It would also be interesting to know whether the reductions in applications also reflect shifts in the expertise of people being hired at universities in recent years.

Here are some other noteworthy items, including new policies related to Discovery grant holders:

- Discovery and RTI budgets will be higher in the upcoming competition because of the increase in NSERC’s budget (yahoo!)
- This year the RTI competition will remain as a quota system and CGS M applications will continue to be administered by universities
- Minor improvements were made to the CCV and a major upgrade is planned for 2017
- More NSERC PDFs were awarded in 2016 and are now 45K/year; NSERC staff are monitoring how success rates are affected by the recent change in policy (one application only)
- Graduate students and PDFs now have access to longer paid parental leave
- Discovery grantees that declined to take parental leave may be eligible to receive an additional year of funding (pilot program as of March 2016)
- ECRs renewing their grant for the 1st time can receive a one year extension at the same level of funding
- Those with concerns about the newer Open Access policy from NSERC are encouraged to contact their library staff for help
- The International Advisory Committee on funding allocations within the Discovery program will submit its report late summer, and details will be communicated to the CDR and community in the fall and winter
- Themes are being solicited for the Discovery Frontiers Initiative by August 15th

Please do not hesitate to email me (kiddk@unb.ca) if you have questions or concerns, and see the NSERC website for more details on the 2016 Discovery competition. I wish you every success in your research program.

Policy News and Opportunities
Jeremy Kerr (U Ottawa), CSEE President

CSEE researchers at all career stages can participate in communicating their research to the public and to policy-makers but there have been challenges in bringing evidence to public and policy discussions. Remarkably, the scientific community is now being asked to add its voice to three federal consultations that are currently underway. To the extent that members have felt excluded from federal discussions in the past, these consultations represent an opportunity to make our voices heard.

It is an opportunity to put forward our best ideas. Please consider submitting something to these reviews.

1. Canada’s Fundamental Science Review

Minister of Science, Dr. Kirsty Duncan, has launched a panel to review the whole science funding landscape in Canada. Whether you are a student, postdoc, new or established researcher, your voice can matter. How should fundamental research evolve? The portal for submissions can be found at:

http://www.scencereview.ca

2. The Innovation Review

The second review at Innovation, Science, and Economic Development includes areas where members may wish to contribute (notably “Global Science Excellence”, and “World-leading Clusters and Partnerships”
but other areas may also interest members).

http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/062.nsf/eng/home

3. Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Ideas for how to mitigate climate change and adapt to impacts can be submitted to:

http://letstalkclimateaction.ca/

Gender diversity and equity

The society’s longstanding commitment to our Symposium for Women Entering Ecology and Evolution Today (SWEET) has provided a forum in which these issues have been discussed since 2008.

SWEEET will continue to be an essential part of our Annual General Meetings. Yet, CSEE does not have formal policies around gender diversity and equity. It is time to have a broader conversation around this topic. To this end, I will encourage a representative group to consider best practices in other scientific societies and to suggest the key ingredients for a CSEE position. We hope to be able to discuss this issue at the December meeting of council, but it is up to members to engage. If interested to be part of such a group, which might meet virtually over the coming months, please contact the President: Jeremy Kerr, jkerr@uottawa.ca.

PAGSE Report
Jeremy Kerr (U Ottawa), CSEE President

The Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE; www.pagse.org) is a cooperative association of national organizations in Science and Engineering. The national organizations that comprise PAGSE represent almost 60,000 individual members from industry, academia, and government sectors. They work collectively to represent the Canadian science and engineering community to the Government of Canada, and to advance research and innovation for the benefit of Canadians. PAGSE is not a lobby group. Rather, its intent is to address the broader issues of science and engineering policy at the national level.

PAGSE Members and Representatives

On January 1 2016, Maria DeRosa, Carleton University, assumed the role of Chair of PAGSE. See [here] for full list of Member Organizations and representatives.

