

2017 CDIO International Conference Proposal
18-22 June 2017 OR 2-6 July 2017
University of Calgary, Canada

1. Why are you interested in hosting a CDIO Fall meeting or International conference?

The University of Calgary and the Schulich School of Engineering is interested in hosting the 2017 CDIO International Conference as a way to bring the CDIO community back to Canada. The 1st International Conference was held at Queen's University in 2005, the 6th International Conference was held at Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal in 2010, and we would like to hold the 13th International Conference in Calgary in 2017.

Calgary has the highest per-capita population of Engineers in all of Canada. The Schulich School of Engineering has as its goal to be the leader in Engineering Education Scholarship in Canada. Faculty involvement includes CDIO, the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE), the Canadian Engineering Education Association (CEEAA), and formerly through the Canadian Design Engineering Network (CDEN). The University of Calgary also has a strong tradition in Engineering Education, starting with the introduction of a Capstone Design course over thirty years ago and more recently through the introduction of a first-year design course approximately 15 years ago.



Artist Rendition of the new expansion to the Schulich School of Engineering

A new \$160 million expansion to the Schulich School of Engineering will have been completed by 2017, including new teaching and learning space that has CDIO-inspired teaching laboratories. The new \$40 million Taylor Institute for Teaching & Learning will also be completed by 2016 and will include experimental teaching spaces.



Artist Rendition of the new Taylor Institute for Teaching & Learning

Finally, the area around Calgary includes Banff National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This beautiful scenery is only a 60 minute drive from Calgary and we would like for the CDIO community to be able to experience the grandeur of the natural beauty.



Banff Springs Hotel (left) and Banff town site (right)

2. Please tell us why your school and city would make a good place to hold a CDIO meeting/conference. (e.g., is there good quality accommodation near to the conference venue/campus?)

The Hotel Alma is located on campus and within walking distance of the conference venue. It features 81 Eurostyle rooms and 15 one-bedroom suites. Additionally, Hotel Village is a fifteen minute walk or one stop away on the C-train, a light-rail transit system that forms the backbone of the municipal public transit system. This cluster of hotels features five medium range hotels of varying cost and quality. The C-train also connects to the downtown core (15 minutes from the University of Calgary) where a wide variety of hotels are located. These hotels range from economy to luxury, and consequently there is more than sufficient selection to satisfy the tastes and budgets of all of those in attendance.



Calgary Downtown Skyline with Bow River in Foreground

Although relatively young at only 130 years old, Calgary has rapidly evolved from an outpost of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Fort Calgary) to a major Canadian city with growing international links. The Economist has repeatedly ranked Calgary in the top five in its global livability ranking. Scores are calculated by rating a city's relative comfort in 30 topics, split between the five major categories of stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure. This setting will make for a very comfortable and hospitable conference experience.

3. What facilities do you have on campus for the meeting? Do you have space for both plenary and breakout sessions? Can meeting attendees have wireless access? Do you have computer projection? Other?

If the conference is held on the University of Calgary campus we have sufficient space to host the conference. A new expansion to the Engineering Building will be complete by 2017, and this will include two new lecture theaters that can each hold 200+ students. Additional 450+ seat lecture theatres are also located in the Science Theatres, a short five minute indoor walk from the Engineering complex. All lecture rooms feature full projection capability and WiFi access.

An alternative conference location would be the Banff Centre. Located in the town of Banff in Banff National Park, this world-class venue is located directly above the Banff town site and features a wide range of conference rooms ranging in size from small classrooms to a 1000-seat theatre. The Banff Centre books up years in advance, and consequently it may not be possible to hold the conference at this location, but it will be explored. The Banff Centre features hotel-style rooms on site and gourmet dining with striking views of the Bow River Valley from the dining centre. WiFi access is available throughout the complex, and access to the exercise facilities is included as part of the stay. In addition, the Banff town site is a short 10 minute walk allowing conference participants to explore all that the town of Banff has to offer during the off-hours of the conference.



TCPL Pavilion and Cascade Mountain (left) and Dining Facilities (right)

The down side to holding the conference at the Banff Centre is that it would prevent the ability to conduct campus showcase tours. Additionally, conference participants would either have to rent a car from the Calgary International Airport and drive 75 minutes to Banff or take one of the Calgary International Airport-Banff shuttle busses to get to Banff.

4. Do you have previous experience hosting international meetings/conferences? Please describe.

The Schulich School of Engineering has hosted two Engineering Education Conferences in the last few years. These have included the Canadian Design Engineering Network (CDEN) and the Canadian Engineering Education Association (CEEA). Both conferences involved approximately 200 participants from across Canada. The University of Calgary also has a team of individuals within Meetings and Special Events who have organized and facilitated many large conferences held by the University of Calgary over the years, and their services would be used for planning of the CDIO conference.

5. Who are the 3 key individuals who will be involved in planning and executing the conference?

Ron Hugo, Associate Dean Teaching & Learning

Marjan Eggermont, Associate Dean Student Affairs

Robert Brennan, Department Head of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering



6. *Do you have support staff who can help with meeting organization (e.g., handling registrations, staffing the welcome desk, etc.)*

Yes, support staff from the School of Engineering would assist in this process.

7. *How do international participants most effectively travel to your campus?*

Calgary is a city of 1.1 million people and numerous airlines service Calgary with direct flights from Europe (Amsterdam, London, Frankfurt), Asia (Tokyo), and the US (Houston, Dallas, Chicago, Los Angeles, etc.). Other international flights would involve either a US connection or a connection through Montreal, Toronto, or Vancouver.



Additionally, the City of Calgary is in the process of constructing a new International Terminal and runway. The new runway is now operational and it is the longest in Canada, capable of handling the largest aircraft in the world. In October 2015 the new International Terminal will open, enabling the Calgary International Airport to attain the status as the third largest in the country, behind Toronto and Vancouver.

Two sets of dates have been proposed for the Conference. The first set of dates (18-22 June 2017) is aligned with the ASEE Conference which will be held in Columbus Ohio on 25-28 June 2017. International travelers would be able to attend both the CDIO Conference followed by the ASEE Conference, should they desire.



The second set of dates (2-6 July 2017) precedes the Calgary Stampede, which will be held 7-16 July 2017. The Calgary Stampede is an annual rodeo, exhibition and festival. The 10-day event attracts over one million visitors each year, and it features one of the world's largest rodeos, complete with a parade, amusement rides, live stage shows, concerts, agricultural exhibitions, chuckwagon races and First Nations exhibits.