

2017-2022



2022



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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Message from the National Board of Directors President

CS-CAN|INFO-CAN marked its fifth year this year and, despite the pandemic, has made steady progress towards our mission. This report contains highlights of FY22 activities in our mission areas. Let me briefly describe some internal and administrative accomplishments.

New Executive Director

Gina van Dalen, CAE joined CS-CAN|INFO-CAN as the new Executive Director following Adele Newton's retirement. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Adele for her contribution and dedication to CS-CAN|INFO-CAN. Gina has a long history with the Computer Science community through her work with the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS), TechNation, and the International Federation for Information Processing Societies (IFIP).

Board of Directors

Following the 2022 Annual General Meeting, three individuals will start their terms as new board members: Kevin Schneider (University of Saskatchewan), Olga Baysal (Carleton University) and Ziad Kobti (University of Windsor). I would like to extend the Board's appreciation to the outgoing Board members: Evangelos Milios (Dalhousie University), Nadia Tawbi (Laval University), and Darcy Benoit (Acadia University).

CSCAN Awards

Nine individuals were recognized by CS-CAN|INFO-CAN for outstanding service and the awards for 2019, 2020 and 2021 were presented at the October 22, 2022, Awards Dinner in Toronto.

Communications

The CS-CAN|INFO-CAN website underwent a refresh and is now fully bi-lingual. The job postings facility on the website is well used with an average of 30 to 40 postings annually.

Events

Celebration of Women in Computing Conference (CWIC)

The Celebration of Women in Computing Conference (CWIC) was another overwhelming success with over \$100K in industry sponsorship and close to 500 attendees. Wendy Powley (Queen's University) has run the conference largely by herself for over 10 years and has again done an amazing job bringing the community and young female computer scientists together. A warm “thank you” to Wendy for her amazing contributions.

Department Chairs Meeting

We had our first face-to-face Department Chairs meeting in Toronto on October 22, 2022. Close to 30 department chairs from across Canada participated in the meeting.

Looking forward

As a member-driven association, meeting our members' needs is priority #1. Over the next 12 months, we will be increasing our engagement meetings with members and seeking member feedback. We will continue to grow our membership and strengthen our ecosystem in Canada. In the coming year we will be focussing on a number of new initiatives:

- To improve the recruiting process for academic and laboratory positions, we have started an initiative where candidates for these positions can upload their resumes and make them password accessible to members.
- In June 2023 CS-CAN|INFO-CAN will host the first Co-Located Conference.
- We will publish an update to the 2013 CSCAN *Computer Research in Canada* report.

I would like to thank my fellow board members for your guidance, support and your camaraderie. Here's to a healthy and happy year ahead for all!

Marc Frappier, President
CS-CAN|INFO-CAN



About CS-CAN|INFO-CAN

CS-CAN|INFO-CAN counts among its members more than 60 organizations active in computing research: academic departments of computer science and computer engineering. CS-CAN|INFO-CAN works with these organizations to represent the computing research community and to effect change that benefits both computing research and society at large.

Mission

Ensure excellence in research, innovation and education across all aspects of computer science.

Goals

- Foster the next generation of computer science researchers and professionals for the Canadian academia and ICT ecosystems.
- Actively promote an inclusive environment that supports diversity and, in particular, encourage participation by underrepresented groups.
- Develop two-way academia-industry interactions that encourages innovation and the ethical application of computer technology.
- Inform public policy debates at all levels on issues involving ICT through impactful and timely strategic positioning

Strategic Priorities 2022

- Membership plan to grow CS-CAN|INFO-CAN membership.
- Communications plan encompassing outreach, diversity, advocacy with various levels of government, the membership, industry, and the general public
- Industry partnership framework to build meaningful links between Canadian academics and the Canadian computing industry.
- Advocacy plan for how the organization can effectively advocate — with our various partners — for computing in Canada.

Our Member Institutions

A
Acadia University
Algoma University
Athabasca University

B
Bishops University
Brandon University
Brock University

C
Carleton University
Carleton University Information
Technology
Concordia University

D
Dalhousie University

K
Kings University

L
Lakehead University
Laurentian University

M
MacEwan University
McGill University
McMaster University
Memorial University
Mount Allison University
Mount Royal University
Mount Saint Vincent University

N
Nipissing University
New York Institute of Technology
Northeastern University Vancouver

O
Ontario Tech University

Q
Queen's University

R
Royal Military College of Canada

S
Saint Mary's University
Simon Fraser University
St. Francis Xavier University

T
Toronto Metropolitan University
Thompson Rivers University
Trent University
The University of British Columbia
Trinity Western University

U

University of Alberta
University of Alberta Augustana
University of British Columbia
University of Calgary
University of Guelph
University of Lethbridge
Université Laval
University of Manitoba
Université de Montreal
Université de Moncton
University of New Brunswick, Fredericton
University of New Brunswick, Saint John
University of Northern British Columbia
University of Ottawa
University of Prince Edward Island
Université du Québec à Montreal
Université du Québec à Rimouski
Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
University of Regina
University of Saskatchewan
Université de Sherbrooke
University of Toronto
University of Toronto Information Science
Université TÉLUQ
University of Waterloo
University of Windsor
University of Victoria

V

Vancouver Island University

W

Wilfrid Laurier University
Western University

Y

York University

2022 Activities

Communications

New bilingual website

A new website was developed with a more user-friendly interface, more detailed information and is now available in both official languages.