Bacon & Eggheads

PAGSE, in partnership with NSERC and CANARIE Inc, sponsors a monthly breakfast meeting held on Parliament Hill, known as “Bacon and

Eggheads”. Speakers at the meetings inform parliamentarians about recent advances in science and engineering. In 2015-16 PAGSE organized the following presentations:

- Permafrost science heats up: understanding and preparing for change in northern landscapes  Chistopher Burn, Carleton University
- Rethinking cyberattacks: New strategies to counter the mounting costs to business and threats to Canada's security Scott Knight, Royal Military College of Canada Thursday, March 10, 2016
- Exploring a simulated brain: from human behaviour to drug effects Chris Eliasmith, University of Waterloo
- Keeping food available and affordable: a twenty-first century challenge Jean Caron, Université Laval
- Crude oil on water - an expert perspective on spills, their impacts and remediation Kenneth Lee,
SciEng Pages (formerly SciencePages)

SciEng Pages is an initiative undertaken by the Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE) to provide brief, evidence based assessments of topical science and engineering topics to Parliamentarians and the public. To view all the SciEng Pages publications please visit the SciEng Pages website.

PAGSE Council Meetings

Guests, representing science and engineering in the government and industry sectors, are invited to PAGSE Council meetings to present their perspectives on science and engineering in Canada, on the activities of their organizations, as well as the potential issues and challenges that they would like to see PAGSE address. Members also consider federal activities and reports and how best to promote and sustain Canada’s scientific base. The meetings are held at the University of Ottawa.

Submissions to Parliamentary Committees

House of Commons Finance Committee

PAGSE submitted a brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance in August 2015. Due to the early federal election call, briefs were not accepted by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. The PAGSE brief was re-submitted to the House of Commons Standing Committee for the 2016 Pre-budget consultations (February 2016)

Summary of the 2016 Submission

Canadians understand that the economic, social and environmental health of the country depends crucially on science, technology and innovation (STI). Whether it is in the development of new diagnostic technologies in health, renewable energy technologies to heat and light our businesses and homes, or bringing a new product to market that will enhance prosperity and create jobs, STI touches every aspect of our daily lives.

With a relatively stable economy, high standard of living, and world-leading educational system, Canada has an outstanding opportunity to build on recent investments in our STI enterprise to become a global leader in the knowledge economy. We punch above our weight in terms of international science impact and play host to some of the world’s leading researchers and research institutions. However, other countries and key trading partners, in particular the United States, Germany, and the UK, are investing proportionately more in science and reaping greater benefits. Canada can and must do more to become a global leader in STI. Key to achieving this goal will be creating an enduring and stable foundation for discovery-based research to generate the ideas that fuel innovation, building and renewing science infrastructure to accelerate productivity growth and resilience in northern communities, and making talented students and their ideas more mobile within Canada to facilitate knowledge sharing and innovation.

The Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE) recommends that the Government:

- Increase investments in science and technology to match those in comparator countries.
- Build smart grid technologies in northern communities to improve resilience, sustainability, and lower energy costs.
- Establish Canada Opportunity Scholarships to enable graduate students to study at the best institutions.
- Provide tax credits for building and supporting new industry-partnered research laboratories across Canada.
SWEEET, the Symposium for Women Entering Ecology & Evolution Today, has been an annual event preceding the start of the CSEE annual conference, since 2008.

SWEEET originated as a grassroots event organized by early career researchers and graduate students. Its goal is to provide support for and knowledge about achieving gender equity, to scientists-in-training, through the sharing of information and networking opportunities.

The SWEEET 2016 theme was “Gender diversity policy: the progress, the promise, and the challenges ahead.” Part of this year’s goal was to place what has been discussed at SWEEET into the larger context of social sciences research and evolving policy related to gender equity, in light of the ongoing challenges that Women in STEM continue to face.

About 100 people attended SWEEET 2016, including a good representation of men: because gender equity, not just in STEM, is in everyone’s best interest.

The organizers thank outgoing president of CSEE, UBC Professor Emerita Judy Myers, for moving the CSEE council meeting to the afternoon! After the symposium, Judy asked me to suggest a few readings for those interested in issues facing early career researchers & Women in STEM, in general. The readings are summarized in my blog post on SWEEET, and I also tweeted them out in 6 tweets listed here:

1. For Ecology and Evolution undergraduates:
   [Link to article]

2. For Ecology and Evolution graduate students:
   Take a Harvard Project Implicit test to assess your unconscious bias.
   [Project Implicit]

