



The Partnership Group for
Science and Engineering

Le Partenariat en faveur des
sciences et de la technologie

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chair

Thoughts from the Hill ft. Senator Rosa Galvez

Virtual Events Update

PAGSE Website Launch

New SciEng Pages Issue: 5G in Canada



Message from the Chair

While many of us may be relieved to see 2020 in the rearview mirror, PAGSE would like to take a few moments to thank the many individuals and organizations whose dedication to our mandate has made our continued progress possible this year, even in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic.

First and foremost, PAGSE's work would not be possible without the ongoing support of our long-time sponsors, including CANARIE, NSERC, the Museum of Nature, the IDRC, Genome Canada, TD, and Coherent Advice. We are also grateful to Université Laval, McGill University, IMRSV Data Labs and the Council of Canadian Academies whose individual event contributions helped us pivot the Bacon and Eggheads series to a virtual format. We thank all of these organizations for their continued support during these difficult times. Although our most recent Bacon and Egghead presentations did not include face to face interaction, the new format did allow for the largest ever audiences, with close to 500 people connecting from coast to coast to coast.

PAGSE's members also continue to play a critical role in helping us deliver our programming. Our members are composed of over 20 science and engineering societies who represent the research diversity of Canada, but are united in their belief that science-led policy and decision-making is critical to Canada's economy and society as a whole.

The Council has enjoyed several insightful presentations this year, including guests from the Royal Society and Quebec's Chief Scientist, and we look forward to continuing these discussions in 2021.

PAGSE would not function without its many volunteers working behind the scene. These tireless individuals include our newly-formed Board of Directors, our Bacon and Eggheads Committee, and our Council members who volunteer their time to help PAGSE advance the awareness of Canadian science and engineering research on Parliament Hill. We end this year with the release of a new issue of the SciEng Pages policy brief on 5G technology for which experts across Canada volunteered their time.

My work as a Chair would have not been possible without the constant dedication of our manager Emma Brown and our intern Erin Filliol. With their support, we were able to achieve several milestones this year, including PAGSE's incorporation, our rebranding, and the re-start of our SciEng Pages program. We would also like to thank our devoted Chair of the Bacon and Eggheads Committee, Dr Natalie Goto, who has led the treasured breakfast series through a tumultuous period to say the least!

We have exciting plans for 2021, and look forward to continuing to connect Canada's research community with our Parliamentarians and other senior-level decision-makers. Next year, the new PAGSE board will continue on our governance journey and develop a plan to sustain a long term vision for the organization. Thank you again to all of our sponsors, volunteers, and breakfast enthusiasts.

We send the very best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season and hope to see everyone back on the Hill in 2021 when it is safe to gather again.

Jérôme Marty, PAGSE Chair



THOUGHTS FROM THE HILL



SENATOR ROSA GALVEZ

The Honourable Rosa Galvez is an independent Senator representing Quebec, a member of the Standing Senate Committees on National Finance and Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, and the author of the recent white paper: [Building Forward Better: A Clean and Just Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

"THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OFFICE-BEARERS AND SCIENTISTS TO BUILD FORWARD, HAND-IN-HAND."

As an engineer, scientist and senator, I am particularly cognisant of the role science plays and should play in decision-making. To that end, PAGSE provides a truly essential service – connecting politicians with scientists in a time when the difference between knowledge and ideology is increasingly blurred. PAGSE provides an invaluable forum for open-minded politicians to interact with great thinkers such as Dr. Elena Bennett so that we can fulfill our duty to Canadians by shaping a sustainable and equitable world for future generations.

The role of science in decision-making is more important than ever: we face several global challenges which require a combination of technological and political solutions across all sectors and levels of government. Nothing makes this clearer than the relationship between two ongoing crises that, thanks to years of careful observation, traditional forms of knowledge, and rigorous scientific analysis, we now understand as inextricably linked: environmental degradation and the changing climate increase the risk of emergence, transmission to humans, and lethality of zoonotic diseases. As a result, Canadians are demanding an evidence-based economic recovery that stimulates the economy and puts people back to work while also addressing the climate crisis: a clean and just recovery.

This is an opportunity to fend off the current economic and environmental crises and to strengthen our institutions so that we can meet inevitable future pandemics as well as the ongoing climate change emergency with resilience. This is an opportunity for office-bearers and scientists to build forward better, hand-in-hand.



A Look Back at Our First Virtual Bacon & Eggheads (#BringYourOwnBacon)

Thank you to all those who joined us as we transitioned to a virtual format for our Bacon and Eggheads Speaker Series this fall.

We were thrilled to have Dr. Gary Kobinger, Universite Laval provide his insight on the challenges of vaccine research in Canada in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in his talk Developing Vaccines for Pandemics: Contrasting the Ebola and COVID-19 Experience.

We also welcomed Dr. Elena Bennett, McGill University who provided insight on building a sustainable future and how we can grow back stronger and more resilient from the COVID-19 pandemic in her talk Seeds of a Better Anthropocene.

Recordings of these events (in both English and French) are available on our website: <https://pagse.org/pastevents/>.



Post-event feedback from our audience:

"I can't think of how you could improve. As always you find speakers who are both world class experts in their field and at the same time most excellent communicators. You did it again today. MANY THANKS!"



"Just keep doing what you are doing! Amazing program. Thank you!"

"This was probably the best on-line Zoom presentation that I have so far experienced. The whole event proceeded very smoothly without interruption. The simultaneous translation happened seamlessly. It was excellent."