Podium Webinar Series

A series of well-attended Podium webinars were offered.

E-Newsletter

A quarterly e-newsletter was introduced this year with news, timely information about CS-CAN|INFO-CAN initiatives, and items of interest to the general community.

Awards program

Following a two-year hiatus, the CS-CAN|INFO-CAN Awards were presented again at a face-to-face gathering in Toronto on October 22nd. Awards for Lifetime Achievement were presented to Gord McCalla (University of Saskatchewan), Robert Holte (University of Alberta), François Laviolette (Université Laval - posthumously), and Stella Atkins (Simon Fraser University). Early Career Awards were presented to Ian Chang (Concordia University), François Pomerleau (Université Laval) and Ashton Anderson (University of Toronto). The Distinguished Dissertation Award went to Mahmoud Afifi (York University). The Board of Directors awarded Wendy Powley with the Distinguished Service Award for her amazing work on the Canadian Celebration of Women in Computing conference.

Annual Department Chairs Meeting

2022 had us return to a face-to-face meeting for the Annual Department Chairs Meeting. The meeting was chaired by Hossam Hassanein (Queen's University) and attended by 30 department chairs from across Canada and mainly focused on the booming enrollment issues in Computer Science.

Dr. Carla E. Brodley Professor, Khoury College of Computer Sciences at Northeastern University represented the Computer Research Association (CRA) and provided insight into the topic from a United States perspective.

Canadian Celebration of Women in Computing (CWIC)

After managing the conference for over 10 years, Wendy Powley has decided to retire from running the conference. CS-CAN|INFO-CAN will now assume full responsibility for the conference under the leadership of co-chairs Ouldooz Baghban Karimi (Simon Fraser University) and Naouel Moha (École de technologie supérieure). CS-CAN|INFO-CAN will assume responsibility for the conference starting in 2023.

Sister organization status and Informatics Europe

A sister organization status was developed this year to establish more formal relationships with organizations that share a similar mission and goals, and with which we can undertake joint initiatives and activities. An initial reciprocal status was put in place with Informatics Europe. Informatics Europe represents the public and private research community of informatics in Europe and neighboring countries. With over 160 member institutions across 33 countries, Informatics Europe connects over 15,000 researchers, promotes concerted positions and acts on shared priorities in the areas of education, research, knowledge transfer and social impact of informatics.

Memorandum of Understanding

A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS). The MOU provides free membership to CS-CAN|INFO-CAN students and faculty with full access to all CIPS benefits and services.

Advocacy

CS-CAN|INFO-CAN joined the Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR) this year. CCR consists of 20 organizations that represent researchers in all disciplines across Canada. With more than 50,000 researchers and 650,000 students represented in these member groups, the CCR is the largest umbrella organization in Canada whose primary concerns are the funding of research in all sectors and support for post-secondary education. It provides an opportunity for CS-CAN|INFO-CAN to participate in joint Federal pre-budget submissions and meet with the leadership of the Canadian granting agencies at the CCR's annual breakfast.

Representatives from NSERC presented at the Department Chairs meeting this year. In addition to updates on the Discovery and Alliance grants and gaining a better understanding of the NSERC's funding allocation process, discussions were held around the recently introduced risk assessment process, and we gained a better understanding of the participation and role of Computer Science in the overall NSERC landscape.

Forward Looking

CV database

In an effort to improve the recruiting process for academic and industrial/government laboratory positions, CS-CAN|INFO-CAN has started an initiative where candidates can upload their resumes, research and teaching statements, job objectives and other preferences, and a link to a presentation video into a secure database. Recruiting officers from CS-CAN|INFO-CAN member organizations with access are able to search this information and contact candidates.

The database will include PhD-level candidates from within and outside Canada looking for faculty/teaching/postdoc positions. A parallel database will be developed for undergraduate and Master's students which will be made available to CS-CAN|INFO-CAN industry members.

