

## CSEG Foundation 2019 Annual Report

### Report from the Foundation Chair

Kathleen Dorey, Chair and Director

A registered Canadian charitable organization, the CSEG Foundation (CSEGF) is the charitable operating arm of the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (CSEG). Initiated in 2006, it is managed by an independent Board of Directors and is closely aligned and controlled by the CSEG. The mission of the CSEGF is *‘to encourage and support scientific, educational and charitable activities that benefit geophysicists through the solicitation of contributions aimed at promoting the development of geophysical knowledge, education and public awareness’*.

**The 2019 Board of Directors are: Kathleen Dorey** (Chair), **John Parkin** (Vice-Chair), **Nancy Shaw\*** (Secretary), **David Cho** (Treasurer), **Tammy Willmer** (Assistant Treasurer), **Neda Boroumand** (CSEG President and Representative to the Foundation), **Adrian Smith** (Outreach Chair), **Allan Chatenay** (Fund Development Chair), **Darren Kondrat** (Fund Development Vice-Chair), **Rob McGrory** (Scholarships Chair), **Kristy Manchul** (Communications and Travel Grant and Learning Subsidy Chair), **Neil Rutherford\*** (Director-at-Large), Marissa Whitakker (Earth Science for Society Chair), **Cec Keeping** (Governance), Richard Smith (CSEG Distinguished Lecturer Chair), Jim Racette (CSEG Managing Director), Alyssa Middleton (CSEG staff). The names in **bold** are Directors; \*designates a CSEG past-President in that position. Each Director’s term is nominally three years and candidates are nominated through the Foundation Board nominating committee.

In 2019 the stock market bounced back relative to the financial losses incurred in the fourth quarter of 2018. This gain by the Foundation market funds, however, was offset by reduced fund development in 2019 compared to donations received in the more profitable years leading up to 2017. The Foundation continues to deal with reduced donations in face of a contracted oil and gas industry as well as reduced CSEG membership. As a result, the Foundation Board approved a deficit budget in 2019 of \$90,005 with expenses of \$364,128 and income of \$274,123. By year end 2019 the actual deficit (unaudited year end financials) was expected to be about \$64,248. This was obtainable due to the hard work and cost conscious efforts of the Board, committees and hundreds of volunteers executing the Foundation’s yearly programs. The Board will continue to monitor program costs into 2020 as well as the growth and gains of the CSEGF endowment investments. This analysis will help the Board to continue funding the programs that the Foundation supports in a prudent and cost effective manner.

Due to some of these challenges a new fund raising initiative will include a Foundation Social, to be held in the first quarter of 2020. The intention of the Social is to thank past CSEGF donors in

person as well as to encourage additional and new donations for 2020 in a fun and sociable setting.

Additional new initiatives supported by the Foundation are the Destination Learning Series as well as a Bacon and Eggheads presentation to Parliamentarians in the first quarter of 2020. These new programs, with a geophysical advocacy focus, intend to convey to industry influencers a highly educated workforce within the CSEG whose expertise can be applied not only in the oil and gas industry but also in the mining, environmental, and engineering industries as well.

## 2019 Highlights

- The **Earth Science for Society (ESfS)** program hosted over 3100 attendees in 2019 including students from schools and youth groups as well as those from the general public. The CSEG Foundation “adopted” ESfS in 2016 as our primary ‘public’ outreach initiative, and became the long-term parent organization for this self-funding event. The overall cost of putting on the exhibition was less than previous years because the committee managed to cut costs to proceed with only the highest priority items due to funding constraints. This event included 136 volunteers working for over 500 hours. The 2019 committee is working hard again to coordinate and budget for this year’s upcoming event in March 2020.
- **Outreach / University Student Outreach (USO) / Schools and Public Outreach** continued to support students in universities and K-12 schools, and to inform educators and the public at large about geophysics. Some of these programs are:
  - Junior Geophysicists Forum (JGF) is a fall event held in Calgary where university students, new graduate geophysicists and senior industry and academic mentors participate in an educational workshop and networking event. At the 2019 event over 80 participants worked in teams to develop innovative solutions to problems facing Alberta's oil and gas companies.
  - The Canadian Finals of the Challenge Bowl competition for post-secondary students was held again this year in Calgary at the 2019 GeoConvention. We hosted several regional preliminary contests and in 2019 we were able to expand that number to four regions including Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario and Western Canada. The Foundation also sponsored the Canadian winners' attendance at the International Challenge Bowl Final.
  - The CSEG Foundation has several initiatives directly supporting Canadian university

geoscience students. In 2019 we sponsored and attended three university conferences; the Western Inter-Universities Geoscience Conference (WIUGC) in Western Canada, the Advances in Earth Science Research Conference (AESRC) in Ontario and the Atlantic Universities Geoscience Conference (AUGC) in Atlantic Canada. Our mentorship program paired over 35 students and young professionals with professional Geoscientists in 2019 and hosted several events throughout the year designed to bring mentees and mentors together and foster relationships. We also directly provided financial support to student geoscience chapters at universities across Canada on an as-needed basis. This allowed students to run programming and/or events that they would otherwise be unable to do without the Foundation's support.

- The Geophysical Industry Field Trip (GIFT) brought together more than 35 geoscience university students and new graduates from across Canada for a 3.5-day Calgary-based course in oil and gas industry geophysics. It included a live demonstration of modern seismic acquisition equipment, industry software training sessions and workshops on seismic processing and interpretation as well as a guided geological hike of the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin.
- **Scholarships.** We continue to support post-secondary geoscience education and students through our Scholarship Committee's efforts. The awarded scholarships totaled \$13,000 this year. From 12 applications for university scholarships, the Foundation awarded 6 scholarships to students at 4 universities across Canada in 2019. In addition, two scholarships were awarded in the fall of 2019 to high school students entering university.
- **Travel grants and learning subsidies** continues to be supported by the Foundation. The program helps Canadian undergraduate and post graduate students take courses and attend conferences, seminars and geoscience field trips including the Geoconvention, CSEG Symposium and the Doodletrain.
- **Communications:** In 2019 we saw continued improvements in the Foundation's web presence and ongoing communications support provided by the Communications Committee. The Foundation is also working with the CSEG's Digital Media Committee to develop webcasts of the CSEG luncheons and eventually CDL events.
- **Canadian Distinguished Lecture Tour** is one of the Foundation's keystone programs. Our 2019/2020 Distinguished Lecturer is David Eaton who is giving his talk to universities and institutions across Canada. In the fall of 2019 David gave 5 lectures in Atlantic Canada and is



planning an additional 13 lectures for winter 2020 throughout the rest of Canada. The title of his talk is 'Crustal Fluids, Friction and Faults: What can we learn from injection-induced earthquakes?'

Despite the recent challenges the Board and its committee's face, the long term Foundation's success is attributable to the initial vision of the Foundation and having a strong Board of Directors in place to carry out that vision. The Board consists of Directors with various levels of experience and backgrounds as well as a good set of Governance procedures to guide the direction of the Foundation.

The Board, staff and advisors are looking forward to another successful year providing the programs that are at the core of the Foundation and at the heart of the CSEG membership. Due to recent economic conditions the task of providing these programs in a cost efficient manner without substantial cuts has been a particular challenge for all those involved. I'd like to thank this hard-working and dedicated group of volunteers who have contributed their time in order

to make this an ongoing program which benefits the Canadian geophysical community. The 2020/2021 incoming Board Chair will be John Parkin. John will bring his unique and considerable organizational talents to the Board next year and will continue on with the good work of former Chairs and Directors.

**Kathleen Dorey,  
CSEG Foundation, Chair (2019), Board of Directors**