



**Canadian Geotechnical Society**  
**Société canadienne de géotechnique**

**2016 Annual Committee Report**

**July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016**

**Committee Name: Geohazards Committee**

**Section 1: General**

Date of report: July 15, 2016

Prepared by: Michael Porter, Scott McDougall

Committee Chair: Michael Porter

End of Committee Chair's Term: December 2016

Committee's CGS web page address: [http://www.cgs.ca/geohazards\\_committee.php?lang=en](http://www.cgs.ca/geohazards_committee.php?lang=en)

Last time your Committee's CGS web page was updated: January 2016

If your Committee has a separate website please provide address:

Is there a link to the CGS website?:

1) What is the mission statement, or main purpose, of your Committee?

The Geohazards Committee (formerly the Landslide Committee) supports efforts leading to the technical competence and excellence of Canadian geotechnical and related geoscience professionals working in the field of geohazards. It contributes to the organization of Canadian geotechnical conference sessions on landslides and geohazards, the organization of national and international landslide and geohazard conferences, the development of national and international geohazards guidelines, and the maintenance of links with other related professional societies such as the Joint Technical Committee on Natural Slopes and Landslides (JTC 1).

The Committee also collaborates with the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG) to award the Schuster Medal. The Schuster Medal is awarded to CGS and AEG members who have made a significant contribution to "Geohazards" research, practice and/or education.

2) List one, or two or three (or more) specific things that your Committee will be working on, or wishes to accomplish, during the next CGS year (July 1, 2016 to June 31, 2017).

- Participate in CGS board meeting and Vancouver conference; hold a committee meeting
- Work with AEG to select 2017 Schuster Medal winner
- Work with the LOC and CGS Executive to plan the Geohazards 7 conference to be held in Canmore in May/June 2018
- Reach out to other Canadian geohazard practitioners outside of the landslide community (e.g. floods, snow avalanche, earthquakes, volcanoes) to broaden our scope
- Work with the IAEG C37 committee to develop international guidelines on landslide nomenclature
- Participate in 2017 NASL and continue to improve collaboration with AEG
- Support the 2017 Canadian Geotechnical Conference

**Section 2: Current (as of June 30, 2016) Executive Committee Members and their Affiliations (employers or, if students, universities)**

Chair: Michael Porter, BGC Engineering Inc.

Past Chair: Corey Froese, Alberta Government

Vice Chair: Scott McDougall, University of British Columbia

Secretary:

### **Section 3: Number of Committee Members (as of June 30, 2016)**

Executive Committee Members: 2

Total members: 23

### **Section 4: Committee is affiliated with which other organizations**

- The CGS Geohazard Committee collaborates with the CGS Engineering Geology Division and the CGS Transportation Committee; and the US Association of Engineering and Environmental Geologists (AEG) to award the Schuster Medal
- The CGS Geohazard Committee executive and several members at large will be participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> North American Symposium on Landslides (NASL) that will be held June 4-8, 2017 in Roanoke, Virginia
- CGS Geohazard Committee members Scott McDougall and Dave Cruden will be participating in a joint IAEG Commission C37- Landslide Nomenclature

### **Section 5: Committee Finances (as of June 30, 2016)**

Account Balance: \$

Comments (point form)

- The CGS Geohazard Committee currently does not have a dedicated budget.

### **Section 6: Committee Activities in past year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)**

- Geohazard Committee members attended the CGS conference in Quebec City, presented papers, chaired sessions, held a committee meeting, and participated in a landslides field trip.
  - Committee members agreed to organize a 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Geohazards Conference, potentially to be held in June 2018 in or around Canmore, AB.
  - Committee members agreed to broaden the focus of the committee and to request that the name of the committee be changed from Landslides to Geohazards.
- CGS Executive approved the change in name and scope of the committee in December 2015. Announcements of this change were made in CGS e-news and Geotechnical News in early 2016.
- Preliminary discussions were held with representatives from CGS Calgary Division about organizing Geohazards 7 Conference. There appears to be lots of interest and support, and a recommendation was made to proceed with further organization, leading to formal approval of the concept and seed funding by CGS executive.
  - A Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has been formed
  - The LOC is working with Wayne Gibson to obtain quotes for a venue, likely the Coast Canmore Hotel
- The Chair of the Geohazard Committee, in collaboration with the Chair of the Engineering Geology Division (Nicholas Vlachopoulos) and Chair of the Transportation Division (Mario Ruel) worked with AEG members to identify nominations for and a winner of the 2016 Schuster Medal. The 2016 medal will be awarded to a Canadian CGS member (in will be awarded to American AEG members in 2017 and 2018), and the winner will be announced in Vancouver.
- The Geohazard Committee wrote a letter of support to CGS to provide \$5,000 financial support to the Geological Survey of Canada to publish the Canadian Technical Guidelines on Landslides. A final draft of the guidelines is in preparation and was reviewed by Geohazard Committee members in February 2016.
- The CGS Geohazard Committee executive members have had discussions with AEG about supporting a 3<sup>rd</sup> North American Symposium on Landslides (NASL) that will be held June 4-8, 2017 in Roanoke, Virginia. Links to CGS are on the conference website.
- Geohazard Committee members participated in the review of technical papers on landslides and other geohazards for the 2016 CGS conference in Vancouver.
- CGS Geohazard Committee members Scott McDougall and Dave Cruden have been participating in a joint IAEG Commission C37- Landslide Nomenclature

### **Section 7: Additional information or comments**

- It is expected that Dave Gauthier will take over as chair of the committee in January 2017, and that Scott McDougall will stay on as vice-chair.