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d'écologie et d'évolution

Canadian Society for
Ecology and Evolution

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The bulletin is published twice per year by the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution. Its purpose is to disseminate news and information to members of the Society. All members are invited to submit articles, news, reports and announcements of upcoming events. Short summaries of new research initiatives are also welcome. Submissions can be in either language (translation: Mélissa Lieutenant-Gosselin, Université Laval). Please submit your contribution by email to the Editor.

Andrew Simons, Editor

Carleton U (andrew_simons@carleton.ca)

President's Report

Judy Myers, UBC



On the first of December the CSEE Council met in Ottawa and had an opportunity to talk with the new VP of NSERC Pierre Charest, and staff members Dave Bowen, Elizabeth

Boston, and Brenda MacMurray. We discussed the single year M.Sc. fellowships, and the new system of allotting M.Sc. fellowships to universities. This system appears to penalize small universities and increases the workload required for multiple universities to evaluate applicants who may be unlikely to accept an offer. We also discussed the ramifications of the new policy allowing individuals to apply only once for an NSERC postdoctoral fellowship, an issue of concern in particular to our student and postdoc members. Council questioned the benefits of the elite fellowship programs – Vanier, Graham Bell etc. when resources are tight. These programs will be evaluated by NSERC in the spring. A topic of concern to many of our members is reduced success of Discovery Grant applicants, particularly new applicants, from small universities. A recent report spearheaded by Dennis Murray showed that the success rate for established researchers in small universities dropped from 80% to 58% before and after the establishment of the new evaluation criteria in 2009.

Two issues were in the media recently that are of interest to our members. On 1 December Sally Otto, Jeremy Kerr and Rick Taylor were cited in an article in the Globe and Mail calling attention to the failure of the Federal Government to move forward on any of the 67 proposals for listing

species at risk under the Species at Risk Act. On 17 December however, three species of bats that are threatened by extirpation from white nose fungus were given emergency listing. Unfortunately this only protects them on federal land which makes up a very small portion of their extensive range.

Also in December an article in the Vancouver Sun reported that Canada has opted out of nearly all of the 76 resolutions to protect endangered species taken in the 2013 meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). This number is unprecedented in CITES history and it is unclear why the Canadian government requires so much time to make regulatory changes they claim are required.

As you will know from an email to members, the council signed an open letter to Stephen Harper opposing the proposed move to exempt the aquaculture industry from the Fisheries Act, which currently prohibits the release of deleterious substances into the aquatic environment. We felt that the potential release of toxic materials could be a threat to aquatic environments, and a lack of regulations could have dire consequences on the aquatic environment.

Thanks to the Council members for their activities during 2014 and Happy New Year to all.



Secretary's Report

Miriam Richards, Brock U



CSEE Membership Trends

A major task of the CSEE Secretary is tracking membership. At the last General Membership Meeting in Montreal, several members asked me about long-term trends and whether or not

membership is stable, increasing or decreasing. I've pulled together annual tallies of membership since 2006, which you can see in the following table.

Several points are apparent. First, the Ottawa meeting, which was a joint meeting with the Society for the Study of Evolution and the European Society for the Study of Evolution, garnered a large increase in both regular and student/post-doc memberships. Second, up until 2012, student/post-doc memberships were all 2-year memberships, so new memberships purchased in 2012 carried through until the end of 2013. The combined effect of the Ottawa meeting was to boost membership to an all-time high. Third, although not apparent in the above table, the decline in membership since 2012, especially among regular members, is due largely to members who do not renew, even after multiple reminders. Renewing your membership is easy – just use the Paypal link on every web page of the CSEE website. Even better, why not consider a lifetime membership and never have to renew again?