3. For Ecology and Evolution post-doctoral fellows:
   If you’re being invited to give guest lectures in undergraduate courses, you should know that you’re being rated by students on the basis of your gender.
   [Resources: understanding unconscious bias]
   [Ben Schmidt: Gender and teaching]

4. For Ecology and Evolution Assistant Professors:
   If people tell you that you got the job only because you’re a woman, then Prof. Michael Kimmel’s TEDx talk is a must-see; get the historical and sociological perspective on affirmative action:
   [TEDx: Michael Kimmel]

5. For Ecology and Evolution Associate Professors:
   [Favaro et al.]

6. For Ecology and Evolution Full Professors:
   [Martin, J. PLOS]
Communicating Science with a Difference: Canada’s Liber Ero Fellowship Program
Sally Otto, Director; Anita Miettunen, Program Coordinator

The Liber Ero Fellowship Program is a unique Canadian post-doctoral program that began in 2013. A key goal of the program is to “change the dial” regarding how applied conservation science is conducted and communicated in Canada. As emerging conservation leaders, Liber Ero Fellows focus on critical applied conservation biology issues, which may include natural, social, and interdisciplinary research pursuits. They work closely with academic and conservation practitioner mentors; participate in group projects; and attend biannual retreats that offer networking and training opportunities in career development, leadership, policy, and communications.

In May 2016, we gathered for our spring retreat in beautiful Banff, AB. Fellows met with Brian Lin and Nancy Baron, as they learned about “Communications and Media 101.” They also met with documentary filmmaker Leanne Allison; and heard from conservationists Harvey Locke, Leslie Taylor, and Kevin van Tighem.

We are currently planning our fall retreat for Ottawa in October 2016. The call for proposals for 2017 Fellows will be announced later this summer via our website with an application deadline of November 1. Outstanding post-doctoral researchers from any country are eligible to apply; however, research projects should be based at a Canadian institution.

For further information please contact us at info@liberero.ca.

Canadian Institute of Ecology & Evolution (CIEE)
Dr. Peter Leavitt, Director, Dr. Diego Steinaker, Associate Director

Greetings! Last semester was a busy one for our ongoing thematic working groups: 1. Canadian protected areas in a changing climate: A cross-ecosystem approach to designing effective networks of protected areas, led by Cassidy D’Aloia and Marie-Josée Fortin (University of Toronto), and Ilona Naujokaitis-Lewis (Environment Canada, Carleton University); 2. Genomic data in ecology, evolution and conservation: the impacts of missing data in genotyping-by-sequencing datasets, led by Jean-Sébastien Moore, Louis Bernatchez, Anne-Laure Ferchaud, Laura Benestan (Université Laval) and Thierry Gosselin (independent consultant); 3. Diversity and structure of coastal eelgrass communities along environmental and human disturbance gradients, organized by Julia Baum and Josephine Iacarella (University of Victoria); 4. Testing the conservation value of phylogenetic diversity, led by Arne Mooers (SFU) and Caroline Tucker (U. Colorado, US); 5. Adaptation versus maladaptation in response to environmental change, coordinated by Andrew Hendry, Rowan Barrett, Gregor Fussmann (McGill) and Alison Derry (UQAM); and 6. Understanding recent biodiversity change across spatial and temporal scales, led by Mary O’Connor (UBC) and Andrew Gonzalez (McGill)

These current working groups are bringing together 104 researchers from 23 Canadian Universities, including McGill, Toronto, British Columbia, Victoria, Simon Fraser, Sherbrooke,
Carleton, Concordia, Montreal, Memorial, du Québec à Montréal, Guelph, Laval, Alberta, Calgary, Saskatchewan, Regina, Manitoba, Queen’s, New Brunswick and Dalhousie. In addition, these working groups include participants from three National Parks (Gwaii Haanas, Gulf Islands, and Pacific Rim), three governmental agencies (Environment Canada, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry), and 4 NGOs. Most of these working groups met once or twice during the past six months and have made enormous advances on the publication of their works. Please visit our web site for details on the activities and products from these Thematic Programs.

New Call for Proposals: We are pleased to anticipate a new call for proposals in fall 2016 for thematic programs (working groups). The proposals should outline a plan to address significant questions in ecology and evolution through synthesis and integration of existing data. CIEE/ICEE provides logistic support and travel expenses. Programs can be also co-sponsored with other organizations. Please visit our website (here) for details.