"As always PAGSE presents the best scientific presentations that I am aware of. They have a wonderful combination of international scientific expertise coupled with great communication skills."

"Merci beaucoup pour vos efforts d'éducation!!"

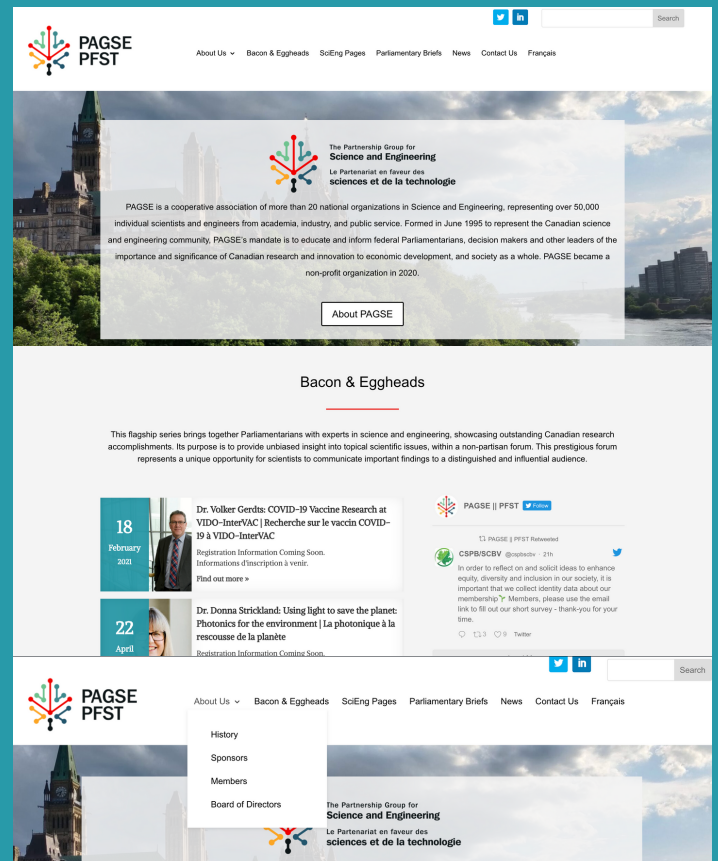


The New PAGSE Website is Live!

We hope everyone has a chance to check out our new website. It will continue to evolve as we continue to formalize PAGSE's operations, including by-laws to come in the new year. In the meantime, several other updates have made it even easier for stakeholders to access PAGSE's activities.

Some highlights include:

- A dedicated events module for Bacon and Eggheads
- A news page for keeping track of announcements, newsletters, and other PAGSE updates
- Directories of our members, sponsors, and much more.



The latest issue of SciEng Pages is coming soon!



SciEng Pages aims to increase discussion on topical issues that have science and engineering at their core, by summarizing the current state of knowledge and policy landscape. Each issue is prepared and reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team of volunteers, and is published free of charge. All SciEng Pages can be found on our website at: <https://pagse.org/scieng-pages/>.

PAGSE is very grateful to CANARIE for supporting this program.

canarie



BACON & EGGHEADS UPCOMING EVENT

Dr. Volker Gerdts

COVID-19 VACCINE RESEARCH AT VIDO-INTERVAC

Join PAGSE for a bilingual online presentation, followed by a moderated question and answer session with Dr. Volker Gerdts.

- ✓ February 18, 2021
- 🕒 12:15pm - 1:15pm (EDT)
- 🔗 Online Webinar
- 📅 Registration Information Coming Soon



Join [our mailing list](#) to be notified when we have upcoming events or release new publications.



The Bacon and Eggheads Committee is actively seeking new members! Please contact Emma (ebrown@pagse.org) for more information.



Have a topic or speaker suggestion for our next Bacon and Eggheads event? Please contact Emma (ebrown@pagse.org) to obtain a nomination form.



Follow PAGSE on Twitter: [@ottawaeggheads](#)



Stay connected with PAGSE on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/pagse>

PAGSE's activities are generously supported by our members and the following organizations:



A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM TD BANK GROUP:

In a period of unprecedented disruption and with climate change widely seen as one of the greatest threats to a sustainable future, our progress towards helping individuals and communities prosper has never been more critical.

That's why we were proud on November 9, 2020, to announce our commitment to a global climate action plan, which includes a target to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with its operations and financing activities by 2050, aligned to the associated principles of the Paris Agreement.

Along with our net-zero emission targets, we also announced that we would not provide new project-specific financial services, including advisory services, for activities that are directly related to the exploration, development, or production of oil and gas within the Arctic Circle, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

As a global institution, we know we have an important role to play and a responsibility to act in helping the transition to a low carbon economy in how we conduct our business, work with partners, make our operations more sustainable, govern our activities and manage risks, and support our customers and colleagues.

We look forward to working with PAGSE in the coming year to ensure that Canada's leaders have access to science and engineering research to support their decision-making on these critical topics.



Board of Directors

Jérôme Marty, Chair
Robert Crawhall
Maria DeRosa
Natalie Goto
Rees Kassen
Kexing Liu



The Partnership Group for
Science and Engineering

Le Partenariat en faveur des
sciences et de la technologie

Produced by Erin Filliol, PAGSE Digital Communications

For questions regarding PAGSE's programs or to learn more about how your society can become a member, please contact PAGSE Manager Emma Brown (ebrown@pagse.org).

©2020

The Partnership Group for Science and Engineering
240 McLeod St
Ottawa, ON
K2P 2R1