Year	Conference location	Lifetime	Regular members	Students and post-docs	Total
2006	Montreal		254	268	522
2007	Toronto	1	268	353	621
2008	Vancouver	3	264	361	625
2009	Halifax	6	190	340	530
2010	Quebec	11	267	602	869
2011	Banff	18	313	557	888
2012	Ottawa	19	372	587	959
2013	Kelowna	27	263	538	801
2014	Montreal	35	289	404	693



CSEE Council Elections for 2015

Jeremy Kerr, CSEE Vice President



Elections for four open CSEE councillor positions will be held early in 2015. Further information on voting procedure will be circulated prior to the polls opening in mid- to late-February. For Secretary and the first two councillor positions, service

extends for three years. The third councillor position is reserved for a student, whose service will extend for two years because well, these colleagues have a pretty good chance of not being students after that time. The structure of Council is intended to represent our community across the spectrum of career stages, including grad student, postdoctoral, and ecology and evolution professionals.

CSEE is fortunate in having a very deep pool of talent, which is clearly reflected in the slate of extraordinary candidates who have agreed to stand for these positions.

Secretary:

Miriam Richards (Brock University)

<https://brockbeelab.wordpress.com>

Councillor 1:

1. Jeannette Whitton (University of British Columbia)

<http://whittonlab.weebly.com>

2. Shannon McCauley (University of Toronto Mississauga)

<http://www.shannonjmccauley.com>

Councillor 2:

1. Albrecht Schulte-Hostedde (Laurentian University)

<http://www3.laurentian.ca/ebvlab/index.html>

2. Mark Vellend (Université de Sherbrooke)

<http://mvellend.recherche.usherbrooke.ca>

For Student Councillor:

1. Mélanie Jean, PhD candidate (University of Saskatchewan)

<http://npelusask.weebly.com/lab-members.html>

2. Tom Iwanicki, MSc candidate (University of Victoria)

http://web.uvic.ca/~taylorjs/web_page_files/Taylor_Lab_Students.html

Biographical statements from candidates

For Councillor 1:



1. **Jeannette Whitton** (U British Columbia):

I am an Associate Professor of Botany at UBC, where my research focuses on the evolution of species complexes in the sunflower family. The

groups that I focus on form complex arrays of populations that differ in reproductive mode (sexual or asexual), ploidy, and propensity to hybridize, and thus provide rich opportunities for studying the origins and spread of biodiversity. I have also recently completed two terms as a member of COSEWIC, as a non-government science member and as a co-chair of the vascular plants subcommittee. I have led and contributed to multiple analyses of the implementation of Canada's Species at Risk Act, and communicated the results to scientific and public audiences, government committees and policy makers. I am also currently a member of the Evaluation Group for Ecology and Evolution at NSERC, and understand the key role of the Discovery Grant Program for researchers in our community. In addition to fostering a rich network for Canadian researchers and students, the CSEE is uniquely placed to play a leadership role in promoting support for research in ecology and evolution. In addition, I believe the society should facilitate and promote the relevance and application of science in the development of national environmental policy.

2. Shannon McCauley (U Toronto Mississauga):



My research addresses questions in community ecology including how processes within habitats and the connections between them act together to shape community structure. This research is done in freshwater systems including

work in a diverse set of freshwater habitats in Ontario, from rock pools to lakes, using approaches that include surveys of natural habitats and experiments that range in scale from mesocosms to landscape-level manipulations. I am committed to helping foster diversity in the field of ecology and evolution and believe CSEE has a vital role to play in this. I am interested in exploring ways CSEE can expand its reach to bring in and retain students from historical underrepresented groups to careers in ecology and evolution including establishing formal mentoring networks at CSEE meetings. I received my PhD from the University of Michigan, did postdoctoral fellowships at the University of California - Davis and the University of Toronto, and am currently an Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of Toronto Mississauga.

