



Canadian Geotechnical Society
Société canadienne de géotechnique

2016 Annual Division Report

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Division Name: Soil Mechanics and Foundations Division

Section 1: General

Name of CGS Division: Soil Mechanics and Foundations Division

Date of report: July 15, 2016

Prepared by: Alex Baumgard, Chair

Division Chair: Alex Baumgard

End of Term of Chair: Dec 31, 2016

CGS website address: http://cgs.ca/division_soil_mechanics.php

Last time your Division's CGS website was updated: Oct 2015

If your Division 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 Division?

The mandate of the Soil Mechanics and Foundations Division is to promote classical geotechnical and foundation engineering research, to promote the documentation of case histories and experience of practicing engineers, and to promote and facilitate the continuing education of our members. This occurs through the regular technical meetings at the local level, through short courses and symposia, through support for the Cross Canada Lecture Tour, through our annual conference and via our liaison with the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering.

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

1. Increased activity within the Division through improved communication mechanisms (use of website, Twitter feed at conferences etc).
2. Increased activity and support by Division at conferences through assistance with conference organising committees to put on short courses or seminars on SMFD topics.

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

Chair: Alex Baumgard, BGC Engineering Inc. [abaumgard@bgcengineering.ca]

Past Chair: Bipul Hawlader, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's. [bipul@mun.ca]

Other Members:

Andrew Take, Queens University, Kingston. [andy.take@civil.queensu.ca]

Denis LeBoeuf, Université Laval, Québec. [denis.leboeuf@gci.ulaval.ca]

Dipanjan Basu, University of Waterloo, Ontario. [dipanjan.basu@uwaterloo.ca]

Laifa Cao, SPL Consultants Limited, Ontario. [lcao@splconsultants.ca]

Mohamed Meguid, McGill University, Montreal. [mohamed.meguid@mcgill.ca]

Robert Chapuis, Montreal Polytechnic, Montreal. [robert.chapuis@polymtl.ca]

Jeff Lam, Rocscience Inc., Toronto. [jeff.lam@rocscience.com]

Section 3: Number of Division Members (as of June 30, 2016)

Executive Committee Members: 8

1st Choice members: 681

2nd Choice members: 221

Section 4: Division is affiliated with which other organizations

- The Soil Mechanics and Foundations Division is affiliated with the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE).

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

- G.G. Meyerhof Award – 2015 was awarded to Richard Bathurst for his contributions to geotechnical engineering both in academia and industry and as the foremost authority in geosynthetics-reinforced segmental retaining walls, and as a world-renowned expert in physical modeling including large-scale model tests. The award was presented at the GeoQuebec 2015 Conference.
- Annual meeting was held at the GeoQuebec 2015 Conference – Monday, September 21, 2015.
 - Despite large membership, small number of attendees to annual meeting (Division Chair, 2 members of Executive, 6 other members).
 - There was a free format discussion on the role of SMFD and how the division can serve better. Discussion included:
 - The desire for better representation of the SMFD or CGS on international committees. Follow-up from this discussion included the request for the SMFD Chair to explore ways to broadcast to the Division of openings on such committees.
 - Discussion on the Cross-Canada Lecture and whether all session at local sections can be web broadcast such that other sections can listen-in.
 - Question on whether we can move the Division meeting to online or add another online meeting at some point (possibly 2 meetings/yr) to allow for easier participation.
 - Discussion on the merits of updating the CGS Conference Manual to require Division involvement in the planning and execution of technical sessions.
 - Due to the small number of attendees at the Division meeting, it was suggested by the Chair and agreed upon that the Division refresh the Executive list and consider adding a younger member. Follow-up from this discussion included a poll of the Executive and reduction from 11 members to 7 who wished to remain active on the Executive. A younger member volunteered to participate in the Executive and has been added by the Chair as of Jan 26.

Section 7: Additional information or comments

- The Chair has been participating as an Ex-Officio member of the 5th Edition of the Canadian Foundation Engineering Manual (CFEM) Advisory Committee. Two meetings have been held (September 2015, January 2016).