

SUMMARY OF ITE QUEBEC STUDENT CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

2022-2023

General Election

A general election for the ITE student chapter was held on April 2nd 2023 for the election of the new executive team for the upcoming year. ITE members Arash Mazaheri, Xingnan Zhou, Sandra Ristovic, Milad Sashurpour, Maziyar Layegh, Ye Chen, Golnoosh Sarkandi, and Devyn Vincelli.

The newly elected executives are as follows:

President	Sandra Ristovic	Concordia University
Vice President	Maziyar Layegh	Concordia University
Treasure	Golnoosh Sarkandi	Concordia University
Web Master	Devyn Vincelli	Concordia University
Secretary	Ye Chen	Concordia University

Wine and Cheese

ITE members were present at Concordia's CSCE Wine and Cheese event on February 2nd 2023. This is a networking event for students to meet with and talk to companies and industry professionals about jobs in the fields of Civil and Building engineering. The goal of this event is to create connections between student and professionals, and our members were present speaking to students about transportation and ITE, as well as with representatives from companies such as SNC Lavalin, WSP and Pomerleau. This was a great chance to network, as well as for our members to get ideas and make connections for similar future events. The photos below show the speaker portion, as well as one of the ITE members during the networking portion speaking with fellow students and professionals.



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Meeting with Next-Generation Cities Institute

This chapter has had connections with the Next-Generation Cities Institute (NCGI) in the past through presentations on connected-vehicles and how this will impact next-generation cities. The members would love to continue working with NCGI this year with similar presentations, partnerships and helping with the development of the CityPlayer interactive game, currently being developed by NCGI at Concordia.

CityPlayer is city or community building game where players can modify certain aspects of their communities and see how these changes could impact their community. For instance, structural, transportation, road, environmental and aesthetic changes can be made, and the predicted effects are presented. This will also be used as a data collection method for agencies and decision makers to take input for their citizens on what changes they want to see in their own neighbourhoods. This chapter met with one of the software engineers, Mr. Chris Gibbs, that is a part of this project and discussed the transportation related aspects. Mr. Gibbs expressed his interest in working with the student chapter for shared events and mentioned that they would love to get more feedback and ideas from people and students in the field of transportation, as well as offer research opportunities to help with the game design. Much transportation related research would greatly benefit this project, for instance, public transportation, traffic flow and road design, as well as knowledge of VISSIM software. A partnership between the NCGI Concordia CityPlayer team and the Montreal ITE chapter could bridge these gaps. Also, there could be increased representation, events and promotion with a partnership.

Pavement Lab Tour

The head of Pavement and Bituminous Materials Laboratory (LCMB), Alan Carter, at École de Technologie Supérieure (ÉTS) kindly welcomed members of the ITE chapter for a tour of their pavement laboratory and have said that they would aid in pavement research and testing by our members. The significance of having hands on experience through lab work is invaluable, as it allows students to integrate theory with practice. Also, this is a great connection between Concordia University and ÉTS, promoting cooperation between students and allowing our members to make farther connections with ÉTS students, specifically those in similar fields. Pictures taken during the tour of the pavement testing equipment are shown below.

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Publications by the chapter's members:

The main publication by one of the members contributed to the Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering with their paper “New Signal Priority Strategies to Improve Public Transit Operations in an Urban Corridor”. The research focused on new Transit Signal Priority (TSP) strategies at isolated intersections on major and minor arterial roads, where previous research has mostly focused on major arterial roads. VISSIM software was used to compare a proposed TSP strategy, with additional performance measures such as person delay and taking into account bus strategy, to that of conventional TSP. The results showed that the proposed TSP strategy had better performance than conventional TSP. The link to the publication is given below:

<https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/abs/10.1139/cjce-2023-0002>

Upcoming 2023 Plan of Action

Following the Covid-19 pandemic there was a loss of interest and participation in many societies and associations. As a result, the 2023 year will be a rebuilding year for the ITE Quebec student chapter, to revamp and rejuvenate the student chapter, with the hopes and goals of bringing attention and interest to transportation and ITE itself. This will be accomplished through events, workshops and presentations throughout the year with the goal of having a mix of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as a mix of students from all the Montreal universities. Our team hope to have partnerships with university societies at both undergraduate and graduate levels such as CSCE and Next Generation Cities to encourage students to take interest in transportation as well as the events that will be planned. Such events include lunch and learn with industry professionals, networking events, VISSIM and VISTRO workshops, and presentations of student work.

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Moreover, the executive team hope to have field trips where students go to sites to see transportation related work in action. For instance, going to see the sites of the expansion of the metro lines or the new light-rail system, the REM, or possible signal control centers. Another goal of the executive is an increased social media presence, covering everything from our chapter to current events related to the field to publications and research by both our students as well as other researchers. Executives will meet on a regular basis to discuss research, current and upcoming events, and any other chapter related issues.