For Councillor 2:

1. Albrecht Schulte-Hostedde (Laurentian U):



I have been at Laurentian University since 2003, and was appointed Canada Research Chair in Applied Evolutionary Ecology in 2011. My research integrates lab and field approaches to test hypotheses in sexual selection and host-parasite interactions, focusing

on mammals. My research group also works on questions of conservation relevance related to the effects of human interventions (e.g. urbanization/logging, captive zoo populations) on the evolutionary ecology of wildlife. My interest in animal care issues led to my appointment as the CSEE representative on the Canadian Council for Animal Care (CCAC), which I have held for the last 6

years. I have served on the Board of Directors of the CCAC since 2011. In addition, I serve on the Board of Directors of the Algonquin Wildlife Research Station in Algonquin Park, Ontario, which has stimulated my interest in the plight of field stations and led to a CIEE workshop I co-organized on the topic in 2010. I have attended every CSEE conference since 2007, and been a big supporter of the organization including engaging members of the CSEE in the development of a code of ethics for ecologists. I am particularly concerned about the apparent reduced levels of NSERC Discovery Grant funding for researchers from small institutions. I am eager to participate in the governance of an organization that I deeply support.

2. Mark Vellend (U de Sherbrooke):



Mark Vellend is a plant ecologist studying the responses of plant populations and communities to environmental change. His career trajectory has taken him through McGill University (B.Sc., Ph.D.), Cornell University (Ph.D.), the National Center for Ecological

Analysis & Synthesis (post-doc), the University of British Columbia (Assistant/Associate Professor & Canada Research Chair), and since 2011, l'Université de Sherbrooke (Associate Professor). He and his students draw on historical records, plant community surveys, manipulative experiments, mathematical models, and meta-analyses to uncover long-term changes in plant communities and to test the ecological and evolutionary processes underpinning such changes. Ongoing empirical studies focus on climate warming, phenology, exotic earthworm invasions, and biotic interactions in the forests of southern Québec. He is also currently writing a book on community ecology.

For Student Councillor:

1. Mélanie Jean (University of Saskatchewan)



I completed my B.Sc. in biology at the Université de Montréal, my M.Sc. in biology at Université Laval and I am currently working on my Ph.D. at the University of Saskatchewan. I am broadly interested in the ways that

northern plant communities respond to environmental changes, and how those have the potential to alter vegetation-soil feedbacks. In my current research, I am investigating how moss community composition and functional traits influence alternate successional trajectories in the Alaskan boreal forest. My past work has focused on vegetation impacts on permafrost in northern Québec. I have been very involved in student councils, organization committees and associations since my undergraduate degree. I started the now annual biology department symposium at Université Laval 4 years ago. I am currently a student representative on the local organization committee for CSEE's 2015 meeting. I believe that student involvement is crucial to help disseminate scientific knowledge. I have not had many opportunities to work on building stronger interactions with the public or policy-makers, but it is something that I really care about and want to get involved with. I attended my first CSEE meeting as an M.Sc. student which motivated me to pursue studies in ecology and evolution research, and I hope to help new students discover their passion as well.



2. Tom Iwanicki (University of Victoria)



Evolutionary insights often emerge through the interplay of multiple biological disciplines. My goal is to build an academic career which brings together molecular biology, ecology, and evolutionary theory. I am presently pursuing my Master's

degree at the University of Victoria. My research focuses on the function and evolution of visual systems in fish; specifically, linking gene expression of light sensitive proteins (the opsins) in the retina to visually-mediated camouflage behaviour in flatfish. I believe in promoting channels which allow scientific passions to spill into the public sphere. An example of this is the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair, where I have volunteered for four years running. I also think that the best way to promote public outreach and involvement is by first fostering a strong sense of community within. To that end, I helped organize the regional tri-university (UBC-SFU-UVic) Ecology and Evolution retreat in November, 2014. National societies, like CSEE, are very important for scientific pursuits in Canada. If elected as a student representative on the CSEE committee, I will be the voice for up-and-coming ecologists and evolutionary biologists. I will strive to promote a bright future for CSEE by raising the profile of the society among young scientists in Canada and abroad.

Awards and Recognition Committee

Locke Rowe, U Toronto



NOMINATIONS FOR CSEE HONOURARY MEMBERSHIPS

Honorary Lifetime Memberships recognize eminent Canadian ecologists or evolutionary biologists who have demonstrated a lifetime of research and contributions

to ecology or evolution. If you would like to nominate an honorary member, please submit a short explanation of the nomination, endorsed by two other society members, to Judy Myers, CSEE President (myers@zoology.ubc.ca) and Miriam Richards, Secretary (mrichards@brocku.ca or CSEESecretary@gmail.com).