CS-CAN|INFO-CAN Annual Co-located Conference

CS-CAN|INFO-CAN has assembled a spectrum of affiliated research conferences and workshops into a week-long, co-located, meeting from June 5-9, 2023 at McGill University. This model retains the advantages of the smaller conferences, while at the same time facilitating communication among researchers in different fields of computer science and engineering. The technical program for each affiliated conference will be independently administered, and each co-located conference is responsible for its own meeting's structure, content, and proceedings. A track dedicated to CS-CAN|INFO-CAN general topics (CS research development, career fair, industrial presentations, industrial partnership development) will also be held. To the extent facilities allow, attendees are free to attend technical sessions of other affiliated conferences co-located with their "home" conference. For the inaugural event in 2023, the following conferences/workshops have agreed to co-locate:

- Consortium for Software Engineering Research (CSER)
- Conference on Artificial Intelligence (CANAI)
- Computer Robots and Vision Conference (CRV)
- National Cybersecurity Consortium (NCC)
- Canadian Database Research Workshop (CANDB)

We are encouraging other Canadian-based conferences/workshops to co-locate together (along with the annual Department Chairs meeting) to create a truly national annual computer science event.

Computer Science Research in Canada Research Report

The CS-CAN|INFO-CAN, chaired by Dr. Bettina Kemme, has started to process and refresh the 2013 Computer Science Research in Canada: Strengths, Challenges and Recommendations report. The report will provide information about the status, impact and direction of Computer Science research in Canada highlighting the strengths of Canadian Computer Science research and the challenges that the field faces. The report provides a great tool in advocacy discussion with the granting agencies demonstrating the strength of Computer Science and making a case for increase of funding.

Board of Directors

Executive Team

Marc Frappier, Université de Sherbrooke, President

Bettina Kemme, McGill University, Vice President

Evangelos Milos, Dalhousie University, Treasurer

Nur Zincir-Heywood, Dalhousie University, Secretary

Members

Joanna Atlee, University of Waterloo

Maram Assi, Queen's University

Olga Baysal, Concordia University

Darcy Benoit, Acadia University

Ziad Kobti, Windsor University

Kelly Lyons, University of Toronto

Hanan Lutfiyya, University of Western Ontario

Doina Precup, McGill University

Jonathan Schaeffer, University of Alberta, Incoming Treasurer

Kevin Schneider, University of Saskatchewan

Nadia Tawbi, Université Laval

Incoming Board Member

Outgoing Board Member

Our warmest thanks and appreciation to Evangelos, Darcy and Nadia for serving two full terms (6 years) as members of the CS-CAN|INFO-CAN Board of Directors.

If you are interested in standing for election, visit the [Election](#) information on the CS-CAN|INFO-CAN website. There are vacancies every year.

Committees

The following is a list of the standing committees within CS-CAN|INFO-CAN. If you are interested in joining a committee, contact the office.

Research Committee

Chair: Bettine Kemme

McGill University

Conference Committee

Chair: Marc Frappier

Université de Sherbrooke

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Chair: Joanne Atlee

University of Waterloo

Nominations Committee

Chair: Hanan Lutfiyya

Western University

Outreach Committee

Chair: Vacant

Student Affairs

Chair: Maram Assi

Queen's University

Awards Committee

Chair: Kelly Lyons

University of Toronto

Celebration of Women in Computing
Conference

Co-Chair: Ouldooz Baghban Karimi

Simon Fraser University

Co-Chair: Naouel Moha

École de technologie supérieure

Join CS-CAN|INFO-CAN Today and Enjoy Key Membership Benefits

Because we have a common cause and a common interest

Computer Science is a distinct science, characterised by its own concepts, methods, and body of knowledge. Computer and Information Scientists throughout Canada face many of the same challenges in research and teaching. CS-CAN|INFO-CAN provides an arena to discuss and coordinate strategic issues on research and education at a Canadian level. Members of CS-CAN|INFO-CAN are committed to shaping the future of the discipline in Canada. They contribute to raising the profile and voice of Computer Science research and academic community in Canada.

Membership Benefits

- **Scientific and Professional Networking**

The annual CS-CAN|INFO-CAN Department Chairs Meeting, the Co-located CS-CAN|INFO-CAN Conference and the Celebration of Women in Computing Conference provide exceptional opportunities for computer science researchers, students and professionals to meet and network.

- **Celebrate Outstanding Achievements**

The annual Awards program recognizes and celebrates outstanding achievements and contributions to computing in Canada.

- **Advocacy**

CS-CAN|INFO-CAN is the voice of computer science in Canada and key among organizations from industry, academia and associations to represent the entire range of activities in computer science, from teaching to research and industry. We develop, offer and promote a range of policy, education and outreach initiatives in partnership with our members and affiliates.

- **Job Board**

CS-CAN|INFO-CAN jobs service is one of the premier places to read and post position openings for computer scientists, computer engineers, and computing researchers. Ads are automatically forwarded to all department chairs and posted throughout the year and remain online for a minimum of sixty days.

- **Community Building Platform**

The platform enriches connectivity and collaboration across the Canadian computing community.

Contact Us

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