



## **PAGSE Annual Activity Report**

**1 June 2019 – 31 May 2020**

The Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE; [www.pagse.org](http://www.pagse.org)) is a cooperative association of national organizations in Science and Engineering. It was formed in June 1995 at the invitation of the Academy of Science of the Royal Society of Canada. The national organizations that comprise PAGSE represent almost 60,000 individual members from industry, academia, and government sectors. We 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. It does not seek an audience to advance the cause of specific science and engineering initiatives. Rather, its intent is to address the broader issues of science and engineering policy at the national level and to inform parliamentarians on topics of science and engineering.

### **Members and Representatives**

On May 1, 2019, Jerome Marty, Council of Canadian Academies, assumed the role of Chair of PAGSE.

In January 2020, Natalie Goto, professor at the University of Ottawa, joined PAGSE as the Chair of the Bacon and Eggheads Committee. Emma Brown also joined as PAGSE Manager.

A full list of PAGSE Member Organizations and Representatives can be found in Appendix I below.

### **Organizational Update**

Recent events demonstrate that it is now more important than ever for senior decision-makers to have access to the latest research in science and engineering. The level of access will shape the post-COVID recovery, and will help Canada's Parliamentarians move forward on other looming crises such as climate change and senior care. While PAGSE's normal external activities were quite intermittent this year, first interrupted by the fall 2019 election and now the COVID-19 pandemic, several management projects are underway, including updating the website, branding, and exploring incorporation as an official non-profit organization. These initiatives will promote the visibility of PAGSE in the future. PAGSE is also gearing up for the next SciEng Page issue, and the Bacon and Eggheads Committee, based on direct feedback from MPs and Senators, is finalizing plans to take the breakfast series virtual until it is safe to resume in person meetings.

### **Bacon & Eggheads**

PAGSE (*in partnership with its supporting organizations, listed in Appendix I below*) presents a monthly breakfast meeting on Parliament Hill, known as "Bacon and Eggheads". Speakers at the meetings inform parliamentarians about recent advances in science and engineering. Due to the fall election and the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2019-2020 PAGSE was able to host Dr John Smol from Queen's University. The remaining events that were scheduled for Spring 2020 have been postponed as noted below.

### **The “fierce urgency of now”: Lessons for Canada from the ghosts of climate past**

John Smol, Queen’s University

Thursday, February 20, 2020

### **Using Light to Save the Planet: Photonics for the Environment – POSTPONED to April 22, 2021**

Donna Strickland, University of Waterloo

Thursday, March 26, 2020

### **Pain, Sex and Death – POSTPONED**

Jeff Mogil, McGill University

Thursday, April 23, 2020

## **SciEng Pages**

SciEng Pages is an initiative undertaken by PAGSE to provide brief, evidence-based assessments of topical science and engineering topics to Parliamentarians and the public. PAGSE has obtained seed funding for the next edition of SciEng Pages and is currently soliciting proposals from member organizations for topics and expert contributors.

To view all the SciEng Pages publications please visit the SciEng Pages website: <http://sciengpages.ca/>.

## **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. During the last year PAGSE has welcomed the following guests:

- December 9, 2019: **Jeff Kinder**, Director, Institute on Governance
- May 8, 2020: **Jeremy McNeil, John Smol, Darren Gilmour** - Royal Society of Canada

## **Meetings with Other Organizations**

- January 2020: Royal Society of Canada
- February 2020: National Research Council of Canada
- April 2020: Canadian Federation for Earth Sciences Annual General Meeting
- April 2020: Engineering Institute of Canada Annual Council Meeting

## **Submissions to Parliamentary Committees and Consultations**

PAGSE submits a brief to House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance in response to the questions provided in the pre-budget consultations. [Our submissions are available on the PAGSE website.](#)

## ***APPENDIX I***

### **PAGSE Members**

Canadian Academy of Engineering (Representative: *Robert Crawhall*)  
Canadian Aquatic Resources Section of the American Fisheries Society (Representative: *Caleb Hasler*)  
Canadian Association of Physicists (Representative: *Francine Ford*)  
Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research (Representative: *Steven Cooke*)  
Canadian Council of University Biology Chairs (Representative: *vacant*)  
Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (Representative: *Chris Burn*)  
Canadian Geophysical Union (Representative: *Rich Petrone*)  
Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (Representative: *Gordon Griffith*)  
Canadian Physiological Society (Representative: *Catherine Chan*)  
Canadian Rivers Institute (Representative: *Glenn Benoy*)  
Canadian Society of Microbiologists (Representative: *Thien-Fah Mah*)  
Canadian Society of Plant Biologists (Representative: *Owen Rowland*)  
Canadian Society of Zoologists (Representative: *Katie Gilmour*)  
Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution (Representative: *vacant*)  
Canadian Society for Molecular Biosciences (Representative: *Imogen Coe*)  
Chemical Institute of Canada (Representative: *Ian Jobe*)  
Engineering Institute of Canada (Representative: *Branislav Djokic*)  
IEEE Canada (Representative: *Kexing Liu*)  
Society of Canadian Limnologists (Representative: *Jérôme Marty*)  
Statistical Society of Canada (Representative: *Jack Gambino*)

### **Supporting Organizations**

Canadian Science Publishing  
CANARIE Inc.  
Coherent Advice  
Genome Canada  
International Development Research Centre  
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)  
TD Bank