NOMINATIONS FOR CSEE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's Award for Research Excellence in Ecology and Evolution, the highest honour the Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution can bestow, shall be presented biennially to a Canadian

scientist for outstanding and sustained contributions to research in ecology and/or evolutionary biology. Appropriate Ecology and Evolution research includes the full diversity of research areas funded by the NSERC Discovery Grants and other programs in Ecology and Evolution. Contributions to research may be primarily theoretical in nature, or may include technological breakthroughs or significant contributions to applied environmental sciences, conservation and management. If you would like to nominate a scientist for the 2015 President's Award, please submit a short explanation of the nomination to Locke Rowe (Locke.Rowe@utoronto.ca), Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee and Miriam Richards, Secretary (mrichards@brocku.ca or CSEESecretary@gmail.com) by February 15 2015.

Students & Postdocs

Anne Dalziel, U Laval, Student/Postdoc Council Representative



CSEE 2015 in Saskatoon (May 22nd-24th, 2015):

Student Workshop & Mixer (Time and date TBA):

According to our Genomes to Biomes wrap-up survey (see article, "Highlights from 2014 member survey"), student/post-doc members

prefer to have a workshop that includes multiple topics. Therefore, we will reprise the "Strategies for Success" workshop held at G2B 2014. The workshop will consist of small discussion groups focusing on a range of topics, and students will be free to move from group to group during the evening. Tentative topics for discussion are: writing scholarship applications, choosing where to do your MSc/PhD/Postdoc, advice for students hoping to do a degree/post-doc abroad, academic job applications, careers in government/industry,

writing your MSc/PhD thesis, finding work/life balance, and how to juggle kids and academic careers. If you have additional topics to that you would like to see included, or are interested in helping out, please send me an email (cseestudent@gmail.com).

CSEE Student Travel Grants: CSEE will provide 20 travel grants to student members presenting a talk or poster at CSEE 2015 in Saskatoon (\$500 each). Recipients will be chosen at random from student members that have paid their yearly membership fees and are travelling over 500 km to get to Saskatoon. If you would like to be considered for a travel grant, **you must forward the email confirming your submission of a presentation** (containing your talk/poster title and your name), **and the address of your home University to CSEEstudent@gmail.com by March 15th, 2015** (early bird registration deadline). I will send a

confirmation email so that you can be sure your application has been received.

CSEE Student Presentation Awards: Student presentation awards (\$500, \$300, and \$200) will be given to the top three talks and posters during the meeting. The New Phytologist Trust will also offer a \$500 prize to the best student presentation (poster or talk) in botany. **To be considered for these awards, you must check the appropriate box during conference registration.** The deadline to submit a presentation and apply for a presentation award is **March 15th, 2015** (early bird registration deadline). To see the criteria our judges use to evaluate presentations, and get some tips for creating an effective presentation go to: [CSEE Student grants and awards](#)

CSEE workshops (Thursday May 21st, 2015): The 2015 annual meeting will begin with a number of workshops, including the annual “Symposium for Women Entering Ecology and Evolution Today (SWEET)”, “Making your software discoverable and useable”, and “An introduction to community data analysis using vegan and R”. For more information, go to the meeting website at: <http://csee2015.usask.ca/CSEE%20folder/workshops.php>

NSERC Scholarships and Fellowships:

Increased funding for Post-doctoral fellowships (PDFs): NSERC has increased their PDF awards to \$45,000 per year (from \$40,000), which is great news for many of our Post-doctoral members! In addition, the number of PDFs awarded increased to 130 in 2014 (with 12 given to Evolution and Ecology) from the 110 offered in 2013. However, this number is still much lower than the average of 263 offered in 2008-2010. For more information on success rates for NSERC PDF and Post-graduate scholarships go to NSERC’s