As always, we are pleased to receive your questions, comments or concerns about CIEE. In particular, please let us know if you have an idea for a new member service or research activity. Thank you all for you continued support! Email: ciee-icee@uregina.ca; Website: www.ciee-icee.ca. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Membership News & Views
Please contribute your opinion, or let us know about noteworthy activities, awards (either your colleagues’ or your own) and opportunities so that we can spread the word.

A non-fiscal case for membership in CSEE
Andrew McAdam (U Guelph), Lifetime member

We are all aware of the not-so-secret agreement between academic societies and their members. Members receive a financial discount on conference registration and societies enjoy the benefits of membership by conference attendees who would not otherwise engage in the society. This arrangement is required for the financial viability of academic societies like CSEE/SCEE, but membership in CSEE/SCEE should really represent more than a rational consumer decision.

Through its support, promotion and communication of ecology and evolution research in Canada, CSEE/SCEE is the academic society that most closely reflects our interests as ecologists and evolutionary biologists. Implicit in these goals is also the role that CSEE/SCEE plays in supporting the training of the next generation of Canadian ecologists and evolutionary biologists through travel grants and awards. As a group, we have the potential to influence funding priorities and policy decisions, but the power of this mandate comes from broad and sustained membership. From my perspective, this will be achieved not only through the continued success of our annual meetings, but also by changing the way we view membership in our society. Instead of leveraging membership as a tool to receive financial benefits, we really do need to enhance the feeling of membership in a society that represents us.

So here I will issue two challenges. First, I challenge
CSEE/SCEE (at all levels from new members on up to the President) to think deeply about how we can improve and better communicate the role that our society plays in our community and in student training, which will enhance the feeling of membership in our society. In particular, I suspect that student and postdoc members will have especially insightful views on what modern membership means and how we can enhance the feeling of inclusion in our society. We then need to share our bright new ideas through our CSEE/SCEE council members or Isabelle Côté (Chair of the Membership Committee), so they can be translated into tangible action to encourage our peers who are not yet members to join CSEE/SCEE. Second, I challenge those in our community who value the role of our society to demonstrate this by becoming sustained members. This means membership regardless of conference attendance. The easiest and most economical way of doing this is to become a life member, but could otherwise be achieved by a personal commitment to sustained membership in our society. Our society will be stronger, more effective and vital if we can expand our perception of membership away from simply a financial convenience toward a true feeling of inclusion and representation.

As a first step in gauging our broader commitment to the role of our society, I will make two suggestions. First, we should consider the possibility of micromemberships. These would be society memberships that offer no financial incentive for membership (no associated conference discount or discounted publication fees in *Evolutionary Ecology Research*, for example), but which would allow us to demonstrate our support for and inclusion in our society with minimal financial burden (perhaps $5 per year). Second, I would propose that members consider lifetime membership, or *renew your membership for 2017 now!* By contributing to a late-summer spike in the number of membership renewals, you can send a message to your society that you value the role that our society plays in our academic community and in Canada independent of your excitement to attend the 2017 meetings in Victoria!

### A brand new bandwagon: a lifetime of CSEE (and SSE and ASN)

Andrew Hendry (McGill U), Modified from his blog: [http://ecoevoevoeco.blogspot.ca](http://ecoevoevoeco.blogspot.ca)

Scientific societies are cool things to be part of. You get free access to their journals, you have low (or no) page charges when publishing in their journals, you get cheap registration at their conferences, you get to have all sorts of wonderful interactions with colleagues, and—perhaps most important—you get to be a part of something bigger. Ever since I started as a graduate student, I have been enamored with all of these benefits and have been a member of a number of societies, including the American Fisheries Society (AFS), the Ecological Society of America (ESA), the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE), the American Society of Naturalists (ASN), the European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB), and the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution (CSEE). Great fun.

Twenty years on and in the midst of all those crazy little administrative things that faculty members have to do, it has gotten annoying to have to renew these memberships each year. I frequently forget to re-up even when I want to keep dating a journal and then journals I stop dating keep pestering me. What a pain.

