



A RESOUNDING SUCCESS FOR INFRA 2018, THE 24th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Montreal, December 1, 2018 – With honorary chairperson Régis Labeaume, mayor of Quebec City, the CERIU INFRA 2018 Conference took place from November 19 to 21 at the Centre des congrès de Québec. Its theme was *The Challenges of Urban Engineering: Multidisciplinarity, Social Acceptability and Innovation*.

We also want to note the presence of Jonatan Julien, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for the Côte-Nord Region. His eloquent speech resonated highly among participants. Mr. Julien is very familiar with the world of urban infrastructure and CERIU, since he was its president up until recently.

In summary, the INFRA 2018 Conference hosted 857 participants—a record number to date—with 1,450 visits over three days. Thirty-eight percent of participants were from municipalities, 41% came from companies, 9% from governments and associations, while 10% were from universities. Programming included 18 sessions, which offered more than a hundred presentations given by 119 high-quality speakers from Quebec, the rest of Canada and the world. The Salon des affaires included more than 50 exhibitors presenting their products and services, as well as their latest technological developments to conference attendees.

RELEVANT AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

In an increasingly urbanized world confronted with environmental changes and major economic problems, practices related to urban infrastructure and municipal asset management are facing new challenges. The INFRA 2018 program presented creative, ethical urban engineering solutions which take into account future generations and also show a concern for environmental quality, mobility, network management, water management, energy management and the design of public spaces.

CERIU was happy to greet and thanks Melissa Osborne, Chair of the Canadian Network of Asset Managers (CNAM) and Senior Manager of Asset Planning at the City of Windsor, for her presentation, titled *Bridging the Gap on Risk and Level of Service (LOS)*, which she gave during a session focusing on global asset management. INFRA devoted an entire day to this subject, responding to the particular needs of municipalities.

Ms. Osborne had this to say about her experience at INFRA 2018:

“Similar to CNAM, we find that networking and being able to speak at the INFRA Conference with people who have shared stories on their infrastructure challenges, how they use their information and how they present those challenges to their Councils and community have been very beneficial. It has also been a great opportunity to work with and speak to some of the folks at CERIU and to continue to further our CERIU/CNAM partnership for the benefit of our respective members across Canada.”

NEW CONFERENCE FEATURES

- The booth hosted by the Urban Public Utilities Permanent Committee was highly popular, offering an opportunity during the breaks for conversations and discussions on contemporary themes and their recent accomplishments.

-The CERIU/NASSCO Lounge brought together a panel of experts who responded to questions from municipalities about the sewer assessment protocols PACP®, MACP® and LACP®.

- *Swapcard* was an innovative application that allowed participants to optimize their conference experience and

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provided improved networking possibilities.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE 2018 PRIX RELÈVE

Since 2008, the **Prix Relève du CERIU** has been celebrating the ingenuity of students and their projects. The competition is for students in engineering and urban planning as well as other fields related to urban infrastructure. The Prix Relève offers scholarships to university students who have designed and completed an applied research project.

The Prix Relève was revamped this year: new image, new logo, new prizes – now with a magnificent plaque.

The Two 2018 Award Winners

The **second Prix Relève** prize, of \$1,000 was presented to **Ms. Nawel Lafioune**, (construction engineering with a concentration in urban infrastructure management at the École de technologie supérieure [ÉTS]) for her master's project on the benefits of BIM for the management of urban infrastructure in Quebec (*L'apport du BIM à la gestion des infrastructures urbaines au Québec*)

The **first Prix Relève** prize, worth \$2,000 was given to **Ms. Tatiana Kolomenskaya**, of the Université de Montréal's Environmental Design faculty, for her master's project, on the design of a new subdivision taking into account the water cycle during four seasons (*Aménagement d'un nouveau lotissement en prenant en compte le cycle de l'eau sur 4 saisons*).

THANK-YOU TO ALL INFRA 2018 VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS

This year, the two INFRA 2018 co-presidents, Ms. Michèle St-Jacques, professor at the École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS) and Mr. Daniel Lessard, director of the service de l'ingénierie de la Ville de Québec (the engineering department of Quebec City) benefited from the unfaltering support of almost 40 volunteers who were active in the Conference technical committees. The conference also received financial support from the following partners: Clean Water Works, Énergir, Ville de Laval (City of Laval), Ville de Montréal (City of Montreal), Ville de Québec (Quebec City), Commission des services électriques de Montréal, Hydro-Québec, Planifika, Bell, SNC Lavalin, AXOR, Association des firmes de génie-conseil, École de technologie supérieure as well as the The Jacques Cartier and Champlain Bridges Incorporated.

Over time, the CERIU INFRA 2018 Conference has become an essential space, a platform for understanding, examining, discussing, sharing and offering creative solutions to the new challenges facing municipalities with regard to their urban infrastructure and asset management.

And that's what we plan to do again next year, which will be the twenty-fifth anniversary of CERIU, and of INFRA conference as well. INFRA 2019 will be held in the Palais de congrès de Montréal, on December 2, 3 and 4, 2019. Mark your calendars!

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