Scholarships and Fellowships Competition Results webpage: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/FundingDecisions-DecisionsFinancement/ScholarshipsAndFellowships-ConcoursDeBourses/index_eng.asp?Year=2014

Changes to the Master’s scholarship application procedure last year: This is the first year of NSERC’s new Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master’s (CGS M) Program. Previously students applied directly to NSERC and were free to take their funding to whichever institution they chose. Under the new CGS M program, which has been harmonized among the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), universities receive a CGS M allocation of awards and then select the students they would like to offer awards to. Student may apply to up to five universities. If you have gone through this new application procedure and have any feedback you would like to share, please contact me.

CSEE Elections: New student councillor to be elected this winter

The addition of a second student councillor was unanimously approved by our members at our May 2014 Annual General Meeting in Montréal and you

can vote for your new student councillor in this winter’s election. Nominations are now closed and you can learn about the two students running for this position (Tom Iwanicki, University of Victoria, and Mélanie Jean, University of Saskatchewan) in the Council Elections article. You will receive notice of the election via email in the coming months – be sure to vote. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or ideas for new initiatives at CSEEstudent@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you all in Saskatoon in May!



Highlights from 2014 Member Survey on CSEE Annual Meetings

Anne C. Dalziel, U Laval, Student/Postdoc Council Representative

We would like to thank the 128 CSEE members who responded to the survey following Genomes to Biomes 2014. Here are some highlights of the results:

- **How strong is your support for future CSEE joint meetings?**

–In general, CSEE members are interested in having additional joint meeting: 96% of respondents showed strong (49%) to moderate (47%) support.

- **How often should we have joint meetings with other societies?**

–Most members felt joint meetings should be every two (40%) to three (24%) years.

- **Which societies would you most like to have a future joint meeting with?**

–Canadian Society of Zoologist (51% of members surveyed) > Ecological Society of America (46%) ≈ Society for the Study of Evolution (45%) ≈ American Society of Naturalists (44%) ≈ European Society for Evolutionary Biology (44%) > Entomological Society of Canada (32%) > Society of Canadian Limnologists (23%) ≈ Canadian Society of Plant Biologists (22%)

- **Student workshops – would you prefer a single topic workshop (as in previous years) or a multi-topic workshop (as at G2B 2014)?**

–74% of students prefer to have a workshop with multiple topics.

CSEE 2015, Saskatoon!

Eric Lamb, LOC Chair, U. Saskatchewan



10th Annual CSEE Meeting

University of Saskatchewan

Saskatoon May 21-25, 2015

<http://csee2015.usask.ca/>

We invite you to experience the prairies, and one of Canada's most beautiful campuses. Saskatoon offers extensive opportunities for naturalists; we will be organizing field trips to destinations including Prince Albert National Park and Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Be sure to check the website regularly for updates.

Registration will open in early January. Earlybird registration rates will be available through March

15, 2015. The deadline for submission of titles for poster and oral presentations is March 15, 2015.

Meeting Highlights:

- Plenary Lecture: Angela Moles; University of New South Wales (Australia)
- Public outreach talk: Mark Brigham and Craig Willis
- Closing banquet at the Western Development Museum

Workshops:

- SWEET (Symposium for Women Entering Ecology and Evolution Today)

- Making your software discoverable and useful
- Introductory R workshop
- An introduction to community data analysis using vegan and R

- Understanding individuals to conserve populations
- Frontiers in resource and habitat selection
- Evolution of crop plants: a genomics perspective
- Wildlife biologging: advancements in the study of animal ecology and energetics

Symposia:

- Using species interactions to predict and manage novel ecosystems

Canadian Council on Animal Care

Albrecht Schulte-Hostedde, CCAC Board of Directors, CSEE Council Representative



The CCAC is the “national peer review organization responsible for setting and maintaining standards for care and ethical use of animals in research, teaching, and testing in Canada.” Many members of the CSEE use vertebrates in their research, and

thus interact with the CCAC and local Animal Care Committees. Participation by the CSEE in the CCAC is thus of particular importance.