The solution came to me a few years ago - become a lifetime member. You get all of the above benefits and none of the above annoyances. And it is cheaper in the long run. For CSEE, annual membership is $50 per year and a lifetime membership is $800 - 16 years and I start saving money! Given my anticipated long life span, I will save tons of money. At SSE, it will take only 17.5 years. The hitch, of course, is that even if one saves money in the long run, it might be too expensive in the short run. Fortunately, McGill has a "Professional Development Fund" that gives $500 per year for professional development, which includes society memberships.

So, a few years ago, I started chipping away at the societies. I first bought a lifetime membership in
CSEE - how could I not, given that I was on council? Then I waited two years for the fund to build up again and bought one to SSE - I was an editor at *Evolution* after all. Then I waited two more years and bought one for ASN. Oops, no I didn’t. They didn’t have a lifetime option. Damn. Well, what to do? At this point, I was so used to not buying yearly society memberships anymore that I decided to protest. I emailed ASN and said that I wanted to be a lifetime member but because that wasn’t an option, I was not going to be a member until it was. I suspect that my personal protest didn’t have much effect but I was told this was already under consideration. I just checked and - yes - you can now become a lifetime member of ASN! Within half an hour I had registered and paid - $700 (plus tax) for life versus $40 (plus tax) per year. This got me to thinking - was I the first? An email later it was confirmed: I am the first ever (non-honorary) lifetime member of ASN. Yeeha! Something to put in my obituary, which is hopefully far enough away that I start saving money on my membership.

The take home message is to join the lifetime bandwagon. Get that lifetime membership now – before you go out to pasture - and never have to worry about those renewals (and renewal notices) ever again!

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**Of note**

**Dr. Sapna Sharma** (York University) is lead author of two recent papers on lake warming and climate change that have garnered the attention of over 400 media outlets worldwide, including National Geographic, Popular Mechanics, and CBC. One study, published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, documented warming rates for 235 lakes over the past 25 years and showed that 90% of the world’s lakes are warming at rates faster than air and ocean temperatures. This study has been used as part of an advertising campaign for the Toronto Star and has appeared widely on public transit in the Greater Toronto Area (See figures). The second study, published in *Nature Scientific Reports* documents the timing of lake ice freeze and river ice melt over the past 5 to 7 centuries in data collected by Shinto priests in Japan and merchants in Scandinavia. The climate has been warming faster since the start of the Industrial Revolution with an increased prevalence of extreme events and a correlation between rising air temperatures and carbon dioxide concentrations with later ice freeze and earlier spring melt. The likelihood of multi-decadal oscillations in the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) and El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) indices have decreased since these climate records began in 1442.

[Photos: Toronto Star advertisement featured in the TTC and GO transit.]
Award-winning Limericks from the Closing Banquet in St. John’s
Solicited by Marco Festa-Bianchet, U. Sherbrooke

Dans le paysage de la peur
Craignez-moi, je suis un superprédateur,
En effet, j’ai voté
En novembre dernier
Et voilà l’extinction des conservateurs

—Louise, Émilie, Allison, Clarence

There once was a lonely ole’ puffin,
Whose search for a mate turned up nuffin,
She swam to the bay,
Her beau swept her away,
‘Dat Puff-Daddy sure left ‘er huffin’

—Rebecca Batstone, Shannon Meadley
Dunphy & Jason Laurich

There once was a rolling of capelin,
The males were in pretty bade shape-e-lin
The females, they surged,
The sperm, it was purged,
And the baby fish they were a make-e-lin.

—Team Cheesy Cauliflowers

There once was a graduate student,
Who thought life in S.T.E.M. she just couldn’t.
But she went to SWEEET
And got back on her feeet,
Now she’s Mother of Dragons; be prudent.

—Allison, Louise & Clarence

A meeting was held in St. John’s
On an island that’s chock full of ponds
For the lack of an “s”
There was great distress
For the students who flew to St. John.

—The Bee Team: Charlotte de Keyzer,
Miriam Richards, Sheila Colla, Brock Harpur
Your Current CSEE Council

- Isabelle Côté – Vice president (2016-2018)
- Yolanda Morbey - Treasurer (2016-2019)
- Mélanie Jean – Student/Post-doc Councillor (2015-2017)
- Alison Derry– Councillor (2016-2019)
- Julie Lee-Yaw - Student/Post-doc Councillor (2016-2018)