The CCAC has emerged from significant organizational and financial restructuring that has led to a new and revitalized relationship with the funding agencies (CIHR/NSERC), new policies and procedures to enhance transparency/accountability and to comply with new government regulations, and a new organizational structure that will mean that the CSEE will become a regular member of the CCAC. Over the past three years, the CCAC has been working with CIHR/NSERC to develop a funding model that would be consistent with the desire of CIHR/NSERC to not support assessment activities. From now on, institutions will be required to pay for their assessment of their facilities by CCAC. The fee schedule and program was the result of consultation with stakeholders including the U15, AUCC, and private industry. I am personally concerned that universities may look to generate funds to pay for these assessments, and so CSEE members using their local animal care committees

might see their institutions charging for the submission of animal use protocols.

One of the outcomes of the prolonged restructuring was a commitment to fairness and transparency by the Board. This was exemplified by the development of new policies and procedures related to governance produced by the Governance and Nominations Committee (of which I was a part). I hope that CSEE members will see evidence of this in the communications from the CCAC. The annual report

(<http://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Publications/AnnualReports/2013-2014.pdf>) should give a sense of the new “attitude” of the CCAC.

Finally, new rules related to non-profits preclude the kind of organizational structure that the CCAC used to be under. There will now be members (organizations) that will send representatives to participate in an annual general meeting (scheduled for late May 2015). This means that the CSEE will switch from a limited term to a regular member.

I have 18 months remaining for my term as a member of the Board of the CCAC, and will give up my position as CSEE representative after that (I will have been the rep for 7 years at that point, and generally the CCAC likes to see turnover from member organizations every 6 years). If any members of CSEE council or individual members of CSEE have any questions about CCAC issues, please contact me at aschulte@laurentian.ca.

CIEE/ICEE Report

Dr. Peter R. Leavitt, Director; Dr. Diego Steinaker, Assistant Director; Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution

Accelerating scientific progress through programs that synthesize research.

Email: ciee-icee@uregina.ca; Website: www.ciee-icee.ca, Twitter: @CIEEICEE.

Greetings for a new year! We have a number of exciting initiatives to tell you about, including some recent meetings from our Thematic Working Groups and interesting upcoming activities.

CIEE activities during the last semester

Last semester was a busy one for our ongoing thematic working groups: 1. “Canada’s phylogenetic diversity in a changing world”, headed by Jana Vamosi and Jeremy Kerr; 2. “The *terra incognita* of community ecology: understanding continental-scale variation of ecological networks”, led by Timothée Poisot, Dominique Gravel and Daniel Stouffer, and; 3. “Forecasting groundfish biodiversity change in the Newfoundland shelf”, led by Andrew Gonzalez, Fred Guichard, Patrick Thompson, and Eric Pedersen. All the three 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 (<http://www.ciee-icee.ca/CIEE-ICEE-Research-Programs-and-Events>).

Note: Since its creation in 2008, CIEE has supported seven thematic working groups, three in the last year, which together assembled 92 top scientists to address some of the most vexing problems at the nexus of ecology and evolution.

New Working Groups

In a few weeks we are announcing new Thematic Working Groups funded by CIEE. We had a remarkable response to our recent Call for Proposals and received thirteen competitive applications from across the entire country. At this time, we are in the final step of the selection

process after receiving evaluations from the CIEE’s Scientific Advisory Group (SAG). We take this opportunity to extend special thanks to the members of CIEE’s SAG, including Marc Cadotte (U. Toronto), Sue Bertram (Carleton U.), Dennis Murray (Trent U.), Denis Réale (UQAM), Mark Lewis (U. Alberta) and Bradley Anholt (U. Victoria) for their outstanding work in the review process.

CIEE participation at the 2015 CSEE Meeting

As every year, we anticipate an active participation and collaboration at the Annual CSEE Meeting in Saskatoon. CIEE supported twelve workshops at the last four CSEE annual meetings that involved more than 400 graduate students and academics from many universities across Canada. The upcoming meeting won’t be an exception since we are supporting two half-day workshops: 1. an introduction to R statistics, and 2. the analysis of community data using vegan and R. Both workshops will be headed by Dr. Gavin Simpson, a principal developer and co-maintainer of the R-vegan community ecology package. In addition, this year CIEE is sponsoring a field trip to the Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area, North America’s oldest federal bird sanctuary and the prairie’s most important stopover place for migratory waterbirds. Dr. Chris Somers (U. of Regina) will lead this amazing journey to the prairie site for pelicans, cormorants and grebes. Finally, we are presenting an organized oral session on “New advances in ecological and evolutionary synthesis”. Top Canadian researchers will present their synthesis works in ecology, environment and evolution with the purpose of promoting collaborative research in Canada.

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 your continued support!

Canada's Liber Ero Fellowship Program

Sally Otto, Director; Anita Miettunen, Program Coordinator

Canada's Liber Ero Fellows are working to bridge the science-policy interface

Sally Otto (Director), Anita Miettunen (Program Coordinator) Liber Ero Fellowship Program

Each year, the [Liber Ero Fellowship Program](#) supports four post-doctoral fellows through two-year fellowships to tackle applied conservation biology problems in Canada. In addition to

supporting their research and scientific development, the program is committed to helping the fellows build leadership, communication, and policy-influencing skills. In our most recent retreat, we met in Ottawa to learn how

conservation scientists can act more effectively at the science-policy interface. Highlights of the week included:

- Training on communicating science messages clearly, led by Ivan Semeniuk (Globe and Mail) and Jim Handman (Quirks and Quarks)
- One-on-one meetings between fellows and MPs from the Conservative, Liberal, and NDP parties



- Attending a Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development meeting, as well as Question Period
- Panel discussions about "How Ottawa Works" and "Building Relationships with Decision Makers" with representatives from academia, MPs, and NGOs.

Conveying scientific evidence and conservation

priorities clearly to the public and to policymakers are key skills. Overall, our week in Ottawa provided many rich learning experiences to support such goals. Post-Ottawa, fellows have been interviewed about species at risk on Quirks and Quarks and on numerous regional CBC radio shows, their work

has been quoted in Question Period, and the issues raised during the retreat have been featured in a Globe and Mail front-page article about species at risk. These are great examples of how conservation scientists can work to better inform policymakers and the public.

The selection process for choosing the 2015 Fellows is now underway (the next application deadline is November 1, 2015), and we are planning a spring retreat focused on leadership training for May 2015. For further information, please contact us at info@liberero.ca.

CSEE 2016

Tom Chapman and Ian Fleming, LOC, Memorial University

You're invited to join us in St. John's for the 2016 CSEE meeting. We at Memorial University are looking forward to having you as our guests.



Announcement: International graduate course

Bill Shipley, U. Sherbrooke

Intensive international graduate course (3-8 May 2015) on path analysis and structural equation modelling in ecology and evolution given by Bill

Shipley at the McGill field station in Mount St Hilaire Quebec. For more information, visit: <http://www.billshipley.recherche.usherbrooke.ca/>.

Current CSEE Council

- [Judith Myers](#) - President (2014 – 2015)
- [Jeremy Kerr](#) - Vice-president (2014 – 2015)
- [Miriam Richards](#) - Secretary (2012-2015)
- [Julie Turgeon](#) - Treasurer (2013-2016)
- [Andrew Gonzalez](#) – Councillor (2012 – 2015)
- [Fanie Pelletier](#) – Councillor (2012 – 2015)
- [Locke Rowe](#) – Councillor (2012 – 2016)
- [Andrew Simons](#) - Councillor (2014 – 2017)
- [Heather Proctor](#) – Councillor (2014-2015)
- [Jill Johnstone](#) - Councillor (2014-2017)
- [Anne Dalziel](#) - Student/Post-doc Councillor (2014 – 2016)

